

# Introduction to James



James 1: 1

Solid Rock Church

Pastor Elliott Anderson

# Handwritten Letter to Your Friends

A lost art worth doing  
A cherished memory  
A time stamp of experience  
A fun way to keep in touch  
A personal way to say thank  
you, or thinking of you



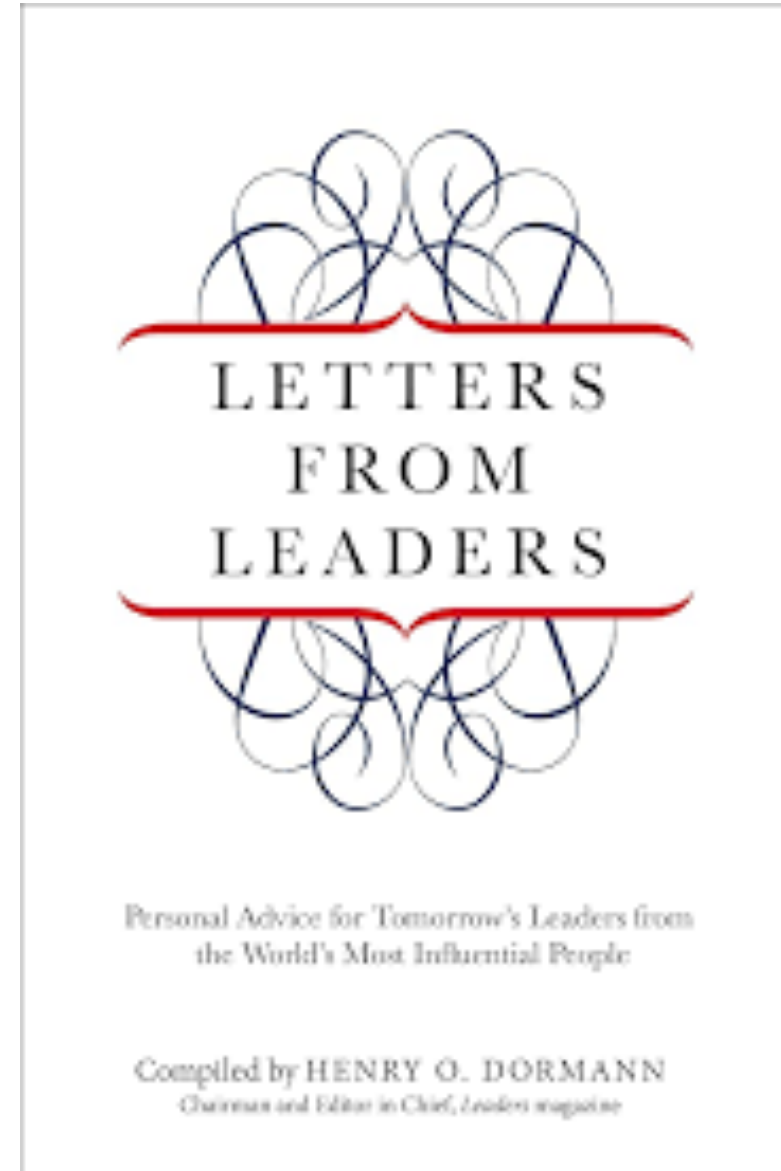
# Famous Leadership Letters

John Adams and Thomas Jefferson

President Tito of Yugoslavia to Head  
of the Soviet Union - Stalin

Ghandhi's Letter to Hitler

Martin Luther King Jr. – Letter from  
Birmingham Jail



# **A Leader's Letter to His Friends Everywhere**

**What would you say?**

**Instructions for life?**

**How would you encourage?**

**What warnings would you give?**



# **Brass Facts of the Letter of James**

**Date Written:** 45 – 50 A.D.

**Who Wrote it:** James, ½ brother of Jesus

**Audience:** All Dispersed Jewish Christians

**Theme:** Faith must have action

# **James: The Proverbs of the New Testament**

Both written to Jewish audiences 1,000 years apart  
Wisdom literature with practical applications

