

Unity

April, 2026

A Saint Matthew Missionary Baptist Church Publication

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! *Psalm 133:1*

**BREAKING
NEWS ALERT**

EXTRA!!!

EXTRA!!!

**Good News Flash:
He is Risen!
Jesus Lives!**

See page 5 for full story.....

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

April 5, 2026 - 6:00 A.M.

Guest Speaker:

Rev. Tony Black, Associate Minister
Harvest Community Church
Centerpointe, AL
(Breakfast immediately following)

CHILDREN'S EASTER PARADE AND PROGRAM

April 5, 2026
10:30 a.m.

Sundays

Sunday School
9:30am
Worship Service
10:45 A.M.

Wednesdays

Youth Bible Study and
Activities
(Family Life Center)
5-6:30 P.M.

Adult Bible Study
(Sanctuary)
6:30 P.M.

Let the Word of God Transform You

All sermons preached by Pastor Eddie Washington unless otherwise stated.

GOD IS IN CONTROL Daniel 11:21-35

²¹ And in his place shall arise a vile person, to whom they will not give the honor of royalty; but he shall come in peaceably, and seize the kingdom by intrigue. ²² With the force of a flood they shall be swept away from before him and be broken, and also the prince of the covenant. ²³ And after the league is made with him he shall act deceitfully, for he shall come up and become strong with a small number of people. ²⁴ He shall enter peaceably, even into the richest places of the province; and he shall do what his fathers have not done, nor his forefathers: he shall disperse among them the plunder, spoil, and riches; and he shall devise his plans against the strongholds, but only for a time. ²⁵ "He shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the South with a great army. And the king of the South shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall not stand, for they shall devise plans against him. ²⁶ Yes, those who eat of the portion of his delicacies shall destroy him; his army shall be swept away, and many shall fall down slain. ²⁷ Both these kings' hearts shall be bent on evil, and they shall speak lies at the same table; but it shall not prosper, for the end will still be at the appointed time. ²⁸ While returning to his land with great riches, his heart shall be moved against the holy covenant; so he shall do damage and return to his own land. ²⁹ "At the appointed time he shall return and go toward the south; but it shall not be like the former or the latter. ³⁰ For ships from Cyprus shall come against him; therefore he shall be grieved, and return in rage against the holy covenant, and do damage. ³¹ "So he shall return and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant. ³¹ And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation. ³² Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits. ³³ And those of the people who understand shall instruct many; yet for many days they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering. ³⁴ Now when they fall, they shall be aided with a little help; but many shall join with them by intrigue. ³⁵ And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time.

In Romans 13: 1, Paul writes, "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God."

God works in the kingdom of men. No matter if it is good or bad, you have to remember God is in control. Stop giving the devil credit. God is always in control.

In today's message, we learn about an antichrist type and the Antichrist. Throughout history there have been men that were antichrist types. For example, the man in Daniel's vision of the future, Antiochus IV Epiphanes.

The Bible was written two hundred years before Antiochus IV Epiphanes (Northern Kingdom/Syria) came on to the scene. Daniel had visions of the future that were so accurate that opposers of the Bible insisted it had to have been written during the time it occurred.

History states that Antiochus Epiphanes took the name Epiphanes for himself. Epiphanes means great one or God manifests. He saw himself on the same plain as God. He was a liar and a thief who ascended to the throne through trickery. He paid people, with money belonging to others, to exalt his power through the kingdoms. Epiphanes had a meeting with the Ptolemy Dynasty (Southern kingdom/Egypt) to negotiate. But the hearts of both kingdoms were turned toward evil with all of the lies and deceit with Isreal in the middle.

The end of this story sums it all by stating the fact that God is in control and nothing happens without His knowledge. He allows things to happen so we can acknowledge Him. There are always going to be antichrist types; Daniel 11:36, however, describes the Antichrist. "Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done. Jesus speaks about him in Matthew 24 and Revelation 17 refers to him as the beast of the apocalypse.

We have to remember that though some men may fit the mold of Antiochus Epiphanes. GOD is not surprised. God reigns in the kingdom of men and actually placed them in their positions. God is coming back and His kingdom will come down to rule world systems eternally.

