

James 2 – Righteous Works

A panoramic view of the ancient stone walls and ruins of Jerusalem, with a church featuring a golden dome visible in the background. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The architecture is a mix of well-preserved stone structures and crumbling ruins, with a prominent wall featuring a crenelated top. In the foreground, there are more ruins and a few people walking along a path. The background shows a hillside with more buildings and trees.

**Proverbs 20:11 Even a child is known by
his deeds,
Whether what he does is pure and right.**

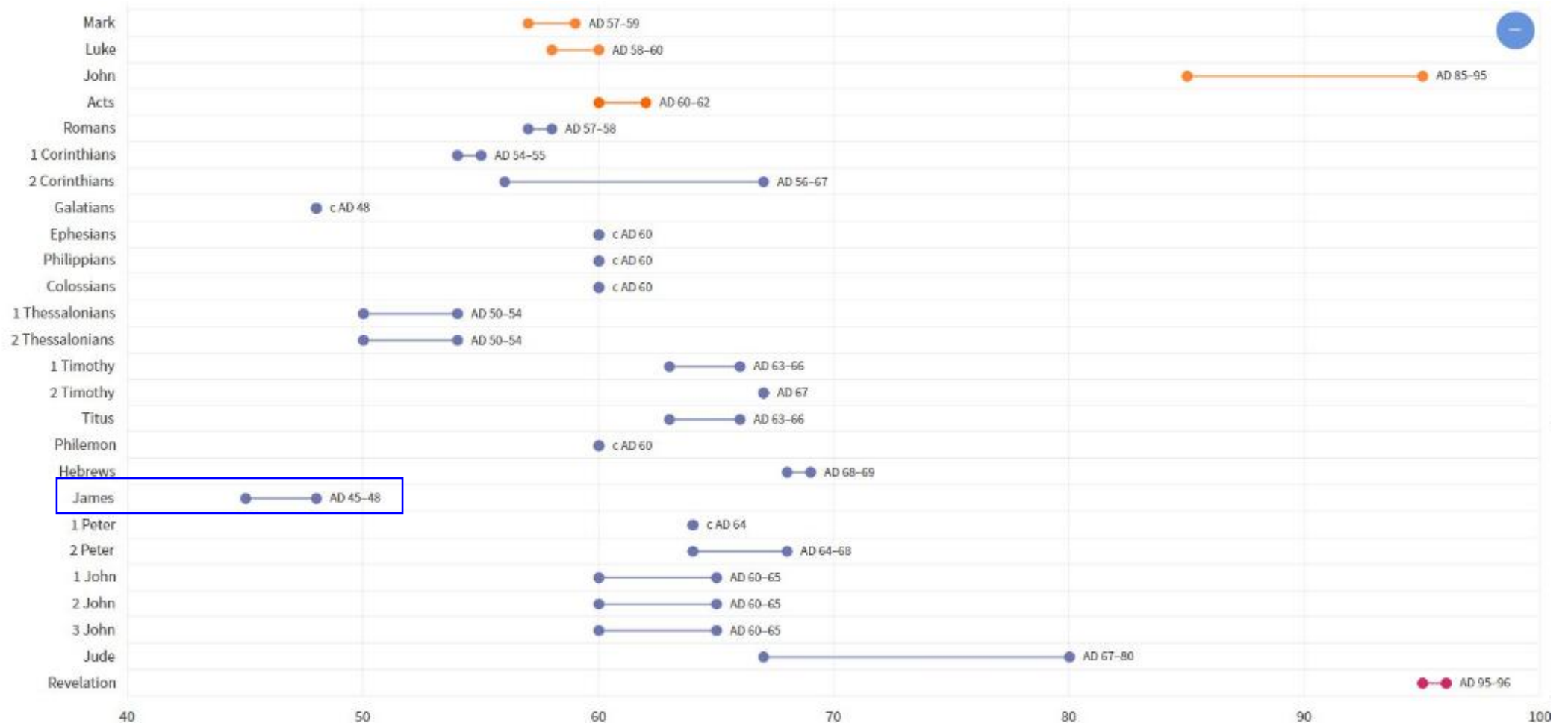
Opening Questions

- Was the church in Jame's day rich or poor?
- What about today?
- How impartial is the Church today?
- Why don't we list "impartiality" as a characteristic of God when we think of Him?

