

HOPE Gazette

OCT 2021

Halloween

Should Christians Celebrate Halloween?

Addiction

A look at Indiana and the addiction crisis that is taking over communities.





Verse of the Month

My soul, wait in silence for God alone, For my hope is from Him. Psalm 62:5



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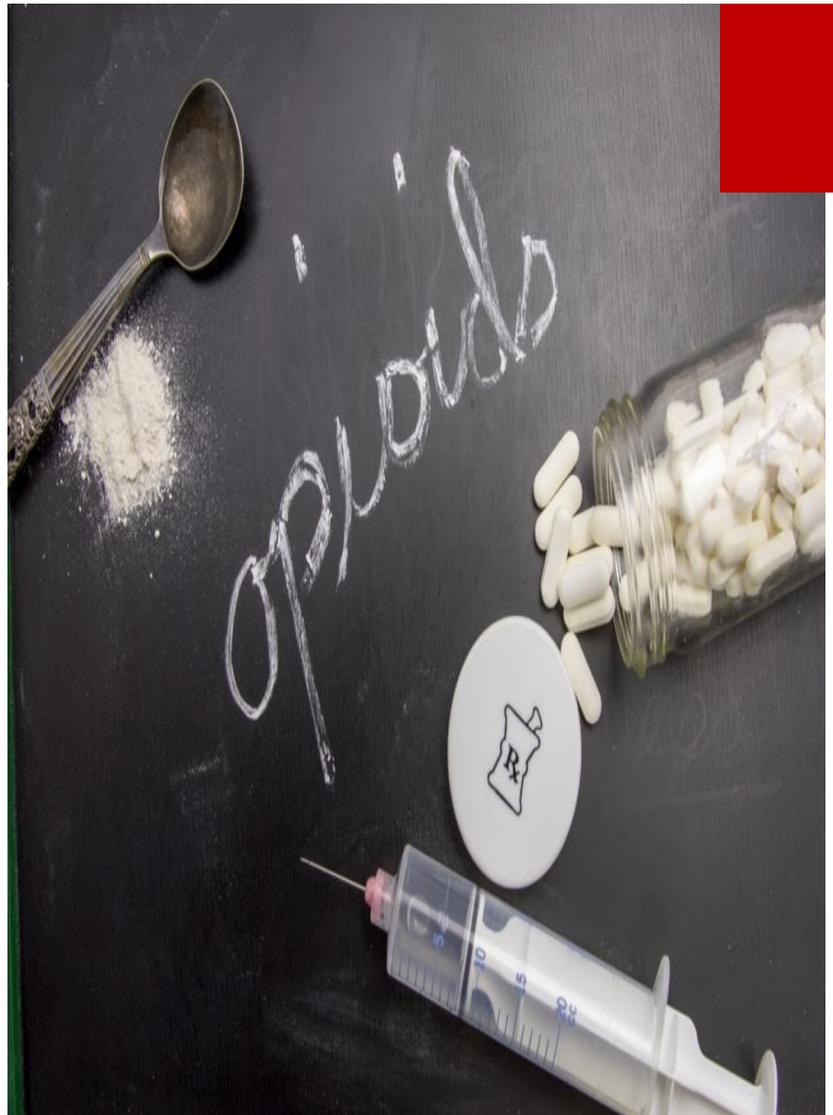
This Gazette is intended to share ideas, discuss theology, and to inform. This is a volunteer-based publication. It is through the hard work of many people that we can produce and share this.

If you have any questions please reach out to us!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KAP'.

Kasey Parrott

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OPIOID

A Look at the Local Crisis

Mark Pitman

When I was asked to write an article on the drug culture in Indiana, I thought to myself, where do I start? I started by looking for articles that explore the drug culture as a crisis.

Because that is what it is. It is a breakdown of the moral compass of our society. People are turning to drugs to escape the reality of their broken lives in record numbers. The enemy of their soul has them believing that the drugs will take away the pain. But when they come down from the drug the pain is still there. What it has accomplished is making them dependent on the drug, and that in itself creates the crisis for the addict and the people involved in their lives.

In this two-part article we are going to look first at the crisis from a cultural standpoint and then from a moral view by seeing what the Bible has to say about the dependency on drugs. We will explore how this crisis can be handled with the truth of God's word and how those addicted can become whole again.

Bloomington's Opioid Crisis

-by Anoop Sai Chinthala

“They just want to stop hurting,” says Jennifer Tafoya talking about her recently deceased stepdaughter. A resident of Monroe County, Dominique was 19 when she overdosed on heroin. Admitting to trying all sorts of drugs, Dominique found relief through heroin. Unfortunately, she is not the only one to die from opioid addiction at a young age. On average, more than 115 people overdose on opioids in the United States every day. The National Institute of Drug Abuse recognizes the abuse of opioids—including prescription pain relievers—as a national crisis as it damages numerous cities’ public health and economic welfare. Damages are estimated to cost the United States \$78.5 billion annually, and most of that damage comes from the Midwest. Indiana itself spent \$4.3 billion in 2017 on solely economic damages—medical expenses, costs of repair, loss of property use and value—caused by opioid misuse. Some counties in Indiana recorded high amounts of addiction in their area by observing the rate of newly identified HIV cases. These counties include Scott County, Marion County, Allen County, and Monroe County, the home of Indiana University. IN Bloomington the combination of poverty and impulsive characteristics of college students fosters an environment susceptible to opioid black-market activity, making it a profitable area with high demand.



Although prescribed legally, people often sell their opioid prescriptions to the highest bidder or give whatever is remaining to their friends—especially college students. Young adults, aged between 18 and 25, are at highest risk of opioid abuse. [vi] As a result, one in four universities had an annual prescription opioid use prevalence of 10% or higher. Opioid abuse increases among white college students as well as residents of fraternities and sororities. The prominence of Greek life at Indiana University cultivates a party culture that leads students to be more susceptible to drugs such as opioids. [Students in Greek life are more willing to try various drugs and are also very susceptible to peer pressure, making them a desired target population for drug dealers. Currently at IU, 70 fraternities and sororities consist of over 8,200 students. Having a large population involved, either buying or selling, in the illicit drug markets at IU creates a high demand that suppliers use to their advantage. The increase in demand results in an increase in suppliers which creates a vicious cycle that brings drugs into the market.

