

# THE BOOK OF JAMES

## Introduction

# JAMES

James is a book— a series of pictures of *what faith* looks like in the confronting of trial, in regard to speech and obedience to God's laws.

**OUTLOOK affects everything !**



With God all  
things are possible  
Matthew 19:26



# JAMES

## How To Study James

1. **Keep** a **notebook**: Write out your study notes.
2. **Read** it through, **5 Chapters in 1 sitting** & make notes.
3. **Read** the **chapter** you are studying, several days ea wk.  
It takes 3 min. Try modern translations too.
4. **Record questions** each verse raises in your mind.
5. **Look up** and define **unfamiliar words** in the text.
6. **Note & link key words/ repeating words** in this chap.
7. **Ask** yourself— “How does this **apply** to me?”
8. **Highlight passages** you think are **important** in Book.



# JAMES

## *A. Which James?*

**Not brother of John**; son of Zebedee, a fisherman (Mat 4:21). A son of Thunder (Mk 3:17). **Killed early** by Herod (Acts 12:1-2). "Agrippa I" ISBE AD 44.



**Obscure 'Father' (NAS) of Judas** (Lk 6:16 Not Iscariot) Greek is an ellipsis—says simply "Judas... of James."

**Obscure son of Alphaeus**. An apostle (Mat 10:3). But Alphaeus not dad of brother of Jesus (Gal 1:19)

**Probably Half brother of Jesus** (Mt 13:55) **Prominent**



# JAMES

## *B. Prominence of James*

1. Obviously author's name is *James* (James 1:1)
2. James was (½) *brother* to the Lord (Gal 1:19)
3. Paul called him a *pillar* in the church (Gal 2:9)
4. Lord *appeared to him* & apostles (1 Cor 15:7)
5. Peter wants James told of his *release* (Acts 12:17)
6. James was a leader in Jeru *council* (Acts 15:13-21)
7. Paul reports journey to *James, elders* (Acts 21:19)
8. James said to have been a *bishop* in Jerusalem.

(Apostolic Constitutions ca AD 390. Bercot p367)

# TRUE TO ISRAEL

***C. The Recipients ? James 1:1***

To The 12 Tribes Scattered Abroad Greetings

***Possibly:***

***All True***

***Christians;***

***Spiritual Israel.***

***Gal 3:7; 6:15-16***

***Heb 11:13***

***USB,***

***Vincent***

***If written  
early...***

***the only  
Christians***

***are Jewish***

***Jas 2:1.***

***Probably:***

***Jewish Christians***

***scattered among***

***the Gentiles.***

***1 Pet 1:1***

***John 7:35***

***Barnes, BKC,***

***Pulpit, ISBE.***



# JAMES

## D. *References for a Jewish Audience*

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Jas 1:1 *The twelve tribes*. (dispersed east by *Assyria & Babylon*, & West by *Alexander*.)

Jas 5:4 The *Lord of Sabaoth*. (*Hosts* Isa 1:9)  
*Military name* for God in the OT.

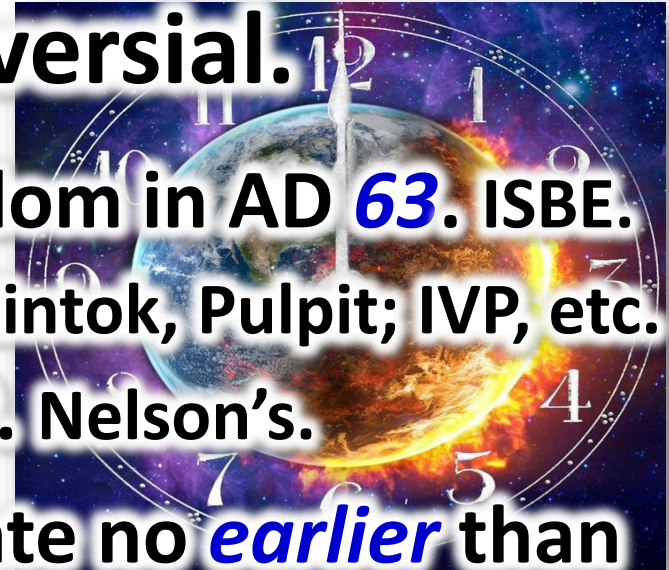
Jas 2:21 “Children of *Abraham Our Father*”

Several arguments made from *Jewish History*:  
*Rahab* (2:25), *Job* (5:11); *Elijah* (5:17-18).

# JAMES

## E. **Date of Writing:** Controversial.

Had to be before James' martyrdom in AD **63**. ISBE.  
Some say written ca AD **62**. McClintok, Pulpit; IVP, etc.  
Others say written around AD **60**. Nelson's.