Submitted by Sister Bess Griffin, Sunday, March 1, 2026

ANTICHRIST Daniel 11:36-39

36 "Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done. 37 He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all. 38 But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things. 39 Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain.

The definition of anti-christ is someone opposed to Christ. The term anti-christ can be used as an adjective or a noun.

When reading the Bible referencing anti-christ, the Epistle of John it is used as an adjective which describes a person. When used in the noun form, it speaks of a person. When Jesus speaks of anti-christ, He is referring to a false christ. In Daniel the term anti-christ is not used but is referred to as the little horn.

The reference of the little horn speaks of a man Antiochus Epiphanes. He is known as the willful king who is a vile and deceptive person who gained the throne through deception. He did not have any power or royalty. Daniel's account about Antiochus is the future for him (Daniel), but it is history for us. We see in this message that Antiochus is a type of anti-christ. And history is replete with men fitting the description of anti-christ type.

Beginning with verse 35, it has time written on it. It will be an appointed time. This verse is speaking of eschatology which is informing us of the end time. Next in verse 36, the king (Anti-Christ) speaks to the one that does his own will. He does what he wants to do. He has an ego problem. They will exalt him and he will magnify himself. He is a liar and deceptive. When speaking of Antiochus, Satan is the power behind him. But when you read in Revelation 12: 13, Revelation 13: 1, or Revelation 17, you will be studying about Satan as the Beast (Anti-Christ). The Whore which represents the false church that will be used and thrown away by him (Satan). Ending with verse 39, it informs us that war is waged with foreign countries because of his ability to conquer (Anti-Christ).

This is a Wednesday Night Bible Study message. This message is about history of Antiochus Epiphanes IV, but it is Daniel's future. God is all powerful and uses tools for His glory.

The world is going the way it is supposed to go. The only thing we as Christians should do is to remain sober and to be aware of false prophets.

We are to trust the LORD with all of your heart, and to not lean not on your own understanding but put your faith in Him and He will direct your path.

