

What about James?

PAUL WROTE 28% OF THE NEW TESTAMENT IF YOU INCLUDE HEBREWS (WHICH YOU SHOULD). LUKE IS NEXT WITH 27% AND JOHN WITH 20%. PAUL HAD SOME PROBLEMS WITH JAMES. WHICH JAMES IS PAUL TALKING ABOUT? IT IS NOT JAMES THE SON OF ZEBEDEE AND THE BROTHER OF JOHN SINCE HE WAS KILLED VERY EARLY AS RECORDED IN ACTS 12.

**<sup>1</sup> Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.**

**<sup>2</sup> And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. Acts 12:1-2**

SOMETIME AFTER HIS CONVERSION PAUL SOUGHT THE APPROVAL OF CEPHAS (PETER) ON THE GOSPEL THAT HE HAD RECEIVED BY DIRECT REVELATION FROM THE LORD. PAUL SAID THAT HE SAW NO ONE ELSE EXCEPT JAMES, THE LORD'S BROTHER. THIS IS THE JAMES OF THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL AND OF THE NEW TESTAMENT LETTER OF JAMES; WHO WAS ACTUALLY A HALF-BROTHER, A SON OF MARY AND JOSEPH, WHEREAS JESUS IS THE SON OF MARY AND OF GOD.

**<sup>17</sup> nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus.**

**<sup>18</sup> Then three years later I went up to Jerusalem to become acquainted with Cephas, and stayed with him fifteen days. <sup>19</sup> But I did not see any other of the apostles except James, the Lord's brother. Gal. 1:17-19 NASB**

AT THE FIRST CHURCH COUNSEL IN JERUSALEM AS RECORDED IN ACTS 15 JAMES PRESUMED TO TAKE THE LEADERSHIP AND SPEAK FOR THEM ALL REGARDING WHAT SHOULD BE REQUIRED OF GENTILE CHRISTIANS.

**<sup>13</sup> And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me:**

**<sup>14</sup> Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.**

**<sup>15</sup> And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written,**

**<sup>16</sup> After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:**

**<sup>17</sup> That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.**

**<sup>18</sup> Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.**

**<sup>19</sup> Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God:**

**<sup>20</sup> But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood. Acts 15:13-20**

JAMES, THE LORD'S BROTHER, CAME OUT AGAINST REQUIRING CIRCUMCISION FOR GENTILE MALE CONVERTS BUT INSISTED THAT THEY ADHERE TO FOUR CONDITIONS; **ABSTAIN FROM POLLUTIONS OF IDOLS, AND FROM FORNICATION, AND FROM THINGS STRANGLED, AND FROM BLOOD.**

WORSHIPING IDOLS HAS ALWAYS BEEN FORBIDDEN TO GOD'S PEOPLE, AS WAS SEXUAL INTERCOURSE WITH ANYONE THAT THE BELIEVER IS NOT MARRIED TO. THIS REFERENCE WAS PARTICULARLY TO PAGAN PROSTITUTES WHICH THE GREEKS USED IN THEIR TEMPLES OF IDOLS. SINCE THE "LIFE IS IN THE BLOOD" (LEV.17:11) THE DRINKING OF ANY BLOOD WAS FORBIDDEN IN THE OLD TESTAMENT AS WAS EATING STRANGLED MEAT SINCE THE BLOOD WOULD HAVE NOT BEEN DRAINED OUT.

**<sup>2</sup> Now the Jew's feast of tabernacles was at hand.**

**<sup>3</sup> His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest.**

**<sup>4</sup> For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world.**

**<sup>5</sup> For neither did his brethren believe in him. John 7: 2-10**

JESUS' NATURAL HALF-BROTHERS TAUNTED HIM ABOUT THE FEAST. THIS WOULD NECESSARILY INCLUDED JAMES.

Why did James have such authority at Jerusalem? One reason only, he was the (half) brother of Jesus. He was not one of the twelve. He evidently did not claim direct revelation as did Paul. For these reasons who should be very cautious. People will, according to their own values, choose the natural (half) brother of an important man and they will choose rules (the law) over relationship, especially a relationship with God, because they cannot control a relationship.

PAUL CONFRONTED PETER FOR REVERTING TO LEGALISM BECAUSE SOME MEN HAD COME FROM, YOU GUESSED IT, JAMES.

**<sup>11</sup> But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. <sup>12</sup> For prior to the coming of certain men from <sup>[b]</sup>James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision. <sup>13</sup> The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. <sup>14</sup> But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, "If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?**

**<sup>15</sup> "We are Jews by nature and not sinners from among the Gentiles; <sup>16</sup> nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified. Gal. 2:11-16 NASB**

IN HIS NEW TESTAMENT LETTER JAMES SAYS:

**<sup>14</sup>What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,” and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? <sup>17</sup>Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.**

**<sup>18</sup>But someone may well say, “You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” <sup>19</sup>You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. <sup>20</sup>But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? <sup>21</sup>Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? <sup>22</sup>You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; James 2:14-22 NASB**

TAKING JAMES' TEACHING TOO LITERALLY LEADS BACK TO LEGALISM AND PAUL MAKES IT VERY CLEAR. ON THIS EARTH CHRISTIANS ARE A WORK IN PROGRESS. WHAT IF SOMEONE IS REGENERATE (BORN AGAIN), BUT STILL HAS A WAY TO GO IN PRODUCING GOOD WORKS, LIKE FEEDING THE POOR ETC. THEY CAN GET DISCOURAGED BY JAMES. PAUL'S GOSPEL AS IN GAL. 2:11-16 ABOVE SHOULD TAKE PRECEDENCE. ROMANS 7 IS ALSO VERY IMPORTANT IN THIS REGARD.

**<sup>8</sup>But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.**

**<sup>9</sup>As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. Gal. 1:8-9 Paul**

“The Epistle of James was included among the twenty-seven New Testament books first listed by Athanasius of Alexandria in his Thirty-Ninth Festal Epistle (AD 367) and was confirmed as a canonical epistle of the New Testament by a series of councils in the fourth century. Wikipedia (300-399AD)