

A Tour Through the Divine Library
(James)

I. General Introduction to James

-Title and Recipients: “Jakobos” (1:1a); written to Hebrew Christians who lived outside Palestine (1:1b; Acts 8:1; 11:19; 12:2; see also 2:2, 8-12, 19, 21; 4:11, 12)

-Author and Date: James (the Just), the brother of the Lord (Matt. 10:2, 3; Mark 6:3; Luke 6:16; John 15:7; Acts 1, 15, 21; 1 Cor. 15:7; Gal. 2:19; 2:9); written AD 45-50

-Theme and Purpose: “Faith in Action”; James writes about the nature of true faith so that his readers’ conduct would match their profession

-Structure:

- I. Endurance of Trials (1:2-18)
- II. Word of God (1:19-27)
- III. Character of Faith (2:1-26)
- IV. The Tongue (3:1-18)
- V. Sins to Avoid (4:1-5:6)
- VI. Virtues to Develop (5:7-20)

II. General Overview of James

-see outline above

III. Prominent Themes in James

-Character of God: immutable (1:17); keeps His promises (1:12; 2:5); unified (2:19); accessible (4:8); Nature of Saving Faith (2:14-26); Justification by Works (2:14-26); Tongue (3:1-18)

IV. Christ in James

-Explicit mention (1:12, 2:1); coming of the Lord (5:7, 8)

-Teaching of Christ (1:22 with Matt. 7:24; 2:8 with Matt. 7:12; 3:12 with Matt. 7:16; 4:9 with Matt. 5:4; 5:12 with Matt. 5:34, 37)

V. Practical Lessons in James

→ Faith is more than mere mental assent (Ps. 7:8; 18:20-24; 26:1; Rom. 15:14; 1 Cor. 4:4).