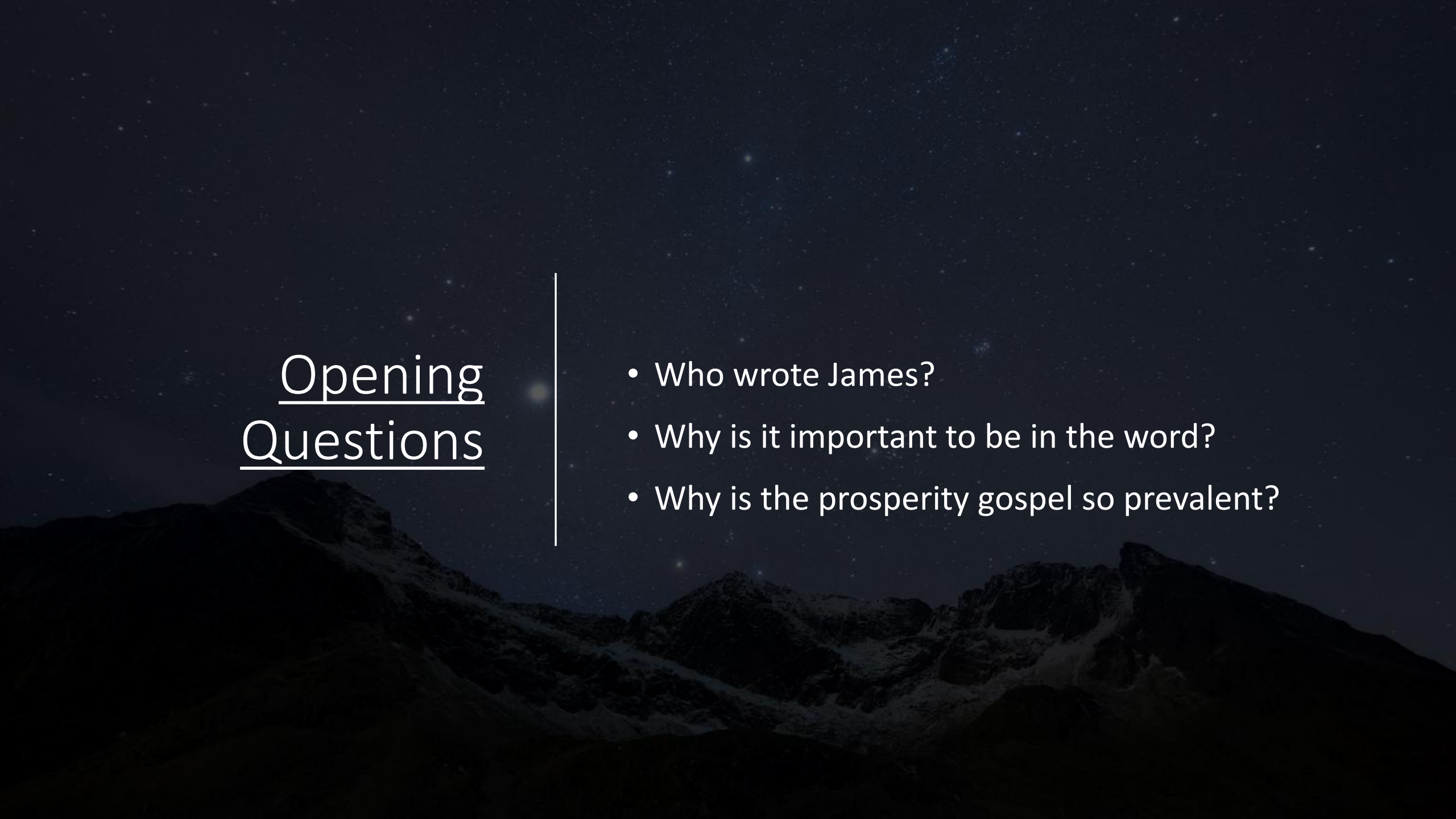


James 1 – Wisdom





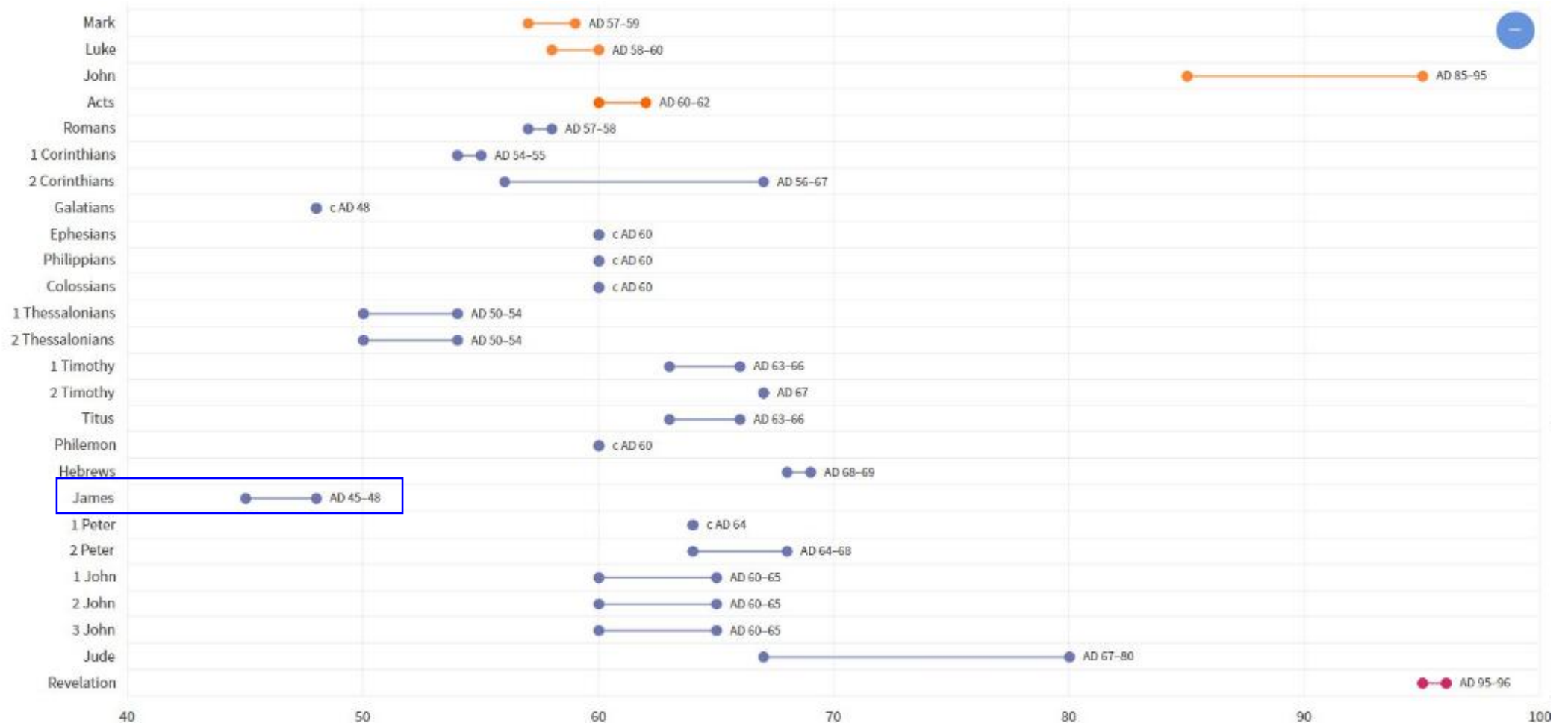
Opening Questions

- Who wrote James?
- Why is it important to be in the word?
- Why is the prosperity gospel so prevalent?

