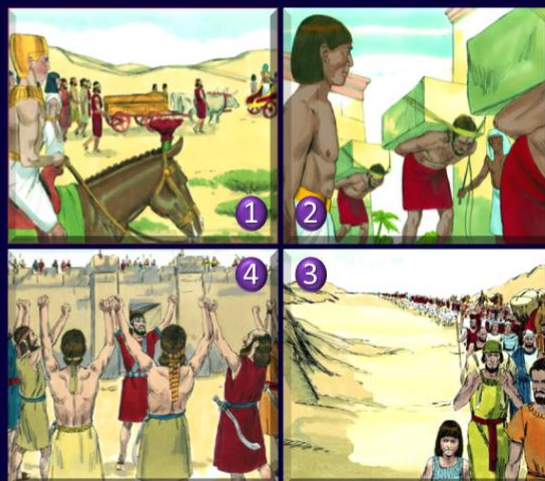




## The **Old Testament** is the story of a **Nation**

- 1 The Hebrews went to Egypt as a Family.
- 2 They were later enslaved.
- 3 Moses led them out as a Nation...
- 4 ... that conquered Canaan.



The **New Testament** is the story of a **Man**  
...told by people (**eyewitnesses**) who knew Him.



### A central Bible tenet

The **New Testament** is in the  
Old Testament **concealed**,  
the **Old Testament** is in the  
New Testament **revealed**.

**The Spirit of this course**

ETSI DOCTRINA  
NON DARETUR

(“as if doctrine is not given.”)

3

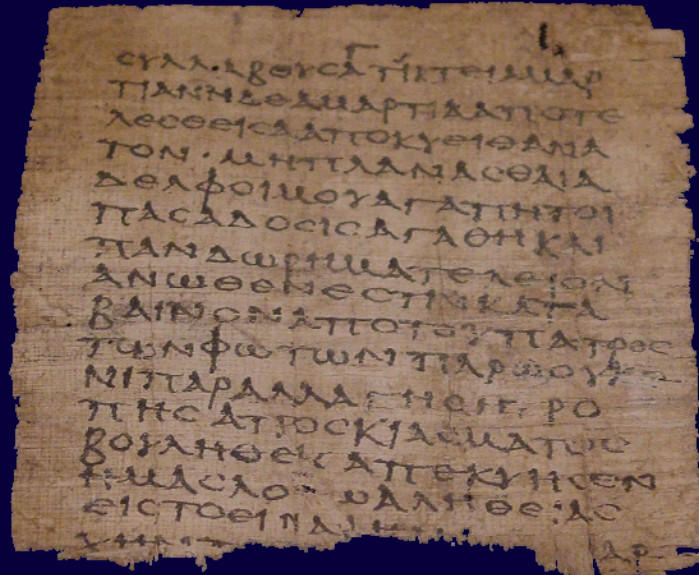
WHAT THE  
BIBLE  
Is ABOUT

PART 1

JAMES

THE BROTHER OF JESUS

## The epistle of James



James 1:15-18, Papyrus Oxyrhynchus 1229 (aka P23), early 3<sup>rd</sup> century.

## Who was James?

- James was the natural son of Joseph and Mary and the legal brother of Jesus (Mathew 12:46-50, Mark 3:31-35 and Mark 6:3).
- An unbeliever before the resurrection (John 7:5), the LORD appeared to James (1 Cor 15:7 and Gal. 1:19) and he became a believer.
- Prominent as an outstanding leader in the Jerusalem Church (Acts 15). Those going to other churches founded by Paul are said to have come from James (Gal 2:12), but James did not authorise his name to endorse their legal teachings (Acts 115:24).
- Tradition states James was the first "Bishop of Jerusalem," but such titles may not have come until much later. He was a prominent leader in the Jerusalem *ekklesia* as evidenced in Acts 15 and elsewhere.

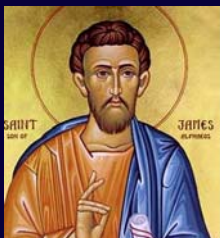


## The "James" Gang



### Son of Zebedee

John's brother and fellow Son of Thunder. An early follower and one of the inner circle. Slain by Herod Agrippa around AD 45 (Acts 12:1-2).



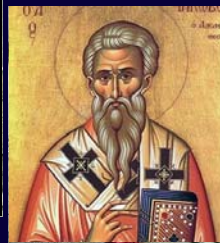
### Son of Alphaeus

Brother of Judas (not Iscariot). Possibly "James the Younger" or "James the Less", son of Mary. 4x.

Arises from literal translation of Greek as "Jude of James" referring to the apostle named Judas (not Iscariot), in which case his Greek name would be Alphaeus.

