

**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

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**Daniel 8 Part 1<sup>2</sup>**

So I’m moving into Daniel 8---rams, he goats and other “beast” manifestations of nations and empires. It’s fascinating to me that the nations represented have major “root” roles in the world today. The world is still dramatically influenced by the Hellenistic culture represented. Persians still figure in world events today. There was a book years ago that basically said “Everything I learned, I learned in kindergarten.” Well, when Paul was assessing the history of the Israelites, he spoke of them as having been in their “minority”---when they were “underage,” and needed to be led “elementally” (Gal 4:3). This is the “minority” of world civilizations we’ll be reading about today. Enjoy!

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Daniel 8 New International Version (NIV)

## Daniel's Vision of a Ram and a Goat

**8** In the third year of King Belshazzar's reign,

**About 551 B.C.**

I, Daniel, had a vision, after the one that had already appeared to me.

**That was the one in Daniel 7 that we just studied.**

<sup>2</sup>In my vision I saw myself in the citadel of Susa in the province of Elam;

**An NIV study note on the "citadel of Susa" for Esther 1:2 says Susa was a fortified acropolis and palace complex. It says "Susa" was "the winter residence of the Persian kings." The other capitals of the**

**Medo-Persian empire was Babylon, Ecbatana and Persepolis.**



Figure 1 Ruins of Darius Palace at Susa

Photo 190525798 © Dmitry Evseev | Dreamstime.com

in the vision I was beside the Ulai Canal. <sup>3</sup>I looked up, and there before me was a ram with two horns, standing beside the canal, and the horns were long. One of the horns was longer than the other but grew up later. <sup>4</sup>I watched the ram as it charged toward the west and the north and the south. No animal could stand against it, and none could rescue from its power. It did as it pleased and became great.

<sup>20</sup>The two-horned ram that you saw represents the kings of Media and Persia.

**According to verse 20 of this chapter, the ram represents the Medo-Persian empire. The longer of its two horns reflect the predominant position of Persia. It became great. Here's a bit of history about it.**

The Achaemenid Empire (/əˈkiːməniːd/; **Old Persian**: 𐎧𐎶𐎵, romanized: Xšāça, **lit.** 'The Empire'), also called the **First Persian Empire**,<sup>[16]</sup> was an ancient **Iranian empire** based in **Western Asia** founded by **Cyrus the Great**. Ranging at its greatest extent from the **Balkans** and **Eastern Europe** proper in the west to the **Indus Valley** in the east, it was **larger** than any previous empire in history, spanning 5.5 million square kilometers (2.1 million square miles).<sup>[12][13]</sup> It is notable for its successful model of a centralised, bureaucratic administration (through **satraps** under the **King of Kings**), for its **multicultural** policy, for building infrastructure such as **road systems** and a **postal system**, the use of an **official language** across its territories, and the development of civil services and a large professional army. The empire's successes inspired similar systems in later empires.<sup>[17]</sup><sup>3</sup>

**Note the significance of this empire---many of its innovations are still extant today. Perhaps that's why it has a role in "prophetic" descriptive history of the nations that lead up to the ultimate expression of the "spiritual Babylon" that is still functioning at least in format today, the Roman Empire (always the fourth kingdom in these prophecies).**

<sup>5</sup>As I was thinking about this, suddenly a goat with a prominent horn between its eyes came from the west, crossing the whole earth without touching the ground. <sup>6</sup>It came toward the two-horned ram I had seen standing beside the canal and charged at it in great rage. <sup>7</sup>I saw it attack the ram furiously, striking the ram and shattering its two horns. The ram was powerless to stand against it; the goat knocked it to the ground and trampled on it, and none could rescue the ram from its power. <sup>8</sup>The goat became very great, but at the height of its power the large horn was broken off, and in its place four prominent horns grew up toward the four winds of heaven.

