

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 2²

Talk about slogging through! The historical details are legion in this section of Scripture. Since the Lord we are to live by every word that comes out of the mouth of God, I’m going to pay attention to it and give it honor. I know that some will find this to be too simplistic and tell me I’m interpreting that direction wrongly, but I don’t care. If God spoke it through His prophet and left it there for me to read, I’m not going to ignore it. And besides, I’m finding out some fascinating things. While the circumstances are different in that time era, some of the dynamics of those in public office still apply. And a given phrase here and there do actually seem to apply to things happening today. So in that Spirit, here we go. I’m going to correct some earlier information, and see if I can move forward.

Enjoy!

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² 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 What Happened to Alexander's empire

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.

I'll just give special focus to these guys, because I still don't have it completely figured out.

SEE ADDENDUM IN THE BACK FOR THE TABLE OF PTOLEMAIC RULERS.

- **Syria (under Seleucus 1) The King of the North!**
- **The Holy Land and Egypt (under Ptolemy). The King of the South!**

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) Married off and on the power hungry and scary Laodice who apparently poisoned people who got in her way.

⁶After 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 Theos** 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.

246 BC

⁷“One from her family line will arise to take her place.

Ptolemy III Euergetes³, Berenice’s brother (246-221 BC) of Egypt did just that.

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

246 – 241

The king of the North is identified as Seleucus III 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. ⁸He will also seize their gods, their metal images and their valuable articles of silver and gold and carry them off to Egypt.

For some years he will leave the king of the North alone. ⁹Then the king of the North will invade the realm of the king of the South but will retreat to his own country. ¹⁰His 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.

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).

¹¹“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.**



217 B.C.
Battle of
Raphia

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

³³ Photo Credit: By Miguel Hermoso Cuesta - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=27034253>

¹²When 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.

¹³For 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.

¹⁴“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.

An interesting take on God’s people. They will become embroiled in the kingdoms of this world. It speaks of those who are violent:

The Hebrew word priyts is used:

H6530 priyts per-eets’

from **H6555**;

violent, i.e. a tyrant.

KJV: destroyer, ravenous, robber.

An interesting observation by an angel of God. The NIV says these are Jews who joined the forces of Antiochus without success.

¹⁵Then the king of the North will come and build up siege ramps and will capture a fortified city.

Sidon.

The forces of the South will be powerless to resist; even their best troops will not have the strength to stand. ¹⁶The invader will do as he

Ptolemy
Ephiphanes
(203 – 181
B.C.)

200 B.C.

The invader
is Antiochus,
who was in
control of the
Holy Land.
It’s about
197 B.C.

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. ¹⁷He will determine to come with the might of his entire kingdom and will make an alliance with the king of the South.

And he (the King of the North) will give him a daughter in marriage in order to overthrow the kingdom,

Antiochus (King of the North) gave his daughter Cleopatra 1 in marriage to Ptolemy V in 194 B.C.

but his plans^[OR SHE] will not succeed or help him. ¹⁸Then he (**Antiochus**) will turn his attention to the coastlands (**Asia Minor and perhaps Greece**) and will take many of them, but a commander will put an end to his insolence and will turn his insolence back on him.

The commander is the Roman consul Lucius Cornelius Scipio Asiaticus, who defeated Antiochus at Magnesia in Asia Minor in 190 B.C.

¹⁹After this, he will turn back toward the fortresses of his own country but will stumble and fall, to be seen no more.

Antiochus died in 187 B.C. while attempting to plunder a temple in the province of Elymais.

²⁰“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.

So here is the backstory. Antiochus the Great had a son named Seleucus IV Philopater (187-175 B.C.). His finance minister Heliodorus was his tax collector. Seleucus was the victim of a conspiracy engineered by Heliodorus.

But here is an interesting factoid about Heliodorus:

Around 178 BC Seleucus sent Heliodorus to Jerusalem to collect money to pay the Romans. There may be a reference to this in [Daniel 11:20](#), "He will send out a tax collector to maintain the royal splendor". [2 Maccabees 3:21–28](#) reports that Heliodorus entered the [Temple in Jerusalem](#) in order to take its treasure, but was turned back by three spiritual beings who manifested themselves as human beings.

194 B.C.

190 B.C.

2 Maccabees 3:34–36 records that Heliodorus received "orders from God" to "proclaim to all men the majesty of God's power".

Since you have been scourged by God, proclaim to all men the majesty of God's power - 2 Maccabees 3:34

Heliodorus (minister) - Wikipedia

²¹ "He will be succeeded by a contemptible person who has not been given the honor of royalty.

Seleucus's younger brother, Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-164 B.C.) seized power while the rightful heir to the throne, the son of Seleucus was still very young.

He will invade the kingdom when its people feel secure, and he will seize it through intrigue.

Syro-Palestine. This guy is one of the true "bad guys" of Biblical history.

²² Then an overwhelming army will be swept away before him; both it and a prince of the covenant will be destroyed.

The understanding historically here is a bit murky, but this may either be a preist that was murdered in 170 B.C. or if the translation is actually a "confederate prince," Ptolemy IV Philomeotor of Ehyps.

²³ After coming to an agreement with him, he will act deceitfully, and with only a few people he will rise to power. ²⁴ When the richest provinces feel secure, he will invade them and will achieve what neither his fathers nor his forefathers did. He will distribute plunder, loot and wealth among his followers. He will plot the overthrow of fortresses—but only for a time.

²⁵ "With a large army he will stir up his strength and courage against the king of the South. **(Ptolemy VI)** The king of the South will wage war with a large and very powerful army, but he will not be able to stand because of the plots devised against him. ²⁶ Those who eat from the king's provisions will try to destroy him; his army will be swept away, and many will fall in battle. ²⁷ The two kings, with their hearts bent on evil, will sit at the same table and lie to each other, but to no avail, because an end will still come at the appointed time. ²⁸ The king of the North will return to his own country with great wealth, but his heart will be set against the holy covenant. He will take action against it and then return to his own country.

In 169 B.C. Antiochus plundered the temple in Jerusalem, set up a garrison there and massacred many Jews in the city.

170
B.C.

²⁹ "At the appointed time he will invade the South again, but this time the outcome will be different from what it was before. ³⁰ Ships of the western coastlands will oppose him, and he will lose heart.

Roman vessels under the command of Popilius Laenas

Then he will turn back and vent his fury against the holy covenant. He will return and show favor to those who forsake the holy covenant.

³¹ "His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation.

The altar of the pagan god Zeus Olympius was set up in 168 BC by Antiochus Epiphanes. This is mentioned as coming again by Jesus in Matthew 24:15 and Luke 21:20.

³² With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant,

Apostate Jews.

but the people who know their God will firmly resist him.

³³ "Those who are wise will instruct many, though for a time they will fall by the sword or be burned or captured or plundered. ³⁴ When they fall, they will receive a little help, and many who are not sincere will join them. ³⁵ Some of the wise will stumble, so that they may be refined, purified and made spotless until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time.

Wow. How does this fit in with 2nd Coming prophecies, and Jesus' words? We'll explore that in more detail next time.

ADDENDUM: TABLE OF PTOLEMAIC RULERS