Submitted by Sister Bess Griffin, Sunday, March 8, 2026

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

"teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Matthew 28:18-20

Church Saint Matthew Missionary Baptist

Welcome

Sister
Frances Wynn

Sister
JaKaley Wynn

Brother
JaKaiden Winn

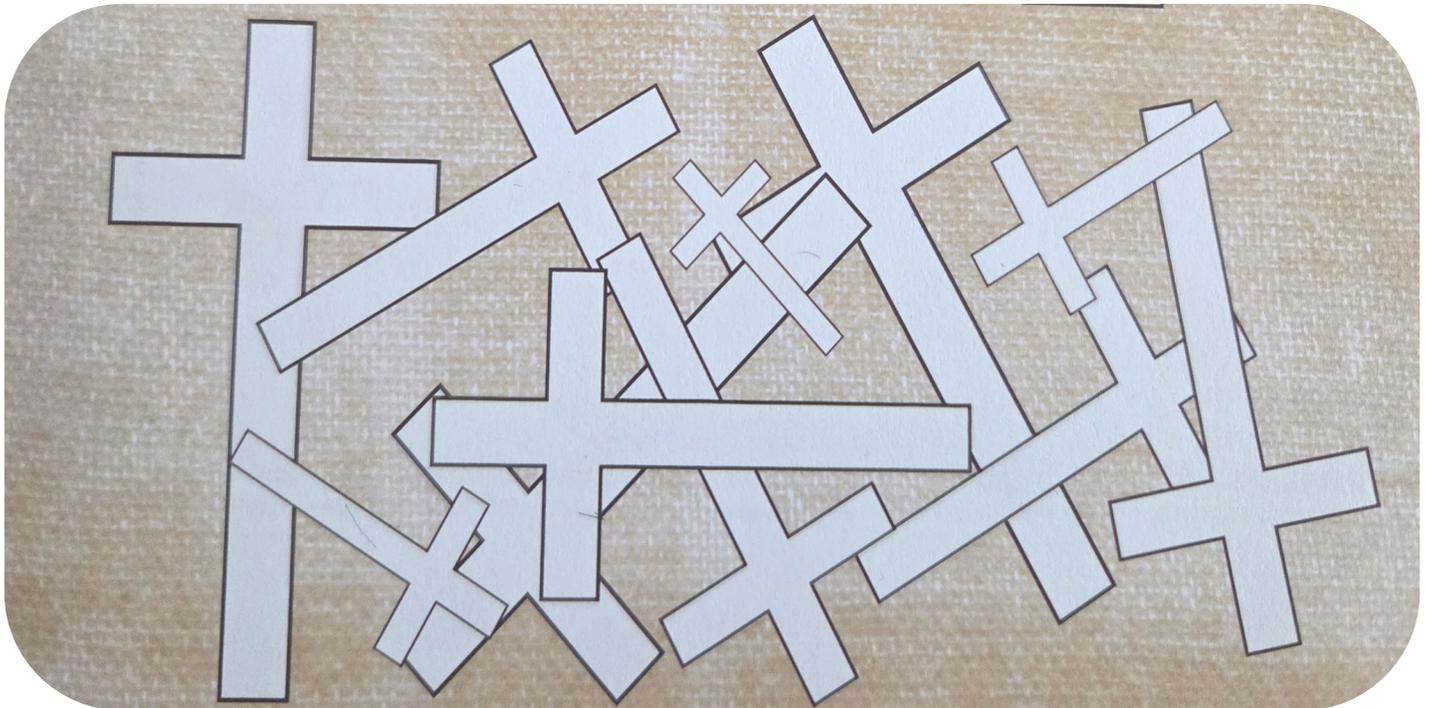


Gwen and Lavone Thomas
4/2/2016

Erica and Reggie Perry
5/5/1999

Karen and Red McKinley
4/10/1975

How many overlapping crosses can you count here? _____



Cover story...

HE IS RISEN ! JESUS LIVES !!!



**BREAKING
NEWS**

Long ago, in the through OT prophecy, the Jews were promised a Messiah. God kept His promise and sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to the earth. Jesus was born of a virgin, was as is without sin.

Before Christ, animals had to be sacrificed and offered up to God for forgiveness of sin. God showed mercy and sent His Son to be sacrificed to once and for all cover the sins of Jews and Gentiles alike.

Though He did many miracles, displayed wisdom, grace, and mercy; was the perfect example of agape love and through Him offered salvation (eternal life in heaven), Jesus still wasn't what the Jews were expecting. They wanted a bold, conquering king who would rule over the world and wipe out their enemies. Instead, Jesus came as God's humble Servant demonstrating kindness, love, and spreading God's Word.

John wrote in John 21:25, *And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.*

As prophesied, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, a great multitude went before Him and also followed Him crying out, "Hosanna to the Son of David!

'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' Hosanna in the highest!"

Jewish leaders, the scribes and the Pharisees were jealous of Jesus. They despised him, and constantly plotted against Him. Jesus told them, **"Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness."**

Two days before the Passover, Jesus told His disciples, **"the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified."** Then Jesus said, **"Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples."'"**

Jesus Christ had enemies, including one of His twelve disciples who betrayed Him for thirty pieces of silver.. Christ's betrayer gave those who came to arrest Jesus a sign, saying, **"Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him."**

Jesus was arrested and taken before the governor. Pilate asked if He was the King of the Jews. Jesus replied, **"It is as you say."**

At the Feast of the Unleavened Bread, the governor was accustomed to releasing a prisoner to the multitude. So Pilate, wanting to gratify the crowd, released Barabbas, a

notorious prisoner, to them and delivered Jesus, to be crucified.

Christ was mocked, spat on, and a crown of thorns was placed on His head.

Two thieves were also crucified, one on either side of Christ. One of the thieves said to Him, "Remember me when You come into Your kingdom." Jesus Christ replied, **"Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."**

At the ninth hour, Jesus cried out, **My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?"** The sun was darkened and the veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom. Jesus cried out, **Father, 'into Your hand I commit My spirit.'"** He breathed His last.

Joseph of Arimathea was granted Christ's body. He wrapped Jesus in fine linen, laid Him in a borrowed tomb and rolled a large stone against the door.

On the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went to the tomb to anoint Christ and found it empty.

There was an angel in white and his countenance was like lightning. The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for **HE IS RISEN,**"

Let the Word of God Transform You

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GOD'S PLAN FOR GOD'S PEOPLE Daniel 9:24-27

24 *"Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.*

25 *"Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.*

26 *"And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.*

27 *Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."*

God has a plan for His people. The kingdom of God is powerful. And because we are God's people, we give Him the glory. We need to manifest the glory of God because He is in us. We know from studying the Book of Daniel, that God will have the final say in the kingdom of men.