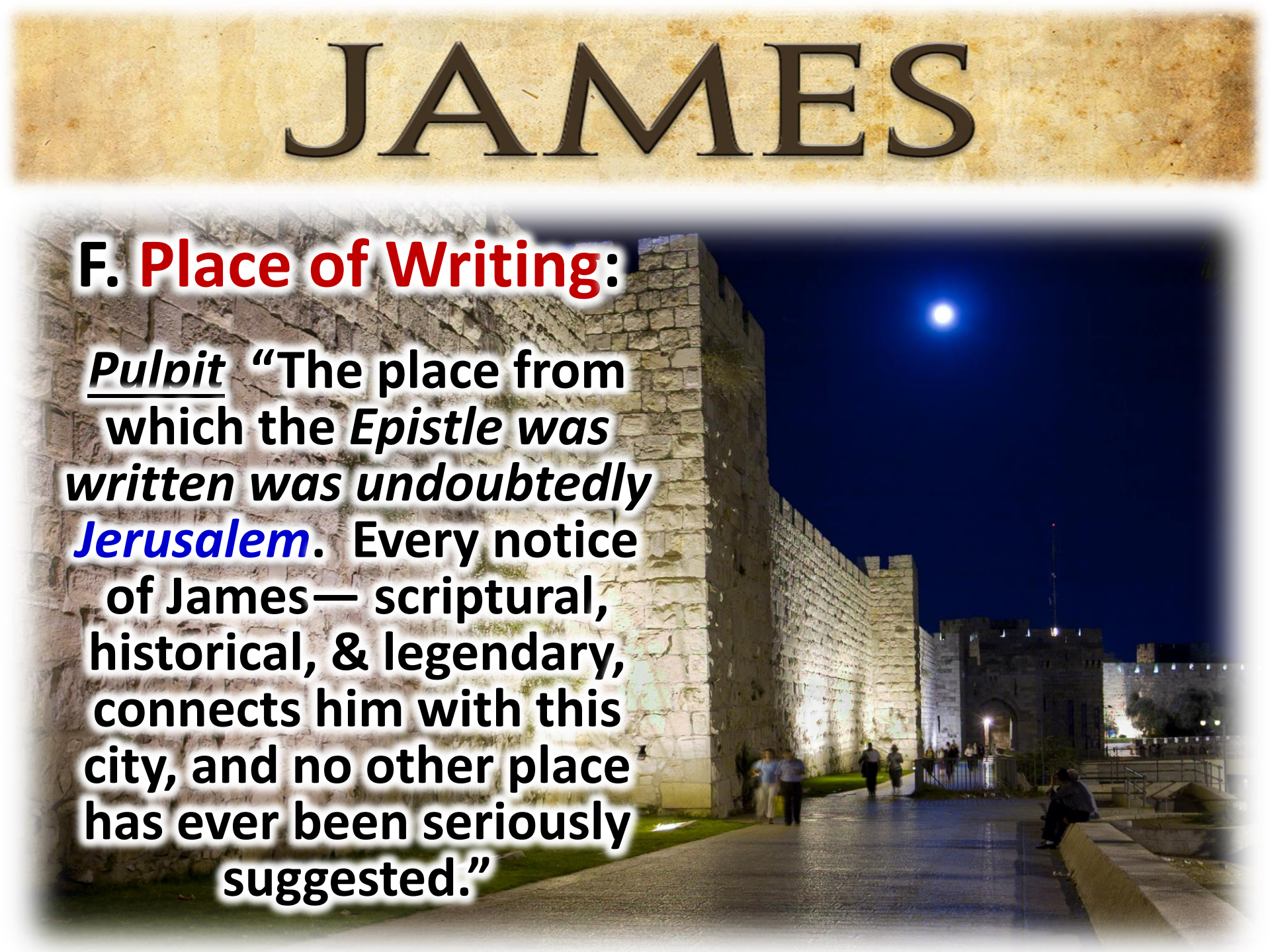
Most likely date **AD 45-49**. A date no **earlier** than AD 44 [*martyrdom of James the apostle*]. Not later than AD 50 the Jerusalem Council, **as there is no mention of it, nor of Gentile Christians**. And their assembly is called a synagogue (2:2). *cf Bible.Org*  
If above date is correct then epistle of James is the earliest letter in the New Testament.



# JAMES

## F. Place of Writing:

Pulpit “The place from which the *Epistle* was written was undoubtedly *Jerusalem*. Every notice of James— scriptural, historical, & legendary, connects him with this city, and no other place has ever been seriously suggested.”





