

**The
Annual
Family Christmas
Gatherings**

Great Swamp Baptist Church

December 5, 2021



Great Swamp Baptist Church

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

Family Christmas Gathering

The Welcome

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Call To Worship

Invocation

Mack Pope

Selections of Praise & Worship

We Pray for Special Needs

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer
Worship by Giving
Offertory Special

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Message

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Invitation

Benediction Prayer

Nursery Workers

Today: Vanessa Smoak
Helpers Needed; See Vanessa



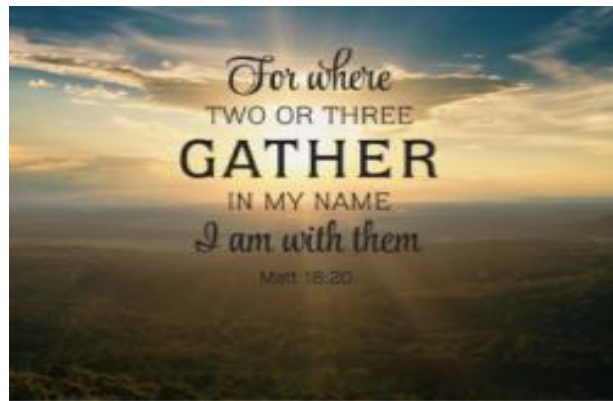
Sunday Mornings

Following

The Song Service

Children's Church

Today: Olivia Stanley/Mason Losgar/Amelia Johnson



Tuesday Mornings @ 9:00am



DEACON OF THE WEEK :

Today:

Mack Pope: 843-540-6636

Next Week:

Keith Gamo: 843-986-8525



*From
Pastor
Ralph's
Desk:*



The Writing On The Wall

(Daniel 5:22-31)

Intro: There are many sayings in the Bible that have become popular sayings in the world, even among unbelievers. Here are a few of them; "Fight the good fight" (1 Tim 6:12); "A wolf in sheep's clothing" (Matt. 7:14); "rise and shine" (Is. 60:1); "The powers that be" (Rom. 13:1) "Go the extra mile" (Matt. 5:41); "By the skin of your teeth" (Job 19:20); "Give up the ghost" (John 19:30); "Suffer fools gladly" (2 Cor. 11:19); and "The blind leading the blind" (Matt. 5:14).

Our present set of verses also contain one of those sayings that have become a very popular saying in the world. That saying used all around the world is, "The writing on the wall" (vs. 5,24,25).

Now, when this saying is used in the world today, it often has, in a general sense, what it is used for in our present set of verses. However, I want us to not just have a general sense of the saying but rather know exactly what they are referring to when they were used in our context of Scripture.

We have looked at a number of messages already in this chapter. Today we will wrap up our examination of this chapter before we move on to the next one. We will be looking closely to the writing on the wall which is really the primary focus of the chapter. Thus the title of the message is simply, "The writing on the wall."

I. First, let us notice who gave us the writing on the wall. (vs. 5-6,24).

Verse five simply tells us that the writing on the wall came from what appeared to be, "the fingers of a human hand." but whose had and fingers are not specified, just simply a hand and finger.

Now in verse twenty-four a pronoun was added with the hand and finger. It says, He sent the hand that did the writing. So who is He? Well, the answer comes with the preceding verse. In the preceding verse, Daniel told the king that since he didn't honor God, the very One who gave him life, and the position he held in life but rather mocked Him. He, meaning God, therefore, sent the hand that did the writing.

So, on this occasion, God gave the king a direct revelation of His Holy Word. It is not often that a person receives a direct revelation from God.

However, the king's mockery of God was so blatantly displayed for all to see that it required an open response from heaven. Thus the hand and fingers of God Himself placed the writing on the wall.

However, though as far as we know, this was the only time this king received a direct revelation from God Himself, yet it wasn't the first time to hear a message or word from God by different measures. For Daniel reminded the king that he knew of the things that had been told to and experienced by his grandfather, King Nebuchadnezzar. Thus whatever God had said to King Nebuchadnezzar had at some point in the past been shared to him.

Thus either by written measures or verbal proclamations, King Belshazzar had been given enough measures of God's Word that he should have known better than to have done what he did when he mocked God.

