

**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 7 Part 3<sup>2</sup>**

So various nations and empires rise from the abyss. The ancient kingdoms of this world set a template for world rule that has dominated until this very day. The one we will study today is the one historically known as the Roman Empire. It, or at least, variations of it, have dominated world politics even to this very day. I want to understand this template of Scripture, and understand just what the symbols in this apocalyptic book mean.

I’ve come to see the whole Bible is way more about Jesus than I’ve ever allowed for. Maybe this book is about Him and cosmic truths for us all to be aware of as well! 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 7 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>7</sup>“After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast—terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns.

**Before I go further, let’s discuss the genre of literature here that this portion of Daniel is seen as being---apocalyptic literature. According to the NIV study bible, this is a “kind of writing that is highly symbolic.” One example is the use of the number 7. In Revelation, another apocalyptic book, the number “7” is used 52 times. “There are seven beatitudes for example, preceded by the word “Blessed.”**

<b>1:3</b>	<b>14:13</b>	<b>16:15</b>	<b>19:9</b>	<b>20:6</b>	<b>22:7</b>	<b>22:14</b>
<sup>3</sup> Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.	Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.”	<sup>15</sup> “Look, I come like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake and remains clothed, so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed.”	Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”	<sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.	Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll.”	“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.

**There are 7 churches, seven spirits, seven golden lampstands, seven stars, seven seals, seven horns, seven eyes, seven trumpets, seven thunders, seven signs, seven crowns, seven plagues, seven golden bowls, seven hills, seven kings, as well as other “sevens.” Based on**

**this, an argument could be made that the number is not always meant to be taken literally, but symbolically. Seven is the number of completeness. So while there are 4 “templates” of world rule discussed here, the final one, obviously to many as symbolic of the Roman empire in various forms, seems to be a “final” version of the kingdoms of the “Spiritual Babylon” we live in.**

**So I guess what I’m concluding is that while one way of interpreting these prophecies is to read them literally and find some way of “proving” they are referring to specific events in our time, they may be more generalizations and summations of various themes that present themselves in history, until the “rule” is given back to “Israel,” the holy ones of God. In my minds, this happens through what God does through Christ, which I think is depicted very beautifully in this book.<sup>3</sup>**

**To summarize what we’ve read so far, this final expression of world rule (in opposition to God, like all of “Spiritual Babylon” was) has the following “symbolic” characteristics:**

- large iron teeth
- it crushed and devoured its victims
- trampled underfoot whatever was left.
- different from all the former beasts
- it had ten horns.

<sup>8</sup>“While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

**The NIV Bible study notes attempts to take a more middle of the role view by doing its best to describe the literal words and images used without interpreting meanings, and suggesting different ways others have understood these texts to mean.**

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<sup>333</sup> For further information about the apocalyptic motifs in Daniel, see <https://findingawaytogo.wordpress.com/2017/02/26/the-elements-of-apocalyptic-literature-in-daniel-7-12/>.

- **So “ten kings” might not literally be “ten kings.” Wikipedia says:** *Four and ten.* Can be used to signify totality.<sup>[3]</sup> There are ten fingers and ten toes, the total number of **digits** found on humans, thus our **Base 10** numerical system.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblical\\_numerology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblical_numerology)

**Suffice it to say, the governing style of the Roman Empire, with its senates and systems of checks and balances, seems to have become a “template” for all world rule ever since its establishment.**

**But it will be taken over one day by Christ and the kingdom of God.**

**Let me requote the last verse, and share what the NIV Study Bible shares about it.**

<sup>8</sup>“While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

**The , “little” horn is seen in the NIV study bible as the anti-christ or a world power sharing in the characteristics of the anti-christ. It gives these Scriptures in reference:**

<b>Daniel 11:36</b>	<b>2 Thessalonians 2:4</b>	<b>Revelation 13:5-6</b>
<sup>36</sup> “The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place.	<sup>4</sup> He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.	<sup>5</sup> The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months. <sup>6</sup> It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.

**Who could this be (or have been)? There are many takes on this. Some thought it to have been Antioch Epiphanes. Others, Caligula, the Roman emperor who attempted to set up a statue of himself in**

**the temple and be worshipped. Some see him as an end times ruler that will be the final manifestation of evil.**

**There have been many speculations.**

**While it's tempting to associate the antichrist with the beasts of Revelation (and hence with the individuals mentioned in Daniel), neither book uses that phrase to describe the ones being spoken of. Paul doesn't either. John specifically defines the antichrists this way.**

### **1 John 2:18**

<sup>18</sup> Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. <sup>19</sup> They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.

**So whoever they were, "they went out from us."**

**Either way, this fourth kingdom (the Roman empire and all subsequent world rules that have occurred since that time) dominates until this takes place.**

<sup>9</sup> "As I looked,

"thrones were set in place,  
and the Ancient of Days took his seat.  
His clothing was as white as snow;  
the hair of his head was white like wool.  
His throne was flaming with fire,  
and its wheels were all ablaze.

<sup>10</sup> A river of fire was flowing,  
coming out from before him.  
Thousands upon thousands attended him;  
ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.  
The court was seated,  
and the books were opened.

<sup>11</sup> "Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and

thrown into the blazing fire. <sup>12</sup>(The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.)

<sup>13</sup>“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man,<sup>[a]</sup> coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. <sup>14</sup>He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

**This is obviously referring to Jesus, and to giving the rule back to the people of God. I’ll focus on this more deeply next time.**