

**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

**graceWORKS! GOING DEEPER**

**Daniel 11 Part 2<sup>2</sup>**

Talk about drama! Once the machinations of the politics of this age enter the picture, the world becomes different, even for the people of the Bible. Cast into the thick of the Spiritual Babylon around us, they were under governmental systems filled with drama and intrigue. Daniel 11 reflects some of it, and just learning the history of some of those prophesied makes me thankful that like Jesus, “My kingdom is not of this world.” Today I’ll continue, and see how far we get in the rest of the story. Be sure to love the Lord with all your heart, all your mind and all your soul!

**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.)

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

## The Kings of the South and the North

<sup>2</sup>“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.

**According to what we saw yesterday, the NIV study bible, the “three more kings” are:**

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

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

**3. Darius 1 (522 B.C. – 486 B.C.)**

. . .the third [Persian King of Kings](#) of the [Achaemenid Empire](#),

**Interesting side note: “King of Kings” I believe is originally a Persian phrase. But it’s one Christ is given! See the side bar for its use in Scripture. It’s interesting that governments in the world’s system evolved to empires, where a king become “king of kings.” The Bible uses that language to refer to Jesus. Also interesting again to note what Darius did to help further humanities form of governmental administration.**

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. . . building roads and introducing standard weights and measures. Through these changes, the empire was centralized and unified.<sup>[4]</sup> Darius is mentioned in the [biblical books](#) of [Haggai](#), [Zechariah](#), and [Ezra–Nehemiah](#).<sup>3</sup>

**He helped rebuild the temple. Perhaps the beginning of the alliances that Christians and**

[Ezra 7:12](#)

Artaxerxes, **king of kings**, To

Ezra the priest, teacher of the

Law of the God of heaven:

Greetings.

[Ezekiel 26:7](#)

“For this is what the

Sovereign LORD says: From the

north I am going to bring against

Tyre Nebuchadnezzar king of

Babylon, **king of kings**, with

horses and chariots, with

horsemen and a great army.

[Daniel 2:37](#)

Your Majesty, you are

the **king of kings**. The God of

heaven has given you dominion

and power and might and glory;

[1 Timothy 6:15](#)

which God will bring about in his

own time—God, the blessed and

only Ruler, the **King of kings**

and Lord of lords,

[Revelation 17:14](#)

They will wage war against the

Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph

over them because he is Lord of

lords and **King of kings**—and

with him will be his called,

chosen and faithful followers.”

[Revelation 19:16](#)

On his robe and on his thigh he

has this name

written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD**

OF LORDS.

**people of God have made with the governments fo this world.**

#### **4. The fourth king is "Xerxes" (486-485)**

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

#### **Alexander the Great 336-323 B.C.**

<sup>4</sup>After 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.

- **Macedonia and Greece (under Antipater and Cassander)**
- **Thrace and Asia Minor (under Lysimachus)**
- **Syria (under Seleucus 1)**
- **The Holy Land and Egypt (under Ptolemy).**

<sup>5</sup>"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)**

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

#### **We will pick up here!**

<sup>7</sup>"One from her family line will arise to take her place.

**So . . .Berenice's brother Ptolemy III Euergetes (246-221 BC) of Egypt did away with Laodice (and I guess put her career of poisoning rivals to an end).**

He will attack the forces of the king of the North and enter his fortress;

**The king of the North is identified as Seleucus II Callinicus (246-226). His fortress is either Seleuca of Acts 13:4, which was the port of Antioch, or Antioch itself.**

he will fight against them and be victorious. <sup>8</sup>He will also seize their gods, their metal images and their valuable articles of silver and gold and carry them off to Egypt.

**The gods taken were images of Syrian deities and Egyptian gods that had been captured and brought there. Interesting that they stole each other's "gods" from time to time. I imagine it helped people develop a jaded relationship with the "supernatural." Part of Satan's plot, I supposed, for rendering people resistant to a spiritual relationship with the true God.**

For some years he will leave the king of the North alone. <sup>9</sup>Then the king of the North will invade the realm of the king of the South but will retreat to his own country. <sup>10</sup>His sons will prepare for war and assemble a great army, which will sweep on like an irresistible flood and carry the battle as far as his fortress.

