

## ~JAMES, LETTER OF (1195)

- .. Writer
- .. Canonicity
- .. Date And Place Of Composition
- .. To Whom Written
- .. Purpose
- .. Style
- .. Relationship To Earlier Inspired Scripture
- .. Highlights Of James

▪ An inspired letter of the **Christian Greek Scriptures**. It is one of the so called general letters because, like First and Second Peter, First John, and Jude, but unlike most of the apostle Paul's letters, it was not addressed to any specific congregation or person. This letter is addressed to the twelve tribes that are scattered about.

▪ **James**, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes that are scattered about. Greetings! (**James 1:1**)

### .. Writer

▪ The writer calls himself simply, **James**, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.

▪ **James**, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes that are scattered about. Greetings! (**James 1:1**)

▪ Jesus had two apostles named **James**.

▪ The names of the twelve apostles are these. First, Simon, the one called Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James the son of Zebedee and John his brother. (**Matthew 10:2**)

▪ Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the tax collector, **James** the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus. (**Matthew 10:3**)

▪ But it is unlikely that either of these wrote the letter. One apostle, **James** the son of Zebedee, was martyred about **44 C.E.** As the section on, **Date and Place of Composition**, shows, this would be very early for him to have been the writer.

▪ About that particular time Herod the king applied his hands to

mistreating some of those of the congregation. (**Acts of Apostles 12:1**)

- He did away with James the brother of John by the sword. (**Acts of Apostles 12:2**)
- The other apostle **James**, the son of Alphaeus, is not prominent in the Scriptural record, and very little is known about him.
- The outspoken nature of the letter of James would seem to weigh against the writers being **James** the son of Alphaeus, for he would likely have identified himself as one of the 12 apostles, in order to back up his strong words with apostolic authority.
- Rather, evidence points to **James** the half brother of Jesus Christ, to whom the resurrected Christ evidently had made a special appearance, and who was prominent among the disciples.
- 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**)
- 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](#))
- After that he appeared to **James**, then to all the apostles. ([1 Corinthians 15:7](#))
- 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](#))
- The writer of the letter of **James** identifies himself as a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, in much the same way as did Jude, who introduced the letter of Jude by calling himself 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](#))

- Furthermore, the salutation of James letter includes the term **Greetings!** In the same way as did the letter concerning circumcision that was sent to the congregations. In this latter instance it was apparently Jesus half brother **James** who spoke prominently in the assembly of the apostles and the older men at Jerusalem.
- After they quit speaking, **James** answered, saying; Men, brothers, hear me. (**Acts of Apostles 15:13**)
- 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**)

## •• **Canonicity**

- The letter of James is contained in the **Vatican Manuscript No. 1209**, as well as the **Sinaitic** and the **Alexandrine Manuscripts** of the **Fourth** and **Fifth Centuries C.E.**
- The **Syriac Peshitta** includes it, and it is found in at least ten ancient catalogs before the Council of Carthage in **397 C.E.** Early religious writers quoted from it, Origen, Cyril of Jerusalem, Jerome, and others recognizing the letter as authentic Scripture.

## •• **Date And Place Of Composition**

- The letter gives no indication that Jerusalem's fall to the Romans in **70 C.E.** had yet taken place. According to the Jewish historian Josephus, a High Priest named Ananus, a Sadducee, was responsible for bringing **James** and others before the Sanhedrin and having them stoned to death.
- This event, Josephus writes, occurred after the death of the Roman procurator Festus, but before his successor Albinus arrived. [**Jewish Antiquities, XX, 197-203, ix, 1**]

- If so, and if the sources placing the death of Festus at about **62 C.E.** are correct, then James must have written his letter sometime prior to that date.
- Jerusalem was the probable place of composition, for that is where James resided.
- 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**)

### · To Whom Written

- **James** wrote the letter to the twelve tribes that are scattered about, literally, the ones in the dispersion.
- **James**, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes that are scattered about. Greetings! (**James 1:1**) Footnote
- He here addresses his spiritual brothers, those who hold to the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, primarily those living beyond Palestine.
- Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you meet with various trials. (**James 1:2**)
- Those living beyond Palestine.
- My brothers, you are not holding the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, our glory, with acts of favoritism, are you? (**James 2:1**)
- They blaspheme the fine name by which you were called, do they not? (**James 2:7**)
- **James** bases much of his argument on the Hebrew Scriptures, but this does not prove that his letter was only for Jewish Christians, even as one's acquaintance with the Hebrew Scriptures in modern times does not prove that one is of Jewish descent. His reference to Abraham as our father.
- Was not Abraham our father declared righteous by works after he had offered up Isaac his son upon the altar? (**James 2:21**)

