

graceWORKS ! GOING DEEPER¹ The Papou Study Bible is a daily study provided by me to



help folks explore the depth and joy of the “conneXion” life of God. It’s my personal study, and is not intended as a doctrinal statement or statement of any church or denomination or congregation. It’s also my belief that “grace” works, and the servant of God should always want to go deeper. Multi-tasking as usual, I’m also calling this the “Papou Study Bible.” I’m writing it as if I were speaking to my girls who love me and any descendant they have that love their Papou too. And to anyone who wants to consider me a spiritual Dad or “Papou.” I want them to be able to study the Bible with Papou (grandpa in Greek) after I’m gone---and if they don’t, I’ll haunt them. The Scriptures say it’s noble to “search the Scriptures daily” to verify truth like the ancient Bereans did (Acts 17:11). My folks came from Berea. My incredible Dad (and your grandfather and great grandfather, guys), Vasil Charles Valekis taught me to do this like he did---every day until I die. He taught me and everyone I know to go to church no matter what and to put God first. While Mama (Maria Pagona Stratakis Valekis) never really did this, she made sure we listened to Daddy on this one. She would have hit us with a spatula or frying pan or worse if we didn’t. This is a simple sharing my “daily search.” And I’d like to think it is a continuation of God’s life through my Dad through me. Both my “Dads” by the way. And a way to honor him, mama and our loving “Dad”---God. And for all of us to be together, in Spirit, even when we I join them in heaven. I like to use the Blue Letter literal, very “visual,” Greek translation a lot to help “visualize” these truths the beautiful way Greek enables you to view. And I like to share this with folks serving in an elder capacity, or any capacity, to grow them, challenge them, and stretch them. But especially share it with anyone I’ve ever brought to Christ and family members who truly love me. And when you study these, I’ll make sure to connect with you from heaven. *Ever an orthodox Greek, Jim Valekis*

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Christ IN You Series

Colossians 1:27 (King James Version)

²⁷To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is *Christ in you*, the hope of glory

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Daniel 3 Part 1²

So statues figure predominantly in this book. In this chapter, Nebuchadnezzar is going to build another one.

I just had a fleeting thought: what if the statue he builds in this chapter is a copy of the one he saw in his dream? That would be interesting, because people often turn things used by God in some life-changing venue into relics that end up getting worshipped. At any rate, I’ve noticed a few things that have already stood out to me as I listened to this on my Bible app this morning. One is the repeat of certain phrase (perhaps for oral story telling power)? The other is how volatile Nebuchadnezzar is in his mood swings. And his anger issues too! Enjoy!

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² New International Version (NIV) Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. (Author’s note: This translation, and the source for many of the study notes that accompany it, are taken from The NIV Study Bible, Copyright 1985,1995, 2002, 2008, 2011 . These notes are referenced throughout and paraphrased frequently in the notes.)

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Image of Gold and the Blazing Furnace

3 King Nebuchadnezzar made image of gold, sixty cubits high six cubits wide,^[a]

is 90 feet high and 9 feet wide. It may include the pedestal. For comparison, the statue of Zeus in Olympia 39 feet tall. The Colossus of Rhodes was 108 feet high.

set it up on the plain of Dura in province of Babylon.

could be an actual placed located a few miles south of

Babylon or a common noun meaning "walled enclosure."

Nebuchadnezzar's name means "Nabu [a god] protect my son/boundary." He was the son of Nabopolassar. Babylon rose to power under him, and defeated by the Assyrians (whose empire was on the wane) and the Egyptians (who he conquered at the Battle of Carcemish). Some suggest the statue was a statue of the god Nebo. I tried to find a picture of a statue of Nebuchadnezzar, and this "look" consistently came up.

²He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up.

These are the seven classifications of government officials who were to pledge full allegiance to the new empire. I'll look up the

Hebrew/Aramaic/Persian words used and share their definition. I'll do this on my ISA Interlinear Scripture Analyzer. ³

- Satraps - a satrap or governor of a main province (of Persia).
- Prefects - a chief officer, magistrate, or regional governor in certain countries.⁴
- Governors - a prefect (of a city or small district).
- Advisers - a chief diviner, or astrologer.
- Treasurers - no alternative word suggested by translator.
- Judges - meaning one skilled in law; a judge
- Magistrates - judicial, i.e. a lawyer.
- Provincial officials - potentates

That's a fairly comprehensive amalgamation of people of influence. There were many administrators in governmental systems at the time. But one ruler who demanded total allegiance to himself by demanding total allegiance to the god he was named after, and who no doubt whose "image" he was supposed to represent. My guess, though, is that the god was made in the man's image, rather than the other way around.

³So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials

The phrase is repeated.

assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they stood before it.

⁴Then the herald loudly proclaimed, "Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: ⁵As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.

³³ www.scripture4all.org

⁴ [what is a prefect - Bing](#)

- Horn
- Flute – from a root that means to be “shrill,” make a “whistling” sound.
- Zither – from an Aramaic word of Greek origin. “Any stringed musical instrument whose strings are the same length as its soundboard.”⁵
- Lyre - a stringed instrument of the harp class having an approximately U-shaped frame⁶
- Harp – called a psaltery in the original language, again, of Greek origin
- Pipe - H5481 cuwmpownyah soom-po-neh-yaw' (Aramaic) or cuwmponyah (Aramaic) {soom-po-neh-yaw'}; or ciyphonya: (Dan. 3:10) (Aramaic) {see-fo-neh-yaw'}; of Greek origin; a bagpipe (with a double pipe).
- All kinds of music – Music is thought of touching the strings or parts of a musical instrument, i.e. playing upon it; making music, accompanied by the voice

⁶Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.”

⁷Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, all the nations and peoples of every language fell down and worshiped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

That’s what worship was to these people. They “fell down” and “worshipped.” Worship has the connotation of prostrating oneself.

So the King has a new plan.

He’s trying to assert some kind of politico-religious authority that will again be challenged by the existence of the believers of the One True God who answers to no politician.

What’s this all about?

⁵ <https://www.britannica.com/art/zithe>

⁶ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/lyre>

We'll continue to press this in future studies as we understand what it means to live in spiritual and digital Babylon.