



## **The 100 Most Important Events in Christian History**

*A. Kenneth Curtis, Randy Petersen, J. Stephen Lang*

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Two Thousand Years of Church History

From Nero's burning of Rome to the twentieth-century charismatic renewal, this book highlights, in journalistic style, the major people, events, and ideas that have shaped the long history of Christianity. Packed with information 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 the church doctrines and traditions.

## **The 100 Most Important Events in Christian History Details**

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## **From Reader Review The 100 Most Important Events in Christian History for online ebook**

### **Joanna M. says**

Although there are very interesting and important historical events laid out in this book, its 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.

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### **Kevin Artan says**

Read this years ago & it's definitely worth rereading often! Quick, readable, & important!

"Those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it!"

Or also, in this case, not appreciate & build upon it!

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### **Perry Coghlan III says**

The 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.

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### **D Murgatroyd says**

Worth reading - very interesting insights as where different trains of thought in the Christian church originated

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### **Carrie says**

This 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!!!

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### **Jennifer says**

This 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.

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### **Ben Geib says**

While 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.

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### **Milton Quintanilla says**

Nice intro to church history

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### **Ebookwormy1 says**

Curtis, Lang & Peterson chronological snap shots provide an overview of 2,000 years of church history. Articles of 1-2 pages in length provide general context, historical accounts, and brief conclusions about the impact of the event from a Protestant perspective. 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. Prior to this outpouring of significance, the average is 3 entries per 100 years. What will the 3 significant events of the 1800's be 1000 years from now. How to get PERSPECTIVE?

For the dataheads among us, here is a summary by century:

0-100: 2 entries

101-200: 4

201-300: 3

301-400: 6

401-500: 3

501-600: 3

601-700: 1!  
701-800: 3  
801-900: 2  
901-1000: 2  
1001-1100: 3  
1101-1200: 3  
1201-1300: 3  
1301-1400: 3  
1401-1500: 4  
1501-1600: 11  
1601-1700: 10  
1701-1800: 6  
1801-1900: 16  
1900-1976: 12

I suppose one cannot fault the authors, as this flaw is common. And in fairness to their endeavor, we do know much more about D.L. Moody than we do Irenaeus, and the extension of length in entries reflects the amount of information available. I just cannot help but pity those Christ followers who lived from 601-700. Not one of them significant, they only managed to pull off the Synod of Whitby (a matter concerning the British Isles, but of lesser importance to German Christians) and one wonders if the authors were reaching for that inclusion.

I don't want to be too hard on Curtis, et al. Maybe I'm just grumpy this morning while trying to catch up on my reviews, well, maybe I should revise that "I'm just grumpy this morning while trying to catch up on my reviews". Though this is my third attempt of the morning and none of the other books made me quite this fussy. My point is that while this book serves a purpose of exposing Christians to the panorama of church history, with a concentration on the issues and concerns of our time, my heart wonders what God's perspective on church history looks like and how we can better articulate it. I suspect it would be more memorable, and less grump inducing. 2.5 stars, but since I'm grumpy, I'm going with 2.

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### **Peter N. says**

The 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.

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### **Dave Wheeler says**

#### **Brief history of what the title says**

I 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.

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### **Isaiah the Ox says**

A simplified history of the Christian faith. The information was short, but informative, sometimes interesting, sometimes not so much. A great companion to The Story of Christianity.

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### **Gina says**

Major caveat: this should be titled "The 100 Most Important Events in Western European and United States Christian History". It breaks up a lengthy subject into 100 bite-sized mini-chapters, but only focuses on Italy, Germany, Switzerland, the British Isles, Switzerland, Spain, France, the Netherlands and the USA. The rest of the world is notably absent.

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### **Sarah Welton-Lair says**

Although 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.

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### **Adam Calvert says**

This 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 word 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.

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