- Is in harmony with Paul's words at;
- There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor freeman, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one person in union with Christ Jesus.
- This alone I want to learn from you. Did you receive the spirit due to works of Law or due to a hearing by faith? ([Galatians 3:2](#))
- Moreover, if you belong to Christ, you are really Abraham's seed, heirs with reference to a promise. ([Galatians 3:29](#))
- Where he shows that ones being of the true seed of Abraham is not determined by whether one is a Jew or a Greek. Therefore, the twelve tribes addressed must be the spiritual Israel of God.
- For neither is circumcision anything nor is uncircumcision, but a new creation is something. ([Galatians 6:15](#))
- And all those who will walk orderly by this rule of conduct, upon them be peace and mercy, even upon the Israel of God. ([Galatians 6:16](#))

## .. Purpose

- **James** purpose in writing seems to have been twofold, to exhort his fellow believers to display faith and endurance amid their trials, and to warn them against sins resulting in divine disapproval.
- Some had fallen into the snare of looking to those more prominent and rich and showing favoritism.
- My brothers, you are not holding the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, our glory, with acts of favoritism, are you? ([James 2:1](#))
- For, if a man with gold rings on his fingers and in splendid clothing enters into a gathering of you, but a poor man in filthy clothing also enters. ([James 2:2](#))
- Yet you look with favor upon the one wearing the splendid clothing and say; You take this seat here in a fine place, and you say to the poor one; You keep standing. Or; Take that seat there under my footstool. ([James 2:3](#))

- You have class distinctions among yourselves and you have become judges rendering wicked decisions, is that not so? **(James 2:4)**
- Listen, my beloved brothers. God chose the ones who are poor respecting the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he promised to those who love him, did he not? **(James 2:5)**
- You, though, have dishonored the poor man. The rich oppress you, and they drag you before Law courts, do they not? **(James 2:6)**
- They blaspheme the fine name by which you were called, do they not? **(James 2:7)**
- If, now, you practice carrying out the kingly Law according to the scripture; You must love your neighbor as yourself, you are doing quite well. **(James 2:8)**
- But if you continue showing favoritism, you are working a sin, for you are reproved by the Law as transgressors. **(James 2:9)**
- They failed to discern what they really were in God's eyes and were hearers of the word but not doers.
- However, become doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves with false reasoning. **(James 1:22)**
- For if anyone is a hearer of the word, and not a doer, this one is like a man looking at his natural face in a mirror. **(James 1:23)**
- For he looks at himself, and off he goes and immediately forgets what sort of man he is. **(James 1:24)**
- But he who peers into the perfect Law that belongs to freedom and who persists in it, this man, because he has become, not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, will be happy in his doing it. **(James 1:25)**
- If any man seems to himself to be a formal worshiper and yet does not bridle his tongue, but goes on deceiving his own heart, this man's form of worship is futile. **(James 1:26)**

- The form of worship that is clean and undefiled from the standpoint of our God and Father is this. To look after orphans and widows in their tribulation, and to keep oneself without spot from the world. ([James 1:27](#))
- They had begun to use their tongues wrongly, and their cravings for sensual pleasure were causing fights among them.
- For we all stumble many times. If anyone does not stumble in word, this one is a perfect man, able to bridle also his whole body. ([James 3:2](#))
- If we put bridles in the mouths of horses for them to obey us, we manage also their whole body. ([James 3:3](#))
- Look! Even boats, although they are so big and are driven by hard winds, are steered by a very small rudder to where the inclination of the man at the helm wishes. ([James 3:4](#))
- So, too, the tongue is a little member and yet makes great brags. Look! How little a fire it takes to set so great a woodland on fire! ([James 3:5](#))
- Well, the tongue is a fire. The tongue is constituted a world of unrighteousness among our members, for it spots up all the body and sets the wheel of natural life aflame and it is set aflame by Gehenna. ([James 3:6](#))
- For every species of wild beast as well as bird and creeping thing and sea creature is to be tamed and has been tamed by humankind. ([James 3:7](#))
- But the tongue, not one of mankind can get it tamed. An unruly injurious thing, it is full of death-dealing poison. ([James 3:8](#))
- With it we bless Yehowah, even the Father, and yet with it we curse men who have come into existence in the likeness of God. ([James 3:9](#))
- Out of the same mouth come forth blessing and cursing. It is not proper, my brothers, for these things to go on occurring this way. ([James 3:10](#))
- A fountain does not cause the sweet and the bitter to bubble out



of the same opening, does it? (**James 3:11**)

