

JAMES

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK

It is suggested that more difficult questions have been raised in regard to the book of James than any other portion of the New Testament. Much of the controversy has been fostered by those who believe the doctrines of John Calvin. Because they find James teaching doctrines concerning faith which do not agree with Calvinism, some have decided that the book could not be inspired.

TO WHOM WRITTEN

The address is contained in the first verse of the book. It is written to _____. Compare this with 1 Peter 1:1. Were Peter and James addressing the same group of people? _____. How would you describe the ones to whom James addresses this letter? _____.

AUTHORSHIP

Check each of the Scriptures listed below, and write the distinguishing marks of the "James" mentioned in the space provided. Then, in the area at the end of this list, indicate which of these "Jameses" are the same.

- Acts 12:2 _____
- Matthew 13:55 _____
- Mark 6:3 _____
- Galatians 1:19 _____
- Matthew 27:56 _____
- Luke 24:10 _____
- Mark 15:40 _____
- Matthew 10:3 _____
- Mark 3:18 _____
- Luke 6:15 _____
- Acts 1:13 _____
- Luke 6:16 _____
- Acts 12:17 _____
- Acts 15:13 _____
- Acts 21:18 _____
- 1 Corinthians 15:7 _____
- Galatians 2:9,12 _____
- Jude 1 _____

Which of these references are to the same persons? _____

_____ Which of these
is the "James" of James 1:1? _____

DATE OF THE EPISTLE

There is no way to dogmatically contend for the date of this epistle. Most who have studied sacred and secular history conclude that it was written before the destruction of Jerusalem, and that it may have been written as little as one year prior to the death of its author. For the purposes of this study, we will accept the dates of 58-60 A.D..

PURPOSE OF THE EPISTLE

The book is designed to point Christians to the practical aspects of living. While it is addressed to Christians of Jewish ancestry, it is applicable to Christians of every age and every nationality. Its treatment of faith is complimentary to the teaching done by the other New Testament writers, and in fact shows graphically the way faith and works have been connected throughout God's dealings with mankind.

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK

- I. Salutation - 1:1
- II. The Nature of True Religion - 1:2-27
 - A. Stability - 1:2-11
 - B. Endurance - 1:12-18
 - C. Action - 1:19-27
- III. The Nature of True Faith - 2:1-3:12
 - A. Avoiding Discrimination - 2:1-13
 - B. Avoiding Inactive Profession - 2:14-26
 - C. Avoiding Problems With the Tongue - 3:1-12
- IV. The Nature of True Wisdom - 3:13-5:18
 - A. Wisdom Defined - 3:13-18
 - B. Wisdom in Spiritual Life - 4:1-10
 - C. Wisdom in Legal Relationships - 4:11,12
 - D. Wisdom in Commercial Plans - 4:13-17
 - E. Wisdom in Labor Problems - 5:1-6
 - F. Wisdom in Waiting For the Lord - 5:7-11
 - G. Wisdom in Language - 5:12
 - H. Wisdom in Affliction - 5:13-18
- V. Conclusion: Use Wisdom to Keep the Saved Saved - 5:19,20

QUESTIONS

I. Salutation - 1:1

1. Of Whom does the author say he is a servant? 1:1 _____

2. What is the scope of the individuals addressed in this letter? 1:1 _____

II. The Nature of True Religion - 1:2-27

A. Stability - 1:2-11

3. How can we harmonize what Jesus taught in Matthew 6:13 with what James says concerning temptations? 1:2 _____

4. Discuss Romans 5:3 in light of what James says in 1:3. _____

5. James and Jesus said somewhat about the need for perfection. Compare the two statements, and explain in this context what is meant by "be perfect." Matthew 5:48; James 1:4 _____

6. Define **WISDOM** as it occurs in 1:5 and discuss the difference between wisdom and knowledge. _____

7. What does it mean to "ask in faith," and what is the result of **not** asking in faith? 1:6,7 _____

8. The term "double minded" occurs only in 1:8 and in 4:8 of this book. These are the only occurrences in the entire New Testament. What does it mean, and how does it apply to 1:8? _____

9. What is the lesson taught in 1:9-11? _____

B. Endurance - 1:12-18

10. Look for other places in the New Testament where "the crown of life" is mentioned, and compare them with 1:12. What does this mean? _____

