

# Did you know?

- 1. True: The Name of "Halloween" has Christian origins.** Around AD 600, Pope Boniface IV created "All Saints' Day", the current name of "Halloween" originates from the day before All Saint's Day, which was called "All Hallow Evening"; this name was shortened to "All Hallow's Eve" or "All Hallow's Even." The name changed over time and became "Hallowe'en."<sup>1</sup>
- 2. False: The 31st of October is the Devil's Birthday.** To Satanists and Witches, Halloween is their most solemn ceremony of the year - but even Satanists don't claim it's Satan's/the Devil's birthday.
- 3. True: The Jack-O-Lantern (carved pumpkin) was a sign of protection.** To the Pagan Druid priests of the British Isles, October 31<sup>st</sup> was a night of terror called "Samhain" (pronounced "sow-in"). It was a Druidic belief that on the eve of this festival Saman, "Lord of Death", called together the wicked souls that within the past twelve months had been condemned to inhabit the bodies of animals.<sup>2</sup> Celebrated more or less to honour the dead and involved the offering of large sacrifices of crops and animals.<sup>3</sup>

## Trick or Treat?

Pagan priests would go house to house demanding an offering of food for their gods.



We *have* no food.

Then we'll take the *child!*

The *trick* was to take their kid for human sacrifice.



Help me!

They left something like a pumpkin with a face on it... to show that no one else would be harmed there.

The Devil's Night ©2004 by Jack T. Chick  
[https://www.chick.com/reading/tracts/1053/1053\\_01.asp](https://www.chick.com/reading/tracts/1053/1053_01.asp)

## 4. True: Many other Cultures have a "Day of the Dead" Celebration at the end of October.

These dozen cultures for example,<sup>2</sup>

Mexican	Aztecs	Olmec
Guatemalans	Brazilians	Bolivia
Chinese	Japanese	Vietnam
Korea	Nepal	Philippines

The list goes on and on.

The annual Jewish holiday of the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) is also celebrated usually September or October.<sup>5</sup> But it is distinctly different in purpose. It is not in honor of the dead. Rather, it deals with soul searching, repentance, and is a time of great sacrifice for the sins of the people (see *Leviticus 23:27-28*). So, there is some cross over.

**5. True: There is a connection between Halloween, animal sacrifices, Day of the Dead and Noah's Ark.** How long ago is the oldest historically recorded mass animal sacrifice and remembrance of the dead? The book of Genesis chapter 8 records that when Noah and his family exited the Ark after the global flood, they offered animal sacrifices to God and remembered the dead (*Genesis 8:18-9:1*) over 4,200 years ago.

It seems no coincidence that cultures all around the world in both present and ancient times (& both hemispheres) have had a holiday when the dead were remembered and animals were sacrificed. There's compelling evidence that this holiday goes back to a time when all the peoples lived together—and then as they dispersed (*Genesis 11*) they took this holiday to various parts of the world, forgetting it's original meaning and putting their own spin on it.

Consider Noah for a moment: he even lost brothers and sisters in the Flood—the grief would have been overwhelming (*Genesis 5:30*). Did this become the day to remember those who died in the Flood and a continuation of the sacrifices that Noah made after coming off the Ark? But what triggered this to become an annual event? Did Noah's wife (the mother and mother-in-law of all living) die soon after the Flood and this day honoured her?

Noah's wife isn't mentioned and conspicuously absent, not long after getting off the Ark. Japheth and Shem (Noah's sons) were left with the task of covering their father's nakedness after he got drunk and lay uncovered in his tent (*Genesis 9:20-27*). One would suspect that Noah's wife should have had this responsibility, but she is nowhere mentioned. Imagine the "survivors guilt" Noah may have felt—and then to have his wife die, the 1st post flood survivor death, leaving him alone in the world with only his sons and their wives for company. Consider the impact if Noah's wife's death happened around or on the day of the anniversary of the post-Ark sacrifice.

This well-known matriarch's death would have been remembered by each culture after the dispersion at Babel. This would also explain why many other cultures have a variant of this regular remembrance of the dead and sacrifice ceremonies.

Based on the evidence, this seems to be the most likely explanation.

