

>>>>>> James – Introductory Fact Sheet <<<<<<<

Author: James the brother of our Lord

Date of Writing: Around AD 47-49.

Target Audience Christians of the dispersion which took place after Stephen’s martyrdom.

Purpose and Message Much like proverbs.

- Among the last 8 books added to the cannon because:
 - i. its brevity
 - ii. the fact that it was addressed specifically to Jewish Christians
 - iii. its lack of doctrinal content
 - iv. not written by one of the twelve apostles or Paul.
- John MacArthur calls it a “commentary on the Sermon on the Mount”
- He provides the following table connecting the two:

James	Sermon on the Mount	James	Sermon on the Mount
1. 1:2	5:10-12	12. 3:6	5:22
2. 1:4	5:48	13. 3:10-12	7:15-20
3. 1:5	7:7-12	14. 3:17-18	5:9
4. 1:9	5:3	15. 4:4	6:24
5. 1:12	7:14	16. 4:10	5:3-5
6. 1:20	5:22	17. 4:11-12	7:1-5
7. 1:22	7:21-27	18. 5:2-3	6:19-20
8. 2:5	5:3	19. 5:10	5:12
9. 2:13	5:7	20. 5:11	5:10
10. 2:13	6:14-15	21. 5:12	5:33-37
11. 2:14-16	7:21-23 ¹		

Various Outline Notes on James

There are three major sections of the letter:

- Section 1 – Genuine religion (1)
- Section 2 – Genuine faith (2:1-3:12)
- Section 3 – Genuine wisdom (3:13-5:20)

Specifically, James has much to say on:

- I. The Test of Perseverance in Suffering (1:2-12)
- II. The Test of Blame in Temptation (1:13-18)
- III. The Test of Response to the Word (1:19-27)
- IV. The Test of Impartial Love (2:1-13)
- V. The Test of Righteous Works (2:14-26)
- VI. The Test of the Tongue (3:1-12)

¹ The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, Copyright © Moody Press and John MacArthur, Jr., 1983-2005

VII.	The Test of Humble Wisdom	(3:13-18)
VIII.	The Test of Worldly Indulgence	(4:1-12)
IX.	The Prayer and Test of Dependence	(4:13-17)
X.	The Test of Patient Endurance	(5:1-11)
XI.	The Test of Truthfulness	(5:12)
XII.	The Test of Prayerfulness	(5:13-18)
XIII.	The Test of True Faith	(5:19-20)

Outline of James

The Book of James can be outlined as follows:

I. Introduction	(1:1)
II. Trials and Temptations	(1:2-18)
A. Purpose of Trials	(1:2-12)
B. Source of Temptations	(1:13-15)
C. God's Goodness	(1:16-18)
III. Hearing and Doing the Word	(1:19-27)
IV. Faith in Action	(2:1-26)
A. Warning Against Favoritism	(2:1-13)
B. Faith and Works	(2:14-26)
V. Taming the Tongue	(3:1-12)
VI. Two Kinds of Wisdom	(3:13-18)
VII. Worldliness and Humility	(4:1-17)
A. Causes of Conflict	(4:1-3)
B. Call to Repentance	(4:4-10)
C. Warning Against Judging	(4:11-12)
D. Boasting About Tomorrow	(4:13-17)
VIII. Warning to Rich Oppressors	(5:1-6)
IX. Patience and Prayer	(5:7-20)
A. Patience in Suffering	(5:7-12)
B. The Prayer of Faith	(5:13-18)
C. Restoring the Wanderer	(5:19-20)