

Unity

A Saint
Matthew
Missionary
Baptist Church
Publication

March, 2026

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Psalm 133:1

Don't forget to set clocks ahead one
hour on Sunday, March 8th at 2a.m.



Sundays

Sunday School

9:30am

Worship Service

10:45AM

Wednesdays

**Youth Bible Study and
Activities**

(In Family Life Center)

5-6:30 P.M.

Adult Bible Study

(In Sanctuary)

6:30 P.M.



Then the multitudes who went before
and those who followed cried out,
saying:

**“Hosanna to the Son of David!
‘Blessed is He who comes in the
name of the Lord!’**

**Hosanna in the highest!”
Matthew 21:9**

Let the Word of God Transform You

All sermons preached by Pastor Eddie Washington unless otherwise stated.

HEAVEN RULES Daniel 4:19-27

19 Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonished for a time, and his thoughts troubled him. So the king spoke, and said, "Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its interpretation trouble you."

Belteshazzar answered and said, "My lord, may the dream concern those who hate you, and its interpretation concern your enemies!"

20 "The tree that you saw, which grew and became strong, whose height reached to the heavens and which could be seen by all the earth, 21 whose leaves were lovely and its fruit abundant, in which was food for all, under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and in whose branches the birds of the heaven had their home— 22 it is you, O king, who have grown and become strong; for your greatness has grown and reaches to the heavens, and your dominion to the end of the earth.

23 "And inasmuch as the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, 'Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave its stump and roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze in the tender grass of the field; let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let him graze with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him'; 24 this is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king: 25 They shall drive you from men, your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen. They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.

26 "And inasmuch as they gave the command to leave the stump and roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be assured to you, after you come to know that Heaven rules. 27 Therefore, O king, let my advice be acceptable to you; break off your sins by being righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor. Perhaps there may be a lengthening of your prosperity."

God has the last say; it is a true fact that heaven rules. In Isaiah 66:1a the LORD speaking, "Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool. King David wrote in *Psalms 24:1*, *The earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein*. Moses wrote in *Deuteronomy 10:14*, *"Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the LORD your God, also the earth with all that is in it*. It is important to understand in times like these that God has full control over and He has given us His word and He rules not men.

King Nebuchadnezzar was informed by Daniel that he represented the gold head; that he was the king of kings and the ultimate prototype placed there by God to be the king of Babylon and leader of the world. It appeared that one person had full authority. But, full authority belongs to God. *Daniel 4: 17 " This decision is by the decree of the watchers, and the sentence by the word of the holy ones, in order that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men.*

God says He is the only power. I do what I do so you may know **I Am** in charge. God puts people in leadership. He does it so people may know. God is the God that put President Obama in office for two terms. He is the same God that put President Trump in office for two terms. Generally, it's most likely that neither man should have been in the Oval Office, but God did it to show us that He is in control.

When leaders are placed in a position of power, they are placed there to be a blessing to people. The power that is given to can do away with homelessness. Leaders easily forget that God placed him or her there. They forget that God rules providential in the kingdom of men.

In verse 25 Daniel informs Nebuchadnezzar that if he does not acknowledge God as the leader of men, God will drive him from men, his dwelling will be with the beasts of the field, he will eat grass like oxen, and he will remain there for seven years until he knows that God rules in the kingdom of men.

In verse 27, Daniel tells the king to let his advice be acceptable to him, to end his sins by becoming righteous, and end his iniquities by showing mercy to the poor. And if he did the Lord's will, there may be a lengthening of his prosperity. But King Nebuchadnezzar did not listen, he became boastful instead.

In verse 31, the voice of God came from heaven and stated that the kingdom has departed from him!

Leaders need to be mindful that heaven rules. God is in control. He is exposing hypocrisy in the country. God is exposing hypocrisy in the Church. King Nebuchadnezzar is an example of what happens when you don't show compassion to God's people.

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

THE WRITING ON THE WALL Daniel 5:1-6

Belshazzar the king made a great feast for a thousand of his lords, and drank wine in the presence of the thousand 2 While he tasted the wine, Belshazzar gave the command to bring the gold and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple which had been in Jerusalem, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. 3 Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken from the temple of the house of God which had been in Jerusalem; and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. 4 They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood and stone. 5 In the same hour the fingers of a man's hand appeared and wrote opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace; and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. 6 Then the king's countenance changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his hips were loosened and his knees knocked against each other.

