

JAMES

ORDER IN NEW TESTAMENT

20

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

5

TYPE

EPISTLE, GENERAL



OVERVIEW

This book is attributed to James, the brother of Jesus, and is written to the twelve tribes of Israel, scattered abroad. James became a believer upon seeing Jesus alive and well after the crucifixion, and he was a leader of the church at Jerusalem. Known as the “Proverbs of the New Testament,” this book overflows with wisdom and truth.



WRITTEN
44-49 AD



TIME PERIOD COVERED
All Eras in the Age of Grace



AUTHOR
James, half-brother of Jesus

1	HANDLING TRIALS; LISTENING VS. DOING	2	FAVORITISM, FAITH, AND DEEDS	3	PROBLEMS WITH THE TONGUE; BITTER ENVY AND SELFISH AMBITION	4	HUMILITY AND SUBMISSION; GOD'S WILL	5	WARNING TO THE RICH; PATIENCE IN SUFFERING; PRAYER OF FAITH
JAMES 1	JAMES 2	JAMES 3	JAMES 4	JAMES 5					
James states that trials bring blessings and wisdom can be sought through communion with God. James teaches that the poor are more blessed than the wealthy, and faith without works is dead.		James teaches that the poor are rich in faith, and showing favoritism to the rich paves the way for extortion. He describes listening versus doing, and how faith and deeds are related.		James expresses that anyone who can tame the tongue will grow closer to perfection. He also states that envy and disorder breed other evil practices and encourages people to pursue wisdom from heaven.		James focuses on the theme that God oppresses the proud, but favors the humble. He teaches that godly living comes from seeking God's will.		James teaches that the rich are clearly seen and will be judged. He cites Job as an example for how people should respond to trial. He encourages prayer for those struggling physically or emotionally.	

JAMES

AT-A-GLANCE

BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

The Book of James

TYPE OF BOOK(S):

General Epistles (James is the first of seven general epistles, which are letters written by early church leaders other than Paul.)

PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

44-49 AD



AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

James is thought to be the half-brother of Jesus. In other words, he was one of the children that Mary and Joseph had after Jesus was born.

It is thought that James did not believe Jesus was the Messiah until after the Crucifixion! Mark 3:21 has the half-brothers of Jesus during his early ministry thinking Jesus was "out of his mind."

We do not know what happened to make him change. However, his epistle is the first to have been written in the New Testament. His writing often makes him be compared to Solomon in his wisdom. His Book of James is sometimes called the Proverbs of the New Testament.



UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

It is not known where James wrote his book.



UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

James may have had to come to peace with himself for believing in his own half-brother only after he was gone. When Jesus died on the cross, as the oldest, he did not assign his own flesh and blood to take care of his mother. He assigned that job to the apostle John, who was no blood relation. We don't know the story behind James' conversion, but we know from all of scripture that Christ was happy to offer forgiveness from above. James went on to be one of the leaders of the Church of Jerusalem.