

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 11 Part ²

Angels and demons, princes and rulers---a glimpse of the cosmic battle going on behind the scenes of our everyday world! Perhaps that’s why the prophecy of Revelation was so important to those suffering persecution in the days of the Roman Empire. It was also known in Greek as the “apocalypse”---and the word means “uncovering,” of what is going behind the scenes in the cosmic world. We’ll pick up today in Daniel 11, where the angel/cosmic power reveals things to Daniel. Who know what dramas are going on behind the scenes of our lives today. It will be amazing when God reveals them to us one day. Enjoy!

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So Daniel 10 closed this way:

²⁰So 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; ²¹but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince. . .

And Daniel 11 picks up and completes the parenthetical.

Daniel 11 New International Version (NIV)

11 ¹And in the first year of Darius the Mede, I took my stand to support and protect him.)

Wow. Topaz man protects Darius the Mede. So some rulers get protection in this cosmic war. See text box.

The Kings of the South and the North

²"Now then, I tell you the truth: Three more kings will arise in Persia, and then a fourth, who will be far richer than all the others.

This is interesting because skeptics find this to be so accurate they attempt to say it was written after the fact. But God indeed does have the capacity to reveal the future. According to the NIV study bible, the "three more kings" are:

1. Cambyses (530-522 B.C.)

Cambyses II was the second King of Kings of the Achaemenid Empire from 530 to 522 BC. He was the son and successor of Cyrus the Great and his mother was Cassandane.³

³ [Cambyses II - Wikipedia](#)

Ephesians 6:12 New International Version (NIV)

¹²For 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.

Look at this verse in the CLV version which though it reads awkwardly to us, to me is more reflective of the literal.

(CLV) Eph 6:12

^tfor it is not ours to ^owrestle ^{td}with blood and flesh, but ^{td}with the sovereignties, ^{td}with the authorities, ^{td}with the world-mights of this ^odarkness, ^{td}with the spiritual forces of ^owickedness among the celestials.

"This darkness" is an interesting phrase. The word means "shadiness" and "obscurity" and it comes from a root that conveys the concept of "shade" or a shadow (literally or figuratively (darkness of error or an adumbration)). Another interesting phrase in Greek is the "pneumatika tes ponerias"--- the "spirituals" of the "hurtful wickedness."

Pneumatikos - non-carnal, i.e. (humanly) ethereal (as opposed to gross), or (daemoniacally) a spirit (concretely), or (divinely) supernatural, regenerate, religious. Pneumatikos comes from the word "pneuma" which is the Greek word for both empowering spirit and moving air. According to Greek scholar Wenstrom concordance, it means: It means the elemental natural and vital force which, **matter and process in one**, acts as a stream of air in the blowing of the wind and the inhaling and exhaling of breath, and hence transferred as the breath of the spirit which, in a way may be detected both outwardly and inwardly, fills with inspiration and grips with enthusiasm.

For what it's worth, legend has it he threw cats in the faces of defeated enemies and he and 50,000 troops were mysteriously lost in a sandstorm when he marched to a temple in the Oasis of Siway to put the rebellion of insubordinate Egyptian priests in their place.

2. Pseudo-Smerdis or Guamata (522 B.C.)

Here's what I found on this guy:

Bardiya, also known as Smerdis among the Greeks, was a son of Cyrus the Great and the younger brother of Cambyses II, both Persian kings. There are sharply divided views on his life. Bardiya either ruled the Achaemenid Empire for a few months in 522 BC, or was impersonated by a magus called Gaumāta, until he was toppled by Darius the Great.⁴

3. Darius 1 (522 B.C. – 486 B.C.)

Darius I (**Old Persian**: 𐎠𐎼𐎷𐎡𐎴, romanized: *Dārayava(h)uš*; **New Persian**: داریوش; **Hebrew**: דָּרְיָוֶשׁ, **Modern**: *Darəyaveš*, **Tiberian**: *Dārəyāweš*; c. 550 – 486 BCE), commonly known as **Darius the Great**, was the third **Persian King of Kings** of the **Achaemenid Empire**, reigning from 522 BCE until his death in 486 BCE. He ruled the empire at its peak, when it included much of **West Asia**, parts of the **Caucasus**, parts of the **Balkans** (**Thrace-Macedonia**, and **Paeonia**), most of the **Black Sea** coastal regions, Central Asia, as far as the **Indus Valley** in the far east and portions of north and northeast Africa including **Egypt** (Mudrāya), eastern **Libya**, and coastal **Sudan**.^{[2][3]}

