



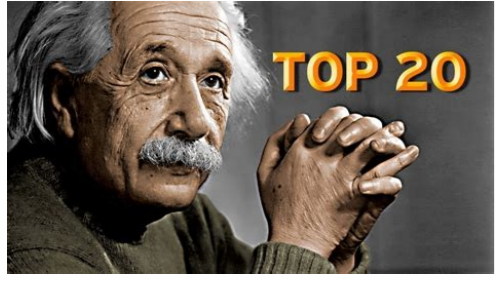
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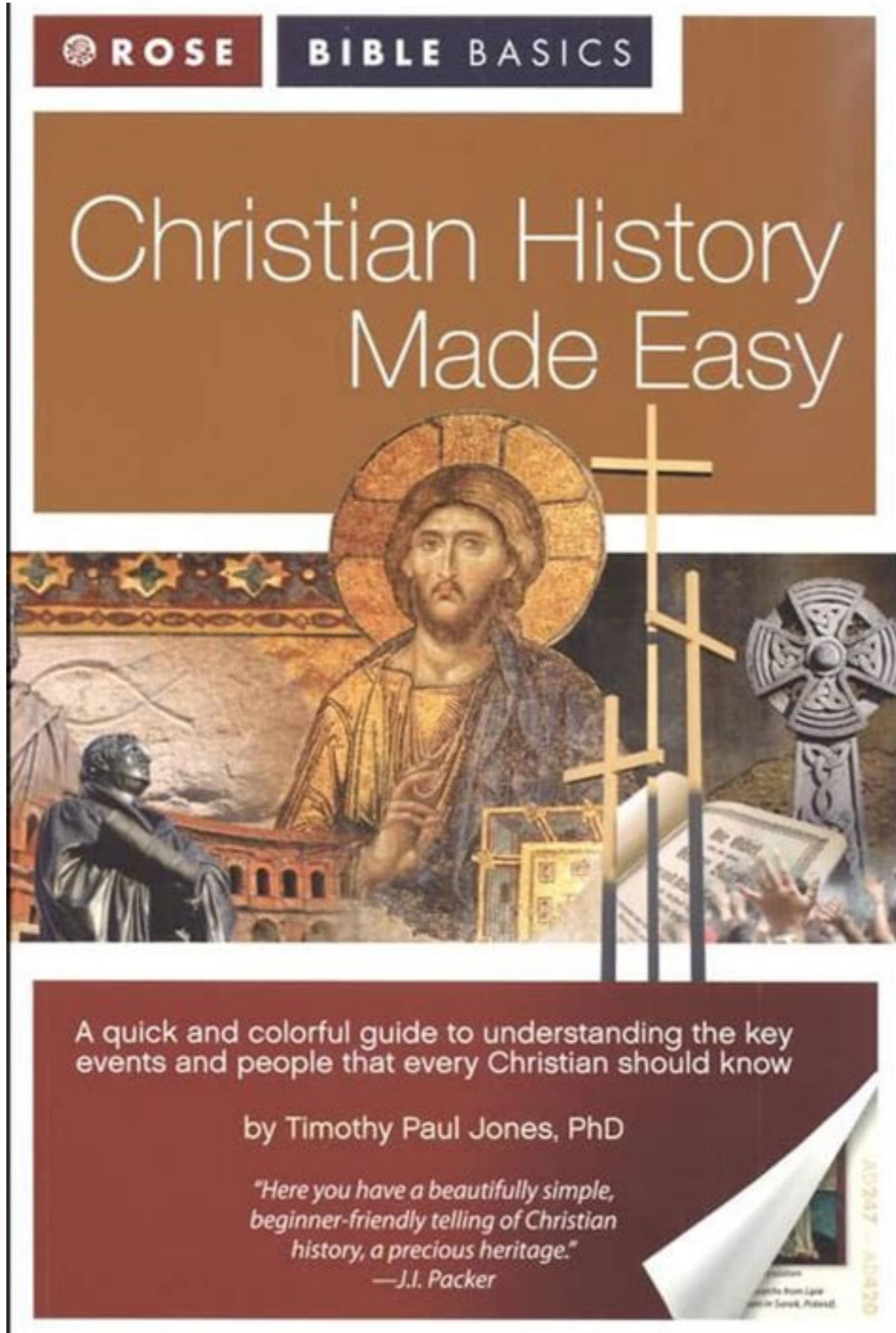
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Book the 100 most important people in christian history