# JAMES

## G. His many references to Nature

*"surf of the sea" 1:6*

*"tossed by wind" 1:6*

*"flowering grass" 1:10*

*"scorching wind" 1:11*

*"flower falls" 1:11*

*"heavenly lights" 1:17*

*"shifting shadows" 1:17*

*"first fruits" 1:18*

*"bits in mouths of horses" 3:3*

*"ship driven by winds" 3:5*

*"forest fire by spark" 3:5*

*"beasts, birds, fish" 3:7*

*"deadly poison" 3:8*

*"fresh & salt water" 3:11*

*"fig tree bear olives?" 3:12*

*"you are a vapor" 4:14*

*"moth-eaten clothes" 5:1*

*"workmen mow fields" 5:4*

*"fattened for slaughter" 5:5*

*"early & late rains" 5:7*



# JAMES

H. **Style of Writing:** Authoritative !

62 Imperative moods in 108 verses!

1:2 **Count** it all joy..

1:4 **Let** patience have its perfect work.

1:5 **Let** him ask of God.

I. **Genre of Writing:** *Wisdom Literature*

J. **Key words:**

*Work/deeds\** (ergon) 14 times

*Faith/believe\** (pistos) 16 times

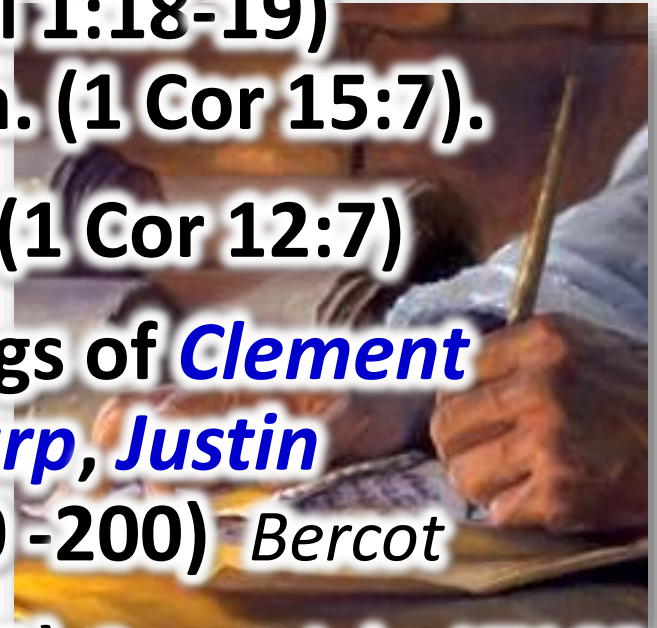
*Judge/judges/judged\** (krino) 14 times

*Lord* 14X, *Law* 11X, *Pray* 8X, *Perfect* 5X

# JAMES

## K. **Canonicity**: It's Authentic !

1. James was *a true believer* (Gal 1:18-19) and the Lord appeared to him. (1 Cor 15:7).
2. Each one had a *spiritual gift*. (1 Cor 12:7)
3. It was alluded to in the writings of *Clement* of Rome; by *Ignatius, Polycarp, Justin Martyr*, and *Irenaeus*. (AD 90 -200) *Bercot*
4. Quoted by *Origen* (AD 185-245) *Comm John XIX:23*
5. Accepted by the *Councils* of AD 393; 397, and 419.
6. (2 Tim 3:16 -17) All scripture is *inspired by God*..







# JAMES

## L. THE THEOLOGY OF JAMES:

1. Jesus is *Lord* (1:1)
2. God cannot be *tempted* (1:13)
3. He is *source* of every good (1:17)
4. He is *righteous* (1:20)
5. God is *not partial* to rich (2:5)
6. God is *one* (2:19)
7. God *made men* in His image (3:9b)
8. God *fights* for the oppressed (5:4)
9. He is *merciful* & *compassionate* (5:11)
10. The Lord *heals* (5:15)



# JAMES

L. **PURPOSE** of this powerful letter is to exhort the *early believers to Christian maturity and holiness of life. Faith in Action*. Everything revolves around Him.

James told his readers how to achieve *spiritual maturity through a confident stand, careful speech, compassionate service, contrite submission, and concerned sharing*. He deals with every area of a Christian's life: what we *are*, what we *do*, what we *say*, what we *feel*, and what we *have*. *It's living what you believe.*



# JAMES

## M. Martyrdom of James

According to *Josephus* & *Hegesippus* a Christian historian, recorded by Eusebius:

About AD 63 *James* was arrested and ordered by *Sanhedrin* to **deny** Jesus as Messiah!

Taken to a Temple gallery He cried out  
***"Jesus is Lord, the Son of God.. Judge of World."***

Enraged authorities *hurled* him to the ground and ordered him *stoned*. He prayed while dying

***"Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."*** His sufferings were ended with a club. *Rev 2:10*

