

AN INTRODUCTION TO JAMES

Cliftondale Gospel Hall, 4 Feb. 1979
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I. SETTING of the book, 1:1-2

- Jews
- scattered compare Acts 8:1; 11:19.
- by persecution

Later, the church was more mixed. Compare I Peter 1:1.

II. AUTHOR, (Eng) James = (Heb, Gk) Jacob. Common!

- A. The son of Alphaeus (Mt. 10:3; Acts 1:13) and
- B. father/brother of Judas (Acts 1:13) probably not prominent enough to identify themselves so sparsely.
- C. Son of Zebedee, brother of John, died Acts 12:2? Possible.
- D. Oldest tradition favors half-brother of our Lord:
 - 1. Relationship, Gal. 1:19; Mt. 13:55; Jn. 7:5
 - 2. Became apostle, I Cor. 15:7
 - 3. Leader in Jerusalem church. Gal. 1:19 = Acts 9:27; Acts 12:17; 15.

III. STRUCTURE (Yes!)

Theme: Bear persecution Why? How?
patiently.

1:2-18	1:19-5:6	(yourself)
5:7-12	5:13-20	(to help others)

A. WHY bear persecution? 1:2-18 (*Note temptation/patience (endurance) in 1:2-4, 12-14*)

1. This will bring wisdom, 1:2-11

- a. Wisdom promised, 1:2-8
- b. Wisdom illustrated, 1:9-11

2. This is the only response consistent with the nature of God, 1:13-18

- a. He does not purpose that we give in to trial, and sin, 1:13-16
- b. His faithfulness to bless assures us that he will reward our steadfastness, 1:17-18.

B. HOW should we bear persecution ourselves? 1:19-5:6 (*1:19-20 seems to outline this section.*)

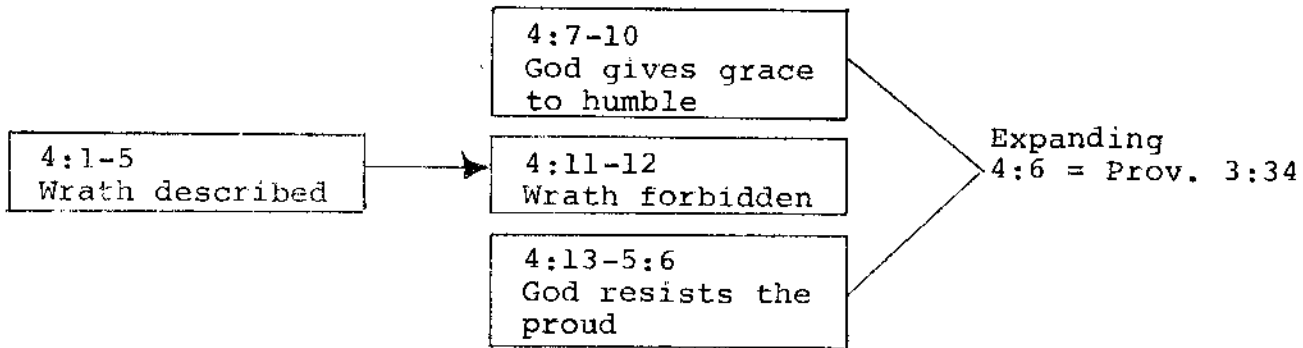
1. Be swift to hear, 1:21-2:26. (*The Greek words for "obey" and "disobey" are first cousins of the word for "hear."*)

- a. 1:21-25 The nature of true hearing--involves doing.
- b. 1:26-2:13 The test of true hearing--attitude re. poorer brethren (cf. Gal. 2:10)
- c. 2:14-26 The need for true hearing--proves faith.

2. Be slow to speak, 3:1-18

- a. The danger of tongue teaching, 3:1-12
- b. The need for life teaching, 3:13-18

3. Be slow to wrath, 4:1-5:6.



(Translate 5:6b, "Doth he not resist you?" Expected answer: Yes, he does--in accordance with 4:6.)

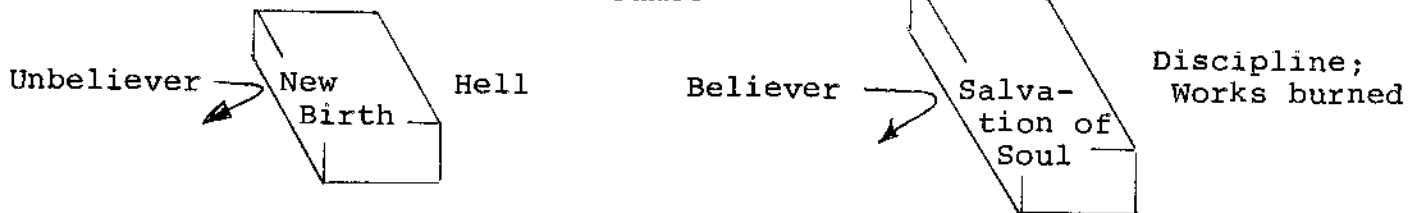
C. WHY bear persecution (again)? 5:7-12 (Note address to "brethren," four times.)

- 1. The Lord's return to deliver, 5:7-8
- 2. The Lord's return to judge, 5:9
- 3. The example of OT believers, 5:10
- 4. The danger of rashness, 5:11

D. HOW to help others bear persecution, 5:13-20

- 1. A specific case study, 5:13-18
- 2. The general principle, 5:19-20

IV. Two kinds of salvation in James



Rom. 5:10 we WERE reconciled

we SHALL BE saved

Jas. 1:18,21 he begat us (PAST)

able to save your souls (FUTURE)

NB: James' main theme is

salvation of BELIEVER	from CHASTISEMENT	by WORKS,
NOT salvation of UNBELIEVER	from HELL	by FAITH.

James: Bear Persecution Patiently

Why?

How?

For Yourself

1:2-18
2-12, It will bring wisdom
13-18, It is consistent with God's nature

1:19-5:6, How to Bear Persecution Yourself		
1:19	1:20-21	1:22-6:6
Swift to hear	And receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.	1:22-2:26
Slow to speak	Wherefore lay aside all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness	3:1-18
Slow to wrath	For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God	4:1-5:6

For Others

5:7-12
Note address to "brethren" 4x
5:7, Lord's return to deliver
5:9, Lord's return to judge
5:10, OT examples
5:12, Danger of Rashness

5:13-20, How to help Others Bear Persecution
13-18, A Case Study
19-20, The General Principle

	Past; from <i>penalty</i> of sin	Present; from <i>power</i> of sin
Rom 5:10	We <i>were</i> reconciled	We <i>shall be</i> saved
Jas 1:18,21	He <i>begat</i> us	<i>Able to</i> save your souls