**James 4:6**, But God gives more grace. Therefore, it says,  
God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

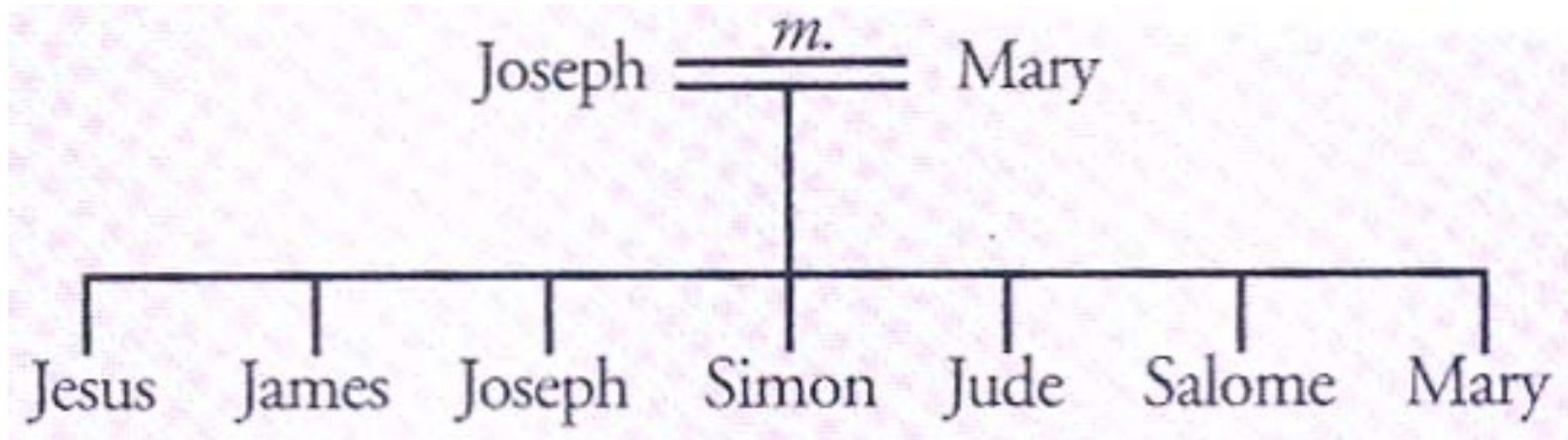
**Proverbs 16:18**, Pride goes before destruction, and a  
haughty spirit before a fall.

# Surprising Authorship: Brother of Jesus?

James did not believe in Jesus before the Crucifixion.

**John 7: 3 – 5**, The brothers of Jesus, therefore said to Him, “Depart from here, and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may behold your works which You are doing....If you do things, show Yourself to the world.”  
**For not even His brothers were believing in Him.**





## The 6 Siblings of Jesus

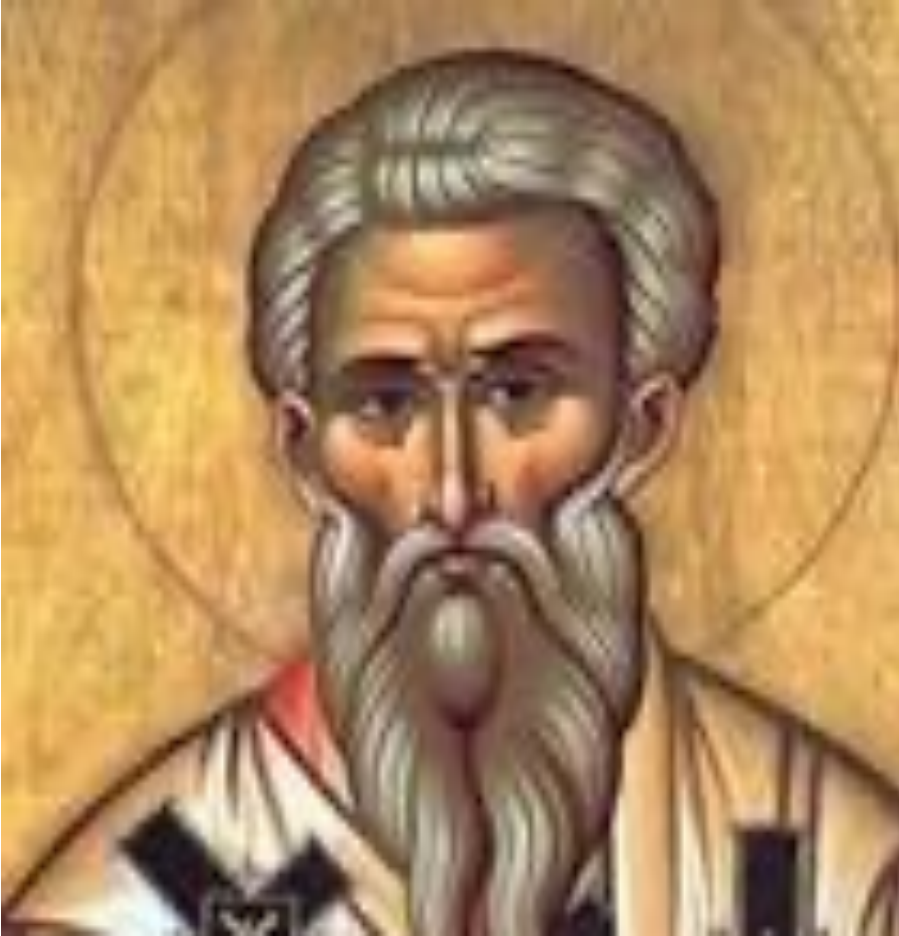
**Mark 6: 3,** Is this not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James, and Joses (Jospeh), and Judas (Jude), and Simon? Are not his sisters here with us (Salome and Mary)?



