

**graceWORKS ! GOING DEEPER<sup>1</sup> 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)**

<sup>27</sup>To 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

**graceWORKS! GOING DEEPER**

**Daniel 5 Part 1<sup>2</sup>**

I love the phrase “the writing on the wall!” Judy Garland even belted it out when she sang “The Man That Got Away” in a “Star is Born” in 1953. Only in this chapter, it’s about the empire that got away.

Arrogance, hubris, in ability to learn from the past---all sorts of factors contributed to the downfall of the Babylonian empire.

We’re going to bear down on the second half of this chapter today.

Enjoy!

<sup>1</sup> NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR UPLOADED TO WEB WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION OF AUTHOR.

<sup>2</sup> 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.)

Elohim (e-lo-HEEM) is the plural form of El or Eloah, one of the oldest designations for divinity in the world. The Hebrews borrowed the term El from the Canaanites. It can refer either to the true God or to pagan gods. Though El is used more than 200 times in the Hebrew Bible, Elohim is used more than 2,500 times. Its plural form is used not to indicate a belief in many gods but to emphasize the majesty of the one true God. He is the God of gods, the highest of all. **Christians** may recognize in this plural form a hint of the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Elohim occurs thirty-two times in the first chapter of Genesis. After that the name Yahweh appears as well and is often paired with Elohim and, in the NIV, the two together are translated "the LORD God."

Daniel 5 New International Version (NIV)

## The Writing on the Wall

"Call for Daniel," the queen had said. "He will tell you what the writing means."

**5** <sup>13</sup>So Daniel was brought before the king, and the king said to him, "Are you Daniel, one of the exiles my father the king brought from Judah? <sup>14</sup>I have heard that the spirit of the gods is in you and that you have insight, intelligence and outstanding wisdom.

### I like the CLV translation here:

I have <sup>+</sup>also heard <sup>on</sup>about you that the spirit of the <sup>M</sup>holy<sup>c</sup> elohim is in you, and a stream of light and intelligence and excelling wisdom is found in you.

**See the text side bar for the use of the word "Elohim." I particularly like the phrase a "stream of light" is found in you.**

**That ties in with what Daniel said about God in Daniel 2 when He revealed Nebuchadnezzar's dream to him. It also ties in with a description of Jesus in John. God enables us to be a "stream of light."**

Daniel 2	John 1
<p><sup>22</sup>He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.</p>	<p><sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. . . <sup>9</sup>The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.</p>

<sup>15</sup>The wise men and enchanters were brought before me to read this writing and tell me what it means, but they could not explain it. <sup>16</sup>Now I have heard that you are able to give interpretations and to solve difficult problems.

**Literally, to “untie knots.”**

If you can read this writing and tell me what it means, you will be clothed in purple and have a gold chain placed around your neck, and you will be made the third highest ruler in the kingdom.”

**Nabonidus was the first, Belshazzar (his son and Nebuchadnezzar’s grandson) was the second, and Daniel would have been the third.**

<sup>17</sup>Then Daniel answered the king, “You may keep your gifts for yourself and give your rewards to someone else. Nevertheless, I will read the writing for the king and tell him what it means.

**Daniel apparently didn’t keep the money.**

<sup>18</sup>“Your Majesty, the Most High God gave your father Nebuchadnezzar sovereignty and greatness and glory and splendor.

**So let’s see what exactly God gave Nebuchadnezzar.**

<b>NIV Words</b>	<b>Literal Translation</b>	<b>Hebrew/Aramaic</b>
<b>Sovereignty</b>	<b>Kingdom</b>	<b>H4437</b> malkuw mal-koo' (Aramaic) corresponding to <b>H4438</b> (a rule; concretely, a dominion.) dominion (abstractly or concretely).
<b>Greatness</b>	<b>Honor</b>	<b>H1923</b> hadar had-ar' (Aramaic) from <b>H1922</b> (to magnify (figuratively)).(from a root that means “to swell up.” magnificence.
<b>Glory</b>	<b>Esteem</b>	<b>H3367</b> yqar yek-awr'

		(Aramaic) corresponding to <b>H3366</b> . (value, i.e. (concretely) wealth; abstractly, costliness, dignity) KJV: glory, honour.
<b>Splendor</b>	<b>Majesty</b>	<b>H7238</b> rbuw reb-oo' (Aramaic) from a root corresponding to <b>H7235</b> (increase); increase (of dignity).

