

# **P.T. BIBLE SURVEY**

## **The Epistle of James**

# THE BOOK OF JAMES

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- ◉ Who wrote it?
  - This letter is titled according to its author, James, who was probably the half brother of Jesus.
  - Although the New Testament lists at least 5 men named “James”, tradition ascribes it to Jesus’ half brother partly because the language is similar to his speech in Acts 15.

# THE BOOK OF JAMES

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  - Around A.D. 46-49.

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## ◉ Surrounding Circumstances:

- James, the half brother of Jesus, rose to prominence as an effective leader in the church of Jerusalem (Acts 12:17, 15:13, 21:18).
- This epistle was intended for wide circulation among the scattered Jewish believers.

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## ◎ Location of Events:

- The location is most probably Jerusalem.

# JAMES

## Overview of the Acts of the Apostles





# OUTLINE OF JAMES

## I. The Test of Faith (1:1-18)

- The Purpose of Tests (1:1-12)
- The Source of Temptations (1:13-18)

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## II. The Characteristics of Faith (1:19-5:6)

- Faith Obeys the Word (1:19-27)
- Faith Removes Discrimination (2:1-13)
- Faith Proves Itself by Works (2:14-26)
- Faith Controls the Tongue (3:1-12)
- Faith Produces Wisdom (3:13-18)
- Faith Produces Humility (4:1-12)
- Faith Produces Dependence on God (4:13-5:6)

# OUTLINE OF JAMES

## I. The Triumph of Faith (5:7-20)

- Faith Endures Awaiting Christ's Return (5:7-12)
- Faith Prays for the Afflicted (5:13-18)
- Faith Confronts the Erring Brother (5:19-20)

# THE BOOK OF JAMES

## ◎ Summary in one sentence:

- True faith must be lived out in everyday life by good deeds, especially in the face of trials or persecution, and such good works demonstrate the presence of faith and justification before God.

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## ◎ Summary in 10 words or less:

- Real Christian faith is shown by one's good works.

# THE BOOK OF JAMES

## ◎ Cast of Characters:

- **James: a servant of God and Jesus Christ**
- **The man who doubts: likened unto a wave on the sea**
- **The man who perseveres under trial: will be given the crown of life**
- **The brother or sister in need: good words and warm wishes will not suffice**
- **The friends of the world: enemies of God**

# THE BOOK OF JAMES

## Verse to Remember

**“For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.”**

**(James 2:26)**

# THE BOOK OF JAMES

## ◉ Interesting Facts:

- There are about 15 indirect references to the Sermon on the Mount in the Book of James.
- James is considered to be the proverbs of the New Testament.
- In the Book of James: “Faith” occurs 12 times, “Works” occurs 13 times, and “Doer” occurs 5 times.
- This epistle may have been the first New Testament book written.



# THE BOOK OF JAMES

- What is my take away?
  - Each believer must walk out their faith daily with practical works of good without becoming weary in doing so. (Gal. 6:9)

# THE BOOK OF JAMES

## ◉ Home Study

- Read 1 Peter this week.
- Review your One-Sentence Summaries.
- Recite your memory verses.