



James Lesson 1

AUTHOR

The author identifies himself as James. Although there are four well-known James' mentioned in the New Testament, it is agreed by most scholars that this is James, the brother of Jesus. Though he was at first hesitant in becoming a believer in Christ, he eventually became an apostle and a pillar in the early church. He was present at the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15 and had a significant impact on the decision of the elders there regarding the inclusion of the Gentiles into the body of Christ.

THEME

Written to Jewish believers who had dispersed after the persecution of the church began with the stoning of Stephen, its theme is the necessity of living a committed Christian life in the midst of suffering. James matter-of-fact approach reveals his passion for serious holiness in the body of Christ in even the worst of conditions. That kind of active faith that thrives under duress is what proves the reality of the gospel in our lives.

DATE

James is believed to be one of the earliest books, written around 50-60 A.D. near the time Paul wrote Galatians.

READ JAMES 1



Historical records reveal that it was not unusual for Jews to own slaves during the New Testament period. Because slavery was a familiar part of the culture, Jesus sometimes referred to slaves and owners in His parables (e.g., Matthew 25:14-30 and Luke 12:41-48). Also, Jesus taught that the greatest in God's kingdom would have to become "the servant of all" (Mark 9:35). Such a concept was unthinkable to a Roman citizen who prided himself in his freedom and would never identify himself as a bondservant. But Jesus' kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36), and the selfish values of earth are of no consequence in heaven. www.gotquestions.com

Bondservant- doulos- one who is subservient to, and entirely at the disposal of his master; a slave.

1. Why does James say trial should be considered "joy"? James 1:2-4

2. What are some other reasons to consider trials as something good?

Psalm 119: 67-72

2 Corinthians 1:3-11

Hebrews 5:7-8

Hebrews 12:5-11

3. *Living under rejection and persecution for the faith requires clear thinking and wisdom from God. In extreme suffering our flesh will determine our actions if we don't focus on the truth of God. Understanding God's solutions to difficulty is part of the victory in the battle. What does James say about gaining wisdom from God?
James 1:5-8*

4. *What do verses 9-11 have to do with the faith James is talking about in verses 3-8?*

5. *What does Solomon say is necessary to gain wisdom that is necessary to avoid the trap of temptation? Proverbs 2:1-14*

6. *What is the result for those who apply wisdom in suffering and are able to endure?
James 1:12*

7. *What is the source of temptation, and what is the process of its fulfillment? 1:13-15*

8. *How do we keep from falling into that deception? James 1:16
Romans 13:14

2 Corinthians 10:5

Galatians 5:16-18

Hebrews 12:1-4*



Even Jesus was tempted. The temptation isn't the sin, for we will be tempted in many ways. Sin occurs when we compromise and accept the behavior. It has been said, "It's okay for a bird to land on your head, just don't let it build a nest there."

9. *Why do you think James reminds us in verse 17 that God bestows only good and perfect gifts? What are some ways that we doubt the goodness of God in trials?*

10. *What clear commands regarding our behavior does James give in verses 19-21? Why would these be necessary especially in the midst of trials?*

11. *From James 1:22-25, explain what you think James is saying in the visual lesson he gives to reinforce his message?*

12. *What three things does James specifically mention that would identify true religion? James 1:26-27*

13. *What is your personal response to what James teaches in Chapter 1?*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