- **My brothers, a fig tree cannot produce olives or a vine figs, can it? Neither can salt water produce sweet water. (**James 3:12**)**
- **From what source are there wars and from what source are there fights among you? Are they not from this source, namely, from your cravings for sensual pleasure that carry on a conflict in your members? (**James 4:1**)**
- **You desire, and yet you do not have. You go on murdering and coveting, and yet you are not able to obtain. You go on fighting and waging war. You do not have because of your not asking. (**James 4:2**)**
- **You do ask, and yet you do not receive, because you are asking for a wrong purpose, that you may expend it upon your cravings for sensual pleasure. (**James 4:3**)**
- **Their desire for material things had brought some into the position of being friends of the world and therefore, not chaste virgins, but spiritual adulteresses, at enmity with God.**
- **Adulteresses, do you not know that the friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever, therefore, wants to be a friend of the world is constituting himself an enemy of God. (**James 4:4**)**
- **James corrected them on the matter of being doers as well as hearers by showing from Scriptural examples that a man having real faith would manifest it by works in harmony with his faith.**
- **For example, one having true faith would not say to a brother naked and lacking food, Go in peace, keep warm and well fed, and not give him the necessities.**
- **Of what benefit is it, my brothers, if a certain one says he has faith but he does not have works? That faith cannot save him, can it? (**James 2:14**)**
- **If a brother or a sister is in a naked state and lacking the food sufficient for the day. (**James 2:15**)**
- **Yet a certain one of you says to them; Go in peace, keep warm and well fed, but you do not give them the necessities for their**

body, of what benefit is it? (**James 2:16**)

- **Thus, too, faith, if it does not have works, is dead in itself. (**James 2:17**)**
- **Nevertheless, a certain one will say; You have faith, and I have works. Show me your faith apart from the works, and I shall show you my faith by my works. (**James 2:18**)**
- **You believe there is one God, do you? You are doing quite well. And yet the demons believe and shudder. (**James 2:19**)**
- **But do you care to know, O empty man, that faith apart from works is inactive? (**James 2:20**)**
- **Was not Abraham our father declared righteous by works after he had offered up Isaac his son upon the altar? (**James 2:21**)**
- **You behold that his faith worked along with his works and by his works his faith was perfected. (**James 2:22**)**
- **And the scripture was fulfilled which says; Abraham put faith in Yehowah, and it was counted to him as righteousness, and he came to be called, Yehowah's friend. (**James 2:23**)**
- **You see that a man is to be declared righteous by works, and not by faith alone. (**James 2:24**)**
- **In the same manner was not also Rahab the harlot declared righteous by works, after she had received the messengers hospitably and sent them out by another way? (**James 2:25**)**
- **Indeed, as the body without spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead. (**James 2:26**)**
- **Here **James** was not contradicting Paul by saying that one could earn salvation by works. Rather, he accepts faith as the basis for salvation but points out that there cannot be genuine faith that does not produce good works. This is in harmony with Paul's description of the fruitage of the spirit, at;**
- **On the other hand, the fruitage of the spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith. (**Galatians 5:22**)**

- Mildness, self-control. Against such things there is no law. (**Galatians 5:23**)
- Moreover, those who belong to Christ Jesus impaled the flesh together with its passions and desires. (**Galatians 5:24**)
- And his counsel to put on the new personality, at;
- That you should put away the old personality which conforms to your former course of conduct and which is being corrupted according to his deceptive desires. (**Ephesians 4:22**)
- But that you should be made new in the force actuating your mind. (**Ephesians 4:23**)
- And should put on the new personality which was created according to God's will in true righteousness and loyalty. (**Ephesians 4:24**)
- Deaden, therefore, your body members that are upon the earth as respects fornication, uncleanness, sexual appetite, hurtful desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. (**Colossians 3:5**)
- On account of those things the wrath of God is coming. (**Colossians 3:6**)
- In those very things you, too, once walked when you used to live in them. (**Colossians 3:7**)
- But now really put them all away from you, wrath, anger, badness, abusive speech, and obscene talk out of your mouth. (**Colossians 3:8**)
- Do not be lying to one another. Strip off the old personality with its practices. (**Colossians 3:9**)
- And clothe yourselves with the new personality, which through accurate knowledge is being made new according to the image of the One who created it. (**Colossians 3:10**)
- As well as his admonition to do good and share with others, at
- Moreover, do not forget the doing of good and the sharing of things with others, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