Other pre-existing drug markets also lead to Bloomington’s opioid market. Black markets tend to attract more black markets, especially drug markets. From personal experience, most college students commonly use marijuana more often than high school students. At IU, people normalize using drugs or abusing prescriptions, such as Adderall. During my freshman year, my first exposure to common drug use shocked me. Some of my close high school friends lived on campus and shared stories of their peers smoking every night. Eventually, some of these people transitioned to abusing prescription drugs, such as Xanax. The situation escalated to the point where IUPD officers arrested one of their floor mates for selling these types of drugs. By the time freshman year ended, friends who I viewed as pure, and innocent now smoke pot regularly and friends who used to smoke now do stronger drugs.

Dealers also go through a similar process. They start dealing “easy” drugs such as marijuana but eventually move to stronger drugs such as opioids because they can make more money. The higher the risk the higher the reward. College students are at higher risk for substance abuse given their age because going to a big school like IU will expose students to various cultures as well as habits, either good or bad of other people. Since college students are at high risk for opioid abuse, it also means that they are at high risk of opioid black-market involvement.

IU students, however, are not the only people that contribute to the opioid epidemic in Bloomington. Poverty plays a key role in illicit markets. Black markets often draw in people in poverty, such as homeless individuals, including those dealing with addiction and substance abuse. In Bloomington, a little over 300 persons experience homelessness by year. Homelessness can result from substance abuse or cause substance abuse. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 26% of all homeless people struggle with some form of drug abuse. People typically think that drug abuse causes homelessness as drug abusers struggle to keep jobs and maintain healthy relationships with friends and families, which often results in the loss of a place to live. But in many situations, it is vice versa. Homeless people turn to drug abuse to cope with their situation. Therefore, homelessness causes an increase in drug abuse.

Compounding problems of homelessness in Bloomington, high opioid prescription rates feed the opioid epidemic in Monroe County. With a rate of 63.9 opioid prescriptions per 100 people, people have minimal difficulty obtaining opioids, including those vulnerable to substance abuse. The number of persons experiencing homelessness per year in a specific area provides insight to the drug problem.

Following the rise in the infection rate, Monroe County officials declared a public emergency. Nonprofits and various addiction programs started as a result of opioid abuse and overdoses in Bloomington. The Shalom Center is an inclusive resource center in Bloomington that started in 2000 to help the homeless and those in poverty. Since 2008, the center has provided more than seventy thousand meals a year. Bloomington set up various needle exchange programs to combat the spread of disease through needle sharing. Since the implementation of this program, the number of homeless and the rate of Hepatitis C decreased. Locally, Indiana University offers alcohol and drug resources through counseling and the campus alcohol and drug information center. All these programs started in order to battle drug abuse, specifically opioid abuse, whether directly by helping the addict or indirectly by reducing the spread of disease and the number of people in poverty.

The opioid black market thrives in Bloomington. The market affects various legislation and pressures large surrounding facilities, such as Indiana University, to get involved. Recently, the university committed to investing \$50 million to collaborate with various communities to prevent and reduce opioid abuse as well as addiction. Most of the changes focus on expanding treatment to pregnant women and mothers as well as making treatment more accessible. These changes emphasize treatment to pregnant women because of the above average amounts of babies that are born addicted to opioids in Indiana. Other parts of Indiana University's investment will go to forming mobile treatment teams, developing a plan to increase residential drug treatment in the state, easing requirements for creating needle exchange programs, and restricting opioid prescriptions. By restricting prescriptions, Indiana's government is targeting one source of opioid distribution.

The presence of the opioid black market in Bloomington can be difficult to pinpoint. By looking at various factors such as the demographic of the area, the living conditions, and the legislation on a local and even state-wide scale, the effects of the opioid market become apparent. First, the spread of Hepatitis C and HIV are key indicators of the presence of opioids due to the sharing of needles. Secondly, black markets attract more black markets. The combination of Greek life and the curiosity of college students/young adults creates a profitable environment with high demand. The high demand brings in more black markets that not only impact the campus but also the city. Lastly, poverty is crucial to the

expansion of the opioid black market because people in desperate situations are an easy group to sell to as well as get involved in the black market.

The Herald-Times

Accidental drug overdoses in Monroe County more than doubled from 2019 to 2020, according to data from the county coroner's office.

Forty-nine people died from accidental drug overdoses in 2020, up from 21 in 2019. Last year's total also was nearly twice as high as the average of 25 deaths from drug poisoning reported for Monroe County by the state between 2015 and 2019.



A researcher from Indiana University said that local trends fall in line with data at the state and national levels, but the reasons for the spike are, yet, unclear. “There’s not one clear answer I can give you,” said Jon Agley, associate professor and deputy director of research and prevention insights at IU’s School of Public Health. Agley said the spike is likely caused by many complex factors including known increases in the use of synthetic opioids and stimulants as well as multiple effects from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Even before the pandemic, the CDC reported a spike in overdose deaths, he said, and while people are speculating about the impact of the pandemic — from greater isolation to less access to health providers — disentangling prior trends from the virus-induced dynamics will be difficult and require more study.

Christopher Abert, executive director of the Southwest Recovery Alliance, said that he, too, believes multiple factors are to blame. “The real problem is that there’s no way to tell the composition and the potency of the drugs because of the illicit nature,” he said.

Drugs people buy on the street usually are not produced under government-approved conditions, which means even two seemingly identical pills from the same batch may produce dramatically different results, he said. One pill might be 10 to 100 times more powerful than the one next to it, Abert said. “You never know what you’re getting,” he said.

Pandemic impact? The pandemic may have worsened some trends: The American Medical Association last month updated its request to governors and state legislatures to act amid nearly every state reporting “an outbreak or sustained increase in drug overdose as well as ongoing concern for those with mental illness or substance use disorder.”

Abert said during the pandemic, people also were more likely to be by themselves because of social distancing, which may have meant people who overdosed could not be saved by a bystander administering naloxone, which counteracts the effects of opioids.



The Indiana Recovery Alliance, which is based in Bloomington, distributed its 100,000th dose of naloxone last month and reported more than 5,000 overdose reversals. About 98% of reversals were performed by laypeople, including family members.

Agley said, “Regardless of the cause of the increase, it’s a good reminder of how important it is for bystanders and for laypeople to have access to naloxone or Narcan to reverse overdoses.”

Abert said people should be under no illusion, though, that the challenges related to substance use disorders will disappear when the pandemic subsides.

Eight to 10 years ago, the nation dealt with a prescription opioid crisis, six years ago it was heroin and now it’s being driven primarily by synthetic opioids such as fentanyl. “We’re playing whack-a-mole with this,” Abert said.

