

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 10 Part 3²

So I’m intrigued and fascinated by the “man” from the heavenly dimension that came to speak to Daniel. It was intriguing to hear about the way he looked, and the way he spoke. It was also intriguing to hear about the “behind the scenes” spiritual battles going on all around the people of God. Paul knew about this. In Ephesians 6, he says:

¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Thankfully, we have God on our side! Enjoy!

¹ **NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR UPLOADED TO WEB WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION OF AUTHOR.**

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Daniel 10 New International Version (NIV)

Daniel's Vision of a Man

Here is a glimpse of the spiritual warfare we spoke of above.

10 ¹²Then 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.

The word for "humble yourself" is:

H6031 `anah aw-naw'

a primitive root (possibly rather ident. with **H6030** through the idea of looking down or browbeating);

to depress literally or figuratively, transitive or intransitive (in various applications, as follows).

KJV: abase self, afflict(-ion, self), answer (by mistake for **H6030**), chasten self, deal hardly with, defile, exercise, force, gentleness, humble (self), hurt, ravish, sing (by mistake for **H6030**), speak (by mistake for **H6030**), submit self, weaken, X in any wise.

¹³But 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.

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. I guess the difference between the actual "king" of Persia and the "prince" of Persia is that just as Michael was an angelic prince who protected the people of God, whatever evil spiritual force who was with the "king" of Persia was a prince. I'll look it up in the more literal translation I like to use.

[\(CLV\) Dn 10:13](#)

[†]yet the chief of the kingdom of Persia was standing to confront me twenty-one days. [†]Yet behold, Michael, one of the first [°]chiefs, came to help me. And ^{71/}left [»]him[~] there beside ⁷the chief of⁰ the kings of Persia.

The word used is "chief" and Michael is called one of the "first chiefs" and in this translation, the "topaz" man left Michael beside the "prince" or "chief" of the kings of Persia.

So this is very insightful. Perhaps there are angelic "princes" or chiefs assigned to all rulers on the face of the earth.

It's interesting to consider the topic of angels, actually.

A quick survey of the New Testament is revealing.

I'm going to do a quick look, commenting as I feel appropriate on the 82 references of angels in the NT. I may not include all since some may be repeats. But let me see what there is to learn.

Matthew 4:6

"If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his **angels** concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

God does have angels, spirits that do his bidding. This is quoting an OT Psalm about how angels protect God's people

Matthew 4:11

Then the devil left him, and **angels** came and attended him.

The angels attended Jesus.

Matthew 13:39

and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are **angels**.

Jesus says that the angels are harvesters at the end of the age, and the next verse shows what they will do.

Matthew 13:41

The Son of Man will send out his **angels**, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil.

Matthew 13:49

This is how it will be at the end of the age. The **angels** will come and separate the wicked from the righteous

The rest of the verse says they will throw the wicked "into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 16:27

For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his **angels**, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

The Son of Man has angels. Interesting.

Matthew 18:10

[*The Parable of the Wandering Sheep*] "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their **angels** in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.

This seems to indicate the angels of little ones (in context of this chapter, like the "little child" He called to Himself at the beginning of the chapter)

Matthew 22:30

At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the **angels** in heaven.

Matthew 24:31

And he will send his **angels** with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

So we'll be gathered by angels. I wonder what it will be like. Sounds so amazing.

Matthew 24:36

[*The Day and Hour Unknown*] "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the **angels** in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Not even the angels know the time of the return. Only the Father does.

Matthew 25:31

[*The Sheep and the Goats*] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the **angels** with him, he will sit on his glorious throne.

Matthew 25:41

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his **angels**.'

Eternal fire is prepared for the devil and his angels. Remember, Satan swept down 1/3 of the stars (angels) of heaven with him (Revelation 12).

Matthew 26:53

Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of **angels**?

A Roman legion had 6,000 soldiers. That would be 72,000 angels!

Luke 2:15

When the **angels** had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

Angels were present at Christ's birth.

Luke 12:8

"I tell you, whoever publicly acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the **angels** of God.

The angels will be ones before whom we are acknowledged by the Jesus . . .and as the last verse shows, disowned.

Luke 12:9

But whoever disowns me before others will be disowned before the **angels** of God.

Luke 15:10

In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the **angels** of God over one sinner who repents."

They rejoice when we repent!

Luke 16:22

"The time came when the beggar died and the **angels** carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried.

They carry us to heaven when we die!

1 Corinthians 6:3

Do you not know that we will judge **angels**? How much more the things of this life!

We will judge angels (rule is I think what that means, just like the judges "presided" over the land of Israel).

Galatians 3:19

Why, then, was the law given at all? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was given through **angels** and entrusted to a mediator.

The law was given through angels.

2 Thessalonians 1:7

and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful **angels**.

Jesus will be "revealed" from heaven (as opposed to coming to a place as if He's not really here already) "in blazing fire" (that must

be the impact that creaturely dimension has on our earthly dimension) with “powerful” angels---angels are powerful!

