

Preparation for Session 2

Stresses and Strains James 1:1-8

Read Matthew 4:1-11, 2 Corinthians 11:22-29 & 12:7-10
Philippians 4:11-13

Under pressure James 1:19-27

Read also Psalm 32:6, Matthew 23:1-7,23-28, Luke 12:16-20,
Ephesians 4:25-27, Galatians 6:1-5

The Parish of Cannock and Huntington *Creating Community with Christ at the Centre*

Bible Studies on James **A study of faith in action according to St. James**

Programme

Session 1	Introduction to the Letter
Session 2	Stresses and strains and under pressure
Session 3	Prejudice
Session 4	Faith on the move
Session 5	The Tongue
Session 6	Be true to self
Session 7	Patience

All study material will be posted on our website on the
Bible Studies page.

We will record each study so that if you cannot attend
you can follow.

Please bring your Bibles with you or have them handy
if you are watching online

Session 1

Introduction to the Letter—Authorship

Chapter 1 Verse 1 “James a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ”

James could refer to several men of that name, including two of the apostles.

James the son of Zebedee	Matthew 4:18-22
James the son of Alphaeus	Matthew 10:3
James the father of Judas	Luke 6:16
James the brother of our Lord	Matthew 13:55, Mark 6:3

Elsewhere in the New Testament whenever James is used it refers to the Lord’s brother Acts 12:17, 15:13, 21:18

Other references Galatians 1:19, 1 Corinthians 4:1-10 and Galatians 2:9

The writer of this letter obviously held high office in the Church. Notice the way he rebukes his readers Chapter 4:1-10, 5:14-16

We know James the Lord’s brother held high office in the Church. The consensus of scholarly opinion attribute this letter to James the brother of our Lord.

Why is the authorship of this letter important?

It comes from the hand of one who was eyewitness to the daily interaction and everyday routine activities of that home in Nazareth. What he saw of Jesus from an early age he had witnessed from close quarters—from childhood to adulthood. He

experienced all the cut and thrust of sibling rivalry; family life and growing up together.

It appears that right up to the crucifixion James held back from becoming a disciple. When the Lord appeared to him c.f. 1 Corinthians 15:7, he yielded and is included among the waiting disciples in Acts 1:14

James 1:1 “To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion.” Addressed to Jewish Christians. We know little of the existence of predominantly Jewish churches with the exception of that at Jerusalem. Acts 21:20 implies that Jewish Christians were numerous. The gospel had spread to Jews in Damascus, Cyprus, Syria etc. Acts 9:2, 11:19

The date of this letter is somewhere between Pentecost and AD 62 Perhaps AD45 is the likely date, certainly this is favoured by most scholars.

James is an important letter because of its content. James is concerned and burdened with everyday issues impacting upon the scattered flock of God. People struggling to match their new found belief with everyday behaviour. This letter encapsulates the essence of Christian life in practice.

Josephus, a Jewish historian says, “James was tried by the Sanhedrin at the instance of the High Priest and was stoned to death.”

It is recommended to read this short letter at one sitting. There are only five short chapters in this letter