11. What does James say the result of enduring temptation will be? 1:12 _____

12. James speaks of one thing which God **cannot be** and another which He **does not** do. What are they? 1:13 _____

13. Why would anyone say that God was the source of their temptation? 1:13 _____

14. How does the writer say that we are tempted? {Analyze the step-by-step process of temptation given in 1:14,15} _____

15. What is the necessary inference of 1:16? {See also 1 Corinthians 6:9; 15:33; Galatians 6:7} _____

16. Seeing that temptation does not come from God, what **DOES** come from Him? 1:17 _____

17. What is the significance of "the Father of lights?" 1:17 _____

18. In 1:18 we have the word "begat" or "brought us forth." This is the same expression found in 1:15 translated "brings forth." Is there a correlation in thought here between verse 15 & 18, and if so - what is it? _____

19. Explain the meaning of the word "firstfruits" in this context. 1:18 _____

20. Compare James 1:18 with 1 Peter 1:23. Discuss in class. _____

- C. Action - 1:19-27
21. How are the terms "swift" and "slow" being used here, and what is the meaning of this verse? 1:19 _____

22. What can the "wrath of man" **NOT** do, and what is the **opposite** of the "wrath of man" in this context? 1:19,20 _____

23. Please explain what is to be laid apart or aside, and how one goes about doing this. 1:21 _____

24. What is to be received, and **how** is it to be received? 1:21 _____

25. Discuss the significance of the phrase "which is able to save your souls" in 1:21, and 1:22. _____

26. In your own words, what is the lesson James teaches here about the DOER and the NON-DOER of the Word? 1:23-25 _____

27. What **two things** does James say about the law under which we live today, and what is meant by each? 1:25 _____

28. What is the type of religion James is describing here, and what are the marks of such religion? 1:26 _____

29. Name the type of religion James describes in this verse, and the marks of such a religion. 1:27 _____

30. Who practices such a religion as the one mentioned in 1:27 - a congregation or individuals? _____

- III. The Nature of True Faith - 2:1-3:12
 A. Avoiding Discrimination - 2:1-13
31. The same word translated "respect of persons" in 2:1 is found in Romans 2:11, Ephesians 6:9, and Colossians 3:25. Consider each of these references, and then define the word as it is used in the context of James 2:1. _____

32. What does James say that the action described in 2:2-4 will cause people to become? _____

 How might we apply this same principle today? _____

33. Why is it that James says God has chosen the POOR of this world, rather than the RICH? 2:5 _____

34. To whom is the Kingdom promised? 2:5 _____

35. Of what does James accuse those who were rich? 2:6,7 _____

36. What is the meaning of "the royal law" here, and where did this quotation come from? 2:8 _____

37. If we should practice partiality today, what have we done? 2:9 _____

38. Discuss the principle set forth in 2:10,11, and relate this to our duty before God today. _____

40. How are we to SPEAK and ACT, and what is meant by this phrase? 2:12 _____

41. Be prepared to discuss the relationship set forth here between JUDGMENT and MERCY. 2:13 _____

- B. Avoiding Inactive Profession - 2:14-26
42. Verse 14 of chapter 2 introduces the subject of active faith, versus inactive profession. What is the question posed here which the vast majority of denominational people today would answer with a resounding **YES**? 2:14 _____

43. What is the status of a faith that does nothing? 2:17 _____

44. There are **two** types of people mentioned in 2:18. What are they, and what is their method for demonstrating that status? _____

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45. Is it necessary to believe that there is **one God**? 2:19 _____
Does this mean that **all** who believe in **one God** will be saved? _____
46. How does James describe the man who does not accept that fact that faith without works is dead? 2:20 _____
47. By what was Abraham justified, and when does James say this came about? 2:21; Genesis 22 _____
48. What **two** things were working together in the case of Abraham, and what was the result? 2:22 _____
49. When the Scripture was fulfilled, what did it say about the meaning of BELIEVING GOD? 2:23; Genesis 15:6 _____
50. In 2:24 we have a profound statement of truth which many today cannot seem to accept. What is that statement, and what does it say about the doctrine of justification by *faith only*? _____
51. What does James say caused Rahab to be justified? 2:25 _____
52. There are *two* lessons which can be gleaned from 2:26. What are they? _____
- C. Avoiding Problems With the Tongue - 3:1-12
53. Does James discourage people from becoming teachers of God's Word? Please explain. 3:1 _____
54. James says that we all stumble, but what specifically is he referring to in 3:2? _____
55. What does James say about the man who does not stumble in word? 3:2 _____
56. How does 3:3 connect with the thoughts in 3:2? _____
57. Relate the thoughts in 3:4 with those contained in the two previous verses. _____
58. NOW make application of the illustrations contained in 3:3,4 to 3:5a. _____
59. In the latter part of 3:5, and the first part of 3:6, James makes a statement that further illustrates his point about the tongue. What is it, and how does it apply? _____