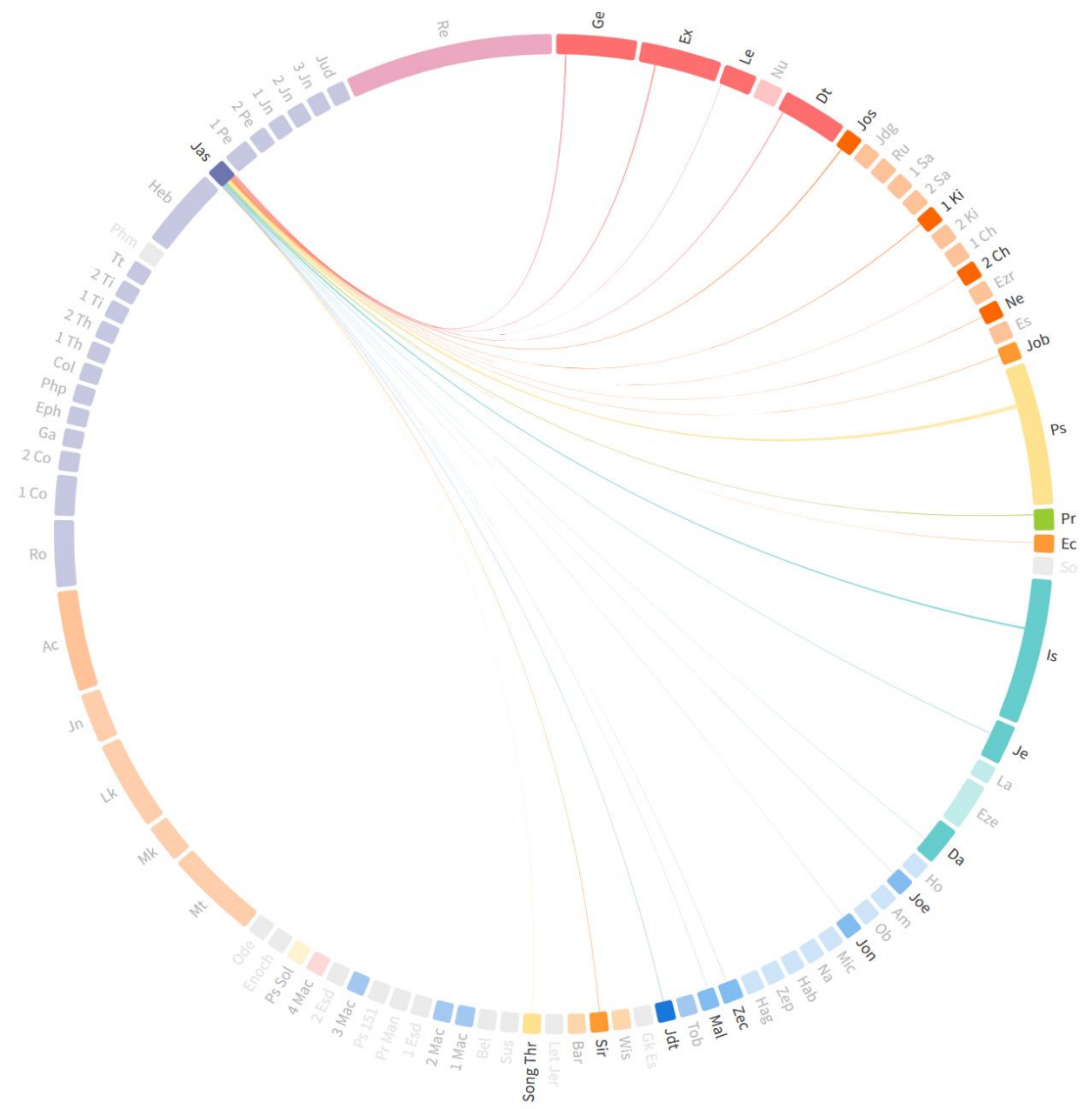


- **Co-writer – James the Just**
- **Born as Jesus' 1/2 Brother (Matt 13:55/Gal 1:19)**
- **After Jesus' resurrection led the first Church in Jerusalem (Acts 1:14, Gal 2:9-12, Acts 12:17, Acts 15)**
- **Book of James – First book written in the New Testament**
- **Martyred AD 62, thrown from top of temple, stoned, beat with clubs (see notes)**





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- James ties to other books of the bible



James – A Commentary on the Sermon on the Mount

| James | Sermon on the Mount | James | Sermon on the Mount |
|--------------|----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| 1. 1:2 | 5:10–12 | 12. 3:6 | 5:22 |
| 2. 1:4 | 5:48 | 13. 3:10–12 | 7:15–20 |
| 3. 1:5 | 7:7–12 | 14. 3:17–18 | 5:9 |
| 4. 1:9 | 5:3 | 15. 4:4 | 6:24 |
| 5. 1:12 | 7:14 | 16. 4:10 | 5:3–5 |
| 6. 1:20 | 5:22 | 17. 4:11–12 | 7:1–5 |
| 7. 1:22 | 7:21–27 | 18. 5:2–3 | 6:19–20 |
| 8. 2:5 | 5:3 | 19. 5:10 | 5:12 |
| 9. 2:13 | 5:7 | 20. 5:11 | 5:10 |
| 10. 2:13 | 6:14–15 | 21. 5:12 | 5:33–37 |
| 11. 2:14–16 | 7:21–23 | | |

James - An Outline By Test

| <u>Test</u> | <u>Text</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Perseverance in Suffering | 1:2–12 |
| Blame in Temptation | 1:13–18 |
| Response to the Word | 1:19–27 |
| Impartial Love | 2:1–13 |
| Righteous Works | 2:14–26 |
| The Tongue | 3:1–12 |
| Humble Wisdom | 3:13–18 |
| Worldly Indulgence | 4:1–12 |
| Dependence | 4:13–17 |
| Patient Endurance | 5:1–11 |
| Truthfulness | 5:12 |
| Prayerfulness | 5:13–18 |

1 James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad:

Greetings.