The rise in overdose deaths also has meant more work for the Monroe County Coroner’s Office, which performed 142 autopsies in 2020, up 30% from 2019. The office reviewed or investigated 275 deaths last year, also 30% higher than the prior year.

As the ongoing opioid epidemic continues to worsen throughout Indiana, more and more youth in this state with parents who use opioids are being placed in foster care. Indiana has seen one of the highest increases in the number of children placed in foster homes since the start of the epidemic.

Here’s a closer look at trends related to foster care and parental opioid use, reported in an article by Jackie Daniels from the Indiana Center for Recovery.

Trends in Foster Care and Parental Opioid Use in Indiana

In Indiana in 2017, the number of children placed in foster homes increased by nearly 90% from 2005. More than half of these cases were linked to parental substance misuse, according to a study published by the National Council on Family Relations.

- In Indiana in 2017, a total of 57,500 children were affected by parental opioid use, according to a study published by the United Hospital Fund. This tally includes children living with a parent with opioid use disorder, children who had a parent die from opioid use, children with a parent in prison due to opioid use, children placed in foster care due to parental opioid use, and children addicted to opioids or who accidentally used opioids found in their homes.

- Nearly 15% of babies born in Indiana in 2017 were exposed to opioids in the womb, which is higher than the national average of 11%. Many of these children end up moving into foster homes if their parents do not seek addiction treatment.

- Nearly 30% of all opioid overdose deaths in Indiana are among people between 30 and 39, many of whom leave behind young children. Many of these young children are placed in Indiana foster care programs.

How Does Parental Opioid Use Affect Children?

Parental opioid use affects children in ways. Foster care is only one potentially damaging effect of parental opioid use on children.

Foster care may prevent children from being neglected in ways that can lead to illness and death when in the care of parents who use opioids. However, foster care is associated with its own problems.

Children who grow up in the foster care system are subject to higher rates of poor physical and mental health, lower self-esteem, lower academic performance, and higher teen pregnancy rates, reports the American Society for the Positive Care of Children. Foster care children are also more likely to become incarcerated, homeless, or victims of sex trafficking.

According to a study published in *Clinical Therapeutics*, nearly 33% of mothers who receive treatment for opioid use disorder have had a child removed from the home and placed in foster care.

Parents who use illicit opioids like heroin are far less likely to be reunited with their children than parents who use other substances, including cocaine. Researchers suspect that these low reunification rates may be due to a higher number of stigmas related to heroin use and higher rates of opioid relapse.

Parents who suffer from opioid addiction often display impaired judgment and have difficulty managing their emotions, which can affect parents' ability to care for and protect their children. They may also suffer frequently from debilitating opioid withdrawal symptoms, such as vomiting, diarrhea, and muscle pain, that result in parental neglect.

Researchers have stated that misusing opioids and other substances around children normalizes drug use and increases their children's risk for substance misuse later in life. Children raised by parents who misuse drugs are also at higher risk for exposure to domestic violence and unsanitary living conditions and face greater risks of hospitalization than other children.

What Are the Dangers of Using Opioids Around Children?

Children with parents who use opioids are at great risk for accidental poisoning and overdose. Between 2000 and 2015, there were 188,468 reports from poison control centers of youth exposure to prescription opioids.

More than 47% of opioid poisoning cases were caused by buprenorphine. Buprenorphine is a medication used to treat opioid dependence, and is one of the two main ingredients in another medication for opioid dependence called Suboxone.

Despite the instructions on bottle labels on how to properly store opioids, few parents adhere to these instructions. Some parents leave their opioid prescription bottles on kitchen and bathroom counters, in medicine cabinets, and other places that can be easily found and accessed by their young children and teens.



Opioids are associated with a higher number of overdoses than any other drug. The National Institute on Drug Abuse reports that in 2019, opioids were related to 49,860 overdose deaths, which makes up more than 70% of all drug overdoses that occurred that same year. Opioids can easily trigger an overdose when used by anyone with low or no tolerance, especially teens and young children.

How Can Parents Get Help for Opioid Misuse?

Some parents who suffer from opioid addiction are reluctant to seek professional treatment for fear of losing custody of their children, while others are highly motivated to seek treatment to become better parents.

A common barrier parents face when seeking addiction treatment is childcare, especially if residential treatment is recommended. Fortunately, many drug rehab centers offer outpatient rehab programs that provide several hours of behavioral therapy a week so parents can continue living at home to care for their children while recovering from addiction.

Opioid addiction is typically treated with opioid detox and behavioral therapy. Detox helps patients safely withdraw from opioids and usually takes place in a residential setting for up to several days. Some rehab centers offer alternative treatments for parents who must live at home while going through withdrawal. In these instances, parents may be prescribed medications like buprenorphine that can be taken at home to effectively reduce opioid withdrawal symptoms.

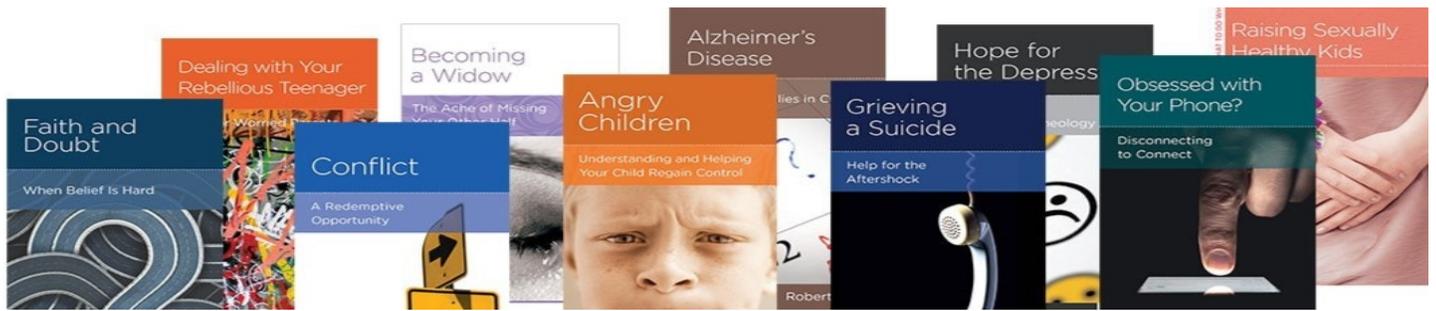
Behavioral therapy in an outpatient drug rehab program focuses on helping patients identify and overcome triggers that drive their opioid use and addiction. Rehab programs are customized for each patient based on their unique situations related to addiction.