Darius ascended the throne by overthrowing the legitimate Achaemenid monarch **Bardiya**, whom he later fabricated to be an imposter named **Gaumata**. The new king met with rebellions throughout his kingdom and quelled them each time. A major event in Darius's life was his expedition to punish **Athens** and **Eretria** for their aid in the **Ionian Revolt** and subjugate **Greece**. Although ultimately ending in failure at the **Battle of Marathon**, Darius succeeded in the re-subjugation of **Thrace**, expansion of the empire through the conquest of **Macedon**, the **Cyclades** and the island of **Naxos** and the sacking of the city of Eretria.

Darius organized the empire by dividing it into provinces and placing **satraps** to govern it. He organized **Achaemenid coinage** as a new uniform monetary system, along with making **Aramaic** the official language of the empire. He also put the empire in better standing by building roads and introducing standard weights and measures. Through these changes, the empire was centralized and unified.^[4] Darius also worked on construction projects throughout the empire, focusing on **Susa**, **Pasargadae**, **Persepolis**, **Babylon**, and **Egypt**. He had the cliff-face **Behistun Inscription** carved to record his conquests, an important testimony of the **Old Persian language**.

Darius is mentioned in the **biblical books** of **Haggai**, **Zechariah**, and **Ezra–Nehemiah**.⁵

⁴ [Bardiya - Wikipedia](#)

⁵⁵ [Darius the Great - Wikipedia](#)

He is shown as being supportive of the rebuilding of the temple against resistant locals. (Ezra 6:6-12).

4. The fourth king is "Xerxes" (486-485) who did attempt to conquer Greece and was in love with Esther, the Jewish girl. Let's track with this complicated prophecy.

When he has gained power by his wealth, he will stir up everyone against the kingdom of Greece.

Yes, he did. And he lost.

Xerxes I (**Old Persian**: 𐎧𐎫𐎼𐎿𐎧, romanized: *Xšaya-ršā*; c. 518 – August 465 BC), commonly known as **Xerxes the Great**, was the fourth **King of Kings** of the **Achaemenid Empire**, ruling from 486 to 465 BC. He was the son and successor of **Darius the Great** (r. 522 – 486 BC) and his mother was **Atossa**, a daughter of **Cyrus the Great** (r. 550 – 530 BC), the first Achaemenid king. Like his father, he ruled the empire at its territorial apex. He ruled from 486 BC until his assassination in 465 BC at the hands of **Artabanus**, the commander of the royal bodyguard.

Xerxes I is notable in Western history for his failed **invasion of Greece** in 480 BC. His forces temporarily overran mainland **Greece** north of the **Isthmus of Corinth**^{[3][4]} until losses at **Salamis** and **Plataea** a year later reversed these gains and ended the second invasion decisively. However, Xerxes successfully crushed revolts in Egypt and Babylon. **Roman Ghirshman** says that, "After this he ceased to use the title of 'king of Babylon', calling himself simply 'king of the Persians and the Medes'."^[5] Xerxes also oversaw the completion of various construction projects at **Susa** and **Persepolis**.

Xerxes is identified with the king **Ahasuerus** in the biblical **Book of Esther**⁶

³Then a mighty king will arise, who will rule with great power and do as he pleases.

Alexander the Great 336-323 B.C.

⁴After he has arisen, his empire will be broken up and parceled out toward the four winds of heaven. It will not go to his descendants, nor will it have the power he exercised, because his empire will be uprooted and given to others.

The four main divisions into which his empire fell after his untimely death in 323 are:

- **Macedonia and Greece (under Antipater and Cassander)**
- **Thrace and Asia Minor (under Lysimachus)**
- **Syria (under Seleucus 1)**

⁶ [Xerxes I - Wikipedia](#)

- **The Holy Land and Egypt (under Ptolemy).**

⁵“The king of the South

Ptolemy 1 Soter (323 – 285 B.C.) of Egypt.

will become strong, but one of his commanders will become even stronger than he and will rule his own kingdom with great power.