Other scholars in the past have recognized this connection. For example, Alfred Rehwinkel, a professor of theology at Concordia Seminary, realized that nations throughout the world had a similar Day of the Dead, and he directly related this to the Flood of Noah's day.<sup>6</sup> John Urquhart pointed this out as far back as 1931, soon after the holiday of Halloween gained prominence in the United States.<sup>7</sup>

Due to the many, varied accounts of celebrations of the Day of the Dead around the world, a logical deduction is that its origin was from a time when people groups were still gathered together or had closer ties. Is the event of Noah's post-flood sacrifice where the Day of the Dead really originates? A pre-dispersion possibility; It was a time when there was a sacrifice to cover sins and a reminder why death reigns in this sin-cursed world. It was a spiritual time, a time when people remembered that a sudden disaster, the global Flood, killed virtually the entire population because of sin. There should be no dogmatism about this, but there are some provocative evidences that Halloween's roots could easily extend back this far!

<sup>1</sup> Edited re-mix of Bodie Hodge's inspirational article Halloween History & The Bible on October 29, 2013; last featured October 31, 2014 [https://answersin-genesis.org/holidays/halloween-history-and-the-bible/#fn\\_1](https://answersin-genesis.org/holidays/halloween-history-and-the-bible/#fn_1)  
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Britannica-on-Halloween-1996335>  
<sup>3</sup> *Ancient Origins of Halloween*, History.com (A&E Television Networks, 1996-2008).  
<sup>4</sup> "Day of the Dead," *Encyclopædia Britannica* (Chicago: Encyclopædia Britannica, 2008) and Wikipedia, "Day of the Dead."  
<sup>5</sup> The date is the tenth day of the month of Tishri on the Jewish Luna calendar.  
<sup>6</sup> Alfred Rehwinkel, *The Flood: In the Light of the Bible, Geology & Archaeology*, 17th Printing (St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 1951), pp. 169-171.  
<sup>7</sup> John Urquhart, in *Bible League Quarterly*, October-December 1931, pp.181-183.



## Why Sacrifices?

Proper sacrifices in the Bible were associated with sin and death. This goes back to the first sacrifice in *Genesis 3:21* when the first two humans Adam and Eve sinned against God. The perfect creation that God had made was now marred with sin that deserved death (*Genesis 1:31; Deuteronomy 32:4; Romans 5:12*).

The Bible says that the punishment for sin is death (*Romans 6:23CEV; Hebrews 9:22*).

**“Sin pays off with death.”**

This is why we all die—we all sin. (*Genesis 3:19; Romans 3:23*)

Due to their disobedience and sin, Adam and Eve were ashamed of their nakedness. So, God made clothes of animal skins to cover their nakedness.

The 1st death was when God sacrificed animals to cover this sin.

In a fashion similar to God, Abel offered sacrifices from his flocks (*Genesis 4:4*), and Noah did the same after the Flood. Later, the Israelites did this as well, giving sin offerings of lambs, doves, etc. as God commanded. But the blood of animals is not enough to remove sin; it is only enough to cover it temporarily (*Hebrews 10:4*). Finite animals could never really take the infinite punishment from an infinite God. These instances of sacrificing animals were foreshadowing Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God—who, as the perfect infinite sacrifice on the Cross (*Hebrews 9:26, 10:12*), fully paid for our sins so that everyone who trusts in Him will be saved and given eternal life.

**“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”** (*John 3:16–18*)

**“That’s what Christ did definitively: suffered because of others’ sins, the Righteous One for the unrighteous ones. He went through it all - was put to death and then made alive - to bring us to God.”**

(1 Peter 3:18 Msg)

With most of the celebrations of the Days of the Dead, sacrifices are involved. This suggests that cultures around the world understood this concept of sacrificing to God to cover sins. Logically, since all people groups have descended from those at Babel, when people migrated to different parts of the world after God confused their language, they took the concept of sacrifice with them. Of course, their methods and meaning of sacrifice changed and varied over the years, and the true intent was lost.

Jesus was the final, perfect sacrifice, making sacrifices of animals no longer necessary. Sin and death (which sacrifices were a continual reminder of, all the way back to Adam) have been conquered by the Son of God, and the free gift of salvation from sin and eternal life is now offered.