60. What does James say that an evil tongue can do to our whole body, and what is the source of the problem with such a tongue? 3:6 _____

61. Again, James uses ordinary facts to make a point about the tongue in 3:7,8a. What is the fact he points out, and how does it apply to the tongue? _____

62. After discussing the taming of the tongue in 3:8, James brings out two traits of the evil tongue. What are they? _____

63. What is the inconsistent action described in 3:9? _____

64. James says that something should NOT be a certain way - what is it? 3:10 _____

65. What is James teaching by the illustrations used in 3:11,12? _____

- IV. The Nature of True Wisdom - 3:13-5:18
- A. Wisdom Defined - 3:13-18
66. How does James say that someone can prove that they are truly "wise and understanding," and what is the difference between "wise" and "understanding?" 3:13 _____

67. In what way can someone "lie against the truth?" 3:14 _____

68. What kind of "wisdom" does James condemn, and where does it come from? 3:15 _____

69. James says that confusion and every evil thing will be found where there are what **two things**? 3:16 _____

70. In 3:17, James tells us about the wisdom that is from above. Define each of the words which he uses to describe it. _____

71. What does the inspired writer say is sown in peace and who sows it? 3:18 _____

- B. Wisdom in Spiritual Life - 4:1-10
72. What is the relationship between "wars" and "fights" and where does James say they come from? 4:1 _____

73. List the things of which James accuses his readers, the two results mentioned (one is repeated) and define each. Also discuss the reason he gives at the conclusion of the verse 4:2 _____

74. What was wrong with their "asking," and could people be guilty of this today? 4:3 _____

75. Of what does he accuse his readers, and what does he mean by such a strong accusation? 4:4 _____

76. Where is the Scripture which is being quoted here? 4:5 _____

77. In the latter part of 4:5, the statement is somewhat difficult and it is rendered various ways. The King James Version says: "Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?" The American Standard Version says: "Or think ye that the scripture speaketh in vain? Doth the spirit which he made to dwell in us long unto envying?" The New King James Version says: "Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?" What does James mean by this statement? _____

78. What is the significance of "more grace" here and to whom does God grant such grace? 4:6 _____

79. James tells us to "submit" and to "resist." To Whom are we to "submit" and what does he say will happen whenever we resist? 4:7 _____

80. How does James say that we can cause God to come nearer to us, and how might we accomplish this task? 4:8a _____

81. Cleansing of hand and purifying of hearts is called for in 4:8b. What two types of people are told to do this, and what is meant by each? _____

82. Define and be prepared to discuss the five things which James tells his readers to do in 4:9. _____

83. What does James say that God will do if we humble ourselves in His sight? 4:10 _____

- C. Wisdom in Legal Relationships - 4:11,12
84. Discuss the lesson taught in 4:11 concerning our relationship with brethren. _____

85. The latter part of 4:11 says that we cannot be a judge of the law and a doer of the law at the same time. How does this connect in thought with 4:12, and what is the meaning? _____

- D. Wisdom in Commercial Plans - 4:13-17
86. What is the basic fallacy in thinking James points out in 4:13,14? _____

87. Does this mean that it is wrong to make future plans concerning business and trips? _____

88. How does James say that we should handle our planning? 4:15 _____

89. What does James say his readers were rejoicing (or boasting) in, and what did he say such action was in the sight of God? 4:16

90. A divine principle is set forth in 4:17. What is the principle, and does it mean that ignorance excuses one from responsibility?

