Bibliography: The Book of Acts

Overview


Critical Commentaries


Academic Studies


Hengel, Martin. Acts and the History of Earliest Christianity. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1980. Argues that Acts can and should be used as a source for reconstructing early Christian history and then sketches the history that can be derived from Acts.


sessions has implications that go beyond the literal consideration of how to handle wealth.


a proper understanding of his theology, especially in regard to his concept of salvation.
much to defend Paul himself as to defend the Christian belief in resurrection of the dead realized in Jesus.


Padilla, Osvaldo. The Speeches of Outsiders in Acts: Poetics, Theology and Historiography. SNTSMS 144. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008. Examines the speeches given by outsiders, arguing for an important insight into Luke’s theology: if God can control the history of the Jesus movement even through the voices of outsiders, then the movement is certainly sanctioned by God.


——. The Mystery of Acts: Unraveling Its Story. Santa Rosa, CA: Polebridge, 2008. Examines several aspects of Luke’s storytelling and the challenges he meets, then moves on to some of the historical inconsistencies in order to show that the work should be seen as that of an author and a theologian, not a historian.


——. Paul, His Letters, and Acts. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2009. Assesses the level of congruity between the character of Paul described in Acts and that of his own letters, arguing that the Paul of Acts is a rehabilitated version of Paul in his own letters made more appealing to the later church.


Thompson, Alan J. One Lord, One People: The Unity of the Church in Acts in Its Literary Setting. LNTS 359. London: T&T Clark, 2008. Contends that a Lukian theme of “unity under one Lord” in Acts contributes to Lukian claims that Christ is the true king and the Christian community is the true people of God.


Examines the speeches in Acts 2 and 3 as redactional expressions of Lukan concerns.

