

The Book of James – The Only NT Book

Timeline:

Crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, Pentecost **AD 33**

Persecution initiated by Stephan/Saul Acts 6:9-12, 8:1-2 AD 34

James the brother of John beheaded by Agrippa in AD 44

Book of James written AD 45 (45-48) ~ by Brother of Jesus, pastor at Jerusalem(?)
(Probably any time after AD 34, and well before the Jerusalem Council)

Jerusalem Council AD 48-49 Paul started his first missionary journey in **AD 49**

Galatians AD 49, 1&2 Thessalonians 51 Gospel of Mark 55-58, Matthew 58-68

The Church:

Mostly Jewish, with proselytes and “God-fearers” Peter has already initiated Gentiles with Cornelius’ household, and Peter and John have already broken with the Jewish Temple, but they’re all evangelized Jews for the most part.

James 1:1 To the Jews, but not exclusively. The church was practically all Jewish at this time, and meeting in synagogues. By content, clearly pertains to all believers, with no content of national/racial relevance, and also, not to unbelieving Jews (2:1).

The Book: Theologically simple, to the point, practical

1. Endure suffering (not why) 2. Christian walk

James 1:2-18 Enduring suffering for God’s work in us

James 1:2-4 Trials develop Christian maturity

1. Appreciate the benefit of Christian maturity, James 1:2-4
2. Maturity which comes with the world, and conform us to Christ
Romans 8:18-23, 28-29

James 1:5-8 Wisdom is available, with a caveat (Ecclesiastes 1:18, Galatians 6:2)
Can we handle the truth? Proverbs 9:10

James 1:9, 10-11 Rich or poor, honor and humility – the irrelevance before God

James 1:12 Reward of enduring trials, I Peter 1:6-7 – endurance shows love, better than gold

James 1:13-15 We can’t blame God for our sins and consequences

Chastisement of the Lord: Hebrews 12:6, 9-11 also for maturity

Is temptation exclusively from ourselves? Genesis 3:1-6:13, I Peter 5:8-10

James 16-17 Good things are from God, i.e. if it contradicts Bible – it’s NOT good!

James 1:18 We are His workmanship, (Ephesians 2:10) and we belong to Him
(1 Corinthians 6:19)