

# New Testament Survey

## Class 27: James

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**Author:** “James” (James 1:1), a significant early church leader (Acts 12:17; 15:13; 21:18) and the brother of the Lord Jesus (Matt 13:55; Gal 1:19)

**How did James become a Christian?** Jesus’s brothers did not follow him during his earthly ministry (John 7:1-10). When Jesus was resurrected, he appeared to James (1 Cor 15:7). Immediately after the resurrection the “siblings of Jesus” (Acts 1:14) were worshipping with the other followers of Jesus. James was called to faith by Jesus himself!

**Recipients:** Early Christians, probably Jewish Christians (“to the twelve tribes in the dispersion” [1:1]; “your assembly” = “your synagogue” [2:2])

**Date:** Certainly before 62 AD (James martyrdom), and probably before 49 AD, since no mention is made of the Jerusalem council, which took place that year

### Background:

- Impoverished Christians were being oppressed by wealthy people (James 2:6-7). These affluent oppressors may have been church members, since James addresses them directly (1:10; 5:1-6).
- And yet, some Christians were courting the favor of these rich people and mistreating the poor among them (2:1-7).
- There was some conflict and quarreling in the church (4:1-12).
- The church was suffering from various causes (1:2-4; 5:10, 13).
- Some of the church members misunderstood what faith in Christ meant for their lives (2:14-26).

31-Mar-24	-----NO CLASS -----
7-Apr-24	1 Peter
14-Apr-24	2 Peter
21-Apr-24	Letters of John
28-Apr-24	Jude
5-May-24	The Old Testament in the New Testament
12-May-24	Revelation
19-May-24	Our Future Hope

## Outline

### **Introduction and overview of key topics**

Greetings (1:1)

The Christian approach to suffering (1:2-12)

The roots of sin and the goodness of God (1:13-21)

The fruit of true religion: obedience to God (1:22-27)

### **True faith leads to action, especially caring for the poor (2:1-26)**

Loving your neighbor means rejecting favoritism (2:1-13)

Faith without works is dead (2:14-26)

### **The importance of controlling our words (3:1-**

Spiritual maturity means controlling your words (3:1-5)

Failing to control your tongues is hypocritical (3:5-12)

True wisdom is meek and peace-making (3:13-18)

### **The cause of conflict: worldliness (4:1-12)**

#### **The dangers of riches (4:13-5:12)**

Remembering who we are: not in control of the world (4:13-17)

Warnings to the rich oppressors (5:1-6)

Encouragement to patience under oppression (5:7-12)

#### **Praying in any circumstance (5:12-20)**