This clearly teaches us today that we can't use ignorance as an excuse for not doing what God expects of us. For though the majority of us have not gotten a direct revelation from God in a measure that the king did on this occasion, He has spoken to us by in a direct sense through His Holy Word. For the entire Bible was totally and completely inspired, maneuvered, directed and finalized by the person and power of the Holy Spirit of God. (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:19-20). So you can't say God hasn't spoken to you. For His Word, the Bible, is how He speaks to us and boy does it provide everything that He wants us to know, believe and respond to. It is our one and only true source of authority because it is God's Word.

Take some time to read Psalm 19 and 119 and you will be amazed at what this chapter tells us what God's Word will do for us whenever we read it, listen to it and respond to it positively. However, its' power also works when we respond to it negatively we will experience its' pronouncements of judgment just as the king did. Thus, I pray that we will hear and obey the Word of God.

II. Second, let us notice why God gave the writing on the wall. (vs. 22-24).

As we've been looking at this chapter for a number of Sundays now, we have pointed on a number of occasions. However, let us take one more look at why God was required to put this particular writing on the wall.

King Belshazzar threw, of course as the chapter says, a large wild drinking party. Alcoholic beverages were running freely and as the result many other sinful activities took place. But the most gregarious one of all was when the king called for the Jewish temple goblets be brought forth so they could drink from them and at the same time offer praise up to idols of gold, silver, bronze, wood and stone.

Before all of his nobles and wives and all in attendance that night, the king blatantly by his actions, rejected and rebelled against the only one who could have saved him that night from the destruction coming his way, and of course that was Almighty God. Instead, he chose gods that weren't gods at all who couldn't even lift on finger of assistance at all.

Now, this kind of mockery demanded an immediate revelation of judgment for the king and all of his guests to understand. This kind of mockery must come under judgment for dishonoring and discrediting the One true God of the universe.

Now, we may say boy he sure did deserve both the writing of judgment but more importantly the actual fulfillment of it.

However, a point here needs to be made loud and clear for us to hear today, and that is that the writing on the wall has also been made loud and clear to us. It is that you don't have to rebel in the manor that the king did in order to face judgment at the hand of God. No, all you've got to do is to simply choose not to humble yourself in repentance toward God and place your faith in Jesus Christ for your salvation. Your judgment may not come here and now but it will come once you leave this world. So, don't resist the Savior and humble yourself before Him and submit your life to Him for He gave His all for you.

III. Third, let us notice what is the meaning of the writing on the wall. (vs. 25-30).

These three words used in the writing on the wall are small in number but powerful in its' punch. Of course, there is four but one of the four is a repeat of the first word to emphasize the point. So let us take a quick look at the meaning of these words.

"Mene" this first word means numbered. Of course, the explanation is clearly made in the text. The king's days had been numbered and God had determined that this was going to be his last one, because of the king's behavior but also to fulfill His prophesy that He made to Nebuchadnezzar that one day his kingdom would be turned over to a new kingdom. This prophesy is found in King Nebuchadnezzar's dream found in chapter two.

Now, the whole point of this word was to let the king know that God is Sovereign not him and that the affairs of men are controlled by God and not the other way around.

Psalms 90:12 reminds us that we need to pray that the Lord will, "teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." let us remember that our days are numbered and one of those days God will call us. Will that day be a day of judgment for you, or a day of joy for you? If Christ is your Lord and Savior it will be a day of rejoicing. So, get ready for that day.

"Jekel," means weighed. It refers to the weight necessary to bring the scales up to balance when you are purchasing something. Whenever you bought something in those days, you put the product you were purchasing on one side of the scale. On the other side you would put your payment and when your payment weighed enough to balance out the scale, then you could purchase the product and take it home.

King Belshazzar had a debt to pay and that debt was judgment. Thus judgment was place on one side of the scale. On the other side came Belshazzar's payment to buy off his judgment. However, his payment was too light to balance the scale out. Therefore, he was found wanting.

We, too, must remember that this same illustration applies to us all. Because of our sinfulness and that is everyone of us, we have a debt of judgment against us and like King Belshazzar all the payment we throw at it is never and will never be enough to balance out the scale.

However, praise God, for those of us who have placed our trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, He stepped onto the scale on the other side of judgment and by His sacrifice on the cross, paid off our debt of sins which then balanced the scale and warded off the judgment that was against us. Jesus took our judgment for us by the shedding of His blood and now our debt has been permanently covered.

