

**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*

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)**

<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 9 Part 4<sup>2</sup>**

So I’m going to dig into chapter 10 today full on. It is fascinating from several perspectives. One to me is the “vision of a man” that he’s given---some kind of angelic being with all kinds of heightened physical characteristics.

There is something theologians call the “spiritual material” body. It’s a real body, just like the one Jesus had at the resurrection. It could be touched. It could eat. It could straddle dimensions. Perhaps we’re getting a glimpse at an angelic version of one. Or perhaps only WE get this kind of body, like Jesus did when He was incarnated. More to question, more to believe!

**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's Vision of a Man

**We started off here last timie.**

**10** In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a revelation was given to Daniel (who was called Belteshazzar). Its message was true and it concerned a great war.<sup>[a]</sup> The understanding of the message came to him in a vision.

<sup>2</sup>At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. <sup>3</sup>I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over.

**I'm speculating that this is the kind of fasting Daniel had gotten into as an older man. I know now that I'm a bit older, I don't look at fasting the same way I did when I was younger. Don't get me wrong, I still uphold the practice and will do it as God leads. But I'm sensing (or hoping☺) God is leading me into a new of fasting--- Daniel style. Although I'm not sure that not using lotions (or deodorant) for 21 days would be showing love to others.**

<sup>4</sup>On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris,

**Here's a panoramic view of the Tigris. Photo Credit: Photo 196612237 © Inna Giliarova | Dreamstime.com**



<sup>5</sup>I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist.

**I find this intriguing because it shows creatures who live in the dimension we call "heaven" dressed in "linen" and having a belt of fine gold from the land of Uphaz. What was the big deal about Uphaz?**

**It's mentioned in Jeremiah 10:9 as the source of a place from which fine gold was brought. It was also translated "Ophir."**

[Bible Dictionaries - Easton's Bible Dictionary - Uphaz](#)

**Uphaz** [N] [H] [S]

probably another name for Ophir ( **Jeremiah 10:9** ).

**Gold is mentioned in Genesis 2.**

a.

Genesis 2:10-12 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>10</sup>A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. <sup>11</sup>The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. <sup>12</sup>(The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin<sup>[a]</sup> and onyx are also there.)

*Footnotes:*

**Genesis 2:12** Or *good; pearls*

**I guess what strikes me is how “sensual” all this sounds---a physicality designed to appeal to the senses. After all, Jesus, “The Word” of God, *became* flesh! Flesh is good, very good according to Genesis 1:33.**

**God made a space and place inside His eternal being for time and flesh to exist! And for Him to inhabit.**

Acts 2:17-18, 32-33 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>17</sup>“In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit **on all people.**

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,

your young men will see visions,

your old men will dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup>Even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days,

and they will prophesy. . . <sup>32</sup>God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. <sup>33</sup>Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

**This is why Jesus came, died, and went to heaven---to receive the Holy Spirit on behalf of all flesh and give it to all who receive it.**



<sup>6</sup>His body was like topaz, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.



<sup>7</sup>I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; those who were with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves. <sup>8</sup>So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision;

I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless.

<sup>9</sup>Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground.

**I think it's fascinating to consider:**

**1. The way beings look on "the other side"---in the heavenly, yet creaturely dimension.**

**2. Another thing to consider is how they sounded.**

**Apparently it's physically overwhelming to see such things. The prophet said he turned deathly pale and fell into a deep sleep, as he listened to this being.**

**Follow the rest of the vision, which we'll read today and comment more on tomorrow.**

<sup>10</sup>A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. <sup>11</sup>He said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you." And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling.

**The word means to shudder more or less violently.**

<sup>12</sup>Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them.

<sup>13</sup>But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained

there with the king of Persia. <sup>14</sup>Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come.”

**This is a cool insight. NIV says apparently an evil demonic force who exercised “anti-Christ” influence over the kingdom of Persia put up resistance to this powerful angel. Michael, “the great prince who protects the people of God,” (Daniel 12:1) came to his aid. He was there to help Daniel see what would happen to God’s people in the future.**

<sup>15</sup>While he was saying this to me, I bowed with my face toward the ground and was speechless. <sup>16</sup>Then one who looked like a man<sup>[b]</sup> touched my lips, and I opened my mouth and began to speak. I said to the one standing before me, “I am overcome with anguish because of the vision, my lord, and I feel very weak. <sup>17</sup>How can I, your servant, talk with you, my lord? My strength is gone and I can hardly breathe.”

<sup>18</sup>Again the one who looked like a man touched me and gave me strength. <sup>19</sup>“Do not be afraid, you who are highly esteemed,” he said. “Peace! Be strong now; be strong.”

**While being in the presence of this spiritual dimension weakens us, they also can strengthen us. What power God has given these ministering spirits, “sent to serve those who will inherit salvation.” (Hebrews 1:14).**

When he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, “Speak, my lord, since you have given me strength.”

<sup>20</sup>So he said, “Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come;

**The kingdoms (and leaders) of this world are shown to be empowered by Satan. That’s why Satan was able to say and do this to Jesus:**

<sup>5</sup>The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup>And he said to him, “I will give you all their

authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. <sup>7</sup>If you worship me, it will all be yours." Luke 4

<sup>21</sup>but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince.

**Daniel 12:1 speaks of people whose names are written in the "book," presumably the "Book of Life," where perhaps the destinies of all living are recorded---perhaps even in advance. I'll focus more on that next time.**

*Footnotes:*

- a. **Daniel 10:1** Or *true and burdensome*
- b. **Daniel 10:16** Most manuscripts of the Masoretic Text; one manuscript of the Masoretic Text, Dead Sea Scrolls and Septuagint *Then something that looked like a human hand*