



Advent

JOY

LUKE 2:1-11



Does it
spark joy?

This one sparks joy.

Luke 2 (NTFE)

2 At that time a decree was issued by Augustus Caesar: a census was to be taken of the whole world. ² (This was the first census, before the one when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ So everyone set off to be registered, each to their own town. ⁴ Joseph too, who belonged to the house and family of David, went from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to Bethlehem in Judaea, David's city, ⁵ to be registered with his fiancée Mary, who was pregnant.

Luke 2

⁶ So that's where they were when the time came for her to have her baby; ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him up and put him to rest in a feeding-trough, because there was no room for them in the normal living quarters.

Luke 2

⁸ There were shepherds in that region, out in the open, keeping a night watch around their flock. ⁹ An angel of the Lord stood in front of them. The glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

Luke 2 (ESV)

¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you **good news of great joy** that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

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Isaiah 52:7 (ESV)

⁶ Therefore my people shall know my name. Therefore in that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here I am.”

⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings good news,
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Zion, **“Your God reigns.”**



Story of scripture

Born in Bethlehem (Mic.5:2)

Born of a virgin (Isa.7:14)

Descendant of David (2 Sam.7)

Bringer of peace (Isa.9:6)

Seed of the woman crushes the serpent (Gen.3:15)

Moses over monstrous Pharoah (Ex.15)