**The NIV study bible says this goat is Greece, and the prominent horn is Alexander the Great. It crushes Medo-Persian (as it did in history) and the horn being broken off represents Alexander's premature death.**

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

<sup>9</sup>Out of one of them came another horn, which started small but grew in power to the south and to the east and toward the Beautiful Land. <sup>10</sup>It grew until it reached the host of the heavens, and it threw some of the starry host down to the earth and trampled on them. <sup>11</sup>It set itself up to be as great as the commander of the army of the LORD; it took away the daily sacrifice from the LORD, and his sanctuary was thrown down. <sup>12</sup>Because of rebellion, the LORD's people<sup>[a]</sup> (or "the armies") and the daily sacrifice were given over to it. It prospered in everything it did, and truth was thrown to the ground.

**This is a complicated prophecy and from what I can tell, the language used is difficult to translate and subject to various interpretations. But for the sake of not getting too bogged down in this, here's what I'll share (primarily from the NIV study bible). In Daniel 7, the "leopard" with four wings and four heads represented the four divisions of Alexander's empire:**

- **Antipater and Cassander – Macedon and Greece**
- **Lysimachus – Asia Minor**
- **Seleucus 1 – Syrea**
- **Ptolemy 1 – Holy Land and Egypt**

**From Seleucus 1 Antiochus IV Epiphanes descended, who during the last few years of**

Jeremiah 3:19 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>19</sup>"I myself said,

"How gladly would I treat you like my children

and give you a pleasant

land,

the most beautiful

inheritance of any nation.'

I thought you would call me 'Father'

and not turn away from

following me.

**his reign (168-164 B.C.) made a determined effort to destroy the Jewish faith. It is thought he serves as a type of the even more ruthless beast of the last days (the antichrist) who is referred to Daniel 7:8.**

**Antiochus was to extend his power over Israel ("the Beautiful Land").**

Daniel 7:8 New International Version (NIV)

<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.

**He defeated the godly believers (referred to as “the host of heaven) many of whom died for their faith. Then he set himself up to be equal to the commander of the armies of the Lord (vs 11) and ordered daily sacrifices to end. Eventually the armies of Judas Maccabeus recaptured Jerusalem and rededicated the Temple (referenced in verse 14 below) to the Lord---celebrated by the Festival of Hannukah, which is referenced in John’s gospel.**

<sup>13</sup>Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to him, “How long will it take for the vision to be fulfilled—the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, the rebellion that causes desolation, the surrender of the sanctuary and the trampling underfoot of the LORD’s people?”

<sup>14</sup>He said to me, “It will take 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be reconsecrated.”

John 10:22-23 New International Version (NIV)

### Further Conflict Over Jesus’ Claims

<sup>22</sup>Then came the Festival of Dedication<sup>[a]</sup> at Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup>and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon’s Colonnade.

**Footnotes:**

- a. **John 10:22** That is, Hanukkah

**NIV study bible says this: There were two daily sacrifices for the continual burnt offering.**

<b>Exodus 29:38</b>	<b>Exodus 29:39</b>
<sup>38</sup> “This is what you are to offer on the altar regularly each day: two lambs a year old.	<sup>39</sup> Offer one in the morning and the other at twilight.
<sup>42</sup> “For the generations to come this burnt offering is to be made regularly at the entrance to the tent of meeting, before the LORD. There I will meet you and speak to you;	

**The 2300 evenings and mornings probably refer to the number of sacrifices offered consecutively on 1,150 days, the interval between the desecration of the Lord’s altar by Antiochus and Ephiphanes and is reconstruction by Judas Maccabeus.**

**Footnotes:**

- a. **Daniel 8:12** Or *rebellion, the armies*
- b. **Daniel 8:17** The Hebrew phrase *ben adam* means *human being*. The phrase *son of man* is retained as a form of address here because of its possible association with “Son of Man” in the New Testament.
- c. **Daniel 8:19** Or *because the end will be at the appointed time*