So quit throwing payments of good works, deeds, your bringing up, earthly riches and etc. because they will never weigh enough to balance the scales of judgment. Fling to Jesus and trust Him for only by His offering of payment can overcome judgment. As Paul said, "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." (Rom. 8:1).

"Peres," means divided. That very night God allowed the Medes and Persians to capture the city, kill King Belshazzar and take control of the empire. So the king loses it and it is divided up between to nations of people, the Medes and the Persians. Now, the point is this. Because of his mockery and dishonor to God, though he was loaded in so many ways and with so many things, he still couldn't make payment and he therefore lost it all. Without faith in God, his riches couldn't save him; his military couldn't save him; his strong walk couldn't save him; his high position couldn't save him; and therefore it was all taken from him and given to others.

So, my friend, if you trust anyone or anything other than Christ Jesus our Lord, you are going to loose it all and gain nothing.

Concl. If the Lord were giving you a writing on the wall, what would it say? Would it say your days have been numbered and brought to an end because you have been found wanting? Or will it say, well done thou good and faithful servant. Enter into joy of the Lord because of you'r faith in Jesus Christ? I pray you make the second choice.

Jesus Loves You

Ralph Lee, Jr.



NO Breakfast

Sunday, December 5th
Sunday, December 26th

NO Wednesday Supper

Wednesday, December 22nd



Wednesday Night Supper

Menu

To Be Announced

*\$5.00 each or \$15.00 for a family of
4 or more.*



Sunday School Classes

@

9:15am

CAMO CLASS *Room 406* **Leader- Bobby Smith**
.....

GLEANERS CLASS *Room 401* **Leader-Darlene Bollack**
.....

VISIONARIES CLASS *Building 3, Old Social Hall*
Leader-
.....

SOJOURNERS CLASS *Room 417* **Leader-Mack Pope**
.....

YOUTH *Youth Annex* **Leader-Faye Lowther**

Wednesday Night Services

@ 7pm

WORSHIP SERVICE *Multi-Purpose Building*
Leader-Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

YOUTH GROUP *Youth Annex*
Leader-Michelle Waitt

R.A.'S (Royal Ambassadors) *Room 417*
Leader-Pat Mason

G.A.'S (GIRLS IN ACTION) *Room 415*
Leader-Carol Davis/Diane Thames



Annual Chinese Christmas Party

Monday, December 13th

11:00 am

*Bring Gift for exchange
(\$5-\$10 range)*

Bring Lottie Moon Offering

Bring your favorite Christmas Lunch Food

All women of the church are invited.



Christmas Card Mailbox

Is now open in the Foyer

*The G.A.'s & Youth Sunday School Class will be delivering your in-house
Christmas Cards for 25-cents each.*

The proceeds will go to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.



WREATHS — *across* — AMERICA



Wreaths Across America 2021

Program

Sunday, December 19th

Following Morning Worship Services



Deacon's Meeting

Monday, December 13th

7 pm



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>5th</i>	<i>Ronnie Nettles</i>
		<i>Chris Carter</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>7th</i>	<i>Victoria Keiffer</i>
		<i>Vanessa Smoak</i>
		<i>Rylie Ford</i>



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>5th</i>	<i>Chris & Kelly Scherger</i>
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**LOTTIE
MOON**
CHRISTMAS OFFERING
*Providing financial support to missionaries
as they share the gospel overseas.*
GSBC 2021 Goal:

\$3,000.00

Quiver Full Foster Closet

TOY DRIVE

DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:

RIDGELAND:

Simply Carolina Kids
Step of Faith Christian Academy
Great Swamp Baptist
Dunamis Karate

BLUFFTON:

Howell-Chase Heating & Air
Conditioning

HAMPTON:

Dunamis Karate

Drop off Dates:
Nov 5th - Dec 17th



Quiver Full Foster Closet is hosting a Christmas gift drive for local foster, adoptive, kinship and reunified families this holiday season. We are accepting new unwrapped toys (ages 6 months and up) as well as gift cards for our teens. Many of these children will enter care during and after the holiday season and after the cutoff dates for other gift registries. It is our mission to help provide these children with a sense of love and excitement this holiday season.

