

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 6 Part 2²

So my wife hurt her knee a month ago (today is February 25, 2020. It’s not getting better, so she finally decided to go to the doctor. I drove her---it’s an early morning appointment. And I’m waiting in the car for her. I don’t have my NIV study Bible with me, so I’m just going to read the Scripture and react to it. I’ve downloaded a study guide too for further reference. “Man shall not live by bread alone,”

Jesus said, “But by every word that comes out of the mouth of God.” I’m going for my daily feeding. Enjoy!

¹ NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR UPLOADED TO WEB WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION OF AUTHOR.

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.)

Daniel 7 New International Version (NIV)

7 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying in bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream.

My study guide today says:

This vision came to Daniel after the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, but before the Babylonian Empire was conquered by the Medo-Persian Empire.

i. Daniel [chapters 1](#) through [6](#) describe the life and times of Daniel. [Chapters 7](#) through [12](#) describe visions Daniel had. In order of events, the vision described in [Daniel 7](#) took place during the time between Daniel [chapters 4](#) and [5](#).

My observations: That comment makes sense. The last scene of Daniel's life story is how he reigned during the times of Darius and later Cyrus. It would be during Cyrus's reign that the Jews would be given the blessing of going back home and beginning to rebuild the temple (see Ezra 1). So it's interesting to me to consider that during Daniel's very long tenure at the very top of the hierarchies of the reigning rulers, Ezra and Nehemiah and possible even Esther were his contemporaries. Here's what one time line says about Daniel:

605 B.C. – Daniel taken Captive

602 B.C. – Nebuchadnezzar has his dream; Daniel brought close to the king.

586 B.C. – Jerusalem destroyed; possible time of Nebuchadnezzar's idol and the fiery furnace in Daniel 3.

566 B.C. – 556 B.C. – Possible time of Nebuchadnezzar's vision of the great tree and his madness.

553 B.C – 549 B.C. – Possible time of Belshazzar's co-regency and Daniel's visions in Daniel 7.

548 – 547 B.C – Daniel's vision of the ram and he goat in Daniel 8.

539 B.C. – Belshazzar’s vision of the handwriting on the wall; Cyrus, king of Persia, conquers Babylon. Darius the Mede, likely appointed by Cyrus, assumes power in Babylon. Daniel reads Jeremiah and prays and fasts for Jerusalem.

538 B.C – Cyrus decrees the Jews can return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple.

537 B.C. – About 50,000 Jews return, led by Zerubbabel and Joshua the high priest. Daniel, about age 83, has prophetic visions of the end times (Daniel 10).

536 – 535 B.C. – Daniel’s heavenly vision and conversation with a heavenly being.

535 B.C. – Possible time of Daniel’s death? (See scholar’s opinion below).

530 – 522 B.C. – Cambyses reigns; the rebuilding of the temple is stopped.

522-486 B.C. – Darius 1 reigns and the rebuilding of the temple is renewed in 520 B.C. It is dedicated in 515 B.C.

These dates are subject to revision. Different time lines show different dates. I guess some speculation is involved.

Here is one scholar’s speculation as to when Daniel died.

Posted on May 20, 2007 by John Oakeswrote in Daniel, General, History.

Question:

- 1) At what age did Daniel die?
- 2) How did Daniel come to go to Babylon in 606/5 BC ?

Answer:

We know from Babylonian records that Nebuchadnezzar campaigned in Canaan in 606/605 BC. His father died during that time. The evidence says that Nebuchadnezzar came to Jerusalem, but the Jews chose to submit and give tribute rather than fight. Daniel and his friends were taken as hostages to Babylon against the annual tribute. I assume that they were children of the aristocracy, as was the norm for such tribute hostages in the ancient

world. My guess is that they were teenagers—probably between, say 14 and 20. Therefore, Daniel was probably born about 620 BC. We know he survived the conquest of Babylon by Cyrus in 538 BC. **It is hard to guess how long he survived this event, but let us suppose that he died somewhere between 535 and 530 BC.** That would make him about 85 to ninety years old at his death.

Does this make sense?

John Oakes, PhD

At what age did Daniel die? How did Daniel come to be in Babylon in 606/605 BC – Evidence for Christianity

²Daniel said: “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea.

Based on the above “speculated” chronologies, Daniel was in his 60’s maybe 70’s when Belshazzar came to power. He sees “the four winds” churning up “the great sea.” For some reason, the NIV study bible calls this “the world of nations and peoples” and says to see verses 3 and 17.

<p>³Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea.</p>	<p>¹⁷“The four great beasts are four kings that will rise from the earth.</p>
<p>Now here is something that comes to mind from some of the research I’ve personally been doing lately. These nations are the nations of this “earth,” the world that developed with the “Babel/Babylonian” mindset, and they come out of “the sea.” One thing I’ve been taken by lately is how when the “heavens and the earth” were first created, that the primordial deep and chaos threatened the primal creation. This is the “abyss” of chaos that seems to be so threatening to God’s good creation.</p> <p>Look at the references to “the abyss” in the Bible. It’s seen as a place for the confinement of Satan. But I wonder if it’s also related to the “primordial deep” of creation that the being of “non-Reality,” anti-Christ (since Christ is “the Reality” Colossians 2:17 NIV).</p> <p>Chaos (cosmogony) - Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chaos_(cosmogony)</p> <p>Chaos has been linked with the term <i>abyss</i> / <i>tohu wa-bohu</i> of Genesis 1:2. The term may refer to a state of non-being prior to creation [9] [10] or to a formless state. . .</p>	

Satan goes to and emerges out of this “Abyss.”

Luke 8:31

And they begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the **Abyss**.

Revelation 9:1

The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the **Abyss**.

Revelation 9:2

When he opened the **Abyss**, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the **Abyss**.

Revelation 9:11

They had as king over them the angel of the **Abyss**, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer).

Revelation 11:7

Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the **Abyss** will attack them, and overpower and kill them.

Revelation 17:8

The beast, which you saw, once was, **now is not (speaking to how he is “not” Reality, anti-Reality, anti-Christ)**, and yet will come up out of the **Abyss** and go to its destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because it once was, now is not, and yet will come.

Revelation 20:1

[*The Thousand Years*] And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the **Abyss** and holding in his hand a great chain.

Revelation 20:3

He threw him into the **Abyss**, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

After this, he is thrown into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:10)

³Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea.

What kind of “nations” or empires or rule, comes up out of this Abyss influenced by Satan? That might be a stretch, but we’ll go with it and see what shakes out at the next study.