We have been in a sermon series from the Old Testament out of the Book of Daniel. Sometimes the Old Testament is skipped over to only focus on the New Testament. But, the Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 15: 4, "For whatever things were written before (Old Testament) were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."

Often we heard the phrase "the hand writing on the wall." It's used as a warning indicating that something bad was about to come. The term "writing on the wall" comes from the Bible. It comes from the Book of Daniel and it informs us about the new King Belshazzar of Babylon, Belshazzar was the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar and was having problems with the Medo-Persians . We see that Belshazzar didn't learn anything from his grandfather's mistakes.

The problem existing outside the gate was the fact Belshazzar was surrounded by his enemies. He decided to throw a drunken party. Belshazzar used items, that were seized by his grandfather from the Hebrews, as party utensils and pledged his loyalty to the gods of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood and stone. Belshazzar then saw the hand writing on the wall, however, he did not understand the words. He sent out for astrologers, the Chaldeans, and soothsayers and told them that whoever can read the writing will be clothed in the finest jewelry and linen and will be third ruler over the kingdom. But there was no one who understood the writing on the wall. The queen walked in and informed the King Belshazzar that there is a man named Daniel in whom is the Spirit of the Holy God.

Daniel was brought before the king and gave the interpretation of the writing on the wall:

Mene: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it;

Tekel: You have been weighed in the balances, and wanting

Peres: Your kingdom has been divided and given to Medes and Persians

In other words, Belshazzar's kingdom was over.

As believers, we need to be attentive to the Word of God. God's word prepares us for the future. We have to understand that God has the last say in everything. We need to have confidence of who we are and whose we are.

We all sin and fall short of the glory of God, however, we have something that Belshazzar didn't have. We have the "but Jesus" factor. "But Jesus" came to this earth and died for our sins. We need to understand that the kingdom of men will end and heaven will rule. Trust in God with all your heart lean not to your understanding and know that Jesus Christ is coming back.

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

STAND YOUR GROUND Ephesians 6:13

Reverend Jeffrey Bennett, Pastor

Saint John Baptist Church, Edgewater, AL

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

We're living in the times now when it seems like wrong is right, the truth is laughed at, and there's so much pain and injustice. God didn't call the church to fold, God called the church to stand.

We need to quit playing church and stand our ground. The truth needs to be told. Sometimes, in this Christian walk, we have to learn to stand by ourselves. We survive by standing up, not by giving up. After everything is said and done, stand.

Paul is writing from a Roman prison. He is writing about reality; Christians have been jailed and even killed, the unity of the church is being attacked. There is spiritual war. Paul is telling the saints to put on the whole armor of God. The Holy Spirit is needed to win this battle.

You don't go out in a storm without an umbrella, you don't go out in the cold without a coat and you don't go out into an evil world without your spiritual armor.

Be prepared because evil days are coming. An evil day is something unexpected. Have you ever received an unexpected phone call, and unexpected diagnosis, or an unexpected layoff?

The enemy doesn't fight fair. You can't win a spiritual battle with your own strength. God never needs a perfect condition, God just needs some willing folks.

Submitted by Sister Victoria Williams, Sunday, February 22, 2026 Evening Service-Saint Matthew Missionary Baptist Church 113th Anniversary and Black History Program

Answers for last month's challenge:

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

⁴ Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never fails. But whether *there are* prophecies, they will fail; whether *there are* tongues, they will cease; whether *there is* knowledge, it will vanish away. I Corinthians 13:4-8 (NKJV)

Church Saint Matthew Missionary Baptist

Welcome

Brother
Isaiah Williams



Phyllis and Wallace
Simmons
3/15/06

Bess and Victor
Griffin
3/29/97

Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
Matthew 4:19

HOOKED

and



**Reeled in to
Serve God!**

Saint Matthew Missionary Baptist Church CLEAN-UP DAYS

The following Saturdays beginning at 9:00 a.m.

March 7, '26 - July 11, '26 - October 10, '26 - January 9, '27

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED—DESIGNATED WORK AREAS WILL BE ASSIGNED

Join us for a time of fellowship and service as we work together to keep our church clean and welcoming. Lunch will be served. Thank you, Trustee Board

Let the Word of God Transform You

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GOD IS IN CONTROL Daniel 7:9-14

9 "I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire;

10 A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, And the books were opened.

11 "I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. 12 As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

13 "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him.

14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.

Daniel is so exact in his prophecy that many doubt it was written when the Bible says it was written. However, history supports his prophecy. The Holy Bible is a historical book and if you study world history, you will find that it lines up with the word of God.