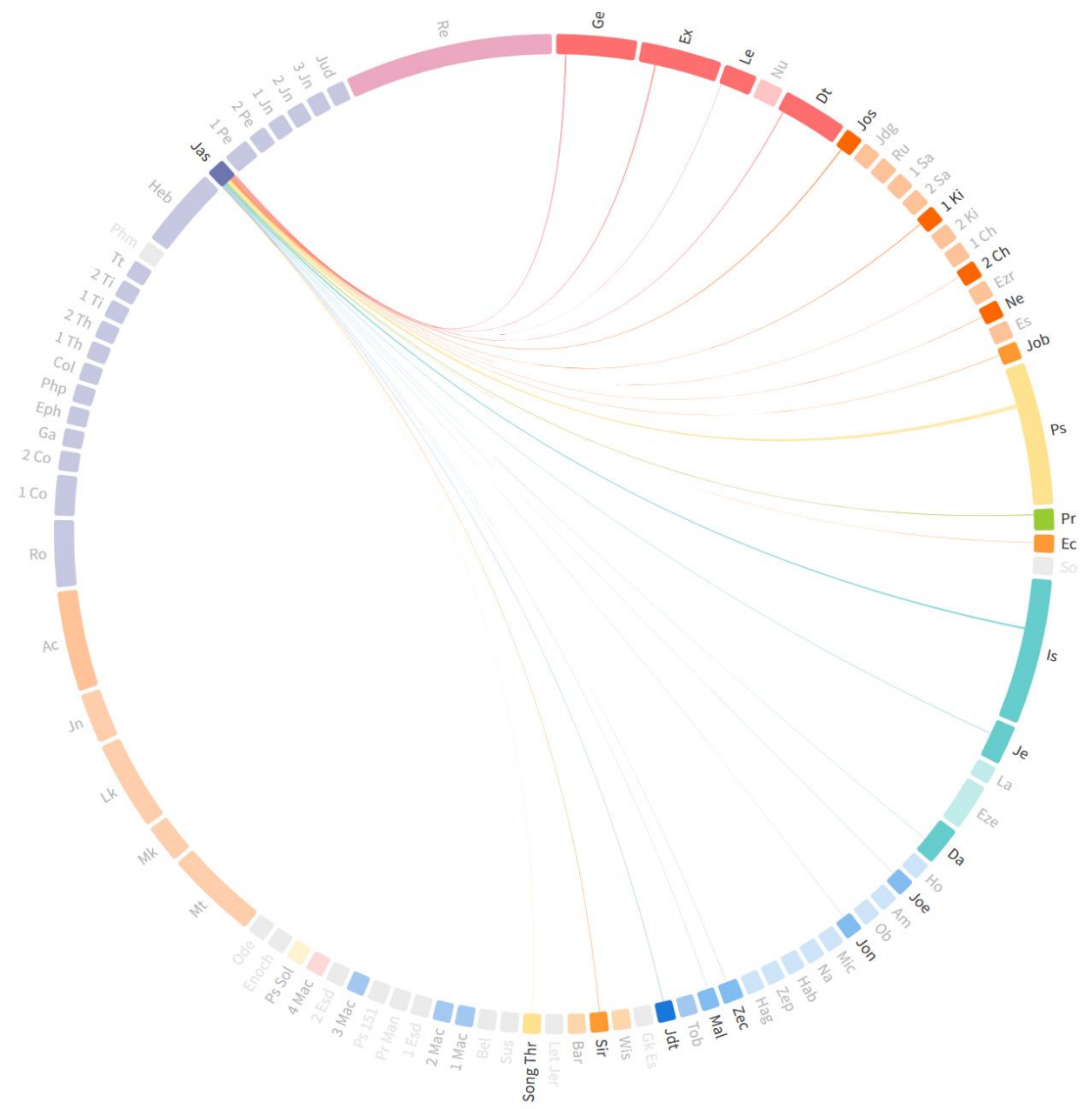


- **Co-writer – James the Just**
- **Born as Jesus' 1/2 Brother (Matt 13:55/Gal 1:19)**
- **After Jesus' resurrection led the first Church in Jerusalem (Acts 1:14, Gal 2:9-12, Acts 12:17, Acts 15)**
- **Book of James – First book written in the New Testament**
- **Martyred AD 62, thrown from top of temple,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





-
- 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 Trials	1:2–12
Blame in Temptation	1:13–18
Response to the Word	1:19–27
Partiality	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

The Socio-Economic Class of 1st Century Christians

- 80-90% were subsistence peasants (farmers, fisherman, day laborers, etc)
- 10-15% were in extreme poverty
- 1-2% were elite wealthy



Who gets the glory?

1 Corinthians 1 - 26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence.

1 My brethren, **do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality.** 2 For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, 3 and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," 4 have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

V1-3: God has many iron-clad, or absolute characteristics. What characteristic is James stating?

A. His impartiality

V1-3: What is impartiality?

A. Webster's - Freedom from bias or favoritism

V4: Why does the Holy Spirit/James say our partiality is evil?

A: Since God is impartial, we must be also

V3: How was this being shown in biblical times?

A: By treating people differently based on how they looked

5 Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? 7 Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called?

8 If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well; 9 but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. 10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. 11 For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. 12 So **speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty.** 13 For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

V5: What are the Christians true riches?

A. To be an heir of the kingdom

V5: Who are the heirs?

- A. Those who chosen
- B. Rich in faith
- C. Love God

V8: What parallel is James drawing?

A. Jesus' own words in Matthew 22:

36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

37 Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

V11: What is the implication of being partial?

A: A violation of the whole law, just like adultery, murder, etc

V12: What is the test then?

A: Treat all the same, just as God treats all the same, regardless of what they look like or who they are

14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have **works**? Can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? 17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! 20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. 24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

25 Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?

26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

V14: What are some examples of other biblical references to the test of true Christians bearing fruit?

- Matt 3 - 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance.
- Matt 5 - 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

V19: What are some things a false Christian might profess?

- God's existence
- Scripture as the word of God
- The Messiahship of Christ
- The atoning death, resurrection, and ascension

V26: What is the motivation for works?

- Salvation – Continual Faith and Repentance (Rom 10:9, John 3:16)
- Works – The outcome, or result

Next Up

James Continued