For example, a patient who started using opioids to relieve anxiety may receive therapy that teaches them how to manage stress and anxiety without using drugs. Employee assistance, 12-step support groups, and family therapy are some of many other programs available to help parents recover from drugs.

Where To Recover from Opioid Misuse in Indiana

Contact Indiana Center for Recovery at (844) 650-0064 to learn more about available treatment options. ICFR offers opioid detox, Suboxone detox, and a variety of drug and alcohol rehab programs. Parents who live in Indiana and surrounding areas can experience a safe and comfortable recovery from opioid dependence and addiction, and they can receive therapy to improve their parenting skills and family dynamic.





This month's highlighted booklet is "Grief—Finding Hope Again" by Paul David Tripp No matter what the circumstances, death shakes us to the core. It seems so wrong, and it is! We long for comfort, but we don't know where to look. Can God really help when we are overwhelmed with grief? With compassion and biblical wisdom, Paul David Tripp shows us how to think and what to do when death enters our door. He reminds us that we have a Savior who knows our sorrows, hears our cries, and promises to one day wipe away all tears. Hope and healing come from our relationship with Jesus, the One who promises to walk all the way through the valley of the shadow of death with us. **Please take advantage of our Counselor's Corner in the back of the church. For you....or a friend or loved one.**

Counseling Services Offered to Church Members. *If you need help, or know someone who needs help, please let Pastor Larry or John Leis know.*

Counselingathope@gmail.com

812-876-9002 ext 105



Free prayer booklets are available at the church. These will help guide you as you pray everyday for a month for our families, our schools, our churches, and our nation. God calls us to pray diligently for all our leaders.

For more information you can see Pastor Jeannette.

Classifieds

 **stuff**

 **services**

 **jobs**

 **homes galore**



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\$2 a carton
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service you provide, then
please contact Kasey Parrott.

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We know how busy life can get, especially with the holiday season approaching. Let us take some of the worry and stress away! Call Bruce at **812-327-6151** to order your Thanksgiving meal delivered to you!
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many people try to excuse
their sin by saying
"I was born this way"

which is why Jesus said



you must be born again

Coming Out of the Darkness—Personal Testimony by Allison Nunley

I lived a homosexual lifestyle for several years.

I attended pride parades.

I said things like; “I was born this way”, “God is love”, “He knows my heart” and “Who are you to judge?”

I wore men’s clothing.

I smoked pot daily.

I drank without a care of getting drunk.

I lusted.

I stole.

I lied.

Etc, etc, etc...

All while believing there was a God, though, acted as if I were my own God.

I was prideful.

I was angry.

I was selfish.

I was greedy.

I was deceived.

I was lost.

I was without hope.

I was in need of a savior...

Over 5 years ago, God broke me, for my good and for His glory. The Holy Spirit poked and prodded my conscience and used 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 to finally convict me of my sins. He would then grab ahold of me and there was no running from Him anymore. I loved my sins and would’ve never chosen Him...but He chose me (John 15:16). He brought me to my knees, a night that I will never forget.

He opened my eyes to my sinfulness, revealed Jesus to me, the meaning of the cross...as if I were looking at myself through Him.

That should’ve been my blood shed. I deserved the wrath He took on my behalf. THAT IS what LOVE is (Romans 5:8). He gifted me true repentance and faith that night.

It still amazes me that He could look upon this wicked person, love me so much to change my heart so drastically, as to desire His will over my own. (Galatians 2:20) To freely give a gift of grace and a newness of life is truly humbling and it is all to His glory!!

Though I still sin and fall short daily, His grace abounds and He is continually doing a work in me. I can now go boldly to the throne of grace for all of life’s daily needs, problems, trials and struggles. I have hope, peace, joy, and true identity in Christ. Thanks be to God!

I desire to glorify Him in all things and He is molding me more like His Son everyday. I pray He does the same for those not only in the LGBTQ+ community, but all those whom have never tasted of His grace. Do NOT be deceived! Turn from false idols, fleeting pleasures and worship the crucified Christ who is deserving of all praise and glory!

We have ALL sinned and fall short of His glory (Romans 3:23).

Catholic and Protestant Movements—The Beginning

Isis Earnest

Once, a wise man said to me: “Catholics are Jewish wannabees,” his name was Bruce Parrot, Sr. Having been a “catholic” once myself and remembering the practices of the services, I agree with that statement. The reason I mention the quote, is I find it fitting for the article Kasey Parrot asked me to write which is not an easy or short subject.

Today, here in the U.S. and some other countries people are surprised that Jesus was a Jew. Reading the New Testament, tells you plainly that Jesus was born and raised in Israel except for some early years that He spent in Egypt.

Justo Gonzalez on “Story of Christianity” said: “First of all, you have to realize the early church were all Jews—or either what they called God fearers, who were Gentiles who believed the faith of Israel but were not Jews and did not become Jews; they were not converting to Judaism, but still they believed in the faith of Israel and practiced the morality that the law established.”

Those early Christians did not see themselves as part of a “new religion” or even as a sect from Judaism. Being a follower of Jesus meant a fulfillment of the Promises given to Israel by God. Followers of the WAY as they were first known, they saw themselves as loyal to their Jewish Faith and heritage. Later, the name Christian was given because Jesus was the Promised Christ. The Greek Christos meaning ANOITED ONE. Many Christians have no idea about the history of the Christian church, the legacy we have inherited since the Ascension of Jesus throughout the centuries, the Church Father’s writings, teachings, the doctrines which have influenced certain church practices today. Studying church history gives the believer knowledge that helps not to be vulnerable to the appeals and arguments of cults. Distortions of Christianity can take away from the real teachings of the Scriptures.

My advice, READ the BIBLE for yourself. Pray and ask the LORD to open the eyes of your understanding. To listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. The book of Revelation chapters 2 and 3 tells us to do that. Remember, the people are the church.

FROM THE BEGINNING

Many religions are in the world today. Many have been in the past, but Christianity is the only one who has a God, a deliverer, a Savior who gave himself in humiliation to the cruel death of crucifixion for his

people. As we read the gospels: Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John, it is clear that Jesus’ mission was to bring His kingdom to the world He created. After His death, this mission was to be carried out by His followers. Those first followers were not well organized in the church’s beginnings, and they were not perfect as we might assume today.

