

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 7 Part 4²



I guess I’ve always liked the beauty of gem stones. I can remember being a little boy seeing a picture in a book under the heading “Your Eyes Are Your Jewels,” and seeing a young person holding a pillow of some sort on which colorful, beautiful jewels were placed. Your eyes are like jewels spiritually too. Christ said “if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of **darkness**. If **then the** light within you **is darkness**,

how **great is** that **darkness!**” (Matthew 6:23) Today I want to use my eyes to review hidden treasures, new and old, in the Word of God. Enjoy!



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Daniel 7

¹³“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴He 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.

As I noted yesterday, this is obviously referring to Jesus, and to giving the rule back to the people of God. When did Jesus do this? Has he done it already?

One of the things I’ve observed in my study was that apocalyptic literature was written in a time of distress for the people of God (in this time period, Israel). It spoke of their restoration to power. Of course, this symbol morphs in the bible to be shown as meaning all people, who will all through Christ be part of the Israel of God.

Rom 2:28-29	Rom 9:6	Gal 3:7	Gal 3:29	Gal 6:16
<p>²⁸A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly . . .</p> <p>²⁹No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code.</p>	<p>⁶It is not as though God’s word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel.</p>	<p>⁷Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham.</p>	<p>²⁹If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.</p>	<p>⁶Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule—to^[a] the Israel of God.</p>

So I want to consider what is for me a new way of looking at these Scriptures. The depiction of the world-ruling “beast” empires seems to stop with the one most identify with the Roman Empire. Of

course, it's the Roman empire that is in existence when God's Son, the Christ, comes into the world.

Here is what one source says³:

The prophet Daniel declared: "And in the days of those kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed" (2:44). The "kings" of the prophecy were Roman kings (the fourth part of the image of Nebuchadnezzar's dream [2:31ff]). The Roman Empire came into dominance in 63 B.C. and it fell in A.D. 476; hence, it follows that the kingdom of God was established at some point between those two dates—or else Daniel was a false prophet! There is no evidence that the Roman Empire will be revived to accommodate Daniel's prediction.

So if this is true (and for some reason, this is certainly making sense to me), the kingdom of God (not a materialistic kingdom, but a spiritual kingdom not of this world⁴ was begun when Christ came). The article referenced above says the same thing.

John the Baptizer: "The Kingdom Is Near"

John the Baptizer, Jesus himself, and the twelve disciples all preached that the kingdom was "at hand," literally meaning "is come near" (Matthew 3:2; 4:17; 10:7; cf. Luke 21:30 for the meaning of "at hand").

Matthew 3:2	Matthew 4:17	Matthew 10:7	Luke 21:20
² and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."	¹⁷ From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."	⁷ As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'	²⁰ "When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near.

Thus, they preached the nearness of the kingdom of God, and such can scarcely be harmonized with the notion that it hasn't come.

³ <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/322-examining-premillennialism>

⁴ John 18:36 Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."

While it is true that the expression “at hand” can be used prophetically of that which is yet in the distant future, other contextual considerations—either immediate or remote—must indicate that fact. The term is used figuratively in James 5:8 to reflect an intense expectation—regardless of the time factor.

James 5:8 New International Version (NIV)

⁸You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.

Note: The Early Church seemed by and large to expect the manifestation of Christ’s coming in their lifetime. But in one sense, and perhaps in a way they simply took years (maybe even centuries) to accept, the kingdom of God, which had drawn near, was acceptable in a heartbeat at a moment’s notice, if Christ sought to manifest it. Notice this next passage dealt with by this article.

The Prophecy of Christ

Christ exclaimed:

Verily I say unto you, There are some here of them that stand by, who shall in no wise taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God come with power (Mark 9:1).

Either the kingdom came within the lifetime of those to whom he referred, or they are getting very old!

Observe, please: Jesus promised that the kingdom would come with power (Mark 9:1). But that power would accompany the reception of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8). Thus, the kingdom would come with the arrival of the Spirit. But the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost—some fifty days after Christ’s death (Acts 2:4). Therefore, the kingdom was established at that time.

Acts 1:8	Acts 2:4
⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”	⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues ^[a] as the Spirit enabled them.

Here’s my take, which is slightly different than this author’s.

They did see the Kingdom come with Power, when Christ manifested the heavenly dimension to them via the Spirit in this moment!

The kingdom of heaven had come near, and was accessible at any time.

It was especially manifest in times of intense suffering and persecution.

Acts 9

The Stoning of Stephen

⁵⁴When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶“Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

Some would say that this is what is meant by this verse:

Revelation 20 New International Version (NIV)

The Thousand Years

20 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. ²He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. ³He 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.

⁴I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They^[a] had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. ⁵(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. ⁶Blessed 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.

Ok. So let me share some key phrases from this passage, and show how the Scriptures could support a view that Satan was cast out at the death of Christ, and the “kingdom” was given to the people of God, who were made priests and kings by Christ!

<p>Satan bound and thrown into the Abyss</p> <p>John 12</p>	<p>God’s people on thrones and reigning a “1000” years (symbolic of a very long time)</p> <p>1 Peter 2:9</p>	<p>God’s people reigning on earth now</p> <p>Rev 5:10</p> <p>Rom 5:17</p>	<p>Taking part in the first resurrection (the resurrection of Christ)</p> <p>Rom 6:4</p>	<p>Being beheaded (symbolic of given over reign of your life to Christ, who is the head)</p> <p>Col 1:18</p>
<p>³¹Now (at the time of his death) is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.</p>	<p>⁹But God chose you to be his people. You are royal priests. You are a holy nation. You are God’s special treasure.</p>	<p>¹⁰And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.</p> <p>For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by</p>	<p>⁴Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of</p>	<p>Colossians 1:18</p> <p>And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the</p>

<p>³²And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.</p> <p>³³This he said, signifying what death he should die.</p>	<p>Literal Greek: "king-ish priests"</p>	<p>one, Jesus Christ.)</p>	<p>life.</p>	<p>preeminence.</p>
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So . . . what am I saying? Could it be all these prophecies have already been fulfilled in Christ? And instead of looking for some present day material manifestation for the restoration of a physical kingdom, we start living into the kingdom of light now?

That's what Paul did!

Colossians 1:12-13 New International Version (NIV)

¹²and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you^[a] to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,

Next time I'll study how the early church father saw these Scriptures, and then move on!