1 Timothy 5:21

I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect **angels**, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism.

There are “elect” angels---I suppose in contrast with Satan’s angels (unclean spirits, demons). Paul used them, along with God and Jesus, as his “witnesses” to the instructions he was giving.

Hebrews 1:14

Are not all **angels** ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

The angels are spirits who minister to us, the heir of salvation! We inherit “salvation.” They do not. Interesting.

Hebrews 2:5

[*Jesus Made Fully Human*] It is not to **angels** that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking.

The world to come is subjected to Christ, and to us!

Hebrews 2:16

For surely it is not **angels** he helps, but Abraham’s descendants.

Jesus came for us, not for the angels!

Hebrews 12:22

But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of **angels** in joyful assembly,

The number is literally “myriad” --- an indefinite but huge number.

1 Peter 3:22

who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with **angels**, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Angels are listed with “authorities” and “powers.”

Let me finish up this survey with some words from a resource³ I often use to summarize certain Biblical topics. I’ll highlight certain key phrases.

Question: “What are principalities and powers?”

³ [What are principalities and powers? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Answer: The phrase *principalities and powers* occurs six times in the Bible, always in the King James Version and its derivatives (NKJV, MKJV). Other versions translate it variously as “rulers and authorities,” “forces and authorities,” and “rulers and powers.” In most places where the phrase appears, the contexts make it clear that it refers to **the vast array of evil and malicious spirits who make war against the people of God.** The principalities and powers of Satan are usually in view here, beings that **wield power in the unseen realms to oppose everything and everyone that is of God.**

The first mention of principalities and powers is in [Romans 8:37-39](#): “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither **angels nor demons**, neither the present nor the future, nor any **powers**, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” These verses are about the victory Christ has won over all the **forces ranged against us.** We are “more than conquerors” because no force—not life, not death, not angels, not demons, indeed nothing—can separate us from the love of God. The **“powers” referred to here are those with miraculous powers**, whether false teachers and prophets or the very demonic entities that empower them. What is clear is that, whoever they are, they cannot separate us from the love of God. Victory is assured. It would be unfortunate to dwell on identifying the powers and miss the main thrust of the verse, which is assurance about what God has done to save us.

Another mention of principalities and powers is in [Colossians 1:16](#), “For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether **thrones or powers or rulers or authorities**; all things were created by him and for him.” Here is the clear statement that God is the Creator and Ruler over all authorities, whether they submit to Him or rebel against Him. Whatever power the evil forces possess, **they are not out of the ultimate control of our sovereign God**, who uses even the wicked for bringing about His perfect plan and purpose ([Daniel 4:35](#); [Isaiah 46:10-11](#)).

In the next chapter of Colossians, we read about Jesus’ ultimate power over all other powers: “And having **disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross**” ([Colossians 2:15](#)). In keeping with all things, the powers are created by Christ and therefore under His control. **They are not to be feared, for they have been disarmed by the cross. The Savior, by His death, took dominion from them, and took back what they had captured.** Satan and his legions had invaded the earth and drawn mankind into captivity, subjecting them to their evil reign. But Christ, by His death, subdued the invaders and recaptured those who had been vanquished. [Colossians 2:14](#) speaks of Jesus being nailed to the cross along with the

written charges against us. The record of our wrongdoing, with which Satan accuses us before God, is nailed with Christ to the cross. It is thereby destroyed, and the powers can no longer accuse us; we are innocent in the eyes of God. Hence, they are disarmed.

[Ephesians 3:10-11](#) presents **different principalities and powers—those of the heavenly realms**: “His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Here we see the angelic [hosts](#) being shown the wisdom and purpose of God in the plan of salvation through Christ. Angels, both holy and unholy, witness the glory of God and the preeminence of Christ above all creatures in the church, those who are saved and preserved by His power ([Ephesians 1:20-21](#)).

[Ephesians 6:12](#) declares **the warfare in which we are engaged as we battle throughout our lives** “against the rulers, against the authorities, against **the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.**” So, having been saved, we must continue to struggle to do good things in light of the sure victory promised in [Romans 8](#). It is as though **we are facing an army of dark powers who have been disarmed from real power and against whom we have been promised victory.** It is our job to demonstrate and depend upon the wisdom and power of God in defeating them in our lives. We can do this by trusting in God’s victory.

The final reference to principalities and powers is [Titus 3:1](#).

Titus 3:1 New International Version (NIV)

Saved in Order to Do Good

3 Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good,

Here they refer to those governmental authorities whom God has placed over us for our protection and welfare. They are God’s representatives on earth, and submission to Him involves submission to His duly constituted authorities. Those who rebel against earthly authorities are “rebellious against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves” ([Romans 13:2](#)).

Recommended Resource: [Unseen Realities: Heaven, Hell, Angels, and Demons](#) by R.C. Sproul

¹⁴Now 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.”

I will focus on that tomorrow.