# Siblings Believe by the Upper Room

**Acts 1: 13 – 14**, And when they had entered, they went to the **upper room**, where they were staying; that is, Peter, John, James, Andrew, Phillip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas, the son of James. These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and **Mary the mother of Jesus, and with the brothers of Jesus.**

# Introduction of Himself



**James 1: 1, **James**,** a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad, greetings.

# **Author of James: Brother of Jesus**

We know it wasn't James, the disciple, who wrote this letter. He was martyred in AD 44.

**Acts 12: 1 – 2**, Now about that time, Herod the king laid hands on some who belonged to the church, in order to mistreat them. **And he had James, the brother of John, put to death with a sword.**

# **Author of James: Leader in Israel**

The authoritative tone of the book of James denotes a leader. Book of Acts tells us what James was leading.

**Acts 12: 17,** But motioning to them with his hand to be silent, Peter described to them how the Lord had led him out of prison. And he said, “report these things to **James** and the brethren.”

# **James: Head of Council**

**Acts 15** – Jerusalem Council meets to discuss Jewish and Gentile inclusion challenges.

Food + social guidelines / circumcision requirements

Peter, then Paul and Barnabas, addressed the council

**Acts 15: 13**, And after they had stopped speaking, **James** answered saying, “Brethren listen to me.”

# **James: # 1 Leader of the Early Church**



**Acts 21: 17 + 18**, And when we had come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly. And now the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present.



# James: Pillar of Faith

**James:** Leader of the Jerusalem Church and the Jerusalem Council

and recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, so that we might go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

