

James 3



13 *"Their throat is an open tomb;
With their tongues they have practiced deceit";
"The poison of asps is under their lips";*

14 *"Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness."*

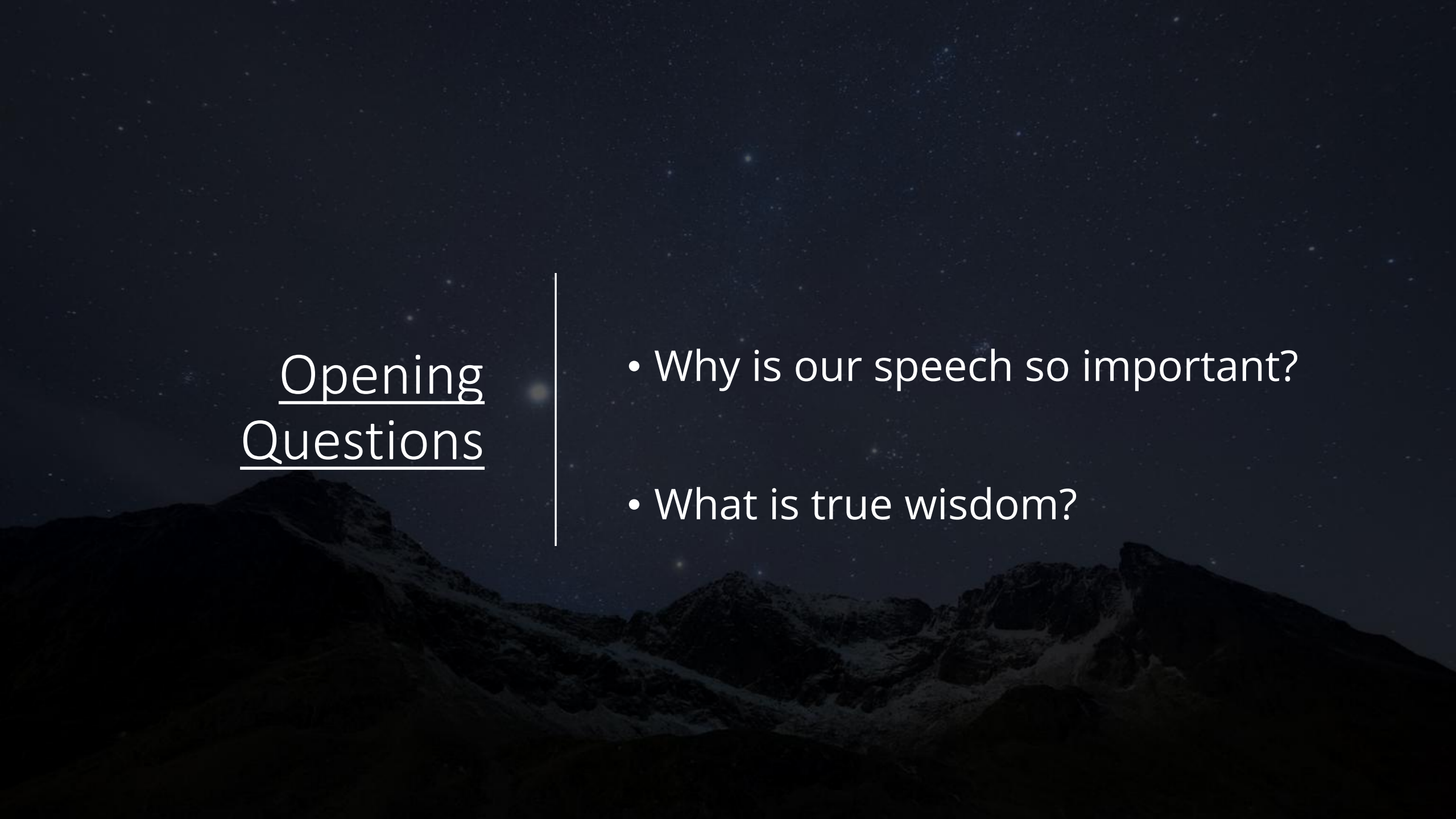
15 *"Their feet are swift to shed blood;*

