

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*



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

graceWORKS! GOING DEEPER

Daniel 7 Part 1²

So the timing for this is perfect. Easter is on the horizon, and to me that’s increasingly becoming a time of Resurrection, Renewal and Restoration---and Hope. Amazing things happened at the cross. The life that was revealed on Easter Sunday was there, waiting for the cross, to be emblazoned on the world. I don’t see this season as a time of dour repenting and “getting ourselves” right with the Lord anymore! As if any of us could ever do that! I see this season as a time to remember that there’s only one tree worth chosen---the Tree of Life. And the Lord and His Cross have always been there for us. Daniel 7 speaks to that! In more ways than I’ve realized in the past. Let’s explore it. 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.

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

Like we noticed last time, Daniel 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>¹⁷The four great beasts are four kings that will rise from the earth.</p>
<p>I surmised last time that the "sea" represented the great "Abyss" spoken of in Scriptures. One thing that stands out to me is that Satan emerges from the "Abyss." I know this is a repeat from the last Bible study. But I want to consider this "abyss" which I see linked to the "primeval darkness" that threatened the early creation. Luke 8:31 And they begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss. This is defined as a place of confinement for the evil spirits and Satan. This confinement is spoken of eloquently in Scripture as including "chains" of darkness.</p>	
<p>For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment; 2 Peter 2:4</p>	<p>And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.Jude 1:6</p>
<p>"To Caverns (chains) of-gloom (shrouding darkness) thrusting-into-Tartaros" into judging being-chained to be keeping" (Literal Greek)</p>	<p>"to bonds imperceptible under gloom he has kept" (Literal Greek)</p>

The NIV study note asks us to refer to Revelation 9:1 and its note. This our next Scripture.

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**.

NIV Study Note: *Abyss*. Conceived of as the subterranean abode of demonic hordes and Satan. This Greek word means “very deep” or “bottomless” and is used the Septuagint (the pre-Christian Greek translation of the OT) to translate the Hebrew word for the primeval deep (Genesis 1:2, 7:11)

<p>Genesis 1:2 (NIV) ²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.</p>	<p>Genesis 7:11 (NIV) ¹¹In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened.</p>	<p>Proverbs 8:28 (NIV) ²⁸when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep,</p>
---	---	--

This motif of evil emerging from the “Abyss” reappears in the book of Revelation.

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).

Satan is shown to be the ruler of the Abyss.

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, 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.

Some say these inhabitants of the earth are “the false selves” of all of us. That we all will in someday be “separated” from our false selves, and our true selves---those who have been in the book of life from the beginning, will emerge. I like that concept, actually.

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.

So whatever these beasts are, they come out of Satan’s turf. The Great Abyss. And he is the author of their nature, and their opposition to God, and to his children (little “images of God”)---us

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

⁴“The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a human being, and the mind of a human was given to it.

So the NIV study bible says this was again the Neo-Babylonian Empire and refers you to Genesis 3:24 and it’s note.

Genesis 3:24	NIV Study Note
<p>²⁴After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side^[a] of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.</p> <p><i>Footnotes:</i></p> <p>a. Genesis 3:24 Or <i>placed in front</i></p>	<p><i>Cherubim.</i> Similar to the statures of winged figures that stood guard at the entrances to palaces and temples in ancient Mesopotamia. <i>to guard.</i> The reason is given in v. 22 (“The man has become as one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the Tree of Life, and</p>

		live forever.”) Only through God’s redemption in Christ to people have access again to the tree of life.	
⁷ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God. (Rev 2:7)	² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve cropsof fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. (Revelation 22:2)	¹⁴ “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. (Revelation 22:14)	¹⁹ And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll. (Revelation 22:19)

Again, Babylon is the head of the anti-God, anti-Christ kingdoms that emerge from Satan’s abyss. Verse 4 may refer to the humbling of king Nebuchadnezzar reflected in chapter 4.

⁵“And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, ‘Get up and eat your fill of flesh!’

NIV study note says this is the Medo-Persian empire. The three ribs may represent it’s three principal conquests: Lydia (546 B.C.), Babylon (539 B.C.) and Egypt (525 B.C.)

⁶“After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. And on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule.

The leopard with four wings represents the speedy conquests of Alexander the Great (334-330), and the four heads correspond to

the four main divisions into which his empire fell after his untimely death in 323:

Macedonia and Greece (under Antipater and Cassander)

Thrace and Asia Minor (under Lysimachus)

Syria (under Seleucus 1)

The Holy Land and Egypt (under Ptolemy).

We'll save the 4th beast for next time.