

INTRODUCTION

(1:1) James greets Jewish Christians who were dispersed (by the Acts 8:1 persecution)

Iakobos (Why do English Bibles translate this as *James*?)

Which James is this?

James, the Apostle

Verses in Gospels plus Acts 12:2

James, the Lord's brother

(Mat 13:55 // Mk 6:3; Acts 12:17; 15:13; 21:18; 1 Cor 15:7; Gal 1:19; 2:9; etc.)

Another James?

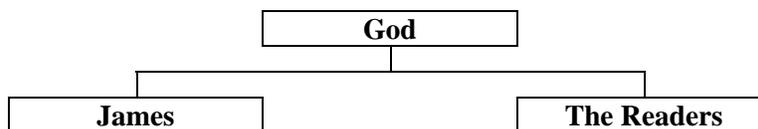
Readers

To the Twelve tribes = Jews

Brethren = Believers

Note James 1:16 and 19

Note James 1:18 *He brought us forth*



Scattered abroad = In the dispersion (*diaspora*)

To which *diaspora* does James refer?

Geography**Eastern Mediterranean: The writer and readers are familiar with:****A. the sea (1:6; 3:4)****B. Figs, oil, and grapes (3:12)****C. salty springs and bitter springs (3:11–12)****D. the hot east wind (1:11)****E. former and latter rains (5:7)****Date****After Pentecost (May 24, AD 33)****Cf. James 2:2 and 5:14****Before Cornelius believed: Acts 10–11 (AD 40–41)****Quite possibly the first book of the New Testament****Outline of the Book**

Salutation	1:1	
Prologue	1:2–18	
Thematic Statement	1:19–20	Swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath
Body	1:21–5:6	
Swift to hear	1:21–2:26	
Slow to speak	3:1–18	
Slow to wrath	4:1–5:6	
Epilogue	5:7–20	

(1:2) Believers ought to welcome the trials (that the Lord allows into our lives)

(1:3) [Believers ought to welcome the trials] because proven faith produces patience

The verse refers to use of a crucible in purifying metals

Testing distinguishes between the believed truths that we rely upon from those which seem to melt away in times of adversity

(1:4) Believers ought to let patience attain its ultimate goal—endurance— in order that they may be mature, complete, and without deficiency

What type of trials does James have in mind?

(1:5) Those who lack wisdom [for enduring trials] should pray to our non-upbraiding and generous God, who will wisdom

(1:6) Those who pray for wisdom ought to pray expectantly [in faith], rather than praying doubtfully, because the doubter is as unstable as a storm-tossed sea

(1:7–8) The doubter should not expect to receive anything [wisdom *in particular*] from God, because he is double-minded and unstable in all his ways

CONCLUSION