(Hebrews 13:16)

## .. Style

- **James** letter has a strong prophetic tone and contains many figures of speech and similes, giving it a certain resemblance to Jesus Christ's discourses, such as the Sermon on the Mount.
- Like Jesus, **James** drew on physical things the sea, vegetation, animals, boats, a farmer, the earth to give colorful backing to his arguments on faith, control of the tongue, patience, and so forth.
- But let him keep on asking in faith, not doubting at all, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven by the wind and blown about. (**James 1:6**)
- But let the lowly brother exult over his exaltation. (**James 1:9**)
- And the rich one over his humiliation, because like a flower of the vegetation he will pass away. (**James 1:10**)
- For the sun rises with its burning heat and withers the vegetation, and its flower drops off and the beauty of its outward appearance perishes. So, too, the rich man will fade away in his ways of life. (**James 1:11**)
- If we put bridles in the mouths of horses for them to obey us, we manage also their whole body. (**James 3:3**)
- Look! Even boats, although they are so big and are driven by hard winds, are steered by a very small rudder to where the inclination of the man at the helm wishes. (**James 3:4**)
- So, too, the tongue is a little member and yet makes great brags. Look! How little a fire it takes to set so great a woodland on fire! (**James 3:5**)
- Well, the tongue is a fire. The tongue is constituted a world of unrighteousness among our members, for it spots up all the body and sets the wheel of natural life aflame and it is set aflame by Gehenna. (**James 3:6**)
- For every species of wild beast as well as bird and creeping thing and sea creature is to be tamed and has been tamed by

humankind. (**James 3:7**)

- But the tongue, not one of mankind can get it tamed. An unruly injurious thing, it is full of death-dealing poison. (**James 3:8**)
- With it we bless Yehowah, even the Father, and yet with it we curse men who have come into existence, in the likeness of God. (**James 3:9**)
- Out of the same mouth come forth blessing and cursing. It is not proper, my brothers, for these things to go on occurring this way. (**James 3:10**)
- A fountain does not cause the sweet and the bitter to bubble out of the same opening, does it? (**James 3:11**)
- My brothers, a fig tree cannot produce olives or a vine figs, can it? Neither can salt water produce sweet water. (**James 3:12**)
- Exercise patience, therefore, brothers, until the presence of the Lord. Look! The farmer keeps waiting for the precious fruit of the earth, exercising patience over it until he gets the early rain and the late rain. (**James 5:7**)
- This, together with the use of pointed questions and more than 50 imperatives in this relatively short letter, made James letter dynamic.

#### • Relationship To Earlier Inspired Scripture

- James quoted or referred to the Hebrew Scriptures with regard to man's creation.
- With it we bless Yehowah, even the Father, and yet with it we curse men who have come into existence, in the likeness of God. (**James 3:9**)
- And God went on to say; Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have in subjection the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and the domestic animals and all the earth and every moving animal that is moving upon the earth. (**Genesis 1:26**)
- **Abraham and Rahab**

- **Was not Abraham our father declared righteous by works after he had offered up Isaac his son upon the altar? (James 2:21)**
- **You behold that his faith worked along with his works and by his works his faith was perfected. (James 2:22)**
- **And the scripture was fulfilled which says; Abraham put faith in Yehowah, and it was counted to him as righteousness, and he came to be called, Yehowah's friend. (James 2:23)**
- **You see that a man is to be declared righteous by works, and not by faith alone. (James 2:24)**
- **In the same manner was not also Rahab the harlot declared righteous by works, after she had received the messengers hospitably and sent them out by another way? (James 2:25)**
- **Indeed, as the body without spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead. (James 2:26)**
- **And he put faith in Yehowah, and he proceeded to count it to him as righteousness. (Genesis 15:6)**
- **Finally they reached the place that the true God had designated to him, and Abraham built an altar there and set the wood in order and bound Isaac his son hand and foot and put him upon the altar on top of the wood. (Genesis 22:9)**
- **Then Abraham put out his hand and took the slaughtering knife to kill his son. (Genesis 22:10)**
- **But Yehowah's angel began calling to him out of the heavens and saying; Abraham, Abraham! To which he answered; Here I am! (Genesis 22:11)**
- **And he went on to say; Do not put out your hand against the boy and do not do anything at all to him, for now I do know that you are God-fearing in that you have not withheld your son, your only one, from me. (Genesis 22:12)**
- **Joshua**
- **But you, O Israel, are my servant, you, O Jacob, whom I have**

chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend. ([Isaiah 41:8](#))