"From Nero's burning of Rome to the twentieth-century charismatic renewal, it highlights the major people, events, and ideas that have shaped the long history of Christianity. This compelling book traces two thousand years of church history in one concise volume. Packed with information and told in a readable, journalistic style, it is certain to breathe new life into church history. This book makes a valuable resource for pastors, teachers, history buffs, and all who are interested in learning more about the origins of church doctrines and traditions."--Back cover Showing 1-50 of 3,252 From Nero's burning of Rome to the twentieth-century charismatic renewal, The 100 Most Important Events in Christian History highlights the major people, events, and ideas that have shaped the long history of Christianity. This compelling book traces two thousand years of church history in one concise volume. 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The language/writing style is a bit high, and some of the events themselves are complex (and dealt with sparingly) putting the book at junior high to high school reading/ maturity level. Of course, adults will benefit too, and that is perhaps where this book would be most valuable, as an additional, palatable, quick, read for teachers.This book is adequate in accomplishing its goals, but it leaves me flummoxed. Its the kind of thing you read to check off your list, but don't remember...Perspective is incredibly important. We simply lack perspective on recent times (from, say 1600-2000), whereas centuries have clarified events of the Byzantine time, it becomes more difficult to determine whether "1960 Beginnings of the Charismatic Renewal" has the staying power of "325 The Council of Nicea". 55 of 100 events (55%) of this series are from 1500-1976, yet the simple math on years is that this is but 25% of the church. Such is our hubris. 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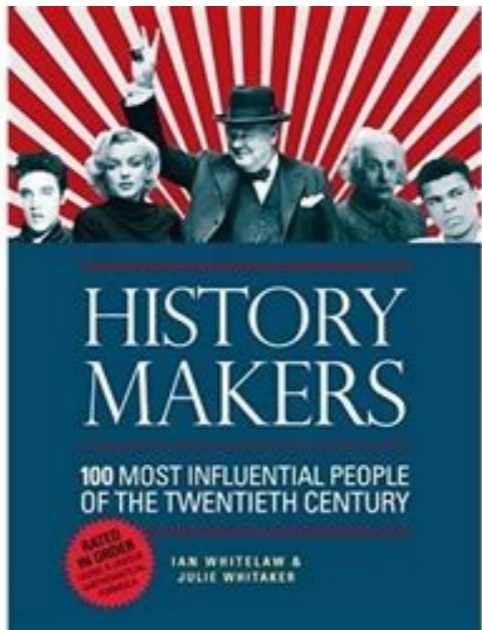
Ideal for pastors and speakers.

