

~JAMES 4 (450)

[English equivalent of Jacob, meaning, One Seizing the Heel, Supplanter]

- Son of Joseph and Mary, and half brother of Jesus.
- This is the carpenter the son of Mary and the brother of **James** and Joseph and Judas and Simon, is it not? And his sisters are here with us, are they not? So they began to stumble at him. (**Mark 6:3**)
- But I saw no one else of the apostles, only **James** the brother of the Lord. (**Galatians 1:19**)
- Although not an apostle, it was evidently this **James** who was an overseer of the Christian congregation at Jerusalem
- But he motioned to them with his hand to be silent and told them in detail how Yehowah brought him out of the prison, and he said; Report these things to **James** and the brothers. With that he went out and journeyed to another place. (**Acts of Apostles 12:17**)
- And who wrote the Bible book bearing his name.
- **James**, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes that are scattered about. Greetings! (**James 1:1**)
- He may have been next to Jesus in age, being the first named of Mary's four natural-born sons, **James**, Joseph, Simon, and Judas.
- Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary, and his brothers **James** and Joseph and Simon and Judas? (**Matthew 13:55**)
- Paul implies in his letter to the Corinthians, written about the year **55 C.E.**, that **James** was married.
- We have authority to lead about a sister as a wife, even as the rest of the apostles and the Lords brothers and Cephas, do we not? (**1 Corinthians 9:5**)

See Also BROTHER

- **It appears that during Jesus ministry **James** was well acquainted with his brother's activity**
- **Now his mother and brothers came toward him, but they were unable to get to him because of the crowd. ([Luke 8:19](#))**
- **After this he and his mother and brothers and his disciples went down to Capernaum, but they did not stay there many days. ([John 2:12](#))**
- **But though apparently not opposed, he was not one of the disciples and followers of Christ.**
- **While he was yet speaking to the crowds, look! His mother and brothers took up a position outside seeking to speak to him. ([Matthew 12:46](#))**
- **So someone said to him; Look! Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak to you. ([Matthew 12:47](#))**
- **As an answer he said to the one telling him; Who is my mother, and who are my brothers? ([Matthew 12:48](#))**
- **And extending his hand toward his disciples, he said; Look! My mother and my brothers! ([Matthew 12:49](#))**
- **For whoever does the will of my Father who is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother. ([Matthew 12:50](#))**
- **His brothers were, in fact, not exercising faith in him. ([John 7:5](#))**
- **He was probably with his non-believing brothers when they urged Jesus to go boldly up to the Festival of Tabernacles, at a time when the rulers of the Jews were seeking to kill him.**
- **Now after these things Jesus continued walking about in Galilee, for he did not want to walk about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him. ([John 7:1](#))**
- **However, the festival of the Jews, the festival of tabernacles, was near. ([John 7:2](#))**

- Therefore his brothers said to him; Pass on over from here and go into Judea, in order, that your disciples also may behold the works you do. (**John 7:3**)
- For nobody does anything in secret while himself seeking to be known publicly. If you do these things, manifest yourself to the world. (**John 7:4**)
- His brothers were, in fact, not exercising faith in him. (**John 7:5**)
- Therefore Jesus said to them; My due time is not yet present, but your due time is always at hand. (**John 7:6**)
- The world has no reason to hate you, but it hates me, because I bear witness concerning it that its works are wicked. (**John 7:7**)
- You go up to the festival. I am not yet going up to this festival, because my due time has not yet fully come. (**John 7:8**)
- So after he told them these things, he remained in Galilee. (**John 7:9**)
- But when his brothers had gone up to the festival, then he also went up himself, not openly but as in secret. (**John 7:10**)
- **James** also may have been numbered among the relatives that said of Jesus; He has gone out of his mind.
- But when his relatives heard about it, they went out to lay hold of him, for they were saying; He has gone out of his mind. (**Mark 3:21**)
- However, after the death of Jesus and prior to Pentecost **33 C.E.**, **James** was assembled for prayer together with his mother, brothers, and the apostles in an upper chamber in Jerusalem.
- So, when they had entered, they went up into the upper chamber, where they were staying, Peter as well as John and **James** and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the zealous one, and Judas the son of James. (**Acts of Apostles 1:13**)
- With one accord all these were persisting in prayer, together with some women and Mary the mother of Jesus and with his

brothers. (**Acts of Apostles 1:14**)

