

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*

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)

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

graceWORKS! GOING DEEPER

Daniel 11 Part 4²

I listened to this complicated chapter again this morning, a couple of times. It is still historically extremely complicated. But what is really interesting to me is how it dovetails with Daniel 12, which takes us straight to the end and ends up in the resurrection of the righteous. At one time, I thought there was some kind of time “warp” that took place---that somehow the characters being prophetically described were going to be characters from my era or beyond, when I assumed Christ would “finish” His work and return. But what if . . . what if . . . Christ’s work was really finished at the cross, and the whole prophecy points to the time when we were all resurrected with Christ in God in 33 A.D.? And what if everything is way more about Christ than at least I’ve realized before in my limited view of how God could deal with history? More to question, more to believe! **Enjoy!**

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

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.)

Daniel 11 New International Version (NIV)

11 What Happened to Alexander's empire

I will pick up here at one of the "arch" bad guys in biblical history---Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-164 B.C.) seized power while the rightful heir to the throne. He's infamous for setting up the famous "abomination that causes desolation."

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.

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.

This is considered to be Apostate Jews.

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.

Matthew 24:15	Luke 21:20
<p>¹⁵ "So when you see standing in the holy place `the abomination that causes desolation,'^[a] spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—</p> <p>a. Matthew 24:15 Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11</p>	<p>²⁰ "When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near.</p>

So what is the low down on all this?

The NIV study bible says this about the abomination of desolation:

“The detestable thing causing the desolation of the Holy Place. The primary reference in Daniel was to 168 BC, when Antiochus Epiphanes erected a pagan altar to Zeus on the sacred altar in the temple at Jerusalem. According to some, there are still two more stages in the progressive fulfillment of the predictions of Daniel and Matthew:

(1) the Roman destruction of the Temple in AD 70, and

(2) a still future setting up of an image of the antichrist in Jerusalem.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4	Revelations 13:14-15
<p>³Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness^[OR SIN] is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.</p> <p>⁴He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.</p>	<p>¹⁴Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. ¹⁵The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.</p>
<p>The NIV study bible says that at the last time there will be a falling away from the faith (Matt 24:10-12 and 1 Timothy 4:1 below). But here Paul is speaking of a specific act of rebellion that embodies the supreme opposition of evil to the things of God. The man of lawlessness is the leader of the forces of evil at the last time. Only here is he called by this name.</p>	<p>Let's read Daniel about these "last rulers" that were in place till the Christ came.</p>
<p>¹⁰At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate</p>	<p>4 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith</p>

<p>each other, ¹¹ and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. ¹² Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,</p>	<p>and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.</p>	
---	--	--

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.

We are still talking about Antiochus Epiphanes.

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.

Here's how this drama ends. The godly leaders of the Jewish resistance movement, also called the Hasidim are in mind here. The NIV study notes say that those "who fall by the sword" or are "burned . . . captured . . .plundered" are referenced in Hebrews 11:36-38.

<p>Hebrews 11</p> <p>³⁶ Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— ³⁸ the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.</p>
--

At any rate, there were some successes in an early guerilla uprising that originated in Modein, 17 miles northwest of Jerusalem, under the leadership of Mattathias and his son Judas Maccabeus. In December 165.

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.

The NIV study Bible says Daniel ends his prophecies about Antiochus Epiphanes and begins to prophecy concerning a more distant future. It says the details of this section do not fit Antiochus Ephiphanes, or at least what is known about him. There seems to be more of a connection to 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 and Revelation 13:5-8, noted earlier.

Here's is my take. Just like Elijah was a prophet in the Old Testament, and an Elijah type prophet came again in the figure of John the Baptist, a template was set by Antiochus and later, the Roman Empire. It just repeats itself with increasing intensity, all the way to the time of the second coming of Christ. But there is some kind of culmination in the coming of Christ that is referred to both here, in Daniel 12 and in Revelation that I'm dimly beginning to see. Let me close today for sake of time and see what this last section of Daniel 11 says about this unique king that seems to be the intensified embodiment of evil human rule that started way, way back with Nimrod

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 (NIV)

³Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness^[a] is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.⁴ **He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God** or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

and Babel and simply is known to us today as spiritual Babylon.

nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all. ³⁸Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses; a god unknown to his ancestors he will

and Babel and simply is known to us today as spiritual Babylon.

The King Who Exalts Himself

³⁶"The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and **will say unheard-of things against the God of gods.** He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place. ³⁷He will show no regard for the gods of his ancestors or for the one desired by women,

Revelation 13:5-8 New International Version (NIV)

⁵The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months. ⁶**It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.** ⁷It was given power to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. ⁸All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.^[a]

Footnotes:

- a. **Revelation 13:8** Or *written from the creation of the world in the book of life belonging to the Lamb who was slain*

honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts. ³⁹He will attack the mightiest fortresses with the help of a foreign god and will greatly honor those who acknowledge him. He will make them rulers over many people and will distribute the land at a price.^[d]

⁴⁰“At the time of the end the king of the South will engage him in battle, and the king of the North will storm out against him with chariots and cavalry and a great fleet of ships. He will invade many countries and sweep through them like a flood. ⁴¹He will also invade the Beautiful Land. Many countries will fall, but Edom, Moab and the leaders of Ammon will be delivered from his hand. ⁴²He will extend his power over many countries; Egypt will not escape. ⁴³He will gain control of the treasures of gold and silver and all the riches of Egypt, with the Libyans and Cushites^[e] in submission. ⁴⁴But reports from the east and the north will alarm him, and he will set out in a great rage to destroy and annihilate many. ⁴⁵He will pitch his royal tents between the seas at^[f] the beautiful holy mountain. Yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.

But how can this be the time of the second coming? Do “Edom, Moab and Ammon” even exist now? Is Egypt still that much of a major nation? And is there even a “King of the South” now?

Unless . . .could this be talking about cosmic battles taking place behind the scenes where these individuals are represented by “evil” forces that bear their names?

More to question, more to believe!

Footnotes:

- a. **Daniel 11:6** Or *offspring*
- b. **Daniel 11:6** Or *child* (see Vulgate and Syriac)
- c. **Daniel 11:17** Or *but she*
- d. **Daniel 11:39** Or *land for a reward*
- e. **Daniel 11:43** That is, people from the upper Nile region
- f. **Daniel 11:45** Or *the sea and*