16 *Destruction and misery are in their ways;*

17 *And the way of peace they have not known."*

18 *"There is no fear of God before their eyes."*

– Romans 3



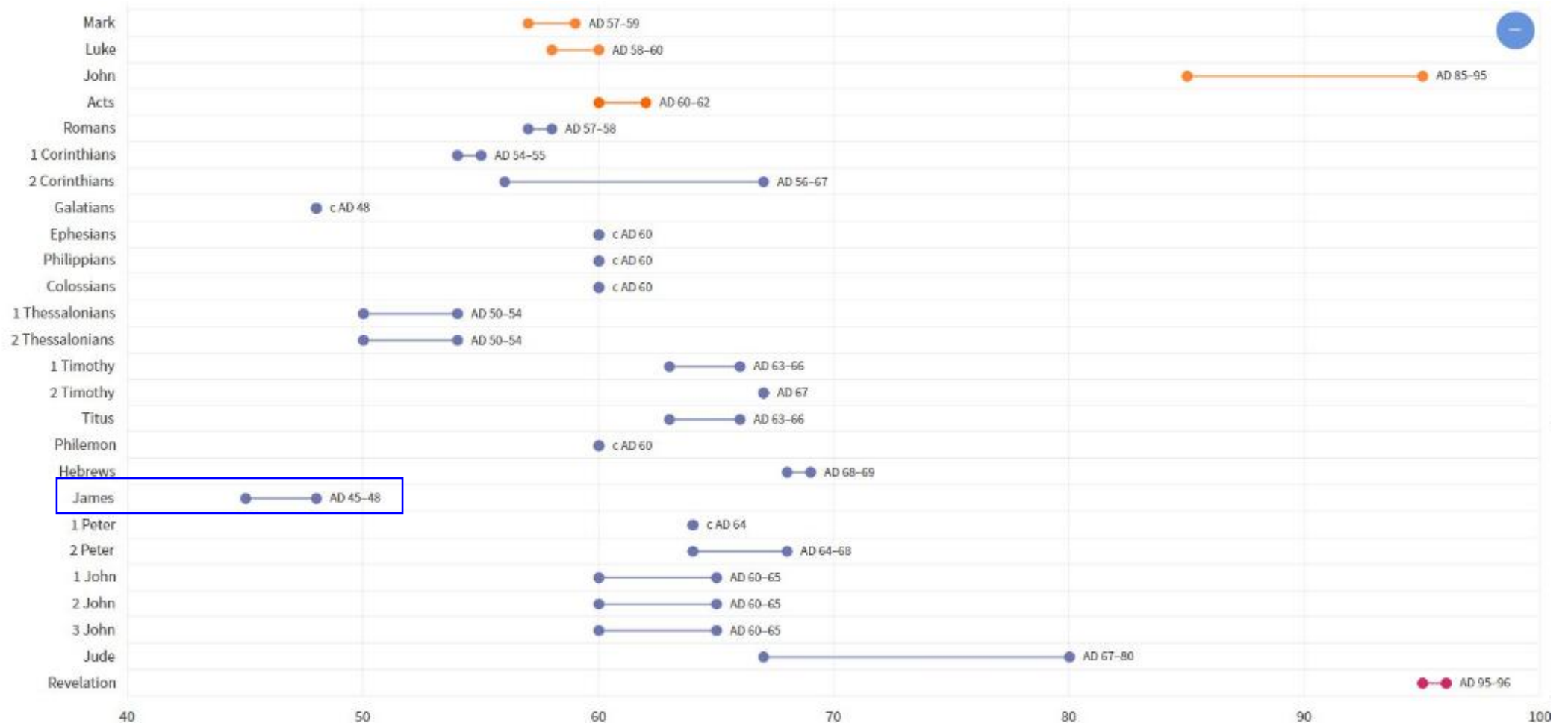
Opening
Questions

- Why is our speech so important?
- What is true wisdom?

