

**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 6<sup>2</sup>**

So what made Daniel “Daniel”? What was his secret? What did he have that others didn’t have? And how could he be the man he needed to be whenever he needed to be it? In this story, I believe we’ll find out the secret to Daniel’s “success” as a person who every leader that ever met him wanted to have in their proximity. It was a simple commitment that Daniel made. And one that paid off in huge dividends in his life.

How did this former Jewish royal son who’d been enslaved by world ruling despots thrive and survive? Prayer! Let’s look at that 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.)

Daniel 6 New International Version (NIV)

## Daniel in the Den of Lions

**6** <sup>[a]</sup>It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, <sup>2</sup>with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss.

**A "satrap" is a governor, of sorts. The word is of Persian origination. The king wanted to make sure he didn't "suffer loss." I want to press this a little further, so let me see what I can find. Of course, there's always something in the ever reliable "Wikipedia."**<sup>3</sup>

Satraps (*/ˈsætɹəp/*) were the governors of the **provinces** of the ancient **Median** and **Achaemenid**



**Empires** and in several of their successors, such as in the **Sasanian Empire** and

the **Hellenistic** empires.<sup>[2]</sup> The satrap served as **viceroys** to the king, though with considerable autonomy. The word came to suggest tyranny or ostentatious splendour.<sup>[3][4]</sup>

. . . A "satrapy" is the territory governed by a satrap.<sup>[9]</sup>

Medo-Persian satraps[[edit](#)]

Photo: A dignitary of **Asia Minor** in Achaemenid style, circa 475 BC. Karaburun tomb near **Elmalı, Lycia**.<sup>[10]</sup><sup>4</sup>

Although the first large-scale use of satrapies, or provinces, originates from the inception of the **Achaemenid Empire** under **Cyrus the Great**, beginning at around 530 BCE, provincial organization actually originated during the **Median** era from at least 648 BCE.

<sup>3</sup> [Satrap - Wikipedia](#)

<sup>4</sup> Georges Jansoone User: JoJan - This file was derived from: Museum of Anatolian Civilizations109 kopie1.jpg Achaemenid Satrap Asia Minor (Heraclea in Bithynia) end of 6th century BCE. Reference: [https://www.jstor.org/stable/42668124 Themistocles at Magnesia HERBERT A. CAHN and DOMINIQUE GERIN p.20 and Plate 3]

Up to the time of the conquest of **Media** by Cyrus the Great, emperors ruled the lands they conquered through **client kings** and governors. The main difference was that in Persian culture the concept of kingship was indivisible from divinity: divine authority validated the **divine right of kings**. The twenty-six satraps established by Cyrus were never kings, but **viceroys**<sup>5</sup> ruling in the king's name, although in political reality many took advantage of any opportunity to carve themselves an independent power base. **Darius the Great** gave the satrapies a definitive organization, increased their number to thirty-six, and fixed their annual tribute (**Behistun inscription**).

<sup>7</sup>Next to them, repairs were made by men from Gibeon and Mizpah—Melatiah of Gibeon and Jadon of Meronoth—places under the authority (under the “throne” or “chair”) of the governor of Trans-Euphrates. **Nehemiah 3:7**

The satrap was in charge of the land that he owned as an administrator, and found himself surrounded by an all-but-royal court; he collected the taxes, controlled the local officials and the subject tribes and cities, and was the supreme judge of the province before whose “chair” (*Nehemiah 3:7*) every civil and criminal case could be brought. He was responsible for the safety of the roads (cf. Xenophon), and had to put down

brigands and rebels.

He was assisted by a council of Persians, to which also provincials were admitted and which was controlled by a royal secretary and emissaries of the king, especially the “eye of the king”, who made an annual inspection and exercised permanent control.

There were further checks on the power of each satrap: besides his secretarial scribe, his chief financial official (Old Persian *ganzabara*) and the general in charge of the regular army of his province and of the fortresses were independent of him and periodically reported directly to the *shah*, in person. The satrap was allowed to have troops in his own service.

**So that’s a picture of how influential these individuals were. It’s interesting to think of Daniel, a castrated Jewish boy (yes, I really do think that Isaiah’s prophecy was fulfilled) had to survive in this dog eat dog, beast eat beast culture. And notice in the next verse just how he managed to survive.**

**1. He excelled at what he did.**

<sup>3</sup>Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional

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<sup>5</sup> A ruler exercising authority in a colony on behalf of a sovereign.

<sup>5</sup>Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of the LORD Almighty: <sup>6</sup>The time will surely come when everything in your palace, and all that your predecessors have stored up until this day, will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left, says the LORD. <sup>7</sup>And some of your descendants, your own flesh and blood who will be born to you, will be taken away, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.”

