

**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 4<sup>2</sup>**

Ok. So I’m going to share today the interpretation of the vision Daniel was given, and move ahead. I wonder about Daniel. Very likely, he was made a eunuch by the king’s “system” for dealing with captured royalty. It had been prophesied to Hezekiah, his ancestor, by Isaiah in chapter 39: And some of your descendants, your own flesh and blood who will be born to you, will be taken away, and they will become **eunuchs** in the palace of the king of Babylon.”He was serving under “the master of the eunuchs” (Daniel 1:3). Yet this man was anything but a “dry tree” (Isaiah 56:4). He was given “an everlasting name, which will endure forever.” (Isaiah 56:5) Let’s learn about what God showed Him. 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.)

## The Interpretation of the Vision

<sup>15</sup>While I, Daniel, was watching the vision and trying to understand it, there before me stood one who looked like a man. <sup>16</sup>And I heard a man's voice from the Ulai calling, "Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of the vision."

**Since God can do anything without anyone's help, why does he use angels to do things like this? Hebrews says "all angels are ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation." (Hebrews 1:14) So why does God use them when He doesn't "have" to, technically? My guesses are:**

**1. Sometimes we are too spiritually insensitive to God's more subtle leadings through the Spirit, and it takes a manifested being like an angel to get through to us.**

**2. God wants to share not only what He has, but what He is---an active Living Giving Life Being, who does a lot of "fun" things. It must be an honor to be a Gabriel, an angel who stands "in the presence of God." He's an important angel, and was given important responsibilities.**

**His name means "God my hero" or "Mighty Man of God." He can fly swiftly (although that may or may not mean he has wings). He is sent out it seems in response to prayers.**

### Daniel 9

<sup>21</sup>while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. <sup>22</sup>He instructed me and said to me, "Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. <sup>23</sup>As soon as you began to pray, a word went out, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the word and understand the vision . . .

**And apparently, he helps people understand visions and God’s actions. Michael is another angel of importance mentioned in the bible.**

<b>Daniel 10:13</b>	<b>Jude 9</b>	<b>Revelation 12:7</b>
<p><sup>13</sup>But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me<sup>3</sup> twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.</p>	<p><sup>9</sup>But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not himself dare to condemn him for slander but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”<sup>[a]</sup></p> <p><i>Footnotes:</i></p> <p><b>a. Jude 1:9</b> Jude is alluding to the <i>Jewish Testament of Moses</i> (approximately the first century A.D.).</p>	<p><sup>7</sup>Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.</p>

**So . . . Gabriel comes near and let’s see what happens.**

<sup>17</sup>As he came near the place where I was standing, I was terrified and fell prostrate. “Son of man,”<sup>[b]</sup> he said to me, “understand that the vision concerns the time of the end.”

<sup>18</sup>While he was speaking to me, I was in a deep sleep, with my face to the ground. Then he touched me and raised me to my feet.

**Again, look at his power.**

<sup>19</sup>He said: “I am going to tell you what will happen later in the time of wrath, because the vision concerns the appointed time of the end.”<sup>[c]</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> As we’ll see in chapter 10, “a man dressed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz his waist, His body . . . like topaz, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished broze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude (verses 5-6). Hmmm . . . I wonder why an angel wears gold from an earthly region.

**Or, “because the end will be at the appointed time.”**

<sup>20</sup>The two-horned ram that you saw represents the kings of Media and Persia. <sup>21</sup>The shaggy goat is the king of Greece, and the large horn between its eyes is the first king.

**Alexander the Great.**

<sup>22</sup>The four horns that replaced the one that was broken off represent four kingdoms that will emerge from his nation but will not have the same power.

**Now he’s going to speak about Antiochus IV, the one who called himself “Epiphanes” (God Manifest). NIV says others called him “Epimanes” (mad man) because of his erratic behavior.**

<sup>23</sup>“In the latter part of their reign, when rebels have become completely wicked, a fierce-looking king, a master of intrigue, will arise. <sup>24</sup>He will become very strong, but not by his own power.

**Possibly Satan’s power? Revelation indicates this is possible.**

### **Revelation 13**

**13** The dragon<sup>[some manuscripts]</sup> stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. . . <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. <sup>7</sup>**It was given power to wage war against God’s holy people and to conquer them. . .**

<sup>11</sup>Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it **spoke like a dragon. . .** <sup>13</sup>And **it performed great signs**, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people. <sup>14</sup>Because of the **signs it was given power to perform** on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. . . <sup>15</sup>The second beast **was given power to give breath** to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.

**Satan can empower such evil in people and nations and rulers even.**

He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy those who are mighty, the holy people. <sup>25</sup>He will cause deceit to prosper, and he will consider himself superior. When they feel secure, he will destroy many and take his stand against the Prince of princes. Yet he will be destroyed, but not by human power.

**Antiochus died in 164 B.C. through what is historically reported as “illness” or “accident.” NIV study Bible says “God destroyed him.”**

<sup>26</sup>“The vision of the evenings and mornings that has been given you is true, but seal up the vision, for it concerns the distant future.”

<sup>27</sup>I, Daniel, was worn out. I lay exhausted for several days. Then I got up and went about the king’s business. I was appalled by the vision; it was beyond understanding.

**Phew. It’s tough being a servant of God and carrying his vision. Daniel found it out Jesus would too. So will you!**

**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*