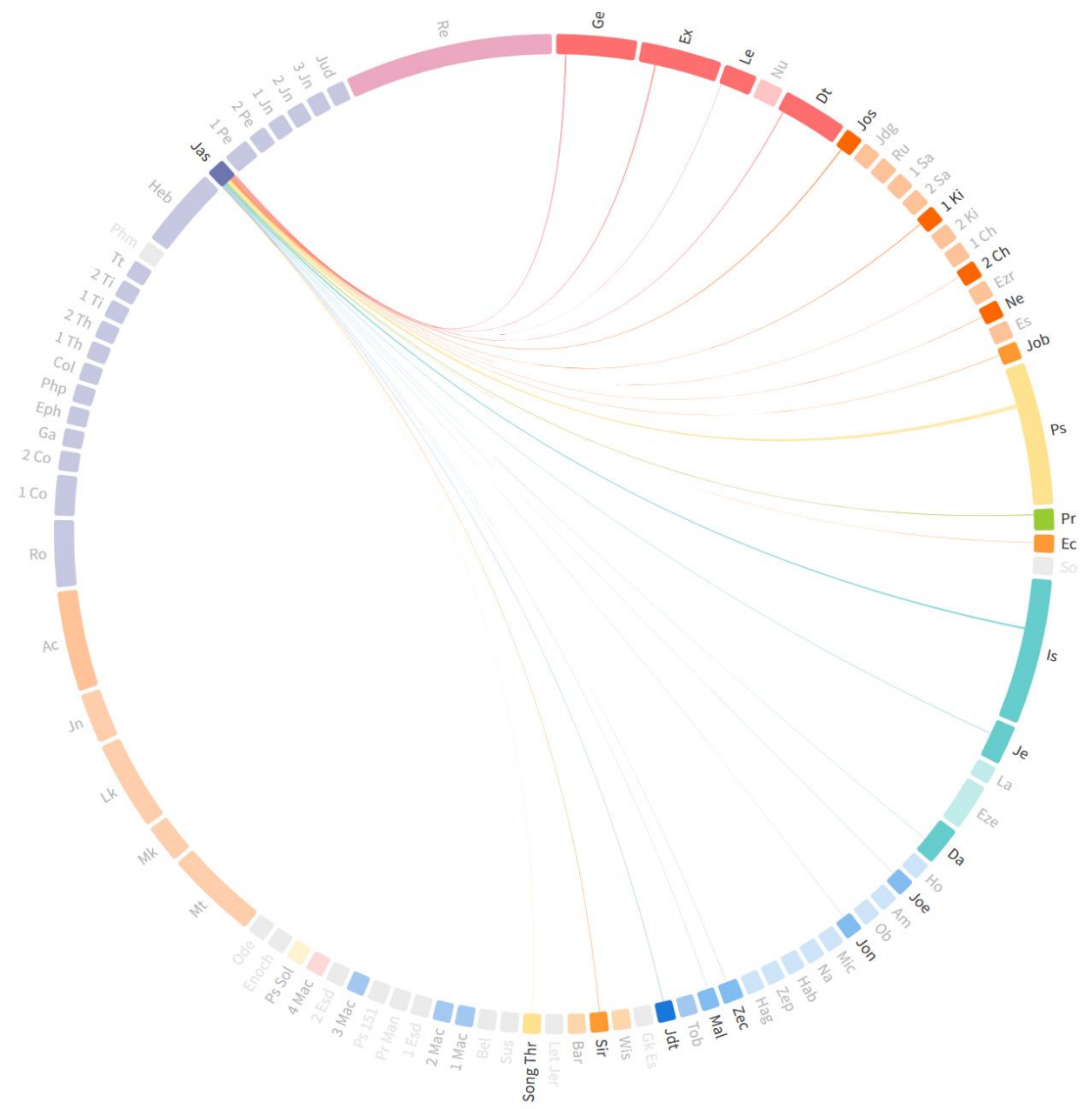


- **Co-writer – James the Just**
- **Born as Jesus' 1/2 Brother (Matt 13:55/Gal 1:19)**
- **After Jesus' resurrection led the first Church in Jerusalem (Acts 1:14, Gal 2:9-12, Acts 12:17, Acts 15)**
- **Book of James – First book written in the New Testament**
- **Martyred AD 62, thrown from top of temple,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

Self Test – A self-examination of the tongue

Bragging or boasting



Lying



Flattering



Slandering



Gossiping/talking behind back



Verbally abusive



Cursing/Using foul language



Hiding/sensationalizing/changing truth



Arguing



Yelling



Being Sarcastic



Teaching questionable truths



1 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. 2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. 3 Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. 4 Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. 5 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!

V1: Who is a teacher?

A. Generally official pastors and teachers

V2: Is there anyone who perfectly controls their tongue?

A. This refers to the spiritually mature who strive to control their speech

V3-5: Why is speech so powerful?

A: What we say can build up or destroy

6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. 8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? 12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

V6: How can our speech defile our whole bodies?

A. faith

V6: What does set on fire by hell mean?

A. This word for hell is Gehenna, the trash dump outside of town with the continuing fire. It is used as a synonym for Satan and his demons (Matt 25:41), using the tongue for evil.

V9-10: According to James and the Holy Spirit, can a person with a pure heart have an un-tamed tongue?

A: No (in general). Our natures spring forth or are displayed by what we speak. Used only here in the New Testament, "things ought not to be so" is strongly worded, saying the nature of the heart and soul drives the outcome (speaking)

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. 17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

V13: What is this word "understanding"?

A. Not the Greek word "Sophos" for knowledge, it is used only here in the NT and means a professional level of skill, like in the "art of living."

V13: What is meekness?

A. It is power under control, devoid of arrogance and self-promotion

V15: What is human wisdom?

A: Not from God

- Limited to earth
- Focused on self, such as "my body," "my mind," "my self"
- Generated or seized on by Satanic forces

V16: How does our culture align with evil?

A. A: Envy, self seeking, "you do you," confusion on truth demonstrates this evil

V17: What are characteristics of God's wisdom?

- Purity – spiritual integrity, moral sincerity
- Peaceable – peace loving or peace promoting
- Gentleness – Kindness, not reacting when mis-treated
- Willing to Yield – teachable, obedient to God's standards
- Full of Mercy – Concern for those in hardship
- Without partiality – not making unfair distinctions

V18: What is the fruit of righteousness?

A. Good works resulting from salvation

Closing Answers

- Why is our speech so important?
 - Because it is so easy to sin with it
 - It demonstrates our heart
 - James lists it in every chapter
 - Its potential to condemn (vv. 1-3); its power to control (vv. 2b-5a); its propensity to control (vv. 5b-6)
- What is true wisdom?
 - From Above
 - The best gift
 - Not intellectual, but behavioral