- **Job**
- Look! We pronounce happy those who have endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome Yehowah gave, that Yehowah is very tender in affection and merciful. ([James 5:11](#))
- Now it came to be the day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in the house of their brother the firstborn. ([Job 1:13](#))
- And there came a messenger to Job, and he proceeded to say; The cattle themselves happened to be plowing and the she-asses were grazing at the side of them. ([Job 1:14](#))
- When the Sabeans came making a raid and taking them, and the attendants they struck down with the edge of the sword, and I got to escape, only I by myself, to tell you. ([Job 1:15](#))
- While this one was yet speaking that one came and proceeded to say; The very fire of God fell from the heavens and went blazing among the sheep and the attendants and eating them up, and I got to escape, only I by myself, to tell you. ([Job 1:16](#))
- While that one was yet speaking another one came and proceeded to say; The Chaldeans made up three bands and went dashing against the camels and taking them, and the attendants they struck down with the edge of the sword, and I got to escape, only I by myself, to tell you. ([Job 1:17](#))
- While this other one was yet speaking, still another one came and proceeded to say; Your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine in the house of their brother the firstborn. ([Job 1:18](#))
- And, look! There came a great wind from the region of the wilderness, and it went striking the four corners of the house, so that it fell upon the young people and they died. And I got to escape, only I by myself, to tell you. ([Job 1:19](#))
- And Job proceeded to get up and rip his sleeveless coat apart and cut the hair off his head and fall to the earth and bow down ([Job](#)

**1:20)**

- **And say; Naked I came out of my mother's belly, and naked shall I return there. Yehowah himself has given, and Yehowah himself has taken away. Let the name of Yehowah continue to be blessed. (Job 1:21)**
- **In all this Job did not sin or ascribe anything improper to God. (Job 1:22)**
- **So Satan went out away from the person of Yehowah and struck Job with a malignant boil from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. (Job 2:7)**
- **And he proceeded to take for himself a fragment of earthenware with which to scrape himself, and he was sitting in among the ashes. (Job 2:8)**
- **Finally his wife said to him; Are you yet holding fast your integrity? Curse God and die! (Job 2:9)**
- **But he said to her; As one of the senseless women speaks, you speak also. Shall we accept merely what is good from the true God and not accept also what is bad? In all this Job did not sin with his lips. (Job 2:10)**
- **And Yehowah himself turned back the captive condition of Job when he prayed in behalf of his companions, and Yehowah began to give in addition all that had been Job's, in double amount. (Job 42:10)**
- **And there kept coming to him all his brothers and all his sisters and all those formerly knowing him, and they began to eat bread with him in his house and to sympathize with him and to comfort him over all the calamity that Yehowah had let come upon him, and they proceeded each one to give him a piece of money and each one a gold ring. (Job 42:11)**
- **As for Yehowah, he blessed the end of Job afterward more than his beginning, so that he came to have fourteen thousand sheep and six thousand camels and a thousand spans of cattle and a thousand she-asses. (Job 42:12)**
- **He also came to have seven sons and three daughters. (Job**



**42:13)**

- And he went calling the name of the first Jemimah and the name of the second Keziah and the name of the third Keren-happuch. (**Job 42:14**)
- And no women were found as pretty as Job's daughters in all the land, and their father proceeded to give them an inheritance in among their brothers. (**Job 42:15**)
- And Job continued living after this a hundred and forty years and came to see his sons and his grandsons, four generations. (**Job 42:16**)
- And gradually Job died, old and satisfied with days. (**Job 42:17**)
- **The Law**
- If, now, you practice carrying out the kingly Law according to the scripture; You must love your neighbor as yourself. You are doing quite well. (**James 2:8**)
- For he who said; You must not commit adultery, said also; You must not murder. If, now, you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of Law. (**James 2:11**)
- You must not murder. (**Exodus 20:13**)
- You must not commit adultery. (**Exodus 20:14**)
- You must not take vengeance nor have a grudge against the sons of your people, and you must love your fellow as yourself. I am Yehowah. (**Leviticus 19:18**)
- You must not murder. (**Deuteronomy 5:17**)
- Neither must you commit adultery. (**Deuteronomy 5:18**)
- **Elijah**
- Elijah was a man with feelings like ours, and yet in prayer he prayed for it not to rain, and it did not rain upon the land for three years and six months. (**James 5:17**)