2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the **testing of your faith** produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6

V1: What is a “bondservant?”

A. The “Kurios - Doulos” relationship, Master (Jesus) and willing slave (Christians)

V1: Who does James address this letter?

A. Primarily Jews scattered abroad

V1: Does that mean it isn’t for modern-day Christians?

A. It applies to all called Christ-followers

V2: What is a trial?

A: Greek = temptation, experiment, test. Tests of faith

V2: What were some trials being experienced by James audience?

A: Roman taking of land, enslaving vast Jewish populations.

V2-4: How do we count trials as Joy?

A: Like an athlete training for the Olympics, it is joy in knowing our trial is producing perseverance.

V4: What is the perfection and completeness here?

A: This perfection is not sinlessness, but deeper communion and trust in Jesus. Completeness is spiritual maturity.

V5: What is the wisdom we are told to ask of God?

A: This is not philosophical wisdom, but maturity. It is knowledge of what God is accomplishing through the trial

6 But let him **ask in faith, with no doubting**, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

9 Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, 10 but the rich in his **humiliation**, because as a flower of the field he will pass away. 11 For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits.

V6: What does it mean to ask without doubting?

- A. To be completely committed
- B. Mt 6:14-15 – The unforgiving will not be forgiven
- C. Mt 18: 23-25 – The unmerciful will not be given mercy
- D. Mt 18:19/Mt 21:21 – Undoubting faith

V7: What is the outcome of indecisive faith in prayer?

- A. In-security with God produces in-security in our selves
- B. God will work with those strong in their faith, only those that truly draw near to God

V9-11: What is the attitude of each person in this verse?

- A. Both the rich and poor realize and understand the proper perspective on eternity

12 Blessed is the man who **endures temptation**; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.

15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

16 **Do not be deceived**, my beloved brethren.

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. 18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

V12: What is the blessing that comes from enduring testing (Greek word is also like testing)?

- A. This testing is like from famines, persecution etc.
- B. The "blessed: here is not tangible wealth, but a life of profound inner-joy and peace (see 1 Peter 1:6-7)

V13-14: If God doesn't tempt us, how does he control the severity and escape? (1 Cor 10:13)

- A. For His purposes, God allows temptation and trials to occur, but always provides a way of escape
- B. No temptation is beyond our ability to escape it

V14 How are we tempted?

- A. The language is similar to a trap, like trapping an animal that sees something attractive but is actually harmful

V16: In light of the context, how should we not be deceived?

- A. By blaming God for our sin

V17: Who provides all gifts?

- A: God – Sometimes referred to by Jews as "Father of Lights"

V18: Is our regenerations a simple wish?

- A: No, this is unfailing initiation and accomplishment by God's sovereign, unfailing will. Sin kills, but God regenerates.

V18: How are Christians "Firstfruits?"

- A: Just like the first part of a new crop, Christians are the evidence of creation to come

19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man **be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath**; 20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

21 Therefore **lay aside all filthiness** and overflow of **wickedness**, and **receive with meekness the implanted word**, which is able to save your souls.

22 But **be doers of the word**, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not **bridle his tongue** but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. 27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to **visit orphans and widows in their trouble**, and to **keep oneself unspotted from the world**.

V19-20: Is this referencing hearing of the word, or something else?

A: Could also be in line with wisdom literature, like proverbs 10:19, 15:1, 17:27-28, etc.

V21: How do we receive the "word"?

1. Proper preparation – laying aside all filthiness and wickedness
2. Have an attitude of meekness
3. Actively receive the word
4. Why? The gospel saves souls

V22: What does it mean to be a "doer of the word" and why is it important

A: Rather than "doing" the word, we are to be "doers." It is a struggle (Greek word *ginomai*), but we are to strive for it to permeate who we are

V22: Does being a perfect "doer" save you?

A: No, this is response to salvation

V26: Why is it so important to control our tongues?

A: What we say often reflects our hearts

V27: What is the core of supporting widows and orphans?

A: It is an indication of compassionate love

V28: How do we keep ourselves un-spotted from the world?

A: Open discussion. One way: Romans 8:4 – The Holy Spirit

Next Up

James Continued