**GALATIANS 2:9**

Knowing Jesus



# The Authority of **James** and His Letter



Head of Jerusalem Council / Church

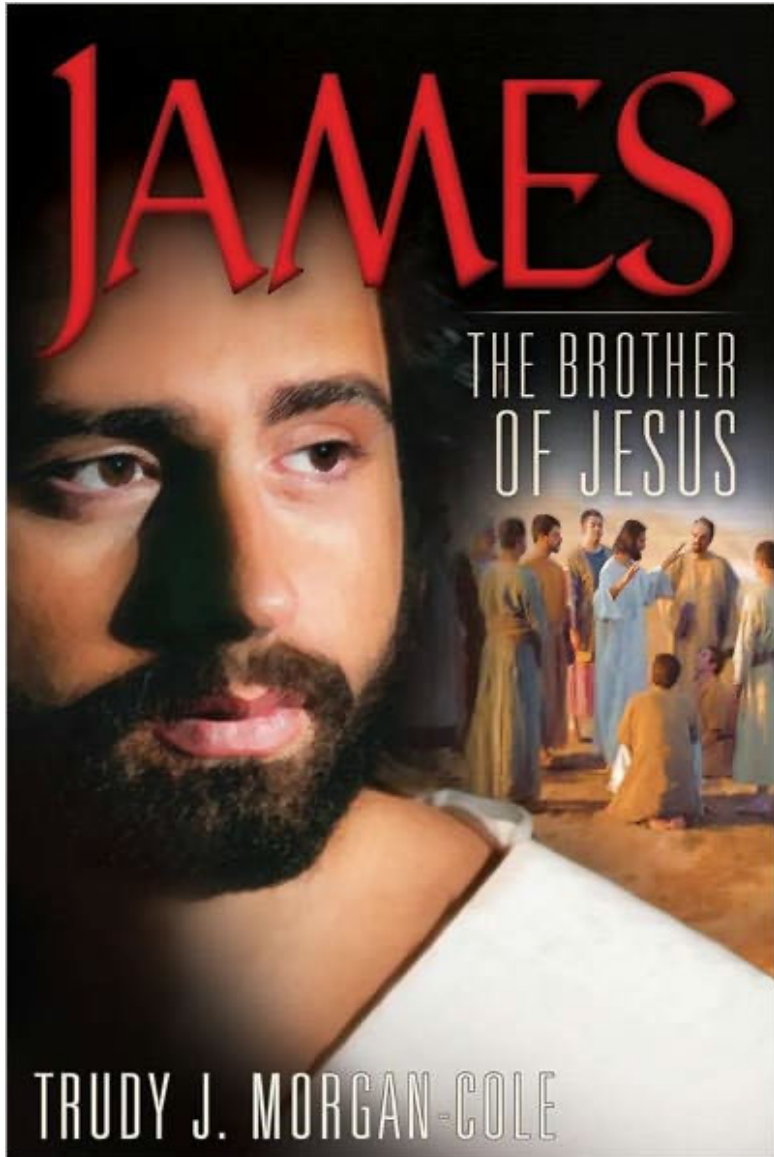
All the Apostles submitted to His  
leadership and authority

Peter, Paul, Barnabas, Silas, Phillip

# **James: Authority and Death**

Over 50 commands in the letter of James  
Paul only gave 20 commands in Philippians.

James battled the Judaizers in early church start  
Tradition says he was martyred in AD 62  
Killed by the Pharisees, beaten to death with clubs  
James quoted Jesus in his death, "Father forgive them..."



# Introduction of the Audience

**James 1: 1**, James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the **twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad**, greetings.



# 12 Tribes: Dispersion

Dispersion: the process of being distributed over a wide area.