- And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the land put forth its fruit. (**James 5:18**)
- And Elijah the Tishbite from the inhabitants of Gilead proceeded to say to Ahab; As Yehowah the God of Israel before whom I do stand is living, there will occur during these years neither dew nor rain, except at the order of my word! (**1 Kings 17:1**)
- And it came about after many days that Yehowah's own word came to Elijah in the third year, saying; Go, show yourself to Ahab, as I am determined to give rain upon the surface of the ground. (**1 Kings 18:1**)
- There are many pointed examples of direct harmony with statements of Jesus Christ. To name a few, concerning persecution
- Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you meet with various trials. (**James 1:2**)
- Happy are those who have been persecuted for righteousness sake, since the kingdom of the heavens belongs to them. (**Matthew 5:10**)
- Happy are you when people reproach you and persecute you and lyingly say every sort of wicked thing against you for my sake. (**Matthew 5:11**)
- Rejoice and leap for joy, since your reward is great in the heavens, for in that way they persecuted the prophets prior to you. (**Matthew 5:12**)
- **Asking for and receiving things from God.**
- So, if any one of you is lacking in wisdom, let him keep on asking God, for he gives generously to all and without reproaching, and it will be given him. (**James 1:5**)
- Every good gift and every perfect present is from above, for it comes down from the Father of the celestial lights, and with him there is not a variation of the turning of the shadow. (**James 1:17**)
- Accordingly I say to you, keep on asking, and it will be given you. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and it will

be opened to you. ([Luke 11:9](#))

- For everyone asking receives, and everyone seeking finds, and to everyone knocking it will be opened. ([Luke 11:10](#))
- Indeed, which father is there among you who, if his son asks for a fish, will perhaps hand him a serpent instead of a fish? ([Luke 11:11](#))
- Or if he also asks for an egg, will hand him a scorpion? ([Luke 11:12](#))
- Therefore, if you, although being wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more so will the Father in heaven give Holy Spirit to those asking him! ([Luke 11:13](#))
- **Being both hearers and doers.**
- However, become doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves with false reasoning. ([James 1:22](#))
- Not everyone saying to me, Lord, Lord, will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but the one doing the will of my Father who is in the heavens will. ([Matthew 7:21](#))
- Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and expel demons in your name, and perform many powerful works in your name? ([Matthew 7:22](#))
- And yet then I will confess to them; I never knew you! Get away from me, you workers of lawlessness. ([Matthew 7:23](#))
- Therefore everyone that hears these sayings of mine and does them will be likened to a discreet man, who built his house upon the rock-mass. ([Matthew 7:24](#))
- And the rain poured down and the floods came and the winds blew and lashed against that house, but it did not cave in, for it had been founded upon the rock-mass. ([Matthew 7:25](#))
- Furthermore, everyone hearing these sayings of mine and not doing them will be likened to a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand. ([Matthew 7:26](#))

- And the rain poured down and the floods came and the winds blew and struck against that house and it caved in, and its collapse was great. ([Matthew 7:27](#))
- **Separateness from the world.**
- Adulteresses, do you not know that the friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever, therefore, wants to be a friend of the world is constituting himself an enemy of God. ([James 4:4](#))
- I have given your word to them, but the world has hated them, because they are no part of the world, just as I am no part of the world. ([John 17:14](#))
- **Not judging others.**
- One there is that is lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But you, who are you to be judging your neighbor? ([James 4:12](#))
- Moreover, stop judging, and you will by no means be judged. Stop condemning, and you will by no means be condemned. Keep on releasing, and you will be released. ([Luke 6:37](#))
- **Reliability of one's word**
- Above all things, though, my brothers, stop swearing, yes, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath. But let your Yes mean Yes, and your No, No, so that you do not fall under judgment. ([James 5:12](#))
- Again you heard that it was said to those of ancient times; You must not swear without performing, but you must pay your vows to Yehowah. ([Matthew 5:33](#))
- However, I say to you; Do not swear at all, neither by heaven, because it is God's throne. ([Matthew 5:34](#))
- Nor by earth, because it is the footstool of his feet, nor by Jerusalem, because it is the city of the great King. ([Matthew 5:35](#))
- Nor by your head must you swear, because you cannot turn one hair white or black. ([Matthew 5:36](#))