It is worth noting that the early Christians did not believe that the time and place of the birth of Jesus had been left to chance. They saw the hand of God preparing the birth of Jesus in all events prior to His birth. The same was believed about the birth of the church, which resulted from the work of Jesus.

God prepared the way for the disciples after receiving the power of the Holy Spirit in Acts 1:8. Luke gives us an excellent account on what happened to the first followers of Jesus in the land of Palestine as it was called by the Romans which was the Empire that was in place at that time. Israel as a crossroad to the East and being occupied by Rome, was a land with many different peoples, divided politics, and religion. In the cities people enjoyed the comforts of the Roman civilization in contrast, just few miles away in the rural villages, the farmers tilled the fields with primitive plows. In the city of Jerusalem, the Jewish priest offered sacrifices to the Lord of Israel while a few blocks away pagan priests held ceremonies and rituals to the Roman god Jupiter. The Jews despised their foreign overlords and resented their pagan culture although many wealthy in the Jewish leadership enjoyed the “luxuries” the Greco-Roman pagans offered.

PERSECUTIONS

The first Martyr, Stephen, in his trial with the Jewish Sanhedrin (authorities), gives us an insight on how the followers of Jesus interpreted the Old Testament Scriptures and what those Scriptures meant and not the traditions the rabbis told the people. The teachers of the law, Pharisees and scribes believed the Old Testament presented the Law of God for “his special people” the Jews. Stephen disagreed with them and plainly told them that the Law, the Temple, and the institution of Jewish life were temporary. God intended for them to go beyond themselves, that Messiah would bring and would fulfill all righteousness for ALL people including those pagans they hated (Acts 6 & 7).



With the death of Stephen, the zealot Jews began to aggressively pursue and imprison Jesus' followers. One of those zealots named Saul of Tarsus, was converted after being confronted by Jesus on his way to Damascus and he became the apostle to the gentiles and the greatest writer of the New Testament (Acts 9).

In Palestine, Herod Agrippa grandson of Herod the Great ordered the death of James (brother of John the apostle) and had Peter arrested (Acts 12).

The Leadership of the Jerusalem church was in the hands of Jesus' half-brother James. He was beloved by his fellowmen and was murdered in 62 A.D. by orders of Ananus, the High Priest, according to Josephus (Antiquities of the Jews). With James' death and the completion of the work of the Temple done in A.D. 66, the church leaders in Jerusalem were advised in a vision by the Holy Spirit to "flee the city" and many did. Many moved to Pella. A city beyond the Jordan. The action of leaving the city was seen by "pious" Jews as an act of treason and this started a separation between them.

In 70 A.D., only four years later after building of the Temple was completed, the forces of Emperor Vespasian led by Titus broke down the walls of Jerusalem looting, burning, and destroying the Temple. The holy city was destroyed, and many Jews were taken captive by the Romans.

Scholars view 70 A.D. with the destruction of the Temple as the end of the apostolic age. By this time many of the original apostles had been martyred and the congregations they founded were in new hands. Their work, faith and resilience were a force that was contagious to the newcomers they had discipled, and they also endure persecutions and opposition.

Part 2 70 A.D. – 312 A.D. (Constantine)

Prayer: Thank you Jesus for Your Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path; your Word endures forever, it gives life to the hearer, my soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

Ps 119:105; 1Peter 1:25; Ps. 42:2

Study references:

Church history, Dr. Bruce Shelley

The Story of Christianity, Dr. Justo Gonzalez

Trial and testimony of the early church, Peter Thiede, and K. Curtis





“HALLOWEEN”

By Pastor Larry Mitchell

EPH. 5:11 the Apostle Paul writes; “For You were once in darkness; BUT NOW You are Light in the Lord. So, Live as children of the Light. [and in case you don’t know or have forgotten] (For the Fruit of the Light consists of goodness, righteousness, and truth) ,and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the Unfruitful Works of Darkness, But rather – EXPOSE them.”

EVER Since WE were Children, . . WE Were All Taught to Believe That HALLOWEEN WAS Just a Time of Cornstalks, and Jack-O-Lanterns, Bobbing for Apples, Dressing Up as Ghosts and Witches & Devils, and Going From Door to Door, Yelling, “TRICK or TREAT, . . AND THEN, . . Goin’ Home With a SACK FULL of CANDY!”

And THIS TRADITION Has Been Handed Down from PARENT to CHILD, [in This Country] – From Generation to Generation, . . WITHOUT QUESTION, . . WITHOUT ANY Research On the Part of Christian Parents, . . . to FIND OUT . . WHAT KIND of a HOLIDAY, (HOLY-DAY) . . ARE WE ACTUALLY PROMOTING and ENCOURAGING For OUR CHILDREN . . To PARTICIPATE IN??

SO, . . I’d Like to Give You Some REAL FACTS ABOUT the Origin of Halloween, (And the Practices That Go Along With IT), . . AND THEN YOU, For Yourself, Can Determine . . Whether or NOT, . . IF THIS is a Holy-Day That a Christian Should Participate IN!! . . AND Whether or NOT, . . IF it’s a Belief or a TRADITION, That a Christian PARENT . . Should BE, or Should NOT BE . . HANDING DOWN to Their CHILDREN!!

SO, FIRST of All, Did You Know That There Truly ARE . . WITCHES? Did You know That HALLOWEEN . . is a DAY That WITCHES CELEBRATE . . Above ALL Other HOLI-DAYS?

WITCHES Have EIGHT Major Festivals That They CELEBRATE Throughout the Year, . . With the Gaelic Festival of SAMHAIN, . . OR the HALLOWED Day of HALLOWEEN Being Their VERY FAVORITE. WITCHCRAFT is NOT CHILDS PLAY! . . . IN FACT. . The BIBLE says It is an ABOMINATION in the EYES of GOD!

GOD said in DEUT. 18:10 . . “Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their sons or their daughters in the Fire; who practices Divination, or Sorcery, who interprets Omens, or Engages in Witchcraft, . . or a person who admits to being a medium or consults the dead.” [AND God Hasn’t Changed His Mind . .]

AND In EX. 22:18 . . . IT Even says; “You shall Not ALLOW a WITCH to Live.” (YIKES! . . . This was Serious in the Old Testament) . . . BUT STILL, TODAY, . . . Here in AMERICA, We’ve SEEN the Acceptability of Witchcraft in Our Society, AND its Largely Because of the Conditioning That’s GOING ON With OUR KIDS; . . . SECULAR “SURVEY SAYS” 90% of All CARTOONS are LACED . . . With WitchCraft! BUT PROV. 22:6 says; “Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he gets old, he will not depart from it.”