In NT, it refers to the mass exodus of Jewish Christians from Israel

Dispersion enhanced the growth of the Gospel and the Church



# Dispersion Prophesied in OT and By Jesus

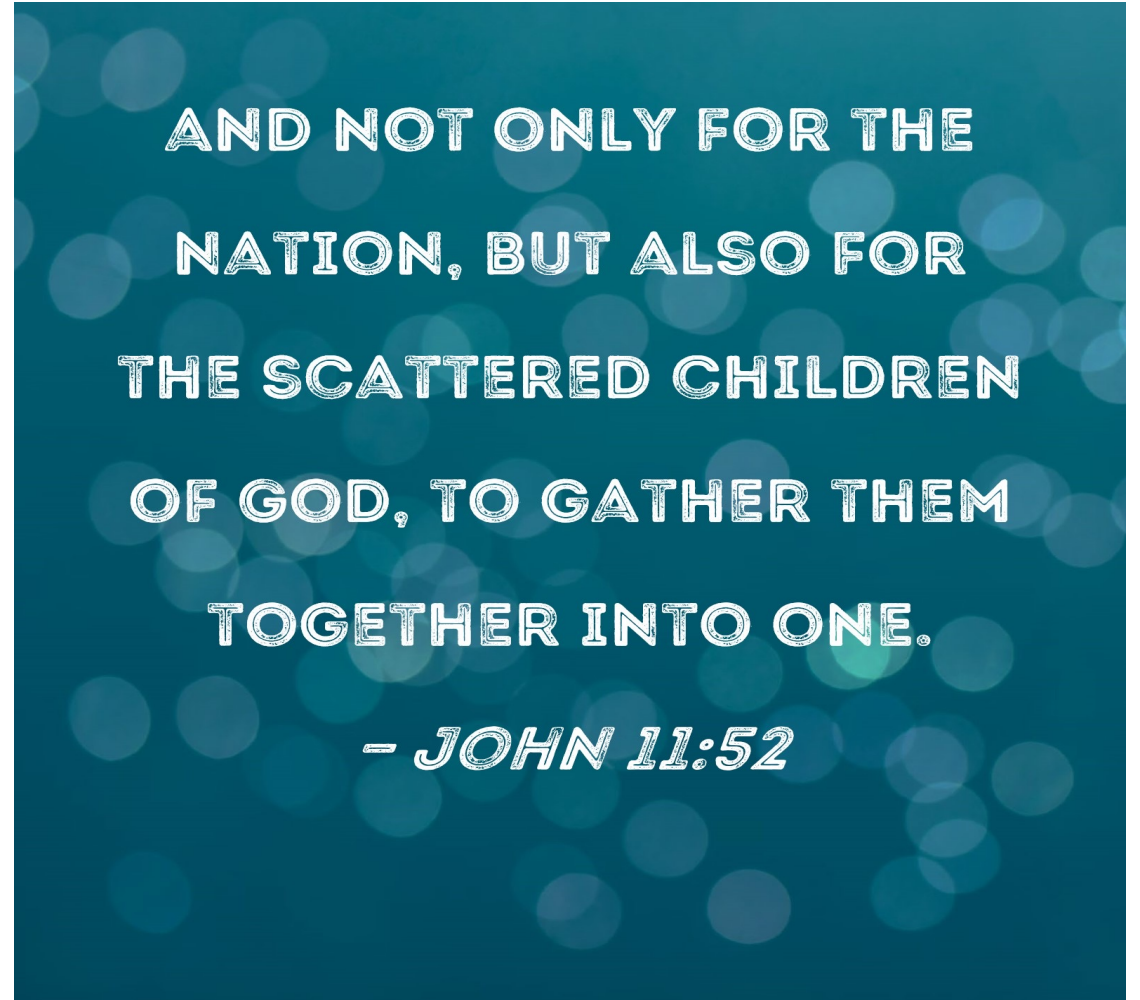
I DISPERSED THEM AMONG THE  
NATIONS, AND THEY WERE  
SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE  
LANDS. I JUDGED THEM  
ACCORDING TO THEIR WAYS AND  
DEEDS.

*- EZEKIEL 36:19*



AND NOT ONLY FOR THE  
NATION, BUT ALSO FOR  
THE SCATTERED CHILDREN  
OF GOD, TO GATHER THEM  
TOGETHER INTO ONE.

*- JOHN 11:52*



# **We need to Know the “Why” and the “Who” of the NT Letters**

Matthew's Gospel of Jesus was for the Jews.

Mark's Gospel of Jesus was for the Roman believers

Luke wrote Acts to tell the story of the Church

Paul wrote Corinthians because Church was in crisis

James wrote his letter as an authoritative, faith instruction application to be heard by all Christians all over the world because of the dispersion.

# The “Why” of the “Who” in James

**They = the Christians dispersed all over the world.**

They were going through huge cultural changes

They were going through extreme persecution

They were becoming influence by Greek/Roman ways

They were failing to practice what they believed



# The Goal of the Letter of James

## Spiritual maturity

The deepening of our spiritual life, through integrated understanding of Jesus, ourselves, and community; and the consistent application of spiritual principles in daily actions, words, and relationships.

***“To become more like Christ - NOW”***

# **Spiritual Maturity Issues and Targets in the 5 Chapters of James**

## **ISSUE**

1. Impatience in difficulties
2. Talking, but not living the truth
3. No control of tongue, death
4. Fighting and troublemaking
5. Coveting riches

## **TARGET**

Patience in our trials  
Practice what we know  
Tongue for love, life  
Peacemaking / grace  
Wise stewards / prayer

# **Solid Rock Goals in our Study of James**

To deepen our faith in action with Jesus and the community

To self-examine and make immediate changes in growth

Be better prepared for trials and help others through theirs

Become “Doers of the Word”

The blessing is not just the hearing / learning

The power blessing is from the doing / living