8	Dates With Destiny
C. 1150	Universities of Paris and Oxford Founded
1173	Peter Waldo Founds the Waldensians
1206	Francis of Assisi Renounces Wealth
1215	The Fourth Lateran Council
1273	Thomas Aquinas Completes Work on <i>Summa Theologica</i>
1321	Dante Completes <i>The Divine Comedy</i>
1378	Catherine of Siena Goes to Rome to Heal the Great Schism
C. 1380	Wycliffe Oversees English Bible Translation
1415	John Hus Burned at the Stake
1456	Johann Gutenberg Produces the First Printed Bible
1478	Establishment of the Spanish Inquisition
1498	Savonarola Executed
1512	Michelangelo Completes the Sistine Chapel Ceiling
1517	Martin Luther Posts His Ninety-five Theses
1523	Zwingli Leads Swiss Reformation
1525	Anabaptist Movement Begins
1534	Henry VIII's Act of Supremacy
1536	John Calvin Publishes <i>The Institutes of the Christian Religion</i>
1540	The Pope Approves the Jesuits
1545	Opening of the Council of Trent
1549	Cranmer Produces the Book of Common Prayer
1559	John Knox Returns to Scotland to Lead Reformation
1572	Saint Bartholomew's Day Massacre
1608-1609	John Smyth Baptizes the First Baptists
1611	Publication of the King James Bible
1620	Pilgrims Sign the Mayflower Compact
1628	Comenius Driven From His Homeland
1646	The Westminster Confession of Faith
1648	George Fox Founds the Society of Friends
1662	Rembrandt Completes the <i>Return of the Prodigal Son</i>
1675	Philip Jacob Spener Publishes <i>Pia Desideria</i>
1678	John Bunyan's <i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i> Published
1685	The Births of Johann Sebastian Bach and George Frederic Handel
1707	Publication of Isaac Watts's <i>Hymns and Spiritual Songs</i>
1727	Awakening at Herrnhut Launches Moravian Brethren
1735	Great Awakening Under Jonathan Edwards
1738	John Wesley's Conversion
1780	Robert Raikes Begins Sunday Schools
1783	William Carey Sails for India
1807	The British Parliament Votes to Abolish the Slave Trade
1811	The Campbells Begin the Disciples of Christ

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This is an engaging and interesting overview of some of the pivotal moments in Christian History. I really enjoyed this book!June 19, 2011This was an excellent read and a truly great survey of church history. There were two things I found especially significant from the authors' take on how to prepare this work: (1) they include things one would not immediately recognize as a major contributor to church history (ex. The Synod of Whitby, 664; the births of Johann Sebastian Bach and George Frederic Handel, 1685); and (2) they are very up-front with the reader that their work is in no way final on the 100 most important events in church history. They actually even encourage readers' responses for future editions in the preface.I'm not a huge fan of their use of "legend" (ex. Boniface chopping down the Thundering Tree in Germany, 716; or Martin Luther giving his "Here I Stand" speech at the Diet of Worms, 1521. ... To clarify, the legend was speaking of the speech only; the authors hold to the true historical event that Luther was present and on trial at the Diet of Worms in 1521).

Thankfully, however, the uses of the "legend" word were only rare, isolated instances.All in all, it really is an easy but informative read beginning from 64 when Rome was set ablaze with fire up through 1966-1976 when the church in China is seeing major significant growth. Their records of key missionaries were also much appreciated and helpful. I don't know anything about the background of the authors, but I certainly appreciate their work, as there really is a need for a true "layman's guide" to church history. Layman or not, I believe this work will be useful to all who want a general, abridged survey of the history of the Christian Church. February 7, 2020Opinions will vary on what the top 100 events are, but overall a solid list. I do think the authors had a bias towards Protestant history in the latter half of the book, as some events/people seemed to be not very relevant compared to Catholic or Orthodox events/figures of the same time period. Really that is splitting hairs, and honestly if the authors are all Protestant then they did an admirable job with recognizing non-Protestant Christian history overall. One glaring omission though was Gregory Palamas, which is such a large omission relative to the choices they made that I had to give them 4 stars rather than 5.