**All of humanity stands on the edge of eternity.**

On average, over 430 Australians will die today<sup>9</sup> - the majority were not expecting it, or prepared to meet their Maker. For most, death is a huge and terrifying plummet into the unknown. So what should we do? You know what the law of gravity can do to you if you fall a great height. In the same way, we are going to look at another law, and hopefully your knowledge of what it can do to you will help you make the right choice, about life’s greatest issue.

**Is there anything more important than the eternal destiny of your soul?**

<sup>9</sup>www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsl/mf/3302.0 <sup>9</sup>See Romans 8:2 www.NeedGod.com

Happy

# HALLOWEEN?

## 6. True or False: I know for sure where I will go on the day of my death.

October the 31<sup>st</sup> is the day of the dead - how can that be happy? After we die we all have to face what is called “the law of sin and death.”<sup>9</sup> That Law is known as “The 10 Commandments.” So, let’s look at that Law and see how you will do when you face it on Judgment day:

- (1) **How many times have you told a lie?** Be honest. Revelation 21:8 says, “All liars will have their part in the lake of fire (hell).”
- (2) **Have you ever stolen anything?** (the value is irrelevant) 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 says, “No thief will enter heaven.”
- (3) **Have you looked with lust toward anybody?** Jesus, said in His most famous Sermon on the Mount, that if you look with lust you commit adultery in your heart (*Matt.5:27-28*).
- (4) **Have you hated anyone?** God counts this as murder (*Matt.5:21-22*).
- (5) **Finally, have you put other things before God?**

If you answered yes to any of the questions above, then you are not a good, innocent person. The Almighty Creator God sees you as a lying, thieving, adulterer, a murderer and you’d also be guilty of breaking the first and greatest commandment. (& we’ve only looked at 5 of the 10 Commandments, see *Exodus 20* &/or *Deuteronomy 5* & *Matthew 5*)

**If you are honest, you know you will be guilty on the Day of Judgment.**

The Bible warns that the punishment is death, eternal separation in hell from God and all that is good. That’s not God’s desire for you.

**So, how can you escape God’s righteous judgement?**

God provided a way for you to be forgiven and your punishment paid.

God in His great mercy came down, took on flesh as the baby Jesus, who grew up and lived a sinless life, then gave Himself as a payment for your sin when He died on the Cross. He went to hell in your place, so you could go free!

Then He rose from the grave and defeated death, so you can have a relationship with Him now and eternally.

**That’s how much God loves you.**

You broke God’s Law (the 10 Commandments), and Jesus paid your fine. It was a legal transaction.

This means that, God can legally dismiss your case.

You can leave the courtroom on the day of judgement because Jesus paid your fine.

So, **“What should we do?”** (*Acts 2:37*)

**The Right Response Required:**

**Repent** - turn right back round 180 degrees (U) from your sinful, selfish way to God’s way - know and do His will.

**Believe** - trust that Jesus has paid for and can forgive your sin by taking your death penalty on the cross.

**Be Baptized** - this sacred dipping is your bath (2 clean you up *Acts 22:16*), burial (2 lay 2 rest your mess *Rom.6:4*) & a re-clothing (dressing you in your new “adult faith wardrobe” *Gal.3:27*)

**Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit** - He empowers and leads you into actually living this new abundant life of deep peace, freedom & joy that you could never do in your own strength! (*see Acts 2:37-38*)

If you do this, God will forgive you of every sin that you have committed and grant you everlasting life.

Find a Bible believing, Jesus following, disciple-maker to help you grow. (*see Matt.28:18-20*)

**Have a very Happy Halloween & Day of Your Death!**

An *Eternal* gift from:

TRIVIA ANSWERS: 1. True, 2. False, 3. True, 4. True, 5. True, 6. God knows.

# HALLOWEEN



## 6 Halloween True or False Quiz Questions:

1. True or False: The Name of “Halloween” has Christian origins.
2. True or False: The 31st of October is the Devil’s Birthday.
3. True or False: The Jack-O-Lantern (carved pumpkin) was a sign of protection.
4. True or False: Many other Cultures have a “Day of the Dead” Celebration at the end of October.
5. True or False: There is a connection between Halloween, animal sacrifices, Day of the Dead and Noah’s Ark.
6. True or False: I know for sure where I will go on the Day of my Death.