We need to be reminded that God is in control. All authority is given by God and God is the only authority.

Daniel tells us God was in control in the fiery furnace, in the lion's den, and in the kingdom of men.

Daniel was given a vision from God. In an earlier sermon, King Nebuchadnezzar was given the same vision from God. God showed Daniel what the world kingdom looked like in His eyes which included beasts. But in King Nebuchadnezzar's vision you see power and grandeur of the world system. Depicting on how God sees the world system, the description is much different.

The four beasts and what they represent (Daniel 7:4-7):

Lion with four eagles' wings represents Babylonian Empire.

Bear turned on his side with three ribs in his mouth represents the Medo-Persians.

Leopard with four wings represents the Greek Empire of Alexander the Great. He conquered the whole world and after his death his kingdom was divided by his four generals.

The fourth animal is a dreadful animal that cannot even be described. It is strong and huge with teeth and ten horns. It is different from all the other beast. This beast is said to be the new Roman Empire that will be brought out of Europe.

In verse 8, the little horn represents the anti-Christ.

In Daniel 7: 9 –10, Verse 9-God is referred to as the Ancient of Days. Daniel sees God on His heavenly throne and gives the description. Verses 11-12, these animals are world kingdoms that rise and fall. Verse 13-Daniel saw Jesus Christ coming with the clouds of heaven and came to God with the heavenly host with Him. Verse 14, Jesus will reign.

The Bible is a script that was arranged by GOD'S time frame. The carnal mind is unable to see the things of God.

We need to make God our priority. God has already placed in us everything that is necessary for us to live the life we're intended to live. It's all according to God's timing. We have to stop trying to align God with what we're doing and align ourselves with what God is doing.

God has ownership of everything. God is in control and will take care of us; all we have to do is study His Word and obey Him.

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

HEAVEN RULES Daniel 8:21-25

21 And the male goat is the kingdom of Greece. The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king. 22 As for the broken horn and the four that stood up in its place, four kingdoms shall arise out of that nation, but not with its power.

*23 "And in the latter time of their kingdom,
When the transgressors have reached their fullness,
A king shall arise,
Having fierce features,
Who understands sinister schemes.*

*24 His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power;
He shall destroy fearfully,
And shall prosper and thrive;
He shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people.*

*25 "Through his cunning
He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule;
And he shall exalt himself in his heart.
He shall destroy many in their prosperity.
He shall even rise against the Prince of princes;
But he shall be broken without human means.*

The Book of Daniel informs us of visions and kingdoms. It speaks of a stone that was not cut out by hands but it was formed and rolled down a hill and crushed the golden statue.

In 1 John 2:18, Apostle John wrote, *"Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming."* This statement is rooted in the prophecy of Scripture. It is of the power of God in heaven and in earth. Having this knowledge can cause anxiety but we know that God is in control and it is proven through His Word.

In this message, we are in the third year of King Belshazzar of Babylon reign. Daniel was given a revelation by God of the end of Babylon's power in the world. It was a vision given to him that was of the future kingdoms after Babylon. We see history from the last kingdom all the way to the Book of Revelation and in this vision, we are living in the middle. God is the one who places all state leaders in their position. And we read that the vision Daniel sees is the end of Babylon's reign over the world, (Isaiah 45:1).

Today, we need to know where God is in our lives. We need know that God is working in our lives. All authority belongs to and is given by God.

In verse 23, it lets us know that Antichrist is real. It speaks of Antichrist and it speaks of the Antichrist. We read in verse 24 that power will be mighty and the little horn will gain the power from the people. Verse 25 states that under anti-Christ rule the cheaters will prosper. He will exalt himself in his own heart. He fills a role that will represent people throughout history. Proverbs 6: 12 - 19 gives the true description of a wicked man and states six things that God hates and the seventh is an abomination to Him.

The Antichrist will blaspheme Jesus Christ. He will disregard all things Jesus Christ. Antichrist's blasphemy is against GOD. He will turn the Church inside out. Antichrist church represents the great whore which will attack the heart of the church.

When studying Daniel, Bible study is so important. The Antichrist type it discusses in Daniel 8: 25 is about Antiochus IV Epiphanes of the Seleucid Empire. He represents many anti-Christ to come. They are setting the stage for the anti-Christ. Things will happen that will look like a miracle and your lying eyes will not be able to see the truth. The only way to see the truth is to study the Holy Bible!

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

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Sermons
are archived
under
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on
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Unity
*A Saint Matthew Missionary
Baptist Church Publication*

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