Leaving him out would be like leaving out Aquinas, Luther, or Calvin. February 15, 2014While this book does not stand alone as a scholarly resource by any means, it does serve as a general, and helpful, introduction to church history and the impact Christianity has had on its cultural contexts.May 24, 2019The 100 Most Important Events in Christian History by A. Kenneth Curtis, J. Stephen Lang, and Randy Petersen seeks to accomplish a very difficult task. That is to provide a fair list of the 100 most important events in Christian history in just over 200 pages. At the beginning of this review it is necessary to point out two things. First, all of these events are outside of the New Testament. They begin with the Great Fire of Rome in 64 AD and continue from there. Second, they are presented in chronological order and not by importance. The preface gives us further details on the book's design and purpose. Part of it reads, "...we have attempted to give an overview of events in the perplexing history of the people of God that will provide the nonhistorian and nonspecialist with a convenient look at major contours and catalysts that have shaped Christianity."This is a key sentence to keep in mind when reading the book. It is not designed to discuss the events in depth. Instead, each chapter is like an introduction to the topic at hand. Although the book shares differing perspectives of various people and events, they are not done in exhaustive fashion. Each section is only 1-3 pages in length and presents the major ideas and challenges as needed, but little more. These characteristics are not necessarily drawbacks to the book. They are simply in keeping with its intended purpose as stated in the preface. One impressive aspect of the work is its awareness of how one event shapes the future. Multiple chapters end with statements that mention how people or actions impacted future generations, for both good or bad.

For example, at the end of the chapter on Tertullian it reads, "Tertullian was swimming against the tide. For more than twelve hundred years the clergy would have a special place. Not until Martin Luther challenged the church would an emphasis on 'the priesthood of all believers' be recaptured" (pg. 25). This sense of development over the centuries is well done, and something that should be readily grasped by readers. This is a strong benefit of the list being in chronological order.Concerning the list itself, it is reasonable, if a bit biased. It contains many entries that one would expect, such as the Council of Nicea, the East-West Schism, and Martin Luther posting his Ninety-five Theses. One of the book's strengths is how it highlights key points in the development of denominations and a number of minority groups. This reviewer particularly appreciated the sections on the growth of various Bible translations and other important books. In addition to these, the authors also include a few chapters on art. For example, the births of Bach and Handel, and Rembrandt's The Return of the Prodigal Son, are represented in the list. Their inclusion is impressive.Although each chapter serves as a useful introduction to each event, some may be disappointed from time to time. For this reviewer, that is the case for the two pages on Pope Urban II launching the First Crusade (pgs. 73-74). Having done research on the topic, the discussion on it seemed shallow and elementary. It is a good example of the need for readers to seek additional information to more fully understand the topics discussed. If this, and a few other chapters are any indication, the book may give a biased perspective of various events. Those who know a lot about church history may find this to be the case, thereby dampening the usefulness of the book. In the preface, Ken Curtis admits that some may accuse the authors of favoring the West, Protestants, males, and evangelicals.

A good argument can be said for each. There is one more example of bias that results in an imbalance in the book. Most of the pages of the book are used for the last 500 years of history. The first 94 pages take the reader up to 1498 with the execution of Savonarola. That is a small number of pages for such a long period of time. In contrast to that, the last 110 pages begin with 1512 and continue to 1976. That is only about 460 years. Readers run through over a millennium of history in the first half of the book, only to slow to a crawl once the 1500's are reached. This imbalance is unfortunate.Of course, there are a number of reasons why the authors chose certain events over others. Although I may have preferred a more balanced listing of events, Ken Curtis, Stephen Lang, and Randy Petersen may be right. I am not a historian, and they know far more than I do when it comes to religious history. Even with its areas of bias and imbalance the book is useful for its intended audience. It does succeed in providing a convenient look at major contours and catalysts that have shaped church history. I almost rated the book 4 stars but the imbalance and bias are too prominent to allow it. If I could, I would give it 3.5 stars.May 28, 2023I did not read the whole book but I did get about 1/4 of the way in before I started skimming to the entries I was most interested in. I did not research the author's background and religious doctrine but based on the "most important events" he chose I would have to guess that he is Catholic. That and the exclusion of entries like Tyndale make me wonder. It's fine. And the beginning portraits really help introduce a picture of how Christianity moved toward a Catholic practice and organization around greed and power, but I really felt that the inclusions/exclusions were subjective and the author failed to prove why those entries were supposedly the "most important" in all of 'Christian' history. October 7, 2022If you have an interest in Church History but do not know where to start, this is a good place.Starting in 64 AD with the fire in Rome it covers 100 major events ending with the House Church movement in China. It attempts to give an objective view, Catholic, Protestant, Liberal, and Conservative, even though the authors and publishers would be in the Conservative Evangelical "camp." I wish that they would have continued on into the 21st century, and spent more time with the Eastern Orthodox, and the movements in the Southern Hemisphere. The chapters are short and I read them devotionally, a chapter a day. May 1, 2021Interesting from the perspective that I wasn't familiar with most of these events in church history, but, because I didn't have at least some familiarity, I found myself forgetting events almost as fast as I learned about them. Thus when they were referenced again later without any kind of reminder, I didn't get as much out of it as I would have liked or had to go back and try to figure it out all over again. Remembering terms was harder because I couldn't remember where they were defined.March 29, 2018This book is a snap shot of historical events in the life of the Christian church. As the author noted, these are his 100 most important events, and others may choose differently. But I appreciated the fact that it introduced me to some events of which I was not aware, and it put in context the dates of the events and how many related to others.February 4, 2019It's embarrassing how long it took me to get through this book. I find that books like this that are little stories are harder for me to sit and just read through than a big thick book on one subject.

