

STUDIES IN JAMES

Lesson 1

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THE EPISTLE OF JAMES INTRODUCTION

I. The writer

A. James 1:1

Five New Testament men named James (Jacob)

- 1. James, the son of Zebedee (Matt. 10:2; Acts 1:13; 12:2)**
- 2. James, the son of Alphaeus (Matt. 10:3; Acts 1:13)**
- 3. James, the younger (the little, mikros); Mark 15:40**
- 4. James, the father of Judas (not Iscariot) Luke 6:16; Acts 1**
- 5. James, the brother of the Lord (Matt. 13:55; Mark 6:3; Acts 12:17; 15:13; 21:18; 1 Cor. 15:7; Gal. 1:19; 2:9, 12).
Most scholars agree this James is also the brother of Jude, another brother of the Lord Jesus (Jude 1).**

Three of these are considered too unknown to be the author of the book of James.

This leaves two choices---James, the son of Zebedee, and James, the brother of the Lord. The first James was put to death by Herod Agrippa I in 44 AD (Acts 12:2).

Most agree James, the brother of Jesus, wrote this epistle.

- (1) He was the leader of the church at Jerusalem.**
- (2) Similarities between the words of James in Acts 15 and the epistle---"greeting" (Acts 15:23; James 1:1); (Nowhere else in the New Testament); "visit" (Acts 15:14; James 1:27); "listen" (Acts 15:13; James 2:5); and being called by God's name (Acts 15:17; James 2:7).**

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B. His conversion

II. The purpose of the epistle

III. Two themes in the book

IV. The date

EXPOSITION

I. Response to testings and temptations 1:1--18

A. Testings 1:1--11

1. The purposes of testing 1:1-4

a. The salutation 1:1

Conclusion and application

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