

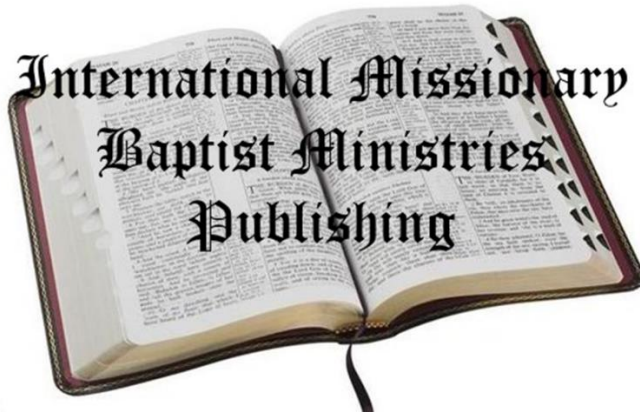
# CHURCH HISTORY THROUGH THE TRAIL OF BLOOD

A Short History of Baptist Churches  
in the United States

Baptist Church Statistics in the  
United States

By Joseph F. Roberts, ThD, PhD  
International Missionary Baptist Publishing  
Ministries

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# Church History Through the Trail of Blood

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# Church History Through the Trail of Blood

## Church History Through the Trail of Blood

### Introduction

Church History is usually a neglected subject in a church's ministry. That is incredibly sad because without an understanding of Church History, there cannot be an appreciation of its present situation. Therefore, it is especially important to learn Church History. It will generate a much greater appreciation of the Lord's Church.

This series is a revision of my original presentation of the Trail of Blood that I started in September 2015. It has been posted on several social media outlets and over the years since then has had hundreds of views and the first two presentations have garnered over a thousand views.

This series as well as the original presentations are based on the book *The Trail of Blood* written by Dr. J. M. Carroll. The book came from several lectures that he presented in the 1930s. His lectures were then put to paper and then to a book that has gone through many printings. It is an excellent work as an overview of New Testament Church history from the time of Jesus to his day. I have extended and added to his work by looking at the origins of some of the most visible denominations in existence today, 2022.

## Church History Through the Trail of Blood

This revision includes several additions to the original work. In order to appreciate the history of something, it behooves us to look at the origins of it. Thus, to begin this series, I want to look at the origin of the Lord's Church and its beginnings.



# Church History Through the Trail of Blood

## Chapter One

### The Origin of the Lord's Church

To look at the history of the Lord's Church, we should look at its origin and beginnings. Jesus established "His Church." The word "church" literally means "assembly." Jesus said it was "His Assembly."

Dr. Albert Garner, who has been with the Lord for a few years now, wrote an excellent book entitled *The Church Jesus Built*. The following is a quote from his book, page one.<sup>1</sup>

*The church was established by Jesus Christ during His early earthly ministry in Galilee.*

There He chose and called willing disciples of John the Baptist for worship and service.

Matthew 4:13-22; *13 When Jesus heard of it, he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart: and when the people had heard thereof, they followed him on foot out of the cities.*

*14 And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.*

*15 And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals.*

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*16 But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat.*

*17 And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes.*

*18 He said, Bring them hither to me.*

*19 And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.*

*20 And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.*

*21 And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children.*

*22 And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.*

*John 15:16, 26, 27; 16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.*

*26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth,*

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*which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:*

*27 And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.*

John 20:21; *Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.*

Acts 1:8; *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

Acts 10:37; *That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;*

*He called this new church body, The Salt of the Earth and the Light of the World, metaphors reflecting the nature of spiritual service that her members were to render, Matthew 5:13-15. 13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.*

*14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.*

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***15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.***

*Before He went away* He comforted them with the promise that He would pray the Father who would send them the Holy Spirit of Promise, who would be with them (as a body assembly) and in them forever.