However, while this book is a bit dated, I really enjoyed learning about events in Christian history. Some of them I knew about, others inspired me with the newness. 2019reads history non-fictionMarch 22, 2023A little depressing, thb...most events (especially earlier ones) were about power and politics. Took me awhile to get through but I think overall it gives a good basic outline of Christian church history.April 20, 2018Nice intro to church historyJanuary 17, 2021September 25, 2021This is a great introductory book for those seeking to get a grasp of Christian history. One aspect that this book brings to notice is this, the Spirit of God has moved among the people greatly when the word of God has been taken in all its seriousness.It is also a great book in the evangelical sense that it has excluded all the liberal intellectual whores such as Paul Tillich, F.D.E Schleiermacher who have basterdised the gospel from inclusion into Christian history.March 15, 2016Brief history of what the title saysI found this to be a great reference of key moments of Church history which is what the title says. You are not going to get a great in-depth account of everything leading up to this time. If you want that then you need to look elsewhere, what you do get it a brief history of key moments and a taste of what happened and often of the great sacrifices made so that we can have the freedom and tools available to us today.

I enjoyed this trip through history with some new some wildly know but all important in their own way. July 13, 2009The early part of this book was better than the latter. The author did very little critical interaction with the events. The authors appear to be generally against organized religion and have a bias towards baptist thought. Their praise of J.N. Darby was almost more than I could handle. It was recommended to me for children learning the basic contours of the Christian faith. For this purpose it is well suited. But for in depth analysis look elsewhere. October 6, 2008The first is a great summary of some key events. It was a great place to start teaching Church History to my family.I used it as a jumping off point for study.I did have issues with the neutral approach the authors took as well as the things they chose to include from the 20th century, yet over all I liked the book.May 4, 2012Although there are very interesting and important historical events laid out in this book, it's validity is marred slightly by the poor writing and organization of the authors. Tenaciously, I read through it all, and overall the text was sorely lacking any type of those qualities which should make a book desirable to peruse. March 24, 2010This is a dandy little resource to grasp the scope of what occurred in the history of Christianity.

While not in depth by any means, it gives a skeleton framework of the major players and events that took place. It was clearly written and organized well. I'll keep it!!reread religious-non-ldsJuly 20, 2014Although a good overview of church history, this book was not engaging, was somewhat childlike in its writing style, and not particularly unique. Nothing stood out about it, but it did give good summaries of some of the more complicated issues that arose over time in the church.June 13, 2012Excellent - providing an overview of the church from Christ to the present. Recommend for "overview" only...it is not an in depth, but likely very informative to the non-historian. Displaying 1 - 30 of 38 reviewsGet help and learn more about the design.