**The histories are complicated and truly read like a modern television show, with poisonings, machinations, evil, and the like.**

**His sons are:**

**Seleucus III Ceranus (226-223 BC) and Antiochus III (the Great) (223–187)**

**The fortress was Raphia (Ptolemy's fortress, southwest of Gaza).**

<sup>11</sup>"Then the king of the South will march out in a rage and fight against the king of the North, who will raise a large army, but it will be defeated.

- **King of the South: Ptolemy IV Philopater (221-203 BC)**
- **King of the North: Antiochus III (the Great) (223 – 187), sons of Seleucus II.**

**The defeat of the King of the South took place at Raphia in 217.**

<sup>12</sup>When the army is carried off, the king of the South will be filled with pride and will slaughter many thousands, yet he will not remain triumphant.

**The records show that the King of the North Antiochus III lost nearly 10,000 infantry men at Raphia.**

**Here's what Wikipedia says about Raphia.<sup>4</sup>**

The **Battle of Raphia**, also known as the **Battle of Gaza**<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup>, was a battle fought on 22 June 217 BC near modern **Rafah** between the forces of **Ptolemy IV Philopator**, king and pharaoh of **Ptolemaic Egypt** and **Antiochus III the Great** of the **Seleucid Empire** during the **Syrian Wars**.<sup>[1]</sup> It was one of the largest battles of the Hellenistic kingdoms and was one of the largest battles of the ancient world. The battle was waged to determine the sovereignty of **Coele Syria**.

<sup>13</sup>For the king of the North will muster another army, larger than the first; and after several years, he will advance with a huge army fully equipped.

<sup>14</sup>“In those times many will rise against the king of the South. Those who are violent among your own people will rebel in fulfillment of the vision, but without success. <sup>15</sup>Then the king of the North will come and build up siege ramps and will capture a fortified city. The forces of the South will be powerless to resist; even their best troops will not have the strength to stand. <sup>16</sup>The invader will do as he pleases; no one will be able to stand against him. He will establish himself in the Beautiful Land and will have the power to destroy it. <sup>17</sup>He will determine to come with the might of his entire kingdom and will make an alliance with the king of the South. And he will give him a daughter in marriage in order to overthrow the kingdom, but his plans<sup>[c]</sup> will not succeed or help him. <sup>18</sup>Then he will turn his attention to the coastlands and will take many of them, but a commander will put an end to his insolence and will turn his insolence back on him. <sup>19</sup>After this, he will turn back toward the fortresses of his own country but will stumble and fall, to be seen no more.

**It gets crazily complicated here and I don't want to get lost now in the historical details. Let me just call out a few things:**

**1. How detailed this angel is about the history and the personalities of the rulers.**

**2. How in particular, he calls out weaknesses and arrogances. Let me highlight a few from the passage above:**

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<sup>4</sup> [Battle of Raphia - Wikipedia](#)

- Those who are *violent* among your own people will rebel
- The forces of the South will be *powerless to resist*
- The invader will *do as he pleases*
- He will *establish himself*
- his plans *will not succeed* or help him. <sup>18</sup>
- a commander will put an end to *his insolence* and will turn his insolence back on him.
- He . . . *will stumble and fall, to be seen no more.*

**It's amazing what God tolerates from people.**

**Be of good cheer God's people. It is our Father's good pleasure to give us the Kingdom.**

**God sees.**

**God vindicates.**

**God will avenge!**

<sup>20</sup>His successor will send out a tax collector to maintain the royal splendor. In a few years, however, he will be destroyed, yet not in anger or in battle.

**We will pick up at verse 21 next time and get to the famous (or infamous) Antiochus Epiphanes.**