- E. Wisdom in Labor Problems - 5:1-6
91. To whom does James turn his attention in the beginning of this chapter? 5:1 _____

92. What are these people told to do? 5:1 _____

93. Where did Jesus have somewhat to say about the effects of rust and moths on riches? 5:2; Matthew 6:19,20 _____

94. What does James say will be a witness against them? 5:3 _____

95. And what is the nature of the "treasure" which they have laid up for the last day? 5:3 _____

96. Of what injustice are they accused? 5:4 _____

97. Explain the meaning of the phrase, "the Lord of Sabaoth." 5:4 _____

98. How does James describe the lifestyle of these people? 5:5 _____

99. Of what does he accuse them in 5:6? _____

- F. Wisdom in Waiting For the Lord - 5:7-11

100. What is the meaning of "patient" in 5:7, and what are they to be patient in regard to? _____

101. How does he illustrate the idea of patience here? 5:7 _____

102. James tells them to "establish" {or stablish, KJV} their hearts. What does this mean? 5:8 _____

103. In what respect was the "coming of the Lord at hand" whenever James wrote this epistle? 5:8 _____

104. What action is condemned in 5:9? _____

105. Who does James say is standing at the door, and what does this imply? 5:9 _____

106. To whom does James point as an example, and what particularly does he mention about them? 5:10 _____

107. What particular characteristic of these men does James say causes us to call them "blessed?" 5:11a _____

108. One characteristic of Job is mentioned here, and also something about the "end of the Lord." What are they? 5:11 _____

G. Wisdom in Language - 5:12

109. Compare below the sermon on the mount and the words of James in 5:12 and explain the teaching and how it applies to us today.
- | | |
|---|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Matthew 5:34-37</p> <p>(34) "But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; (35) "nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. (36) "Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. (37) "But let your `Yes' be `Yes,' and your `No,'" _____

 _____</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">James 5:12</p> <p>"But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes," be "Yes," and {your}"No," _____

 _____</p> |
|---|---|

H. Wisdom in Affliction - 5:13-18

110. What recommendation does James give for the suffering? 5:13 _____

111. What about the cheerful? 5:13 _____

112. The verses from 5:14 to the end of the book have presented many problems to Bible students through the ages. It is our duty to draw a conclusion from these verses which is in harmony with clear precepts taught elsewhere in the Bible. Be sure that your conclusions do not hinge on inferences which are not implied, or surrounding circumstances which are assumed, not proven. Consider carefully the comparison shown of two common views on the next page, and fill in the blanks with any problems you can see from taking such a view. Then answer the questions which follow on page 20.

LITERAL VIEW

SPIRITUAL VIEW

Physical Sickness
 Problems With This: _____

Spiritual Sickness
 Problems With This: _____

Call For The Elders
 Problems With This: _____

Call For The Elders
 Problems With This: _____

Pray Over Them
 Problems With This: _____

Pray Over Them
 Problems With This: _____

Anointing Him With Oil
 Problems With This: _____

Anointing Him With Oil
 Problems With This: _____

Prayer Of Faith
 Problems With This: _____

Prayer Of Faith
 Problems With This: _____

Will Save The Sick
 Problems With This: _____

Will Save The Sick
 Problems With This: _____

Lord Will Raise Him Up
 Problems With This: _____

Lord Will Raise Him up
 Problems With This: _____

If He Has Committed Sins..
 Problems With This: _____

If He Has Committed Sins...
 Problems With This: _____

Confess Your Trespasses one to another and pray for one another that you may be Healed
 Problems With This: _____

Confess Your Trespasses one to another and pray for one another than you may be Healed
 Problems With This: _____

CONCLUSION ABOUT THE LITERAL VIEW

CONCLUSION ABOUT THE SPIRITUAL VIEW

113. Which view seems to present the least number of problems for you and why? _____

114. What two things are required of a Christian who has sinned according to 5:16? _____

115. Define the words "effectual" and "fervent" as they appear in the King James Version of 5:16 and explain what is meant by this part of the verse. _____

116. What is the event recorded in 5:17,18 and where is it recorded in the Old Testament? _____

 Discuss the lesson which this reference teaches us today. _____

- V. Conclusion: Use Wisdom to Keep the Saved Saved - 5:19,20
117. James tells us, indirectly, that something *can* happen to a Christian, which some of our religious friends contend cannot happen. What is it? 5:18 _____

118. What is the meaning of "convert" as it is used in the King James Version of 5:19,20? _____

119. Discuss the significance of "saving a soul from death" and "covering a multitude of sins." 5:20 _____

END OF THE BOOK OF JAMES