### Father of Judas (not Iscariot)

James the father of the disciple Judas (not Iscariot)\* who was also called Judas Thaddaeus or Lebbaeus. 3x.



### Jesus' Brother

James the Just, son of Mary and Joseph. Unbeliever before the resurrection; leader in Jerusalem *ekklesia* afterwards.

\*Ancients could use a Greek name, a Hebrew name, and/or be named by their occupation.

## The "James" Gang



### Son of Zebedee

John's brother and fellow Son of Thunder. An early follower and one of the inner circle. Slain by Herod soon after Pentecost.



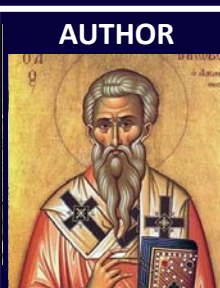
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### AUTHOR

### Jesus' Brother

James the Just, son of Mary and Joseph. Unbeliever before the resurrection; leader in Jerusalem *ekklesia* afterwards.

\*Ancients could use a Greek name, a Hebrew name, and/or be named by their occupation.

## Tradition of James' Death

- Martyred in AD 62 in Jerusalem in a plot by Annas the Younger, son of the high priest Annas after Roman Governor Festus left but before the new governor Claudius Albinus assumed power.
- There is no biblical record of James' death.
- Tradition and early authors (Josephus, Hegesippus, Eusebius) state that James was martyred in AD 62.

The report is that the Sanhedrin condemned James to death for refusing to recant his faith. He was thrown from the southeast pinnacle of the Temple, the same pinnacle Satan had shown Jesus during the temptation. When they discovered that James had survived the fall, he was beaten to death with clubs even as he prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."



## When and why was this epistle written?

- Written before AD 62 when the author was executed.
- Possibly written circa AD 40-50 (perhaps when James the Greater was executed (AD 45). It may have been the first New Testament book to be written.
- Addressed to early Jewish believers scattered among all the nations, who still were following the Jewish faith and Mosaic Law, but needed encouragement in their continued growth in this new Christian faith.
- James emphasized that good actions naturally flow from those filled with the Holy Spirit as a result of their justification. He questions whether anyone has faith if the fruits of that faith cannot be seen

### Theme

- Salvation is not the climax of a Christian walk, but the beginning!
- A living faith is evidenced by righteous living and godly behavior.

### Focus

The epistle of **James**  
focuses on  
**practical Christian  
ethics,**  
not on doctrine.





Proverbs

OF THE  
**NEW**  
**TESTAMENT**

### Key Verses

- "Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger." (James 1:19)
- "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only..." (James 1:22)
- "If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well." (James 2:8)
- "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all." (James 2:10)
- "For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead." (James 2:26)
- "Submit to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7)
- "Let your 'Yes' be yes and your 'No' be no..." (James 5:12a)

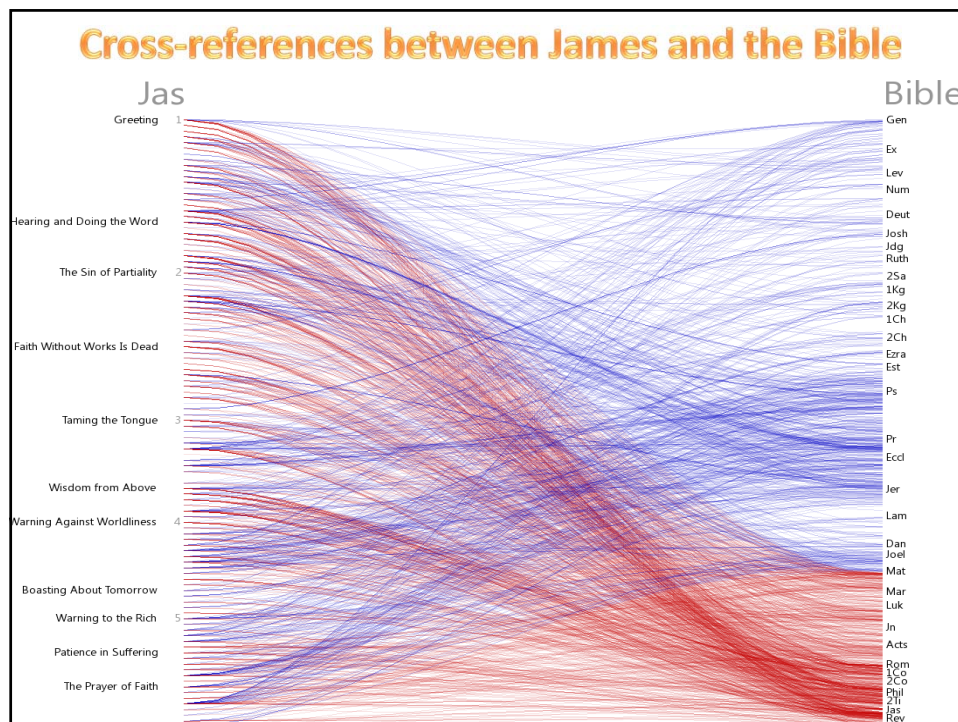
### Structure

- Chapter 1: Victorious faith
- Chapter 2: **Be swift to hear**  
(manifested faith)
- Chapter 3: **Be slow to speak**  
(controlling and energizing faith)
- Chapter 4: **Be slow to anger**  
(submissive faith)
- Chapter 5: Patient & expectant faith

