

Journeying Through James

June Bible Study Series

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Lesson 1: Book Overview

Meet the author: James the half brother of Jesus, and the brother of Jude. James had first rejected Jesus as the Messiah (John 7:5), but later believed (1 Corinthians 15:7). After later believing James became a key leader in the Jerusalem church (Acts 12:17; 15:13; 21:28; Galatians 2:12), being called one of the “pillars” of the church along with Peter and John (Galatians 2:9).

- The intended purpose of writing: To expose unethical beliefs and teach right Christian behavior.
- When was it written: Around 49 A.D.
- To whom was it written: 1st century Jews that was scattered abroad due to persecution. (James 1:1)
- Five major themes of the book: Living Faith, Trials, The Law of Love, Wise Speech, and Wealth.
- Three major topics James teaches: Genuine Religion, Genuine Wisdom, and Genuine Faith.

Book Outline:

Introduction 1:1: highlighted words: Bondservant,
Twelve Tribes.

- I. The Test of Perseverance in Suffering (1:2-12)
 - The Commission in Suffering
 - The Commonality in Suffering
 - The Consistency in Suffering
- II. The Test of Blame in Temptation (13-18)
 - Trials Vs. Temptation
 - Sin Vs. Sovereign
- III. The Test of Response to the Word (1:19-27)
 - Receiving, not Responding
 - Listen, Learn, and Live
- IV. The Test of Impartial Love (2:1-13)
 - LOVE ALL MEN!
- V. The Test of Righteous Works (2:14-26)
 - What saves a man?
- VI. The Test of the Tongue (3:1-12)
 - The Standard of a Teacher
 - The Strength of the Tongue

VII. The Test of Humble Wisdom (3:13-18)

- Stay Humble

VIII. The Test of Worldly Indulgence (4:1-12)

- The Pain of Pride
- The Prescription for Pride

IX. The Test of Dependence (4:13-17)

- Grandma's Theology

X. The Test of Patient Endurance (5:1-11)

- The wealth of the wicked
- The Harvest for the Laborer

XI. The Test of Truthfulness (5:12)

- Stand on your word

XII. The Test of Prayerfulness (5:13-18)

- Saturated Saints
- The Power of Prayer

XIII. The Test of True Faith (5:19-20)

- Lost and Found