

Lion and Lamb Apologetics'

JAMES

AN OVERVIEW

Purpose

To expose hypocritical practices and to teach proper Christian behavior.

Author

James, the brother of Jesus

Date

Probably written AD 49, prior to the Jerusalem council held in AD 50.

Audience

To first century Jewish Christians and all Christians everywhere.

Setting

The epistle of James was likely written to predominantly Jewish Christian house churches outside of Palestine, based on its mention of the “twelve tribes in the Dispersion.” This would mean it was sent throughout most of the ancient Mediterranean world.

Special Features

There are over 50 imperatives in the book’s 108 verses—a clear signal that the writer has a practical bent and is interested in action rather than just mere belief as the distinguishing characteristic of Christians. The author seeks to move his readers to action.



Key Verses

“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.” (1:12 NIV84)

“But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.” (3:17-18 ESV)

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.” (4:7-8a ESV)

Key People

James, Jewish Christians

Key Places

Jerusalem, the Diaspora