- It was evidently to this **James** that the resurrected Jesus appeared personally, as reported at;
- After that he appeared to **James**, then to all the apostles. (**1 Corinthians 15:7**)
- So convincing this onetime nonbeliever that he was indeed the Messiah. This reminds us of Jesus personal appearance to Paul.
- Now as he was traveling he approached Damascus, when suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. (**Acts of Apostles 9:3**)
- And he fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him; Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? (**Acts of Apostles 9:4**)
- He said; Who are you, Lord? He said; I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. (**Acts of Apostles 9:5**)
- Thereafter **James** became a prominent member and, apparently, an apostle of the Jerusalem congregation. Thus, at Paul's first visit with the Jerusalem brothers about **36 C.E.**, he says he spent 15 days with Peter, but saw no one else of the apostles, only James the brother of the Lord.
- Then three years later I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and I stayed with him for fifteen days. (**Galatians 1:18**)
- But I saw no one else of the apostles, only **James** the brother of the Lord. (**Galatians 1:19**)
- Peter, after his miraculous release from prison, instructed the brothers at John Marks home, Report these things to **James** and the brothers, thereby indicating James prominence.
- And after he considered it, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John who was surnamed Mark, where quite a few were gathered together and praying. (**Acts of Apostles 12:12**)
- But he motioned to them with his hand to be silent and told them in detail how Yehowah brought him out of the prison, and he said; Report these things to **James** and the brothers. With that

he went out and journeyed to another place. (**Acts of Apostles 12:17**)

- About **49 C.E.** the issue of circumcision came before the apostles and the older men at Jerusalem. Following personal testimony by Peter, Barnabas, and Paul, **James** spoke, offering a decision that was approved and adopted by the assembly.
- And the apostles and the older men gathered together to see about this affair. (**Acts of Apostles 15:6**)
- Now when much disputing had taken place, Peter rose and said to them; Men, brothers, you well know that from early days God made the choice among you that through my mouth people of the nations should hear the word of the Good News and believe. (**Acts of Apostles 15:7**)
- And God, who knows the heart, bore witness by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us also. (**Acts of Apostles 15:8**)
- And he made no distinction at all between us and them, but purified their hearts by faith. (**Acts of Apostles 15:9**)
- Now, therefore, why are you making a test of God by imposing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our forefathers nor we were capable of bearing? (**Acts of Apostles 15:10**)
- On the contrary, we trust to get saved through the undeserved kindness of the Lord Jesus in the same way as those people also. (**Acts of Apostles 15:11**)
- At that the entire multitude became silent, and they began to listen to Barnabas and Paul relate the many signs and portents that God did through them among the nations. (**Acts of Apostles 15:12**)
- After they quit speaking, **James** answered, saying; Men, brothers, hear me. (**Acts of Apostles 15:13**)
- Symeon has related thoroughly how God for the first time turned his attention to the nations to take out of them a people for his name. (**Acts of Apostles 15:14**)
- And with this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is

written. ([Acts of Apostles 15:15](#))

- After these things I shall return and rebuild the booth of David that is fallen down, and I shall rebuild its ruins and erect it again. ([Acts of Apostles 15:16](#))
- In order, that those who remain of the men may earnestly seek Yehowah, together with people of all the nations, people who are called by my name, says Yehowah, who is doing these things. ([Acts of Apostles 15:17](#))
- Known from of old. ([Acts of Apostles 15:18](#))
- Hence my decision is not to trouble those from the nations who are turning to God. ([Acts of Apostles 15:19](#))
- But to write them to abstain from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood. ([Acts of Apostles 15:20](#))
- For from ancient times Moses has had in city after city those who preach him, because he is read aloud in the synagogues on every Sabbath. ([Acts of Apostles 15:21](#))
- Then the apostles and the older men together with the whole congregation favored sending chosen men from among them to Antioch along with Paul and Barnabas, namely, Judas who was called Barsabbas and Silas, leading men among the brothers. ([Acts of Apostles 15:22](#))
- And by their hand they wrote. The apostles and the older men, brothers, to those brothers in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia who are from the nations. Greetings! ([Acts of Apostles 15:23](#))
- Since we have heard that some from among us have caused you trouble with speeches, trying to subvert your souls, although we did not give them any instructions. ([Acts of Apostles 15:24](#))
- We have come to a unanimous accord and have favored choosing men to send to you together with our loved ones, Barnabas and Paul. ([Acts of Apostles 15:25](#))
- Men that have delivered up their souls for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ([Acts of Apostles 15:26](#))

- **We are therefore dispatching Judas and Silas, that they also may report the same things by word. (Acts of Apostles 15:27)**
- **For the Holy Spirit and we ourselves have favored adding no further burden to you, except these necessary things. (Acts of Apostles 15:28)**
- **To keep abstaining from things sacrificed to idols and from blood and from things strangled and from fornication. If you carefully keep yourselves from these things, you will prosper. Good health to you! (Acts of Apostles 15:29)**
- **Now as they traveled on through the cities they would deliver to those there for observance the decrees that had been decided upon by the apostles and older men who were in Jerusalem. (Acts of Apostles 16:4)**
- **Referring to that occasion, Paul says that **James**, Cephas, and John, seemed to be pillars, among those at Jerusalem.**
- **Then after fourteen years I again went up to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking also Titus along with me. (Galatians 2:1)**
- **But I went up as a result of a revelation. And I laid before them the Good News which I am preaching among the nations, privately, however, before those who were outstanding men, for fear that somehow I was running or had run in vain. (Galatians 2:2)**
- **Nevertheless, not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, although he was a Greek. (Galatians 2:3)**
- **But because of the false brothers brought in quietly, who sneaked in to spy upon our freedom which we have in union with Christ Jesus, that they might completely enslave us. (Galatians 2:4)**
- **To these we did not yield by way of submission, no, not for an hour, in order, that the truth of the Good News might continue with you. (Galatians 2:5)**
- **But on the part of those who seemed to be something, whatever sort of men they formerly were makes no difference to me, God**

does not go by a man's outward appearance, to me, in fact, those outstanding men imparted nothing new. ([Galatians 2:6](#))