From the Year 1575 to the mid 1700’s, . . . Many People Were Burned at the Stake, . . . Either for Their Real Involvement, OR Even Their Suspected Involvement . . . in Witchcraft! BUT YET OUR Schools PROMOTE Witchcraft Through Assigned Reading Material, . . . Such as the Harry Potter Series, . . . And Our So- Called “Supreme Justices” Have Endorsed THIS . . . BY Banning the BIBLE From Our Schools ! ROM. 1:22 . . . “Although They Claimed to be Wise, They Became as Fools;”

SCORES of MOVIES Today, Such as “Lord of the Rings”- Have Made Sorcery and Witchcraft Seem Like Fantasy, When in FACT, IT IS Very REAL, and Its at WORK in OUR Cities & Towns TODAY!

EVEN in Our LOCAL Community, . . . at One Time the PAGAN Community Here, Boasted of Over 3,000 Members! Somebody said; “Well, I Really Don’t Understand the Difference Between Being a WICCAN or a PAGAN, . . . And Being a SATANIST ?”

ALRIGHT, Now Keep in Mind; . . . WE All Know That There is But ONE TRUE and LIVING GOD, BUT the Answer, or the Bottom Line to THIS ; is that Wiccan’s or Pagans WORSHIP MANY gods, . . . [Of Course , Dead gods] (Mother Earth – Father Sky) (NEW AGE)

ROM. 1:22-25 says; “Although they claimed to be wise, they became as fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God, for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.” “Therefore, God gave them over to the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the Truth of God for a Lie, and

worship and serve Created things, Rather than worship and serve the CREATOR.”

BUT SATANISTS, (On the Other Hand) . . . THEY Make NO BONES About WHO They WORSHIP ! [The Horned Hunter, Kernos – etc]. They Proclaim SATAN To BE Their MASTER!

Alright, So WHEN Did HALLOWEEN BEGIN? As I’ve Said So Many Times Before, . . . SATAN is a Perverter and a Counterfeiter; HE Steals the Things of GOD, . . . Perverts the TRUTH, And in the Long Run, . . . HE USES IT to STEAL, to KILL and to DESTROY!

ALRIGHT, In the Seventh Century, the Church Had Set Aside a DAY, in Memory of the Early Christians Who had Given Their Lives, And Died for Their Beliefs ! (These Saints Became KNOWN As MARTYRS, And They DIED for the TRUTH !)

THIS DAY, was Called “ALL SAINT’S DAY” and Was Celebrated in the Month of MAY, UNTIL, THAT IS, (and Here We Go) By the Year 900, . . . the All Influential CATHOLIC Church Had CHANGED the DATE to NOV. 1st (the DAY After “ALL HALLOWS EVE.” (I Wonder Why?) You SEE, Even Though Christianity was Spreading, . . . SATAN, . . . Through the Disguise of WICCA, . . . (Which Means; “ONE Who Practices SORCERY”) or Paganism, . . . SATAN Had His Own Plan Going On!

There Were Those, in Britain and Ireland, at That Time, WHO Were Known as DRUIDS, . . . SATANIC Priests, Who Were Known for Their Worship of a “Horned God,” . . . WHO was Known as “KERNOS, the Horned Hunter,” or “BAPHOMET, god of the Under- World .” This god Usually was Described as a “Goat” or a mythical PAN- like,” Goat-Footed Man . . . Who had the Head of a Goat, OR of a Bull; . . . BUT was Half Man and Half Goat! THIS. . . is the SAME god . . . That Satanists WORSHIP TODAY!

Once Again, The DRUIDS, (Through the CATHOLIC CHURCH) Had Given “ALL SAINTS DAY.” A NEW NAME, . . . [Just like They Changed “PASSOVER” to “EASTER” (After the

goddess of Fertility, ISHTAR, Or ESTRA) . . . [ACTS 12:4 . . . Greek Word Here is “PASCHO,” . . . Meaning “PASSOVER !” AND SO, IT Was, That . . . “All Saints Day,” Was Then Called, “ALL HALLOWS,” ..”a Celebration of the Departed DEAD !”

SO, the Evening BEFORE, Nov. 1st . . . [Which is Oct. 31st] . . . IT Became Known as “All Hallows EVE.” . . . Which was Later Shortened to “HALLO . . . WEEN.” The Earliest Celebrations of Halloween Began Among the CELTS, WHO Lived More Than 2,000 Years Ago, . . . in What is Now, Known as England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Northern France.

AND SO, The DRUIDS, Adopted Halloween as part of their “Vigil of “SAMHAIN,” (Actually a Celtic word properly pronounced as – SOW-EEN meaning, “SUMMERS END.” (Which Became just Another disguise for SATAN, Who, the Druids Believed to BE “LORD of the DEAD.”))

IT was Believed, That at This Time of year, That the Souls of the Dead Would RISE UP and Haunt Those Who Were Alive. SO, in Order to "HIDE OUT," . . (so to speak) . . the Celts Would

Dress Up as Witches and Goblins and Ghosts and Devils, and Such, . . SO That They Could "BLEND" IN With These Evil Spirits, SO That the EVIL SPIRITS Wouldn't HURT Them ! HA !

The Encyclopedia Britannica says; "HALLOWEEN" (in Britain) was Always Thought to be the Most Favorable Opportunity for Divination. It was the Day on Which the "HELP of the Devil was INVOKED."

Alright, FIRST of all, What does DEUT. 18:10 say ? "Let No One be found among you, that practices DIVINATION or Sorcery, .(in Other words; "DON'T BE ASKING the DEVIL for HELP !)

And SECONDLY; "WHAT HAPPEN to SAUL, in I SAM. 28 . . ???Instead of Repenting and Doing the NEXT RIGHT THING, . . HE Went Down to the WITCH of ENDOR and "INVOKED" the HELP of the DEVIL!"

DOES Anybody Remember What Happened to SAUL ?? JUST a Few Days later, When SAUL Engaged the Philistines in Battle, . . ALL of HIS SONS Were KILLED, and SAUL Himself, Committed SUICIDE, By FALLING ON HIS OWN SWORD!

AND WHAT Happened to King AHAZIAH in 2 KINGS chapter 1? HE Sent messengers to Inquire of BALZEBUB, the god of EKRON, to See if HE was Gonna DIE From HIS INJURIES !