**God gave him all these things. And notice how despotic he was.**

<sup>19</sup>Because of the high position he gave him, all the nations and peoples of every language dreaded and feared him.

**They “dreaded” and “feared” him. “They shook with fear” is the translation of one of the words used. And “to slink” is the connotation of the other.**

Those the king wanted to put to death, he put to death; those he wanted to spare, he spared; those he wanted to promote, he promoted; and those he wanted to humble, he humbled.

**Very despotic. Yet God granted him power.**

<sup>20</sup>But when his heart became arrogant and hardened with pride,

**Look at the CLV translation:**

[\(CLV\) Dn 5:20](#)

+Yet when his heart was exalted<sup>l</sup> and his spirit became overpowered <sup>ʿ</sup>with arrogance<sup>ḥ</sup>, he was deposed from the throne of his kingdom, and they caused his esteem to pass away from him

**So you become two things:**

**“Arrogant” “Hardened with Pride”**

“She-was-mighty spirit-of-him heart-of-him exalted”

he was deposed from his royal throne and stripped of his glory. <sup>21</sup> He was driven away from people and given the mind of an animal; he lived with the wild donkeys and ate grass like the ox; and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven, until he acknowledged that the Most High God is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and sets over them anyone he wishes.

**In Daniel 2 is says in verse 17 “the lowliest of people.”**

<sup>22</sup> “But you, Belshazzar, his son,<sup>[d]</sup> have not humbled yourself, though you knew all this.

**Word for humbled:** **H8214** shphal shef-al'

(Aramaic) corresponding to **H8213**. shaphel to depress or sink (expec. figuratively, to humiliate, intransitive or transitive).

KJV: abase, humble, put down, subdue.

<sup>23</sup> Instead, you have set yourself up against the Lord of heaven.

**You have exalted yourself “against” the Lord God of heavens.**

You had the goblets from his temple brought to you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines drank wine from them. You praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or understand. But you did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life (breath) and all your ways (your paths are “to” him).

<sup>24</sup> Therefore he sent the hand that wrote the inscription.

<sup>25</sup> “This is the inscription that was written:

MENE, MENE, TEKEL, PARSIN

<sup>26</sup> “Here is what these words mean:

*Mene*<sup>[e]</sup>: God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end.

<sup>27</sup> *Teke*<sup>[f]</sup>: You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting.

<sup>28</sup> *Peres*<sup>[g]</sup>: Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”

<sup>29</sup> Then at Belshazzar’s command, Daniel was clothed in purple, a gold chain was placed around his neck, and he was proclaimed the third highest ruler in the kingdom.

**In Genesis 41:42 Joseph received a Signet Ring, Robes of fine linen, and a Gold Chain---all symbols of authority.**

<sup>30</sup> That very night Belshazzar, king of the Babylonians,<sup>[h]</sup> was slain, <sup>31</sup> and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom, at the age of sixty-two.<sup>[i]</sup>

**We will study more about Darius the next time.**

**Footnotes:**

- a. **Daniel 5:2** Or *ancestor*; or *predecessor*; also in verses 11, 13 and 18
- b. **Daniel 5:7** Or *Chaldeans*; also in verse 11
- c. **Daniel 5:10** Or *queen mother*
- d. **Daniel 5:22** Or *descendant*; or *successor*
- e. **Daniel 5:26** *Mene* can mean *numbered* or *mina* (a unit of money).
- f. **Daniel 5:27** *Tekel* can mean *weighed* or *shekel*.
- g. **Daniel 5:28** *Peres* (the singular of *Parsin*) can mean *divided* or *Persia* or a *half mina* or a *half shekel*.
- h. **Daniel 5:30** Or *Chaldeans*
- i. **Daniel 5:31** In Aramaic texts this verse (5:31) is numbered 6:1.