- Just let your word Yes mean Yes, your No, No. For what is in excess of these is from the wicked one. ([Matthew 5:37](#))
- Or does it seem to you that the scripture says to no purpose; It is with a tendency to envy that the spirit which has taken up residence within us keeps longing? ([James 4:5](#))
- Has presented a problem because there is uncertainty about the verse(s) **James** quoted, or perhaps only referred to. This text reads; Or does it seem to you that the scripture says to no purpose; It is with a tendency to envy that the spirit which has taken up residence within us keeps longing?
- It has been suggested that these words were drawn by **James** under divine inspiration from the general thought of such texts as;
- Consequently Yehowah saw that the badness of man was abundant in the earth and every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only bad all the time. ([Genesis 6:5](#))
- And Yehowah began to smell a restful odor, and so Yehowah said in his heart; Never again shall I call down evil upon the ground on man's account, because the inclination of the heart of man is bad from his youth up, and never again shall I deal every living thing a blow just as I have done. ([Genesis 8:21](#))
- The very soul of the wicked one has craved what is bad, his fellow will be shown no favor in his eyes.
- A king's heart is as streams of water in the hand of Yehowah. Everywhere that he delights to, he turns it. ([Proverbs 21:1](#))
- For the flesh is against the spirit in its desire, and the spirit against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, so that the very things that you would like to do you do not do. ([Galatians 5:17](#))

## .. Highlights Of James

- A letter emphasizing that faith has to be demonstrated by works.
- Written before **62 C.E.**, more than eight years prior to Jerusalem's destruction by the Romans.

- **Christians enduring faithfully under trial have reason to be happy.**
- **James**, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes that are scattered about. Greetings! (**James 1: 1**)
- **Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you meet with various trials. (James 1:2)**
- **But he who peers into the perfect Law that belongs to freedom and who persists in it, this man, because he has become, not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, will be happy in his doing it. (James 1:25)**
- **Knowing as you do that this tested quality of your faith works out endurance. (James 1:3)**
- **But let endurance have its work complete, that you may be complete and sound in all respects, not lacking in anything. (James 1:4)**
- **So, if any one of you is lacking in wisdom, let him keep on asking God, for he gives generously to all and without reproaching, and it will be given him. (James 1:5)**
- **But let him keep on asking in faith, not doubting at all, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven by the wind and blown about. (James 1:6)**
- **In fact, let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from Yehowah. (James 1:7)**
- **He is an indecisive man, unsteady in all his ways. (James 1:8)**
- **But let the lowly brother exult over his exaltation. (James 1:9)**
- **And the rich one over his humiliation, because like a flower of the vegetation he will pass away. (James 1:10)**
- **For the sun rises with its burning heat and withers the vegetation, and its flower drops off and the beauty of its outward appearance perishes. So, too, the rich man will fade away in his ways of life. (James 1:11)**

- **Happy is the man that keeps on enduring trial, because on becoming approved he will receive the crown of life, which Yehowah promised to those who continue loving him. (James 1:12)**
- **But each one is tried by being drawn out and enticed by his own desire. (James 1:14)**
- **Then the desire, when it has become fertile, gives birth to sin, in turn, sin, when it has been accomplished, brings forth death. (James 1:15)**
- **Do not be misled, my beloved brothers. (James 1:16)**
- **Every good gift and every perfect present is from above, for it comes down from the Father of the celestial lights, and with him there is not a variation of the turning of the shadow. (James 1:17)**
- **Because he willed it, he brought us forth by the word of truth, for us to be certain firstfruits of his creatures. (James 1:18)**
- **God will generously give us the wisdom needed to endure if we keep asking for it in faith.**
- **Never does God try us with evil things, but a person may be enticed into a wrong course by his own wrong desire.**
- **Everything that Yehowah provides is good.**
- **Worship that is acceptable to God requires right works to demonstrate ones faith.**
- **Because he willed it, he brought us forth by the word of truth, for us to be certain firstfruits of his creatures. (James 1:18)**
- **Indeed, as the body without spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead. (James 2:26)**
- **Put away all badness and accept God's word with mildness, be a doer of the word and not merely a hearer.**

