

“The Book of Acts”

Lesson 1

Although he’s doomed, Satan has filled his domain with lies and propoganda; 1st Timothy 4:1 “The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.”

Satan is the god of this world; 2nd Corinthians 4:4 “The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the Gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

And Satan deceives the world; Revelation 12:9 The great dragon was hurled down; that ancient serpent called the devil or Satan who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth and his angels with him.

Sin and spiritual death are the basis of Satan’s rule over this world; therefore, God so loved the world, the Kosmos, that He gave its needy population a Savior in John 3:16.

Jesus Christ came into the world to take away the sins of the world, John 1:19 “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” But before Jesus Christ can have a kingdom where Satan is the legitimate ruler at this time, He must take away the basis of citizenship in the devil’s kingdom; spiritual death at the point of birth and sinning thereafter.

So, not conforming to this world and overcoming the world are accomplished through biblical truth learned and applied which God has used to make foolish the wisdom of this world.

We can only succeed with an attitude based on the Word of God so that we can avoid rebellious friendship with the world.

There are many things in the book of Acts which are doctrinal and just as true today as they were in the day in which Luke wrote them and there are certain things in the book of Acts which would never occur again because these things actually took the place of the Canon of Scripture before it was completed.

The placement of Acts in the New Testament is strategic to give us a foundational understanding of the early church before it had a Bible.

So, when we read about the believers in the book of Acts searching the Scriptures, they were actually studying the Old Testament Hebrew Scriptures because they did not have the completed New Testament.

The power of God the Holy Spirit in the lives of these individuals with human frailties like us, as they were often being severely persecuted on account of their commitment to Jesus Christ and yet, showing their confidence in God is amazingly uplifting to those struggling through every day adversities of being a foreigner in devil’s world.

Most believers today are overwhelmed at the thought of influencing the world around them.

History, science, philosophy, psychology, etc. say that the church is a non-entity, a diminishing segment of society at best.

But we know that the church is the salt of the earth; the light of the world, the most important body in the world today because whatever happens in this world happens as a result of the spiritual attitude of born-again believers in the church.

A dispensation is a period of time in human history expressed in terms of divine revelation.

The Word of God is the only accurate source for looking at history from the divine viewpoint and dispensation is a technical theological term used primarily by the apostle Paul to present the mystery doctrine of the Church Age.

Dispensations are divine categories of human history; being both the divine outline and the divine interpretation of human history.

There are many interpretations of history but the only accurate interpretation is dispensational, being divinely inspired.

In all of human history, there's only One Savior, Jesus Christ, the Righteous but He is revealed in different ways in different periods of time or dispensations.

Creator God administers His creation, the human race in dispensations, so the human race is an estate which God manages in a certain way.