

INTRODUCTION TO THE LETTER OF JAMES

1. *"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?"* Matthew 13:55
2. *"And Jesus said to the, 'A PROPHET is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own house-hold.'" Mark 6:4*
3. Without the Holy Spirit breathing life into a person's soul, no preaching, witnessing or miracles will CONVINCE that person of the reality of who Jesus Christ is.
4. The Council of Jerusalem recorded in chapter 15 of Acts took place in 50 AD, which was AFTER James wrote his letter. Luke wrote the Acts of the Apostles around 62 AD.
5. James was convicted of heresy and stoned by the council convened by Ananias in 62 AD. James' death preceded the writings of most of the books found in the New Testament.
6. The focus of James letter was not on how to BECOME a Christian but rather on how to live and advance in holiness. This involved the ethical implications of faithfulness in living out the gospel.
7. *"James, a SERVANT of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings."* James 1:1
8. *"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but EMPTIED himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men."* Philippians 2:5-7
9. *"Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be SLAVE of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."* Mark 10:43-45
10. *"If any of you lacks WISDOM, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."* James 1:5

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