### Many parallels with Sermon on the Mount

- James 1:2            Matthew 5:10–12
- James 1:4            Matthew 5:48
- James 1:5            Matthew 7:7–12
- James 1:22           Matthew 7:21–27
- James 4:11–12       Matthew 7:1–5
- James 5:1–3         Matthew 6:19–21

James never gets too far from the Sermon on the Mount!



### **“Factoids” about the epistle of James**

- Closer connection with the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) than any other New Testament letter.
- More imperatives (directives) than any other New Testament book (60 in 108 verses).
- Although not overly prophetic, it includes four predictions related to Jesus’ Second Coming:
  - The judgement of the saved
  - The judgement of the lost (3 verses)
  - Christ’s second coming
  - The imminence of Christ’s appearing (2 verses)

## James 1 (Victorious Faith)

### Greeting to the Twelve Tribes

<sup>1</sup> James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings.

### Profiting from Trials

<sup>2</sup> My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, <sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. <sup>4</sup> But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

<sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> *he is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

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YOU WERE CREATED  
**TO SOLVE  
PROBLEMS**  
NOT CAUSE THEM!

IF ANYONE LACKS  
**WISDOM!**  
YOU SHOULD ASK GOD

J A M E S 1 : 5

### The Perspective of Rich and Poor

<sup>9</sup> Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, <sup>10</sup> but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away.

<sup>11</sup> 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.

### Loving God Under Trials

<sup>12</sup> Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the **crown of life** which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.



The Crown of Life is promised to those who **LOVE** Him – not to those who obey Him or trust Him or follow Him.

### New Testament Greek for “Crowns”

English (KJV)	Strong's	Greek Root	Biblical usage
crowns	G4735	στέφανος <i>stephanos</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) A Badge of Victory; like the Latin "corona" is the crown in the sense of a chaplet, wreath or garland for the games, civic worth, military valour, nuptial joy or festive gladness</li> <li>2) A Crown as a mark of royal or exalted rank: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) a wreath or garland given to victors in public games</li> <li>b) Metaphorically: the eternal blessedness which will be given as a prize to the genuine servants of God and Christ: the crown (wreath) which is the reward of the righteousness</li> <li>c) that which is an ornament and honour to one</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
crowns	G1238	διάδημα <i>diadēma</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Always a symbol of kingly or imperial dignity; a badge of royalty</li> <li>2) A diadem: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) a blue band marked with white which Persian kings used to bind on the turban or tiara</li> <li>b) the kingly ornament for the head, the crown</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

## Crowns Available (in General)

The Badge of Victory	Criteria	Reference	Verses (KJV)
Crown of Life	For those who love Him and have suffered for His sake	James 1:12; (also Revelation 2:10)	<i>Blessed the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.</i>
Crown of Righteousness	For those who loved His appearing	2 Timothy 4:8	<i>Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.</i>
Crown of Glory	For those who fed the flock	1 Peter 5:4	<i>And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.</i>
Crown Incorruptible	For those who press on steadfastly	1 Corinthians 9:25	<i>And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.</i>
Crown of Rejoicing	For those who win souls	1 Thessalonians 2:19	<i>For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?</i>

## Reserved Crowns

The Badge of Victory	Criteria	Reference	Verses (KJV)
<b>Crown of Thorns</b> (Jesus Christ)	Blasphemous masquerade of royalty by Roman soldiers made of <i>juncus marinus</i> or <i>lycium spinosum</i>	Mark 15:7 (also Matthew 27:29; John 19:2)	<i>And they clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his head,</i>
<b>A Golden Crown</b> (Jesus Christ) ( <i>diadēma</i> )	The Son of Man at the time of God's Wrath;  KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS	Revelation 14:14  Revelation 19:12-21	<i>And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.</i>
Crowns of Gold	The 24 Elders	Revelation 4:4	<i>And round about the throne four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.</i>

## Crowns = rewards in Heaven



### Judgement

- *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. (2 Corinthians 5:10 ESV)*



### Reward

- *If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. (1 Corinthians 3:14 ESV)*
- *“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. (Revelation 22.1)*
- *Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. (Revelation 2:10b ESV)*



### Caution

- *“Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.” (Revelation 3:11)*

<sup>13</sup> Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

<sup>14</sup> But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. <sup>15</sup> Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.