Isaiah 39

[Was Daniel made a eunuch in Babylon? | GotQuestions.org](https://www.gotquestions.org/Daniel-eunuch.html)  
<https://www.gotquestions.org/Daniel-eunuch.html>

Answer: **The Bible does not say whether Daniel was made a eunuch.** However, Daniel served as a slave in Babylon during a time in which many slaves were castrated and made eunuchs. Therefore, some have suggested Daniel was castrated as well. There is no biblical evidence either way, which leaves this issue uncertain.

qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.

**“He distinguished himself” – The Hebrew from which this is taken literally reads “over being permanently he was.” I guess that means he was “above them,” higher than them, hence “over” them all the time (permanently). “Over” them “becoming chief” (most important, best) he was.**

**“his exceptional spirit” – an “excelling” spirit.**

‘At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so.

**It’s a dog eat dog world out there. Again, I wonder sometimes if the “beast” spoken of in Revelation is more about the “beast” nature within.**

They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.

**Again, if you want to keep your job, here’s what you need to be.**

**1. No corruption in you. (no pretext, no artificiality)**

**2. Trustworthy**

**H539** 'aman aw-man'

properly, to build up or support; to foster as a parent or nurse; figuratively to render (or be) firm or faithful, to trust or believe, to be permanent or quiet; morally to be true or certain; once (Isa. 30:21; interchangeable with **H541**) to go to the right hand.

**3. No negligence**

<b>Aramaic word</b>	<b>Hebrew equivalent</b>
<b>H7960</b> shaluw shaw-loo' (Aramaic) or shaluwth (Aramaic) {shaw-looth'}; from the same as <b>H7955</b> ; a fault. KJV: error, X fail, thing amiss.	<b>H7955</b> shalah shaw-law' (Aramaic) from a root corresponding to <b>H7952</b> (to mislead)  a wrong.

[Excel | Definition of Excel by Merriam-Webster](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/excel)

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

Excel definition is - to be superior to : surpass in accomplishment or achievement. How to use excel in a sentence.

<sup>5</sup>Finally these men said, “We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God.”

**So they had to drum up something against Daniel. What was it going to be? It had to do, of course, with the Law of His God. Or more specifically, with his devotion and primacy in his heart and obedience and devotion to God. This is the same reason the Romans feared Christianity. They knew that Christianity said Jesus, not Caesar was in charge. This was the same reason Nazi Germany feared Bonhoeffer. They knew Christians like him said Jesus, not Hitler, was in charge. They had to set up a trap for Daniel, just like the Pharisees set up a trap for Jesus. It had to be a trap that showed his devotion was first and foremost to God before even the top human ruler of the day. Look at how they worded the trap.**

<sup>6</sup>So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said: “May King Darius live forever!

**Wormy little apple polishers!**

<sup>7</sup>The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions’ den.

**Again, that’s why Rome feared Christianity. They knew Christians were saying that Jesus is Lord---not Caesar.**

<sup>8</sup>Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.” <sup>9</sup>So King Darius put the decree in writing.

**This is no slouch that is making this decree. Here is what Wikipedia says about him:<sup>6</sup>**

Darius the Great, was the third [Persian King of Kings](#) of the [Achaemenid Empire](#), reigning from 522 BCE until his death in 486 BCE. He ruled the empire at its peak, when it included much of [West Asia](#), parts of the [Caucasus](#), parts of the [Balkans](#) ([Thrace-Macedonia](#), and [Paeonia](#)), most of

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<sup>6</sup> [Darius the Great - Wikipedia](#)

the **Black Sea** coastal regions, Central Asia, as far as the **Indus Valley** in the far east and portions of north and northeast Africa including **Egypt** (Mudrâya), eastern **Libya**, and coastal **Sudan**.<sup>[2][3]</sup>

• • • Darius organized the empire by dividing it into provinces and placing **satraps** to govern it. He organized **Achaemenid coinage** as a new uniform monetary system, along with making **Aramaic** the official language of the empire. He also put the empire in better standing by building roads and introducing standard weights and measures. Through these changes, the empire was centralized and unified.<sup>[4]</sup> Darius also worked on construction projects throughout the empire, focusing on **Susa**, **Pasargadae**, **Persepolis**, **Babylon**, and **Egypt**. He had the cliff-face **Behistun Inscription** carved to record his conquests, an important testimony of the **Old Persian language**.



**So the new boss, who was quite the boss, has under the deceitful influence of jealous satraps, issued an edict.**

**There is quite an elaborate history of Darius recorded in Wikipedia that shows him fighting and clawing and climbing to the top, eventually to have a "shaky" rule that included some tendencies of the satraps under him to threaten him**

**What is a "Daniel" supposed to do?**

**We'll look at that next time.**

**PHOTO CREDIT:** [Peter.zn1](#) - Own work