AND Because HE inquired of the DEVIL, . . . GOD said; "YOU'RE GONNA DIE, SUCKER!" ASKING the DEVIL for HELP, . . is a SLAP in GOD'S FACE!! AND THAT, . . IS WHAT HALLO-WEEN IS ALL ABOUT!!

At the Same Time, that These People Would "DRESS UP" and "MASQUERADE" as Evil or Demonic Beings, They Would Light These Huge Fires Around the Country Side in Trying to SCARE Off These Demonic Spirits! When ALL That Seemed to Fail, . .The Practice of Sacrificing PEOPLE . . By Burning Them in Those Fires, Began!

AT FIRST, They Were Sacrificing Prisoners of War, and Criminals and Even Animals IN HUGE ODD Shaped BASKETS! THEY Would HANG THOSE BASKETS Over Open FIRES, And

Would BURN These People, or Animals ALIVE, So as to Take Away Their LIFE FORCE, . . to GAIN Their POWER, . . Unto THEMSELVES!

It's the Same Way with Satanists Today, . . in Satanic Rituals, .They Believe if They Drain the LIFE'S Blood, While Still Alive, Whether Human or Animal, . . And Then Drink it, . .They Will Receive the POWER, . . [the Life Force] of THAT LIFE!

YES, . . LEV. 17:11 DOES say; "For the LIFE of the creature, is in the BLOOD." BUT Once Again, the Truth has Been Perverted! GOD says Over and Over Again in the Scriptures; "You shall NOT eat any meat with the Blood still in it." LEV. 3:17 . . 7:26-27 . . 17:10-14 . . 19:26 . . DEUT. 12:16-26 . . DEUT. 15:23 . . THOSE Huge FIRES, Back Then, . . [We Call Em' "BonFires," Today]

BUT the Term; "Bonfire," Actually Comes From the Word, . . "BONEFIRE," Because of All the BONES Left in the ASHES of Those Fires, From the Sacrifices That Were Made, From the Night Before!

Encycl. Americana says; "HALLOWEEN has Always been Associated with Super-Natural Demonic Influences, . . . " LATER ON, . . The Demonic Druids Would GO From Castle to Castle And From Serf to Serf, (SKYCLAD, . . Which Means "NAKED") . . Demanding That Someone From That Household, Be Given to Them, So They Could Sacrifice Them IN the FIRE, to Appease the LORD of the DEAD! THIS is Where the "HARMLESS ?" Custom, or the TRADITION of "Trick or Treating," Comes From.

IF the DRUIDS Got What They Asked For, (the TREAT) . . THEN They Would Leave, What WE Call a "Jack-o - Lantern" Out On the Front Step, . . Which was a Pumpkin With a Grizzly Face Carved IN IT, . . . BUT the Candle ON the Inside - Was Made of Human Body Fat, . . Which Was to Serve as a Reminder of What Happens to Those Who DON'T Comply with the Druids Demands;



IT was Believed, That When the Evil spirits Would Come Out That Night, and They Would SEE the Jack-O-Lantern, (Which Represented the Face of an Evil Disembodied Spirit) . . THEN THEY Would "PASS BY" That House! DO You SEE How This was a Perversion of the TRUTH, . . ONLY the BLOOD of a Spotless Lamb Offers the Protection From the DESTROYER!!!

. . BUT IF the DRUIDS Didn't Get WHAT They Asked FOR, . . . THEN . . Came the "TRICK"

. . THEY Would THEN PROCEED to Paint a Huge "Hexagram" ON the DOOR, . . . AND They'd LEAVE This HEX, Pronouncing a CURSE Upon That Household, . . THUS . . the House Became Haunted!" WHAT WAS the PURPOSE ?

IT WAS SO That Someone Would DIE, . . . or Something Destructive Would Happen, to SOMEONE in That Household During the Night, . . . Because of FEAR !! THE WHOLE BASIS of "HALLOWEEN," . . . is CENTERED Upon RELEASING A SPIRIT of FEAR! Did You Know that FEAR Can Be Debilitating? DID You Know that FEAR Can Destroy the Very LIFE of a Person? That It Can Cause Both Physical and Emotional Illness? DID You Know that FEAR Can Cause You to LOSE Faith in GOD?

There are ALL Kinds of Diagnosed PHOBIAS in the World Today! PHOBIA is Just Another Fancy Name - For FEAR! YES, There IS A REALISTIC FEAR or RESPECT, That GOD Has Created, and Placed in Our Lives to Create a Balance Between of WHAT MIGHT BE an Imminent Threat to Life, . . . AND WHAT is NOT!!

A FEAR That'll Cause US to STAY AWAY FROM, OR NOT DO THOSE THINGS That'll HARM US! IT'S a FEAR That Keeps US in Balance, . . . a FEAR That'll KEEP YOU ALIVE, IF YOU LISTEN to IT!!!! (Like GRAVITY)

. . . BUT SATAN Likes to Cripple People With A FEAR That DOESN'T Come From GOD, . . . IT'S a FEAR That's Totally Out of Balance. . . One of the most Powerful Weapons that SATAN Uses, . . . Even against Christians. . . is FEAR!!

BUT BELOVED, as CHRISTIANS II TIM. 1:7 says; "For GOD Has NOT GIVEN US the spirit of FEAR; But of POWER, and of LOVE, and of a SOUND MIND."

SO IF FEAR Isn't From GOD, . . . Then I Believe WE Can Presume That HALLOWEEN Isn't From GOD Either, . . . ! AMEN ? ROM. 8:15 says; "For you have Not received the spirit of BONDAGE again to FEAR; . . . But YOU Have received the Spirit of Adoption whereby we cry, "ABBA" Father."

Believe Me - HALLOWEEN Was NOT THOUGHT UP Just So Our Kids Could GO OUT and Get a BAG of CANDY!!! "DON'T BE SO NAÏVE!" THE BOTTOM LINE IS; IN The Month of OCTOBER, . . . Millions of People, . . . Even Christians Will Be Encouraging Their Children to PAY Homage to the Devil!

EVEN Churches, AS They Decorate Their Fellowship Halls With ALL the Paraphernalia and Trappings of Lucifer's KINGDOM, . . . THEY WILL PAY HOMAGE to the LORD of the DEAD! PAYING HOMAGE With ALL the SAME STUFF That Came From WHAT the Ancient Demon- Worshipping Druids BELIEVED IN!