*No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)*

<sup>16</sup> Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. <sup>17</sup> Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. <sup>18</sup> Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

### Qualities Needed in Trials

<sup>19</sup> So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; <sup>20</sup> for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

HELP ME BE QUICK  
 TO LISTEN  
 SLOW TO SPEAK  
 AND SLOW  
 TO ANGER

### Doers—Not Hearers Only

<sup>21</sup> Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; <sup>24</sup> for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. <sup>25</sup> But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

<sup>26</sup> If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. <sup>27</sup> Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.



## Biblical use of “religion” and “religious”

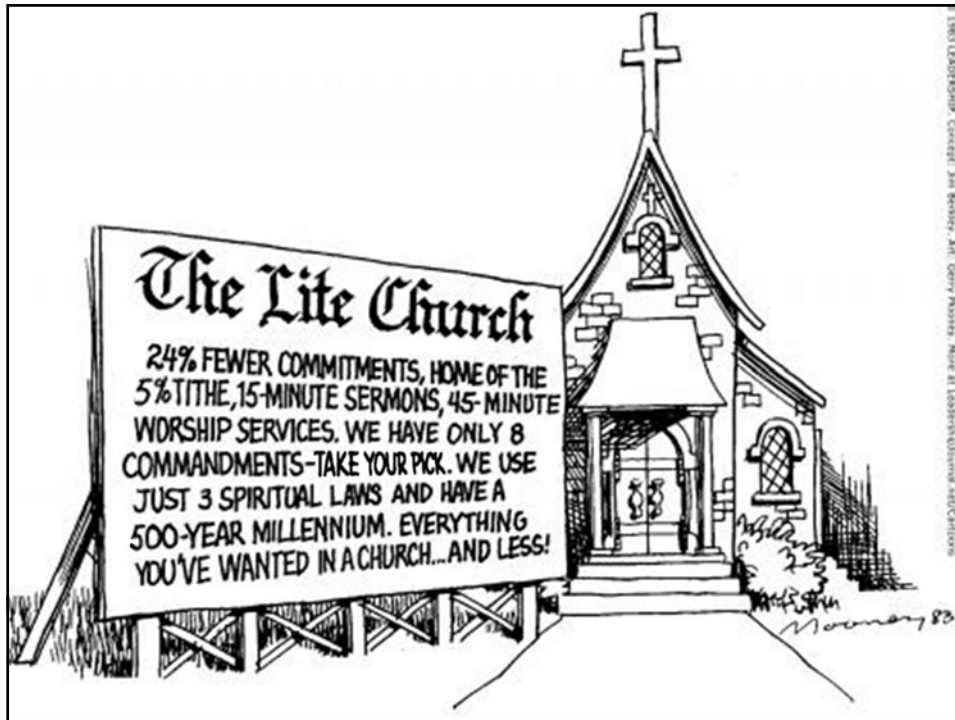
- “Religion” **only occurs** five times in the NT (KJV).
  - Acts 26:5 and Galatians 1:13 and 1:14 refer to Judaism.
  - James 1:26 uses the term to criticise a hypocrite.
  - James 1:27 redefines “religion” but not by itself and only by pairing it with a Greek adjective for “pure” (καθαρός, *katharos*, G2513), which has three meanings:

<b>Physically:</b>	purified as by fire, or by pruning (like a vine before bearing fruit)
<b>Leviticallly:</b>	clean in a Levitical sense, as in following the 613 Laws of Moses
<b>Ethically:</b>	free from corrupt desire, from sin and guilt; free from what is false; sincere; genuine; or blameless, innocent, unstained with the guilt of anything.

- “Religious” **only occurs** twice, in Acts 13:43 for Judaism and (above) James 1:26 to criticise a hypocrite.

## Religion is of Man

1. Clearly, religion is of Man and not of God. It is Man’s way to try to come closer to God (*not that there’s anything wrong with that*).
2. James 1:26 shows the folly of attempting to set rules and regulations to satisfy God.
3. Since time began, attempts at religion focus on appearance of piety and following rules. Religions take on enormous complexity that requires legal specialists (e.g., Pharisees, Bishops, Pastors, Priests, Shamans, Gurus, Popes or Imams) to interpret nuances, hold elaborate ceremonies and control the people.
4. Protestant leaders originally had the right idea, but didn’t go far enough (but killed those who did), eventually establishing their own religions, which have splintered into denominations and sects.
5. Religious people commonly deceive themselves by outward appearances of “religion.” Fool others so you can fool yourself.



**“We know  
nothing  
of religion here:  
we think only of  
Christ.”**

C.S. Lewis (1946). *The Great Divorce*.