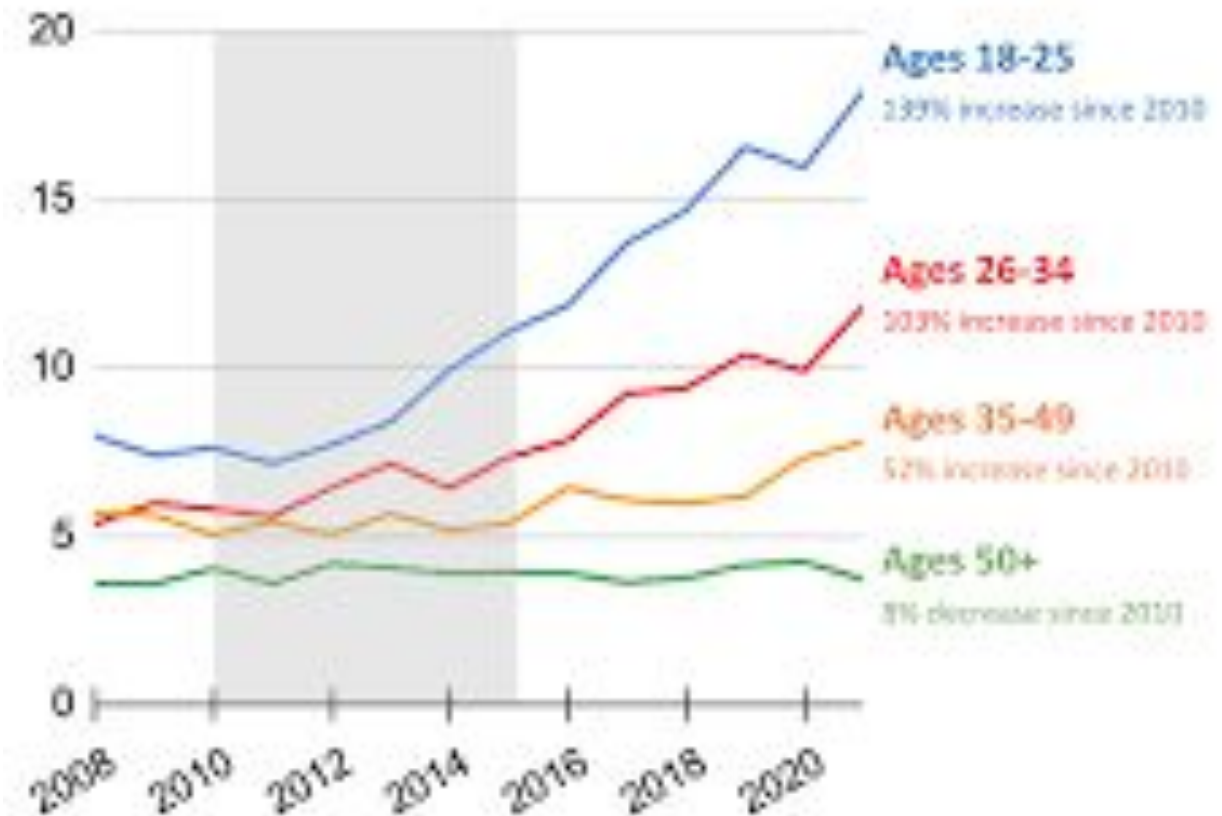
Joshua over the “giants” in Canaan

David over giant Goliath (1 Sam.17)

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It starts in
the early
2010s...

Percent U.S. Anxiety Prevalence

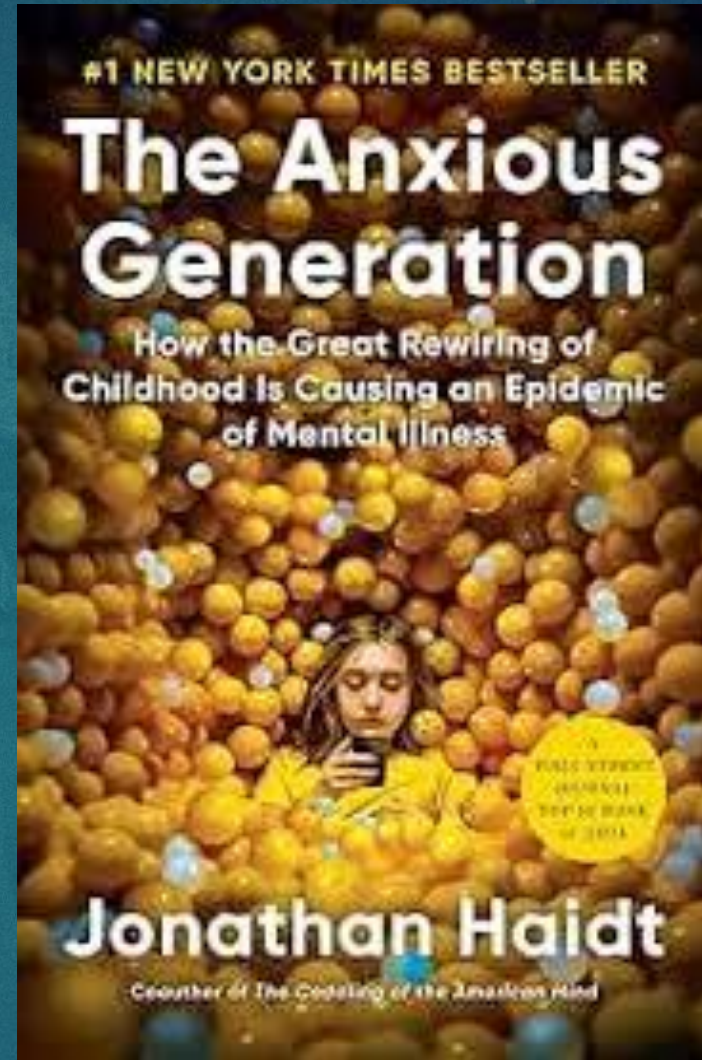


SOURCE: U.S. National Survey on Drug Use and Health

An epidemic of joylessness

The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness

2024 book by Jonathan Haidt



Isaiah 51:9-11 (ESV)

- ⁹ Awake, awake, put on strength,
O arm of the LORD;
awake, as in days of old,
the generations of long ago.
Was it not you who cut Rahab in
pieces,
who pierced the dragon?
¹⁰ Was it not you who dried up
the sea,
the waters of the great deep,
who made the depths of the sea
a way
for the redeemed to pass
over?
- ¹¹ And the ransomed of
the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with
singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon
their heads;
they shall obtain gladness
and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall
flee away.





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