WORLD BOOK says; "Many, if NOT Most, Halloween Practices have Come Down from the Ancient Druids, Who Believed That Black Cats were Reincarnated Human Beings." "From These Druidic Beliefs, Come the Present Day Use, of Witches, Ghosts, and Black Cats."

WHY are BLACK CATS Sacrificed? Because, Once Again, . . . They Believe that IF Black Cats are Reincarnated Human Beings, . . . As They are Being Sacrificed, They Can Gain the

Life Force, or Power From These Beings !!! Did You Know that Animal Shelters Will NOT ADOPT OUT a Black Cat During the Halloween Season, . . . There's a Reason for That!

TRADITION says; "We Only DO IT for FUN !" . . . BUT GOD says; "DON'T DO IT AT ALL!" MARK 7:7 says; "YOU Hold Fast to the TRADITIONS of Men, while YOU LAY ASIDE the COMMANDMENTS of GOD."

YOU May say That HALLOWEEN IS Harmless FUN, . . . BUT WHAT People FAIL to GRASP, . . . is the BIG PICTURE, . . . AND THAT IS, By Participating in HALLOWEEN, . . . AS CHRISTIANS, . . . YOU Have to ASK Yourself the Question; "AM I Actually PROMOTING . . . SATAN'S PLAN of DECEPTION?"

"WHAT PLAN IS THAT ?" "WELL, IF YOU LOOK at IT, . . . The Whole Halloween Thing Itself, is Just a MASK That SATAN HIDES BEHIND to Get People to Believe That DEMONIC FORCES, Aren't REAL, That THEY'RE Just FANTASY, WHEN IN FACT, . . . THEY'RE VERY REAL . . . And LIVES are Being Destroyed . . . BY NOT Taking THEM SERIOUSLY!

THE BOTTOM LINE IS; IF WE SAY That We're CHRISTIANS, . . . THEN PAUL says; in EPH. 5:11 That WE Ought to LIVE LIKE IT; EVEN During the DEVIL'S HOLY DAY. of Halloween!

Please feel free to submit your questions to parrottkasey@gmail.com to receive an answer in the next edition!



FAMILY TREE

Generations Between Adam, Noah, & Abraham

The genealogies in Genesis 5 and 11 give unusual detail about the 10 generations between Adam and Noah and the 10 generations between Noah and Abraham. Consider the people recording this information and these forebearers imagining their descendants, 5,000 years later. They likely knew people would doubt their very existences, and tried to provide the future generations with the necessary information to authenticate their stories.

Despite the probability that the way time being measured would change significantly, these ancient people provided a comprehensive record of their lives, records that provide great insight into the reality of their presence.

What better way to communicate to future generation than with an exact count of the years of life, plus the years before parenthood, to give us an exact year-based history of generations?

Despite these amazing records, we don't actually know the exact year Adam was created. This birth chart was back-engineered, starting with the birth date of Abraham, which is less debated (but only slightly less!).

Generation	Approximated Birth Year BC	Descendant	Years until Parenthood	Years after Parenthood	Total Years
1	4092 BC	Adam	130	800	930
2	3962 BC	Seth	105	807	912
3	3857 BC	Enosh	90	815	905
4	3767 BC	Kenan	70	840	910
5	3697 BC	Mahalalel	65	830	895
6	3632 BC	Jared	162	800	962
7	3470 BC	Enoch	65	300	365
8	3405 BC	Methuselah	187	782	969
9	3218 BC	Lamech	182	595	777
10	3036 BC	Noah	500	450	950
11	2536 BC	Shem	100	500	600
12	2436 BC	Arphaxad	35	403	438
13	2401 BC	Shelah	30	403	433
14	2371 BC	Eber	34	430	464
15	2337 BC	Peleg	30	209	239
16	2307 BC	Reu	32	207	239
17	2275 BC	Serug	30	200	230
18	2245 BC	Nahor	29	119	148
19	2216 BC	Terah	70	135	205
20	2146 BC	Abraham	100	75	175

LUKE

ORDER IN NEW TESTAMENT

3

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

24

TYPE

GOSPEL, SYNOPTIC



OVERVIEW

The third of the Gospels is also an account and testimony of Jesus Christ, written by Luke, who was a physician by trade. His account offers a balanced view of Christ's ministry, speaking to both the Jew and the Gentile. Much of Luke's Gospel involves Jesus's dealings with the common man, and he gives more stories involving women than the other records. The Gospel of Luke shares the good news that Jesus Christ offers salvation for all humankind.



WRITTEN
60-61 AD



TIME PERIOD COVERED
7 BC to 26 AD



AUTHOR
Luke the Historian,
Physician, and Gentle

1
THE BIRTH OF CHRIST ACCOUNTS SINGULAR TO THIS GOSPEL

LUKE 1-2

Luke shares the miraculous births of both John the Baptist and Jesus. He tells of Mary visiting Elizabeth during her pregnancy, the birth, and the naming of John the Baptist. Luke also recounts the circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ, specifically the angels who appear to shepherds and Simeon and Anna who recognize Jesus and prophesy concerning Him.

2
TEACHINGS OF CHRIST SINGULAR OR CENTRAL TO THIS GOSPEL

LUKE 3-21

Luke shares 24 parables, with 11 being original, and include the Prodigal Son, and the rich man and Lazarus. He specifically shares warnings that were given to the religious elite who often tried to trap and trick Jesus (see 6:2-5; 11:37-53; 12:1-11; 13:15-17, 32; 19:47; 20:45-47).

3
THE MIRACLES OF CHRIST SINGULAR TO THIS GOSPEL

LUKE 3-21

Luke presents 21 miracles, five of which are original, including the miraculous catch of fish, the raising of the widow of Nain's son from the dead, and the healing of 10 lepers.

4
THE PROPHECIES OF CHRIST SINGULAR TO THIS GOSPEL

LUKE 3-21

Luke also shares the prophecies of Jesus during His ministry, specifically when Jesus claimed fulfillment of Isaiah in the synagogue, Jesus predicting His death three times, and the Transfiguration. He also shares Jesus predicting the future destruction of Jerusalem.

5
THE DEATH, RESURRECTION, AND ASCENSION DETAILS SINGULAR TO THIS GOSPEL

LUKE 22-24

Luke shares Pilate's declarations of innocence, Herod's trial, and the criminals at the crucifixion. He also recounts the last words of Jesus, His later appearance to disciples, and the Ascension.



Around the Church

