

Bible Helps

Acts 1-6

What are first few chapters of Acts about?

The book of Acts records for us the beginning of the Christian church. The book is written by Luke to a man named Theophilus. Luke writes to give this man a detailed account of the ongoing work of Jesus through the church. The first few chapters record very important events in redemption history: Jesus' ascension, the commissioning of the apostles, and Pentecost. All of history turns on these so its vitally important for Christians to know them in and out.

How is this letter helpful for me living in the 21st century?

There are so many "models" for church life in our day. Some of these models are helpful and some not so helpful. In the end, the model we should seek to emulate is the biblical one. The book of Acts helps us in this. In this book, especially chapters 1-6, we see what defines the church, what her priorities should be, and what obstacles might come her way as she seeks to be faithful. So in asking the questions "What is the church?" and "What should the church be doing?" Acts, along with the rest of the New Testament, is the place we should go.

Is there a way to outline chapters 1-6 so that I can go back and reference a section if need be? Here it is...

- 1:1-3: Introduction and purpose of the book
- 1:4-8: The promise of the Holy Spirit
- 1:9-12: The ascension of Jesus
- 1:13-26: Replacing Judas with Matthias
- 2:1-13: The coming of the Holy Spirit
- 2:14-39: Peter's sermon at Pentecost
- 2:40-47: The first summary statement
- 3:1-26: A lame man healed and Peter's sermon
- 4:1-31: Peter and John's arrest and the surrounding events
- 4:32-5:16: Ananias and Sapphira
- 5:17-42: The apostles on trial with another sermon
- 6:1-7: The first deacons

If I were to study this book on my own what resources might you recommend?

The Message of Acts by John Stott

Acts 1-12 by John MacArthur

Teaching Acts: Unlocking the book of Acts for the Bible Teacher by David Cook