- **Learn to control the tongue, look after orphans and widows, and keep without spot from the world.**
- **Favoring the rich while disregarding the poor is a violation of the kingly Law of love.**
- **A living faith is revealed by works, as is evident in the examples of Abraham and Rahab.**
- **Teachers have a great responsibility before Yehowah.**
- **Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, knowing that we shall receive heavier judgment. (James 3:1)**
- **For we all stumble many times. If anyone does not stumble in word, this one is a perfect man, able to bridle also his whole body. (James 3:2)**
- **If we put bridles in the mouths of horses for them to obey us, we manage also their whole body. (James 3:3)**
- **Look! Even boats, although they are so big and are driven by hard winds, are steered by a very small rudder to where the inclination of the man at the helm wishes. (James 3:4)**
- **So, too, the tongue is a little member and yet makes great brags. Look! How little a fire it takes to set so great a woodland on fire! (James 3:5)**
- **Well, the tongue is a fire. The tongue is constituted a world of unrighteousness among our members, for it spots up all the body and sets the wheel of natural life aflame and it is set aflame by Gehenna. (James 3:6)**
- **For every species of wild beast as well as bird and creeping thing and sea creature is to be tamed and has been tamed by humankind. (James 3:7)**
- **But the tongue, not one of mankind can get it tamed. An unruly injurious thing, it is full of death-dealing poison. (James 3:8)**
- **With it we bless Yehowah, even the Father, and yet with it we curse men who have come into existence, in the likeness of God. (James 3:9)**



- **Out of the same mouth come forth blessing and cursing. It is not proper, my brothers, for these things to go on occurring this way. (James 3:10)**
- **A fountain does not cause the sweet and the bitter to bubble out of the same opening, does it? (James 3:11)**
- **My brothers, a fig tree cannot produce olives or a vine figs, can it? Neither can salt water produce sweet water. (James 3:12)**
- **Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show out of his fine conduct his works with a mildness that belongs to wisdom. (James 3:13)**
- **But if you have bitter jealousy and contentiousness in your hearts, do not be bragging and lying against the truth. (James 3:14)**
- **This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is the earthly, animal, demonic. (James 3:15)**
- **For where jealousy and contentiousness are, there disorder and every vile thing are. (James 3:16)**
- **But the wisdom from above is first of all chaste, then peaceable, reasonable, ready to obey, full of mercy and good fruits, not making partial distinctions, not hypocritical. (James 3:17)**
- **Moreover, the fruit of righteousness has its seed sown under peaceful conditions for those who are making peace. (James 3:18)**
- **They, and all Christians, must learn to control the tongue.**
- **They can do this if they manifest wisdom from above.**
- **Worldly tendencies will affect our relationship with God.**
- **Moreover, the fruit of righteousness has its seed sown under peaceful conditions for those who are making peace. (James 3:18)**
- **Above all things, though, my brothers, stop swearing, yes, either**

by heaven or by earth or by any other oath. But let your Yes mean Yes, and your No, No, so that you do not fall under judgment. ([James 5:12](#))

- Those guilty of fighting to attain their selfish aims or those condemning their brothers need to repent.
- Friendship with the world is enmity with God.
- Materialistic planning that ignores Yehowah's will is arrogant.
- Divine judgment is in store for rich, defrauding oppressors.
- A spirit of impatience and sighing under adversity must be guarded against while we wait for Jesus Christ to judge.
- To recover from spiritual sickness resulting from sin, the suffering one should call on elders for help.
- Is there anyone suffering evil among you? Let him carry on prayer. Is there anyone in good spirits? Let him sing psalms. ([James 5:13](#))
- Is there anyone sick among you? Let him call the older men of the congregation to him, and let them pray over him, greasing him with oil in the name of Yehowah. ([James 5:14](#))
- And the prayer of faith will make the indisposed one well, and Yehowah will raise him up. Also, if he has committed sins, it will be forgiven him. ([James 5:15](#))
- Therefore openly confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may get healed. A righteous man's supplication, when it is at work, has much force. ([James 5:16](#))
- Elijah was a man with feelings like ours, and yet in prayer he prayed for it not to rain, and it did not rain upon the land for three years and six months. ([James 5:17](#))
- And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the land put forth its fruit. ([James 5:18](#))
- My brothers, if anyone among you is misled from the truth and another turns him back. ([James 5:19](#))

- **Know that he who turns a sinner back from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins. (James 5:20)**
- **An open confession of sin as well as prayers on behalf of the sinner by the elders will promote spiritual healing.**
- **To recover an erring brother is to save him from spiritual death.**