

The Book Of James

#1- James The Lord's Brother

Memory Verse - **Hand Out Scriptures to read**

John 15:14 *You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.*

This epistle was written, about AD 45–48. James seems to have resided at Jerusalem, and to have been the bishop of the church there;

Irenaeus (early 2nd century – c. AD 202),

Tertullian (160 – c. 225 AD)

Eusebius, 300 AD, says, that it was publicly read in most churches;

Origen, 185- 253 AD, places it among the canonical books of Scripture.

James The Brother Of Jesus

Acts 1:12–14 (NKJV) *Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.*

***Mark 6:3** (NKJV) *Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?" So they were offended at Him.*

Which James? James, the son of Alphaeus, James the brother of John, James the Father of Judas or James the brother of Jesus?

At first His own brother did not believe.

Mark 3:21 (NKJV) *But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, "He is out of His mind."*

John 7:2–5 (NKJV) *Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand. 3 His brothers therefore said to Him, "Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. 4 For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world." 5 For even His brothers did not believe in Him.*

Psalm 69:8 (NKJV) *I have become a stranger to my brothers, And an alien to my mother's children;* David had problems with older brothers. Moses did, Joseph did, Able did too. Older brother of the Prodigal son.

James would have been in Cana for Jesus first Miracle.

"It was a false conception of the Messiah's work, and a lack of faith in the divine character of Jesus, that had led His brothers to urge Him to present Himself publicly to the people at the Feast of Tabernacles." DA. 485, 486.

***Galatians 1:19** (NKJV) *But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.*

Galatians 2:9 *And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.*

"When we think of Paul's great desire to be in harmony with his brethren, his tenderness toward the weak in the faith, his reverence for the apostles who had been with Christ, and for James, the brother of the Lord,..." - AA 405

Why does it make a difference if he was the Apostle James or the brother of Jesus? The difference of knowing him 3 ½ years or 33 ½. Only the brother of Jesus lived long enough and was prominent enough in the church to have penned such a letter.

James The Believer

1 Corinthians 15:3–8 (NKJV) *For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. ⁶ After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. ⁷ After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. ⁸ Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.*

***Acts 12:17** (NKJV) *But motioning to them with his hand to keep silent, he declared to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, "Go, tell these things to James and to the brethren." And he departed and went to another place.*

Matthew 7:24–25 *"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.*

James and The Gospel

James is a universal book not written to one person, nation, or city, but to believers everywhere.

His letter is among the best examples of literary Greek in the New Testament. Its rich vocabulary, rhetorical flair, and command of the Old Testament are surpassed only by Hebrews.

Acts 15:13–17 (NKJV) *And after they had become silent, James answered, saying, "Men and brethren, listen to me: ¹⁴ Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. ¹⁵ And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written: ¹⁶ 'After this I will return And will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, And I will set it up; So that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD, Even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, Says the LORD WHO DOES ALL THESE THINGS.'*

James 1:3 (NKJV) *knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.*

James 2:5 (NKJV) *Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?*

***James 2:22** (NKJV) *Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?*

James 5:15 (NKJV) *And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.*

True faith carries certain recognizable credentials. That is, true faith will be revealed in the life and character of the believer.

These brethren were now called forward, and one by one they laid at the feet of James the offerings which the Gentile churches had freely given, although often from their deepest poverty. The Life of Paul, 208, 209)

The Twelve Tribes Scattered Abroad

James 1:1 (NKJV) *James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings.*

Who are the 144,000

Luke 22:29–30 (NKJV) *And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, ³⁰ that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."*

1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV) *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*

1 Peter 5:13 (NKJV) *She who is in Babylon, elect together with you, greets you; and so does Mark my son.*

Ezra 6:17 (NKJV) *And they offered sacrifices at the dedication of this house of God, one hundred bulls, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs, and as a sin offering for all Israel twelve male goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel.*

James And Jesus

James had the opportunity to observe Jesus when Jesus was a child, a youth, and an adult. Then, at some point James not only believed in Jesus as the Messiah but became a leader of the Christians in Jerusalem. And yet, James calls himself not a brother but a "bondservant" (James 1:1, NKJV) of Jesus.

James 1:9–11 (NKJV) *Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, ¹⁰ but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away. ¹¹ For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits.*

***James 1:21** (NKJV) *Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.*

James 4:6–10 *But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.*

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

James was martyred in approximately A.D. 62, according to the historian Josephus.

"...therefore, Ananus was of this disposition, he thought he had now a proper opportunity [to exercise his authority]. Festus was now dead, and Albinus was but upon the road; so he assembled the Sanhedrim of judges, and brought before them the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ, whose name was James, and some others, [or, some of his companions]; and when he had formed an accusation against them as breakers of the law, he delivered them to be stoned:" Josephus' Jewish Antiquities 20.9.1)