- But, on the contrary, when they saw that I had entrusted to me the Good News for those who are uncircumcised, just as Peter had it for those who are circumcised. ([Galatians 2:7](#))
- For He who gave Peter powers necessary for an apostleship to those who are circumcised gave powers also to me for those who are of the nations. ([Galatians 2:8](#))
- Yes, when they came to know the undeserved kindness that was given me, **James** and Cephas and John, the ones who seemed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of sharing together, that we should go to the nations, but they to those who are circumcised. ([Galatians 2:9](#))
- At the close of a later missionary tour, Paul, in Jerusalem, reported on his ministry to **James** and all the older men, and these then gave him certain counsel to follow.
- Now after these days we prepared for the journey and began going up to Jerusalem. ([Acts of Apostles 21:15](#))
- But some of the disciples from Caesarea also went with us, to bring us to the man at whose home we were to be entertained, a certain Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple. ([Acts of Apostles 21:16](#))
- When we got into Jerusalem, the brothers received us gladly. ([Acts of Apostles 21:17](#))
- But on the following day Paul went in with us to **James**, and all the older men were present. ([Acts of Apostles 21:18](#))
- And he greeted them and began giving in detail an account of the things God did among the nations through his ministry. ([Acts of Apostles 21:19](#))
- After hearing this they began to glorify God, and they said to him; You behold, brother, how many thousands of believers there are among the Jews, and they are all zealous for the Law. ([Acts of Apostles 21:20](#))

- But they have heard it rumored about you that you have been teaching all the Jews among the nations an apostasy from Moses, telling them neither to circumcise their children nor to walk in the solemn customs. ([Acts of Apostles 21:21](#))
- What, then, is to be done about it? In any case they are going to hear you have arrived. ([Acts of Apostles 21:22](#))
- Therefore do this which we tell you; We have four men with a vow upon themselves. ([Acts of Apostles 21:23](#))
- Take these men along and cleanse yourself ceremonially with them and take care of their expenses, that they may have their heads shaved. And so everybody will know that there is nothing to the rumors they were told about you, but that you are walking orderly, you yourself also keeping the Law. ([Acts of Apostles 21:24](#))
- As for the believers from among the nations, we have sent out, rendering our decision that they should keep themselves from what is sacrificed to idols as well as from blood and what is strangled and from fornication. ([Acts of Apostles 21:25](#))
- Then Paul took the men along the next day and cleansed himself ceremonially with them and went into the temple, to give notice of the days to be fulfilled for the ceremonial cleansing, until the offering should be presented for each one of them. ([Acts of Apostles 21:26](#))
- However, when Cephas came to Antioch, I resisted him face to face, because he stood condemned. ([Galatians 2:11](#))
- For before the arrival of certain men from **James**, he used to eat with people of the nations, but when they arrived, he went withdrawing and separating himself, in fear of those of the circumcised class. ([Galatians 2:12](#))
- The rest of the Jews also joined him in putting on this pretense, so that even Barnabas was led along with them in their pretense. ([Galatians 2:13](#))
- But when I saw they were not walking straight according to the truth of the Good News, I said to Cephas before them all. If you, though you are a Jew, live as the nations do, and not as Jews do,

how is it that you are compelling people of the nations to live according to Jewish practice? ([Galatians 2:14](#))

See Also APOSTLE (Congregational Apostleships)

- That it was this brother of Jesus who wrote the book of **James**, and not one of the apostles by the same name, either the son of Zebedee or the son of Alphaeus, seems to be indicated at the beginning of his letter.
- There the writer identifies himself as a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, rather than as an apostle. In a similar fashion his brother Judas, Jude, also identified himself as a slave of Jesus Christ, but a brother of James.
- **James**, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes that are scattered about. Greetings! ([James 1:1](#))
- **Jude**, a slave of Jesus Christ, but a brother of **James**, to the called ones who are loved in relationship with God the Father and preserved for Jesus Christ. ([Jude 1:1](#))
- Both brothers humbly avoided identifying themselves as fleshly brothers of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- His being called, **James** the Just, is based on traditions that say he was so designated because of his way of life. There is no record in the Scriptures of **James** death.
- The secular historian Josephus, however, says that during the interval between the death of Governor Festus, about **62 C.E.**, and the arrival of his successor Albinus, the High Priest, Ananus (Ananias), convened the judges of the Sanhedrin and brought before them a man named **James**, the brother of Jesus who was called the Christ, and certain others.
- [He accused them of having transgressed the Law and delivered them up to be stoned.](#) [[Jewish Antiquities, XX, 200, ix, 1](#)]