*John 14:15-17 reads,*

**"If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another comforter, that he may abide with you for ever. Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."**

He also charged them to tarry in Jerusalem until they were *endued* (empowered) from on high after which they were to begin their mandated commission *to all nations*, Matthew 28:18-20; ***18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.***

***19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:***

## Church History Through the Trail of Blood

*20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

Mark 16:15; *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

Luke 24:49; *And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.*

*The new covenant assembly body* which had been with Jesus from the beginning in Galilee did tarry in prayer (115 of them) until Pentecost. As they conducted a business meeting and continued in prayer the Holy Spirit came down; it filled the house where they were assembled, baptized, sanctified, sealed, and dedicated them *once for all*, as an institution.

Acts 1:15, 21-23; *15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)*

*21 Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,*

*22 Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.*

## Church History Through the Trail of Blood

*23 And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.*

*Acts 2:1-4; 1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.*

*2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.*

*3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.*

*4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

*Matthew 16:18; And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

*Ephesians 3:21; Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

*The Church exists today as His body, His assembly, Ephesians 1:22; And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,*

*I Corinthians 12:27; Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.*

# Church History Through the Trail of Blood

He has no hands, no feet, no eyes, no ears, no tongue that He has called and chosen to do His work on earth, except those who obey His call 1) to *salvation*, 2) to be *baptized*, and 3) to *commit themselves to follow and serve Him* in and *thru His Church company* who enter an *Irrevocable Trust with like-baptized believers*.

*Every child of God* who has been baptized and entered this Irrevocable covenant to be His ears, His eyes, His tongue, His hands, and His feet, should be diligent in *being* and doing the things set forth in the local Church body of Christ and expressed in the New Testament and in *the Church covenant of Sacred Vows*...

## Conclusion to Chapter One

There is much more that can be studied concerning the Lord's Church, but we simply wanted to establish its origin and beginnings.

1 Garner, Albert, *The Church Jesus Built*, The Blessed Hope Foundation Ministries, Lakeland, FL; p. 1

# Church History Through the Trail of Blood

## Chapter Two

## The Chart

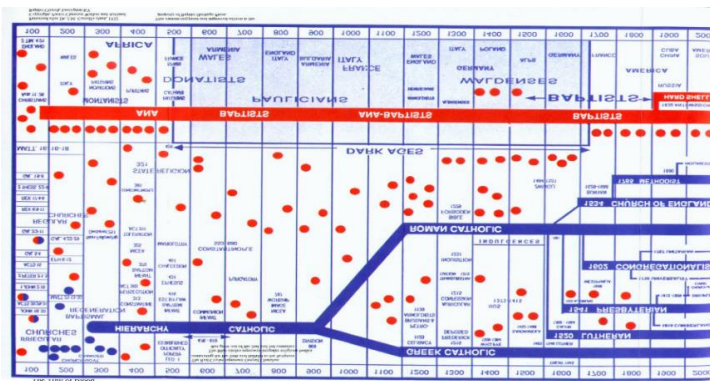
## Explanation of the Chart By Dr. J. M. Carroll

The Trail of Blood was written by Dr. J. M. Carroll sometime in the early 1930's.

What he presented is just as relevant today as it was when he presented the material in first in lectures and then in writing.

The book was not published until after his death and there have been over well over 60 reprints since then.

Dr. Carroll developed a chart depicting the history of Baptists down through history.



We will look at the chart before we begin considering his lectures.



# Church History Through the Trail of Blood

Dr. Carroll from his book *The Trail of Blood*

## **Illustrating the History of the Baptist Churches from the time of their founder, the Lord Jesus Christ, until the 20th Century.**

1. The purpose of this chart is to show according to History that Baptists have an unbroken line of churches since Christ and have fulfilled His prophecy — "I will build my church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." In the irregular churches is clearly seen the growth of Catholicism and Protestantism. Baptists are not Protestants since they did not come out of the Catholic Church.
2. The numbers at the top and bottom represent 20 centuries. The first vertical line is A.D. 1, and the second, A.D. 100, and so on.
3. The horizontal lines at the bottom have between them the nicknames given to Baptists during the passing years and ages — Novations, Montanists, Paulicians and Waldenses.
4. The red circles represent Baptist churches beginning with the first Church at Jerusalem, founded by Christ during His earthly ministry, and out of which came the churches of Judea, Antioch and others.

The red indicates they were persecuted. In spite of the bitterest opposition and persecution Baptist Churches

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