

The Life and Times of James, Brother of Jesus

October 15th, 2020

Scripture: James 1:1

Introduction: the importance of authorship

Who was James?

James 1:1:

“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes in the Dispersion, greetings.”

Basic facts about James:

- a. The half-brother of Jesus
- b. Skeptic
- c. Early Church leader

Matthew 13:55:

“Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?”

Galatians 1:19:

“But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.”

Evidence that James, brother of Jesus, wrote the book of James

1 Corinthians 15:3-7:

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, [4] that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, [5] and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. [6] Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. [7] Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.”

Note:

The Book of James was the earliest New Testament book, written around 45 A.D.



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James's Audience

“To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion”

James's Story: from Skeptic to Saint

John 7:3-5:

“So his brothers said to him, “Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. [4] For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world.” [5] For not even his brothers believed in him.”

1 Peter 3:15:

“but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,”

The power of the gospel, of the resurrected Jesus:

The story of James also shows us what an encounter with the risen Jesus can do to a person.

Romans 1:16:

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.”

Ephesians 1:16-23:

I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.



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