

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

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Daniel 12 Part 2²



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.

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Let's back up a bit and pick up where we left off.

Daniel 12 New International Version (NIV)



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The End Times

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

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.

Like we noted yesterday, the resurrection of the dead is clearly predicted here. Isaiah 26:19 is referenced. See sidebar for similar reference by Jesus.

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.

John 5:24-29 (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.

The Scripture in Isaiah is an interesting Scripture. The NIV study bible says it is a reference to the restoration of Israel (as in Ezekiel 37) and perhaps includes the resurrection of the body as in Daniel here. The NIV adds Isaiah 25:8 as a support Scripture and Isaiah 26:14 just a few verses earlier as a contrast Scripture.

Isaiah 25:8	Isaiah 26:14
<p>⁸ he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken.</p>	<p>¹⁴They are now dead, they live no more; their spirits do not rise. You punished them and brought them to ruin; you wiped out all memory of them. (See expanded quote below.)³</p>

³ Isaiah 26:12-21 New International Version (NIV) 12 Lord, you establish peace for us; all that we have accomplished you have done for us. 13 Lord our God, other lords besides you have ruled over us, but your name alone do we honor. 14 They are now dead, they live no more; their spirits do not rise. You punished them and brought them to ruin; you wiped out all memory of them. 15 You have enlarged the nation, Lord; you have enlarged the nation. You have gained glory for yourself; you have extended all the borders of the land. Lord, they came to you in their distress; when you disciplined them, they could barely whisper a prayer. 17 As a pregnant woman about to give birth writhes and cries out in her pain, so were we in your presence, Lord. 18 We were with child, we writhed in labor, but we gave birth to wind. We have not brought salvation to the earth, and the people of the world have not come to life. 19 But 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.

1 Corinthians 15:54 New
International Version (NIV)

⁵⁴When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

Note: Fascinating references to the resurrection of righteous and unrighteous at the end of this age. Some feel that this is speaking to our "false selves" being condemned and done away with at the end, leaving our true selves in Christ to enter into unadulterated eternity.

Perhaps that's true in some sense. But the Scripture is clear--some will be consigned to "hell."

Karl Barth, a theologian I like to study, says this---our emphasis should not be on hell, but on the life God has given us and is our truth in Christ.

I'll add the next Scripture in Daniel 12, and then a commentary that speaks to both these concepts. Emphasis in bold are mind.

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.

Karl Barth

For the third time, it is a question of human life under the aspect of the future that is promised to it by God, under the aspect of its eternity. Our life in the light of eternity is the life everlasting. Justified through the forgiveness of sins, sanctified through the resurrection of the flesh, human life is glorified through the life everlasting. (Cf. Rom 8.) The Holy Spirit communicates to us **communion with God** not only in justifying us and in sanctifying us, but in glorifying us, that is, in communicating the glory of God to us. Glory means the splendor of God, the glory of God in the life and the revelation of God such as he is. God has but to show himself to make light and to dazzle. (Cf. Question 2.) Do note that, though it is a question of glorification, this does not mean that there is a glory within us that might start to shine, but it means that we shall partake in a glory other than ours, in the glory of God. We shall be, so to speak, draped in his light. We ourselves shall shine because we shall be lighted. God will have his glory

in us and that is the goal of his creation: God does not want to remain alone. It is not enough for God to shine by his own power. He wants to shine in others and he chose us to live in us. He wants to be glorious in us and through us. The "veil" of which we spoke will be removed and human life will meet its final destination visibly.⁴

With regard to the subject of hell, this is what Barth says from the same source.

The Creed discusses the things to be believed. To believe. It is important to finish with faith. We believe in the Word of God and it is the word of our salvation. The kingdom, the glory, the resurrection, the life everlasting, each one is a work of rescue. Light pierces through the darkness, eternal life overcomes eternal death. We cannot "believe" in sin, in the devil, in our death sentence. We can only believe in the Christ who has overcome the devil, borne sin and removed eternal death. Devil, sin, and eternal death appear to us only when they are overcome.

He's not saying there is no such thing as hell. But he just doesn't believe "in" it. God has done it away, and to say you believe in it is to give it a reality it doesn't deserve. That may be a "word" game after a point. But like I've been saying lately, my deeper and deeper study of the Scripture gives me more to question, more to believe.

It did for Daniel too! Notice the next few words.

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."

⁵Then I, Daniel, looked, and there before me stood two others, one on this bank of the river and one on the opposite bank.

⁴ [Karl Barth: We Believe in Eternal Life, not in Eternal Hell \(postbarthian.com\)](http://postbarthian.com)

Deuteronomy 17:6 New International Version (NIV)

⁶On the testimony of two or three witnesses a person is to be put to death, but no one is to be put to death on the testimony of only one witness.

Christ affirmed this concept.

Matthew 18:15-16 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁵"If your brother or sister^[a] sins,^[b] go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'

The NIV says that "two was the minimum number of witnesses to an oath (see verse 7). Also, see Scripture in the text box above..

⁶One of them said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, "How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?"

⁷The man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, lifted his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I heard him swear by him who lives forever, saying, "It will be for a time, times and half a time."^[b]

A year, two years and a half year. 3 ½ years. This concept shows up multiple times in Scriptures. Jesus' ministry was 3 ½ years. There are at least six other places where this number is mentioned. It seems to be a symbolic, not literal number---it seems like someone I read said it was "6" (the number of man) times "7" the number of perfection---just short of "perfection." Who knows.

When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed."

⁸I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, "My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?"

I don't understand either. The NIV says it is apparently "representing either (1) further calculations relating to the persecution of Antiochus Epiphanes or (2) further end time calculations. His advice if you don't understand, join Daniel in this command.

⁹He replied, "Go your way, Daniel, because the words are rolled up and sealed until the time of the end.

¹⁰Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand.

So at the time of the end I will understand.

¹¹“From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. ¹²Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days.

¹³“As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance.”

Again, the command, “go your way.” It reminds me of this Scripture:

Matthew 28

¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,

I don’t completely understand, or know the times. But I will simply plan to “go my way” and make disciples!

That’s what Jesus reiterated in Acts 1 anyway.

Acts 1

Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Footnotes:

- a. **Daniel 12:3** Or *who impart wisdom*
- b. **Daniel 12:7** Or *a year, two years and half a year*