

JAMES 1:1

{Sunday, September 8, 2019 A.D.}

- **General Epistle** {one of eight}
 - First Order
 - Not written to a specific church
 - Not written to a specific person
 - Second Order
 - **All of the NT** is written by God to **All** of the **NT Church**, which lived at the time or thereafter
 - **All of the OT** is written by God to **All** of the **OT & NT Church**, which lived at the time or thereafter
 - Our expectation **ought to be** to **hear God speak to us** through the preaching of His Word
- **Author** is God through James the oldest half-brother of the Lord Jesus Christ
 - Like the Apostle Paul, James initially rejected Jesus
 - Leader of the church in Jerusalem/Council that dealt with and settled the controversy at Galatia
 - Martyred ~ 62 A.D. {thrown off one of the temple walls then beaten to death with a club}
- **Written** ~ 44 - 49 A.D. which makes it the earliest book of the NT
- **Immediate audience** was primarily Jewish Christians, especially those dispersed because of persecution, written from a distinctly Jewish perspective // to the great diaspora of Israel & Judah, but not for Judgment resulting from the breaking of the Law but rather of God's Grace to the Gentiles
- **Character of the literature**
 - Epistle for circulation
 - Sermon
 - Proverbs
 - Proverbs:OT as James:NT – less formal theological development than many of the other books of the NT yet more stress on lived application (doctrine/praxis, belief/behavior, truth & love/obedience)
 - Powerful driving toward obedience & godly living
 - Actual/realized fruit/proof of genuine saving faith not merely potential
- **Interpretive challenges**
 - Relationship between faith & works
 - Nature of the healing promised by God: Spiritual and/or Physical
- **Themes**
 - Perseverance in the midst of trials/temptations/sufferings/persecutions
 - Single-mindedness (same mind as our Lord Jesus Christ)
 - Vain v. true religion
 - Proper/God glorifying use of the tongue
 - The Final Judgment as encouragement for right living
 - Absolute centrality of God in the cosmos and in the truly Christian worldview
- **Noteworthiness of its extremely late official acceptance/recognition by the Church – WHY????**

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¹ James, **a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ**,

To **the twelve tribes** who are **dispersed abroad**:

Greetings. {² . . . **my brethren**, . . . }

ALL SCRIPTURE REFERENCES ARE NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE, 1995 UPDATE, UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.

<http://www.sbcreformed.org>

pastor_anthony@metrocast.net

(603) 520-4801