In Chapter 9, we read that Daniel is praying to God an intercessory prayer for his. He is asking God to listen because You are merciful. He prays to God for forgiveness for the people that are called by His name.

During the prayer God sends Gabriel (the messenger angel) to inform Daniel and help him understand the vision. In verse 24, Daniel has a vision of Messiah in His First Advent and in His Second Advent. In this vision that Daniel is having, he sees three negatives and three positives.

We begin reading about seventy weeks that are determined for the people of God and for His holy people. We see that God has a time carved out for His people. In this message, it begins with the three negatives. First, God will finish the transgressions of His people. Second, He will make end of sins. Lastly, He will make reconciliation for iniquity. In verse 24, it then transitions into the three positives by informing us that God will bring in everlasting righteousness. Second, He then seal up vision and prophecy. And lastly, He will anoint the Most Holy.

In closing, we see Messiah is coming back. We see Him referenced as Savior. He is coming back for a Church without spot or blemish. We see Him as the Son of David coming back to Jerusalem to reign on the throne for one thousand years. It is time to wake up. It is time to realize that God is doing God and He is not doing you. We need to understand that it is no way to change the script. It is time for the True Church of Jesus Christ to stand up!

Submitted by Sister Bess Griffin, Sunday, March 15, 2026

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our LORD. Romans 6:23

For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10:13

IT'S DETERMINED Daniel 9:24-27

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27 *Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.”*

God works providentially; not only in our lives, but also in the earth! *The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein. Psalm 24:1*

When God see things, it is always through spiritual eyes. His ways are not our ways. *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11*

Daniel prayed concerning the restoration of Jerusalem. Israel was in captivity because of their sins. God put a time period on their captivity. Whatever we're going through, God has a time on it. God is the master of time and is always right.

Daniel saw the visions God gave him through faith and spiritual eyes. As opposed to looking through carnal eyes.

God will complete His work. He gives a start time and end time in Scripture, the true Word of God. God tells what's going to happen before it happens. God is not only giving Daniel information on the present, He is also giving information on the future of His people.

God gives the exact time when Jesus Christ would be acknowledged as the long awaited Messiah. The Messiah is going to come and die. He would not die for Himself. It's all determined.

God reigns in the king of men. God does what He wants to do and Satan does only what God allows him to do.

Ultimately the end is going to come. God has a determined time. We may not know the day or the hour but Jesus is coming back. It's determined.

The things that are happening are not new to God. We don't have to worry about what man does. We need to put our trust in God. God will bring an end to sin and everlasting righteousness will reign.

It's determined!

Submitted by Sister Victoria Williams, Sunday, March 22, 2026

**We are Saint Matthew Missionary
Baptist Church of Docena, AL**

Where

Our Vision is that of an all-inclusive church, ministering to the needs of all God's people, to transform and empower them through the teaching and preaching of the Word of God.

Our Mission is to progressively pursue the restoration of the spiritual, physical, and social condition of the community as we actively engage in reaching out to those who do not know Jesus the Christ as Savior and Lord.

Our Motto is "Making a Difference in the Lives of Others for the Kingdom of God," which reflects the heart of this church as we address the needs of the church and the community.

We Believe that our society will be best affected through the ministry of the church. We further believe that the church is the best organization of people to rebuild our battered communities. As the church grows, so do the community, the city, the state, and the country. We are going to make a difference: one person, one family, one community at a time, for the Kingdom of God.

www.stmatthewdocena.org

Facebook: St. Matthew Missionary
Baptist Church Docena AL.

**Saint Matthew
Missionary Baptist Church**

Pastor

Reverend Eddie Washington, Sr.

"We do not have to raise the standard to become the men and women God wants us to be; we simply have to come up to the one He has already set."

Deacon Board

Brother J.W. Henry, Chairman

Brother Steven Anderson	Brother Antoine Palm
Brother Victor Griffin	Brother Wallace Simmons
Brother Ronald King	Brother Lavone Thomas
Brother Roosevelt McCray	Brother Carlos Williams

Unity
April, 2026

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Victoria Williams, Editor