For More Info: (843) 812-3509 or (843) 812-0223
Quiver Full Foster Closet on Facebook

GSBC Prayer Page

*Ralph Lee, Jr. - Pastor
Richard Waitt- Music Director
Deacons*

Leadership

*President / Vice President of the
United States of America*

Hospitals

Surgery / Recovery

*Skylar Saygen
Michelle Rooks
Judy Rogers
Louise McAlhaney
Chance Tracey
Ralph Lee, Jr.
Wanda Davis
Sherri Scott
Emma Scott*

Nursing Centers

*Elaine Degler-RNC
Wilma Jean McGill-RNC
Bobby Mohn-Indigo Pines HHI
Byron Vaigneur-Assist.
Grace Boyles-RNC
Dot Nettles-RNC*

Please Continue To Remember

Homebound

<i>Shirley Malphrus</i>	<i>Dot Nettles</i>
<i>Rose Boyles</i>	<i>Tom Hinely</i>
<i>Judy Smith</i>	<i>Scott Boyles</i>
<i>Vera Floyd</i>	<i>Ann Blocker</i>
<i>Barbara Mills</i>	<i>Kenneth & Doby Cleland</i>
<i>Alice & Gary Way</i>	<i>Redden & Gloria Tuten</i>
<i>Kenny Smith</i>	<i>Lucille & Ron Degler</i>
<i>Carol Bradham</i>	<i>Red & Helen Malphrus</i>
<i>Diane Hannah</i>	

Church Needs

*Sunday School
SFCA-Donna Carter
Child Development
Ministries*

Unspoken

*Jessica Cleland
Steve Crosby
Heather Betz
Randy Bethune
Jason Holt*

Cancer / Treatments

*Douglas Denegel
Becky Goretzka
Gail Sims
Skip Brooks
Regina Bouye
Kaiaya Alston
Wesley Ethridge
Jay Dalton
Raj's Mother*

*Ministries
Outreach Ministry
In reach Ministry*

Bereavement

Family of

Other Health Needs

*Lloyd Way
Loony Jones
(Jeffrey Stanley's Grandfather)
Tracey Lake
Keith Gamo
Pinky Rushing
Phyllis Sutler
Sara Davis
Bob Cramer
Shelby Green
Karen Phillipi
Bertha Kinard
Ron & Marie Malphrus
Kenny Hay
Lee Martin
Alexus Busby
Natalyn Mann
Mary Kay
David Raines
Ellen Nettles
Jess & Tabby Arzillo
Charlee Carter
Donna Roberts
Jennifer Pitts Key
Ernest Blount
Stephen Roberts
Donna Carter*

Pray For Our Military

*Sgt. Jared Blanton-Deployed
Matthew Mills-US Marines
Jericho Malphrus-Sp. Agent / Air Force
Washington, D.C.
Michael Sottile - Ret.
Tristan Blanton-San Diego/ SWCC
Andrea C. Daring-Coast Guard Basic Training*

Church Staff

Pastor: Pastor Ralph Lee, Jrjehu27@gmail.com

Music Director: Richard Waittwaittfamily83@gmail.com

Sunday School Director: Mike Davis

Pianist: Michelle Waitt waittfamily83@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: Sybil Reynoldsgreatswampbc@gmail.com

School Administrator: Donna Carterdcarter@hargray.com

Landscaper: Wallace MalphrusJosie6@embarqmail.com

Finance Director: Timmy Saulsgreatswampbc@gmail.com

Stewardship

Tithes	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	\$ 3,607.00	\$ 4,982.47	-\$ 1,175.47
<i>Online Offerings</i>	\$200.00		
Designated Funds	This Week	*****	Acct. Balances
<i>Wreaths Across America</i>	\$ 215.00	*****	\$ 1,251.03
<i>Lottie Moon Offering</i>	\$ 42.50	*****	\$ 42.50
<i>Cemetery Maint.</i>	\$ 100.00	*****	\$ 730.00
<i>Sojourners</i>	\$ 16.00	*****	\$ 152.76
<i>Operation Christmas Child</i>	\$ 33.68	*****	\$ 1,503.43

Additional Help Needed

For

Wednesday Night's

GA's & RA's

We would like to expand to include Mission Friends.

Youth or Adults are encouraged to inquire.

See Kim Malphrus or Diane Thames.



Great Swamp Baptist Church
9009 Tarboro Rd.
PO Box 446
Ridgeland, SC 29936

Sunday School.....9:15AM
Morning Worship.....10:30AM
Wednesday Night Service.....7:00PM

Email: greatswampbc@gmail.com
Website: greatswampbaptistchurch.com
Church Office: (843) 726-3631