

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF JAMES

I. INTRODUCTION (v. 1)

A. The PERSON of James (1:1a)

1. James (or Jacob) was the _____ of Jesus Christ.
2. It seems that he did not get saved until _____ the _____ of Christ. (John 7:5; Acts 1:14; 1 Cor. 15:7)
3. James was a prominent _____, and the _____ of the church in Jerusalem. (Acts 15; Gal. 2:9)

B. The POSTURE of James (1:1b)

1. He _____ identified himself as a _____ (Gr. *doulos*), and his “Masters” were “*God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*”
2. The modest absence of James’ “credentials” was probably also because he was so _____ in the ever-expanding Universal Church. (Acts 12:17; 21:18-19)

C. The PEOPLE of James (1:1c)

1. “*The twelve tribes*” was a synonym for the Jewish race; the recipients of this letter were _____ “*scattered*” (*diaspora*) throughout the Roman Empire. (2:21; 5:4; 1 Pet. 1:1)
2. They may have been believers who originally lived in Jerusalem, but after the first _____ of _____ they “*scattered aboard*” outside of Palestine. (Acts 8:1, 4; 11:19-20)

D. The PREACHING STYLE of James

1. There are over 50 imperatives in this letter (about one for every two verses); James did _____ suggest—he _____.
2. He utilized numerous _____ of _____, analogies and many Old Testament _____ to illustrate truth, much like the Lord Jesus.

E. The PURPOSE of James

1. This epistle deals more with the practice of the Christian faith than with its precepts; James exhorts Christians to holiness and on to _____.
2. One of the major dysfunctions in the church was Christians failing to live out what they believed doctrinally, James preached _____.

F. The PANORAMIC OVERVIEW of James

1. **Chapter 1**— James revealed that God's goal for believers in allowing us to experience various trials is to _____ accept them as we move on to personal _____.
2. **Chapter 2**— He explained how believers need to _____, and how they are not merely to _____ about truth, but actually _____ it.
3. **Chapter 3**— James teaches that God's goal is for believers to _____ their _____, and bless the Lord with it, as well as the problem with human wisdom.
4. **Chapter 4**— By humble _____ to the Lord, believers can overcome the interpersonal _____ in relationships.
5. **Chapter 5**—James exhorts his readers regarding the proper use of _____, and how to respond when you have been _____, and when you are seriously _____.

* Are you excited about the Spirit-inspired Epistle of James?