

Studies In The Book James Faith In Action!

Lesson 1

Please begin your study through the Book of James by reading the entire book this week. Look for verses that would help you understand why James wrote this letter, what the main message he was conveying and how this letter applies to your life. Also read the “James Introduction”.

Read James 1:1

Introduction: “Humble James writes pastorally to “the twelve tribes scattered abroad.” The Jews scattering, known as the *Diaspora*, began in 722 B.C. when Assyrians deported the ten northern tribes. Later the southern tribes suffered the same fate when the Babylonians took them captive in 586. Because of this, Jews were spread all over Mesopotamia, around the Mediterranean, and into Asia Minor and Europe (Acts 2:5, 9-11)....When Jewish Christians were first persecuted in Jerusalem after the death of Stephen, they fled to Judea and Samaria (Acts 8:1) and then to Jewish communities around the Mediterranean (Acts 11: 19, 20). Tragically these Jewish Christians were not taken in by their expatriate Jewish kinsmen, but rather were rejected and persecuted.

Pastor R. Kent Hughes

1. According to James 1:1 how was the apostle James showing humility?
Who was he a *servant* too?
 - Why did James not use his position as being a half brother of Jesus and one of the leaders of the Jerusalem Counsel (Acts 15:1 – 31) to leverage his authority?
 - What would you do? Are you a namedropper?

2. The word “*servant*” could be translated *bondservant* or *bond slave*. According to Exodus 21:2 – 6 what is the definition of a *bondservant*?
- According to Mark 10:45 and Philippians 2:7 – 8 how did Jesus demonstrated Himself as a *bondservant*?
 - How does Psalm 22:17 and Colossians 2:14 confirms Jesus Christ as a *bondservant*?
 - Was there a time in your life where you surrendered all to your Master Jesus? Did you willingly ask the Lord to pierce your heart through and nail your flesh to the doorpost of His kingdom?
3. Why was it important for James to write to his Jewish Christian brothers he addressed as *the twelve tribes*?

- According to Genesis 49:1 – 28 and Acts 7:8 where did these *twelve tribes* of Israel originate from?

- Can you think of another time in history where the *twelve tribes* were *scattered* (Ezekiel 22:15 – 16)? Why were they *scattered* according to (Jeremiah 9:11 – 16)?

4. What did God promise Israel according to Jeremiah 30:1 – 3?

- How was this promise fulfilled according to Ezekiel 37:21 – 23?

5. What did Jesus say to his twelve disciples after instituting the Lord's Supper according to Matthew 26:30 – 32?

- According to John 16:32 – 33 how do these words of Jesus comfort your heart with hope?