
BOOK OVERVIEW

James

Author: James (“the Lord’s brother”—Galatians 1:19—half-brother of Jesus)

Date: A.D. 45

Recipients: “the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad” (James 1:1)

Summary: one’s faith is demonstrated by a life of obedience to Christ

Key verse: James 2:20

Key words: faith (16 times), works (15 times)

Notes:

This James was **not** the son of Zebedee, one of Jesus’ disciples, the one who may have been a cousin to Jesus.

At first, James, along with the rest of his family, did not believe in their half-brother Jesus (John 7:5); but, after Jesus’ resurrection, James became a believer. Eventually he was the primarily leader in the church at Jerusalem. (Acts 15)

This may have been the first epistle written to Christians.

The message of James is that while we are justified before God by our faith, we are justified before men by our works.

James indicates that the singing of psalms was common among Christians. (James 5:13)

According to Josephus, James was put to death by the High Priest.

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