

# Most Searched, Read, And Marked Passages Of 2021

Sunday PM 01/23/22

## Introduction:

I remember giving a lesson a year ago on this subject and decided to compare 2021 with 2020. Did the list change? What differences are there? What can we learn from people in looking at these lists?

### I) Information from BibleGateway and YouVersion.

#### A) Bible Searches continue to increase.

1. Beginning in March 2020 increase of usage 10%.
2. 2021 usage continued to increase by 24% over pre-pandemic levels.

#### B) YouVersion

1. Read 55.8 billion chapters.
2. Played 8.2 billion audio chapters.
3. Created 2.4 billion highlights, book marks, and notes.
4. Completed 1.4 billion Bible plan days.

#### C) Comparing themes

1. 2020 leading themes- pandemic, social justice, political, and end times.
  - a. Verses related to these themes decreased in 2021 from 52 to 92% from 2020.
  - b. Related to COVID19, George Floyd and BlackLivesMatter, the election, and some interpreting the events as a sign of the end of times.
  - c. Also “pestilence”, “plagues”, and “disease” decreased by 71%.

2. 2021 themes -- Faithfulness and unity

**18** *“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 19 You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 20 And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, 21 that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, like the days of the heavens above the earth.*

**22** *“For if you carefully keep all these commandments which I command you to do—to love the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him— 23 then the LORD will drive out all these nations from before you, and you will dispossess greater and mightier nations than yourselves. **Deuteronomy 11:18-23***

**23** *Truly, in vain is salvation hoped for from the hills, And from the multitude of mountains; Truly, in the LORD our God Is the salvation of Israel. **Jeremiah 3:23***

*In that day,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘Everyone will invite his neighbor Under his vine and under his fig tree.’ ” **Zechariah 3:10***

3. Public controversies

**8** *And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven **Luke 10:18** went up 318%*

- a. Rapper Lil Nasx sold “Satan Shoe” featuring a bronze pentagon, an inverted cross, and a drop of real human blood.
- b. Sold for \$1,018 a pair and sold out!

- c. Context of **Luke 10.18** after Jesus had sent out the seventy **Luke 10.17**.
- d. Then pointing the power of satan being overcome.

**19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.” Luke 10:19-20**

- 4. Face covering and quarantining rose 626%

**45 “Now the leper on whom the sore is, his clothes shall be torn and his head bare; and he shall cover his mustache, and cry, Unclean! Unclean!” 46 He shall be unclean. All the days he has the sore he shall be unclean. He is unclean, and he shall dwell alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp. Leviticus 13:45-46**

- 5. Sorcery - = increased by 193%

- a. Pharmakeia – pharmaceutical or pharmacy.
- b. This used to warn against the covid vaccine.
- c. Sorcery or pharmakeia refers to those like Simon the Sorcerer in **Acts 8** using drugs to induce hallucinations and visions.

**Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:19-21**

## II) Lessons learned

### A) **Some of the increase is simply the increase in usage of electronic devices.**

1. Downloads in YouVersion reached 500 billion in 2021.
2. Good signs of people reading more and doing more in-depth studying. Word searches, dictionaries, ease of using your phone, etc.
3. Bad signs- reading and meditating are not the same. Some of the videos teach falsely. Up to us to **“rightly divide the word of God” 2 Timothy 2.15.**

### B) **Social issues changed this past year.**

1. From social justice, politics, and pandemic to...
  - a. Faithfulness and unity.  
***25 But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. Matthew 12:25***
  - b. We are living in a divided society – black/white, rich/poor, parents/teachers, etc.
2. First century was a divided time.  
***For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:26-28***
  - a. Issue of the first century church was how to have unity.
  - b. The answer was to focus on Christ.
  - c. We cannot choose our relatives, we do not choose our brothers and sisters in Christ.

C) Misuse of Bible passages due to ignorance or manipulation of passages.

1. **Leviticus 13.45-46** practical law to limit leprosy.
2. False teaches will use the Bible to push their doctrine. Satan quoted Deuteronomy to Jesus.

III) **The More Things Change the More They Stay the Same.**

A) People are interested in the Bible as long as they see how it relates to their lives.

1. Why did Jesus teach in parables?
  - a. To reveal the truth to those who want to understand., **Matthew 10.13-17**
  - b. He used real life situations to teach a spiritual truth.
2. What did Jesus talk to the Samaritan woman by the well.

*A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." **John 4:7***

*Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." **John 4:10***

*Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, **14** but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."*

***15** The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." **John 4:13-15***

B) People are more likely to listen when

1. They are thinking or planning on getting married.

2. Parenting when they are having children.
3. Death when they or a love one is facing death.

C) Many passages continue to be on the list of most read year after year.

· **John 3:16:** *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

· **Jeremiah 29:11:** *For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

· **Romans 8:28:** *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

· **Philippians 4:13:** *I can do everything through him who gives me strength.*

· **Genesis 1:1:** *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth*

1. Be careful of taking a passage out of context.
  - a. Who is speaking to whom?
  - b. When?
  - c. Why?
  - d. Where?
2. Understand the difference in Old Testament from New Testament.

### **Conclusion:**

The word of God is Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth.