James #1

Introduction into the book of James

This will be an introduction into the book of James and I will be doing a re-cap of 2024 PRB Ministry costs or expenses at the end of the lesson.

I do this at the beginning of every year as a transparent gesture to give you all an idea how I handle the ministry and the basic costs I have as a full-time pastor.

I will also announce the 2025 PRB Ministry Bible Conference again as a reminder for all you folks.

Open up into the epistle of James chapter one RF.

We will read right through about 8 verses to get us introduced into the letter.

/Jam 1:1 **James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ**, To the **twelve tribes** who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.\

[Jas 1:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/2/s_1147002) Consider it all joy, my brothers *and sisters,* when you encounter various trials,

[Jas 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/3/s_1147003) knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

[Jas 1:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/4/s_1147004) And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

[Jas 1:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/5/s_1147005) But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

[Jas 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/6/s_1147006) But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

[Jas 1:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/7/s_1147007) For that person ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,

[Jas 1:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/8/s_1147008) *being* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

The Greek New Testament version of James identifies 38 references to statements in the gospel of Matthew. Both books seem to have been written about the same time, namely, in the late 40s A.D.

Although many agree James was the first and may have been even written much early, such as the early portion of 40’s A.D.

/This is the earliest of the letters/books written in the NT. This epistle along with the writings of Peter, John and Jude (the other half brother of Jesus) were called ‘*general or universal’* letters. Written for all Christianity even though some were written directed at Jewish Bels. A Greek term call *"katholou,"* became a popular way to describe these letters by the end of the 1st century. Later in the 2nd century what developed was the roots of the Roman Catholic Church.\

KATH-AH-LOU-A, is made up of two Greek words which basically mean – about the whole, or all together, all- embracing.

The easy definition is - *Everyone under the same umbrella*, is where the rubber meets the road.

Catholic means – all-embracing, or under all in one.

/The term was coined and capitalized on by Saint Ignatius of Antioch, a founding father of what would later become known as the RCC by the end of the 2nd century. The original use of the term simply means to be universal or general as far as access to those original letters. Yet now it became a captive term, used by a new religious movement. Basically, meaning everyone under the same roof, a universal religion – NOT A NARROW gate through faith alone in Christ alone.\

There were a few historians many years ago who argued about which James wrote this, but that truly has been put to rest – this is the brother of Jesus, James.

/Mat 13:55 “Is this not **the carpenter’s son**? Is His mother not called Mary, and His brothers, **James,** Joseph, Simon, and Judas (Jude)? (also, Jesus had sisters).

Jud 1:1 Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ and **brother of James**, To those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ:\

This is the same James who stood up for Barnabus and the Apostle Paul who were teaching that the Gentiles were welcomed into the RF by faith alone in Christ alone.

This was during the council meeting in Jerusalem, because James became a pastor-teacher for the original church in Jerusalem a few years earlier.

/Act 15:13 After they stopped speaking, speaking, **James responded**, saying, “Brothers, listen to me. 14 “Simeon (Peter) has described how God first concerned Himself about taking a people for His name **from among the Gentiles**.\

More than likely the Apostle Peter and Apostle John helped groom James and Jude for the office of pastor-teacher.

/This would have been written around 40-45 AD. The recipients of this letter were the Jewish Christians, Jews who had scattered from Palestine and had come to faith in Christ. Several Jewish references in the book support the claim that a Jew wrote it to other Jews. Yet it is considered a circular letter that should be used for ALL of the CA Bels. A universal letter for Christians with a strong emphasis on how to apply your faith – divine work, fruit of the Spirit in the application of life.\

Always remember something, Jesus’s brothers… especially James and Jude, only came to believe upon TLJC as their Lord and Savior after HIS resurrection.

Not during the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ.

/The letter itself is believed to be a written sermon or set of notes preparing for several sermons. It is loaded with commands (imperative mood) and dozens of references to the OT. Even though James does not consistently use the name of Christ, he references and uses terminology from the Sermon on the Mount, as much, or may be more so than some of the apostle’s writings.\

James teaches like a season rabbi, using very creative descriptions to paint visual pictures for the congregation.

/James would be killed by 62 A.D. according to Eusebius as well as the Jewish historian Josephus. The scribes and Pharisees threw James down from the pinnacle of the temple, which was at least 170 feet above the Kidron Valley. James lay there broken and half-dead, so then they stoned him, and then clubbed him to death. James had no history of teaching outside of Jerusalem; it is believed he remained a pastor-teacher there until they murder him.\

The main goal of the Epistle is to strengthen the faith and loyalty of the Jewish Christians in the face of persecution from rich and arrogant Jews who were defrauding and oppressing them. To help them avoid legalistic nonsense and falling backward into rituals without reality.

 REPEAT

Jump over to Matthew chapter five RF.

/Jam 1:1 - *A bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ*: Knowing that this James was the half-brother of Jesus makes his self-introduction all the more significant. He did not proclaim himself *“the brother of Jesus*” nor did his other brother, Jude a pastor as well ever do so. There conversion was so powerful that they immediately dove into discipleship at the highest level, eventually becoming teachers themselves.\

There was no sense attempting to rest on the laurels of being a half-brother of Jesus - because they now knew the doctrine of the Hypostatic Union, the angelic conflict and the Grace plan of God the Father.

Jude and James were given crash courses on the Mystery Doctrine of the Church Age. James would have been ordained first, probably after a ten-year period of studying under apostles like John or Peter.

/The misconception that James teaches against the grace that the Apostle Paul taught is just nonsense. All writers in the NT or OT fall under the authority of the mind of Christ. James was teaching principles of what the Christian-walk (lifestyle) looks like, which is not a works program, it is spiritual growth and the RESULT of that growth! \

Legalistic people like to use the book of James to force Bels into works and guilt.

While the apathetic Bels, scoff at the teaching of James and fully embrace grace teaching which they think is a license to sin.

Which again, points us to accurately handling the word and making sure you are under the right pastor-teacher.

Both the legalistic people and the apathetic Christian are living a life outside the Plan of God.

 REPEAT

Look at the words and teaching of TLJC;

/Mat 5:17 “Do not presume that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; **I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill**.

This is a core concept that all Christians have to fully understand to walk a true path toward maturity.\

The WHOLE OF THE BIBLE – is the mind of Christ.

The doctrine of dispensations is clear, once you thoroughly study your Bible it becomes obvious.

Therefore, understanding how and when to apply certain divine principles really matters.

[Mat 5:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/5/18/s_934018) “For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke of a letter shall pass from the Law, until all is accomplished!

There are incredible lessons and analogies found in the OT for CA Bels – yet many rituals and principles we are not called into today.

[Mat 5:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/5/19/s_934019) “Therefore, whoever nullifies one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others *to do* the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches *them,* he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

/All commands and laws are fulfilled IN CHRIST – the CA Bel is living in the time of a supernatural union with Christ, a filling power of the HS and the completed canon of scripture. The first two dispensations did not have that. We live in the *Fulfilled Time* of God’s grace plan. The LAW for OT Bels was a teaching tool which clarified the flesh will never have divine righteousness. It points to what all OT principles pointed out – WE NEED THE SAVING MINISTRY of Christ.\

TLJC is the center of universe - HE is the purpose and answer of the whole Bible.

**/**[Mat 5:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/5/20/s_934020) “For I say to you that **unless your righteousness far surpasses** *that* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Though several members of the legalistic Jews were very corrupt especially within the Sanhedrin. Many were strict religious people with high moral standards – yet none ever had the righteousness needed for salvation – it is IN CHRIST.\

This was our basic introduction into our study in the book of James.

Let me close with conference information as well as a re-cap of the ministry budget issues from 2024.

/2025 PRB Ministry Bible Conference

 @ VFW Post #8315

1000 John E. Peterson Blvd (FM 78)

 Schertz, TX 78154

Dates: 7th-9th, November 2025 \

All information will be on the website - prbministry.org and all hotel info will also be posted by the end of May.

/PRB MINISTRY LISTED expenses;

TRAVEL EXPENSES

(conferences and consultations, wedding or funerals)

Parking and or tolls……………………..$398.60.00

Plane tickets………………………………..$1,875.00

Food or dining out……………………….$887.00

DONATIONS TO MINISTRIES or COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE; Child Fund; Grace Bible Church; Judicial Watch; Blue letter Bible: VFW; Paralyzed vets of Am.; US Deputy/Sheriff Assoc.; Wounded Warrior; Tunnel to Towers; Food Bank; Operation Bible drop;

 TOTAL……………………………………$2, 305.00\

I try to exclude my food budget and some other basic needs and keep it focused just on ministry needs.

But the fact is this is my full-time job, my wife works full time and gets benefits at her job so that does help, but the bulk of the bills does fall on me.

/ DAY TO DAY MINISTRY OPERATIONS

Dry cleaning/new cloths……………..….$721.10

PO Box, shipping/mailing…………..$ 1,486.88

Offices supplies/computer……….$ 4,640.45

Legal & state fees (documents)…..$865.20

Medical exp. & medication/vitamin…$2,526.65

Liberty Health Share INS…………….…$2,425.00

Property taxes…………………………….$3,536.67

Tax consultant………….……………………$486.00\

This is all daily or weekly needs averaged out for a yearly budget for you folks to see;

/Cell phone………………………………….$2,548.14

Cable/internet……………………………..$2,847.13

Car (ministry) pay/maintain………..$5,945.52

Home/auto Ins……………………………..$5,061.24

Water Bill………………………………………..$180.00

Electric bill………………………………….$1,890.27

Avg. gas for my car yrly…………………..$905.00\