Seleucus 1 Nicator (311 – 280)

Seleucus I Nicator (/səˈljuːkəsˌnaɪˈktər/; c. 358 BC – September 281 BC; **Ancient Greek**: Σέλευκος Νικάτωρ, **romanized**: *Séleukos Nikátōr*, **lit.** 'Seleucus the Victor') was a Greek general and one of the **Diadochi**, the rival generals, relatives, and friends of Alexander the Great who fought for control over his empire after his death.^[A] Having previously served as an infantry general under **Alexander the Great**, he eventually assumed the title of **basileus** (king) and established the **Seleucid Empire**, one of the major powers of the **Hellenistic world**, which controlled most of **Asia Minor**, **Syria**, **Mesopotamia**, and the **Iranian Plateau** until overcome by the **Roman Republic** and **Parthian Empire** in the late second and early first centuries BC.

After the death of Alexander in June 323 BC, Seleucus initially supported **Perdiccas**, the regent of Alexander's empire, and was appointed **Commander of the Companions** and **chiliarch** at



the **Partition of Babylon** in 323 BC. However, after the outbreak of the **Wars of the Diadochi** in 322, Perdiccas' military failures against **Ptolemy** in **Egypt** led to the mutiny of his troops in **Pelusium**. Perdiccas was betrayed and assassinated in a conspiracy by Seleucus, **Peithon** and **Antigenes** in Pelusium sometime in either 321 or 320 BC. At the **Partition of Triparadisus** in 321 BC, Seleucus was appointed **Satrap of Babylon** under the new regent **Antipater**. But almost immediately, the wars between the Diadochi resumed and one of the most powerful of the Diadochi, **Antigonus** forced Seleucus to flee **Babylon**. Seleucus was only able to return to Babylon in 312 BC with the support of Ptolemy. From 312 BC, Seleucus ruthlessly expanded his dominions and eventually conquered the **Persian** and **Median** lands. Seleucus ruled not only **Babylonia**, but the entire enormous eastern part of **Alexander's empire**.⁷

By Allan Gluck - Allan Gluck, CC BY 4.0,

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=85414285>

⁶After some years, they will become allies. The daughter of the king of the South will go to the king of the North to make an alliance, but she will not retain her power, and he and his power^[a] will not last. In those days she will be betrayed, together with her royal escort and her father^[b] and the one who supported her.

⁷ **[Seleucus I Nicator - Wikipedia](#)**

So here is what the NIV study notes say. Berenice, daughter of Ptolemy Philadelphus (285 – 246 BC) of Egypt went to Antiochus II Theos (261 – 246) of Syria. She married him (and from my reckoning, if these are birth dates, she was 25 years older than him). But maybe these are just “reign” dates. At any rate, Antiochus’s former wife Laodice conspired to have them put to death. Her father (Berenice’s father) died at about the same time.

Sounds like a soap opera. Here’s a reference I looked. Sounds like something Shakespeare would have fun with.

Berenice (**Ancient Greek**: Βερενίκη, **romanized**: *Berenikē*) (c.275 BC^[1]–246 BC), also called **Berenice Phernophorus** ("Dowry Bearer") or **Berenice Syra**, was the daughter of **Ptolemy II Philadelphus** of his first wife **Arsinoe I of Egypt**.

Around 252 BC, following the peace agreement of 253 BC between Antiochus and Ptolemy to end the **Second Syrian War**, she married the **Seleucid** monarch **Antiochus II Theos**, who divorced his wife **Laodice I** and transferred the succession to Berenice's children.

In 246 BC, when Ptolemy died, Antiochus II took up again with his first wife, Laodice. Antiochus died shortly thereafter, many suspect from poisoning. Queen Berenice claimed the regency for her infant son Antiochus however, she and her son were both killed by Laodice. Berenice's brother, **Ptolemy III Euergetes**, succeeded their father and set about to avenge his sister's murder by **invading Syria** and having Laodice killed. This is also mentioned in the **Book of Daniel 11:6**.^[2]

Berenice (Seleucid queen) - Wikipedia

We’ll slog through this more next time!