

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*

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 12 Part 1²



So I’m still a bit confused as to what time period to locate these prophecies. It’s actually going to get even more complicated in Daniel 12. Let’s read the whole story, then see what we can figure out. I’m still intrigued how a “king” who “exalts” himself will arise and place himself higher than any “god.” It sounds a lot like the end time man of “sin” or “lawlessness” spoken of in 2 Thessalonians. **3 Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness 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. (2 Thessalonians 3:3-4)** There are things that definitely connect to the “end” as the Christians looked for it. But again, this figure in Daniel may just be a prototype of other such rulers whose arrogance and wickedness will cycle themselves over and over until they reach this phase of rebellion. Let’s see slowly read the end of 11 again, and work our way into Daniel 12. 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 wrap up:

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.

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, 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 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.¹

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

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*

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 the beautiful holy mountain. Yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.

The NIV Study Bible says some feel that these verses speak of conflicts to be waged between the antichrist and his political enemies. He will meet his end at the beautiful holy mountain (Jerusalem's temple mount) perhaps in connection with the battle of Armageddon.

Again, here is another source that illustrates the belief that the early church fathers saw at least the 70th week of Daniel completed with the destruction of Jerusalem, and the temple being referred to from then on being the spiritual temple of the church³.

BARNABAS:

Written anonymously around 100 AD, the "Epistle of Barnabas" is *the earliest extra-Canonical source* we have. Although not included in the Canon of the New Testament, it is an incredibly early documentation of the early Church's beliefs about the last days. The Apostle John was probably alive when it was written. And although the authorship is disputed, we will refer to Barnabas as the author.

The Epistle of Barnabas sets forth the common view held by the early Church that the seventieth week of Daniel ended with the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD, as Messiah's Day dawned and Christ's Church was born. Barnabas writes, "*For it is written, 'And it shall come to pass, when the week is completed, the temple of God shall be built...in the name of the Lord.' I find...that a temple does exist. Having received the forgiveness of sins...in our habitation God dwells in us....This is the spiritual temple built for the Lord.*" (EOB, 16:6)

Barnabas uses the expression "*the week*," but does not mention Daniel. **Yet scholars agree from the context that this is definitely a reference to Daniel's 70th week. And it is assumed by many scholars that the**

Revelation 16:13-16 New International Version (NIV)

¹³Then I saw three impure spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. ¹⁴They are demonic spirits that perform signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.

¹⁵"Look, I come like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake and remains clothed, so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed."

¹⁶Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

³ [The Early Church Fathers and the Last Days of the Jewish Age – Pursuing Truth \(adammaarschalk.com\)](http://adammaarschalk.com)

prophecy of Daniel's seventy weeks was so well known and so widely expounded in the early Church that it needed no further explanation. The early Church did not avoid Daniel's prophecy. This early Christian writer connects Daniel's vision of seventy weeks with the prophecy of Haggai 2:7-9 and the building of a "*spiritual temple*," the Church.

Let me quote that verse in Haggai because we're going to be studying that one next.

Haggai 2:7-9 New International Version (NIV)

⁷I will shake all nations, and what is desired by all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the LORD Almighty. ⁸'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the LORD Almighty. ⁹'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the LORD Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the LORD Almighty."

Let me add this verse:

Ephesians 2:19-22 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁹Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²²And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

The author of the Epistle of Barnabas obviously believed that Daniel's 70th week was fulfilled with Christ's first advent. This was when the Old Temple was destroyed and the new "spiritual temple" was initially established. Writing in 100 AD he clearly believed the 70th week of Daniel was already completed.

It seems clear from this passage in the Epistle of Barnabas that less than a century after Christ's passion (remember that according to Daniel the Messiah would be cut off in the middle of the 70th week), it was the widespread belief of the Church that the 70th week of Daniel was completed. It is certain that Barnabas placed the end of the 70th week no later than 70 AD. His mention of the building of the Church (which was able to grow largely unimpeded after 70AD) makes it probable that Barnabas saw 67 to 70 AD and the destruction of Herod's Temple as the end of the Jewish or Old Covenant Age and the dawning of Messiah's Day. As David B. Currie writes in his book, *Rapture, The End-Times Error That Leaves The Bible Behind*, "*He (Barnabas) assumes his readers will agree that the events of 'the week' led to the building of the Church*" (Page 422).

The early church fathers also believed in the antichrist coming right before the 2nd coming. But rather than get caught up in all that, let's move onto the opening verses of Daniel 12.

Daniel 12 New International Version (NIV)

The End Times

12 “At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise.

Interesting job for Michael. He is the great prince “who protects” the people of God.

There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. ²Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. ³Those who are wise (or who impart wisdom) will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

The resurrection of the dead is clearly predicted here. Isaiah 26:19 is referenced.

Isaiah 26:19 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁹But your dead will live, LORD;
their bodies will rise—
let those who dwell in the dust
wake up and shout for joy—
your dew is like the dew of the morning;
the earth will give birth to her dead.

This is also the first clear reference to a resurrection of the both the righteous and the unrighteous.

John 5:24-29 New International Version (NIV)

²⁴“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. ²⁵Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. ²⁶For as the Father

has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. ²⁷And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

²⁸“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice ²⁹and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.

⁴But you, Daniel, roll up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge.”

We'll pick up here tomorrow.