

James

Temptations, Trials

&

Triumph

Knowing the AUTHOR

- James – Several in scripture...
 - Brother of John? Martyred! (Mark 1:19; Acts 12:2).
 - Son of Alphaeus (Mark 3:18)?
 - Father of Judas (Luke 6:16)?
 - Half-brother of Jesus, brother to Jude...(Ga 1:18,19)
 - many of the early church fathers and writers agree
 - Sometimes called “James the Less” wrongly....
 - Mover and Shaker of the early Church...
 - Acts 15... (not mentioned in book A.D. 49)
 - Josephus said that James died in A.D. 62

The Council of Jerusalem

- Church faces its most difficult challenge
 - Samaritans and now Gentiles HS filled (Ac 8 & 10)
 - Should they become Jews to become Christians? (5)
 - Vs 7 – much debate!
 - Peter makes his appeal – God ordained and equal!
 - Verses 8,9 are life altering for the early Church
 - Filled and cleansed as we were
 - Vs 12 – Barnabas and Paul speak about signs and wonders during 1st Missionary Journey...
 - But it is James who takes the lead role...

The Wisdom of James (acts 15)

- Picks up on Peter's point that this is God...
 - This was not about man's plan, not easy to see...
 - Note: uses Peter's Jewish name, group of Jews...
 - Peter's sermon during Pentecost... (Ac 2:38,39)
 - Prophets agree – he knew his OT! Amos 9:11,12
 - I judge (*krino*) – a summing up of the matter for him
 - Shows wisdom and tact in his manner/solution
 - Don't cause trouble to those turning to God (*ethnos*)
 - On the basis of this, the matter is resolved...

Other places of mention:

- When Paul Returns to Jerusalem – Ac 21:17ff
 - Mentioned in seeming leadership role...
 - May have been instrumental in helping Paul here...
 - Smooth things over with the Jews...
 - Noted trio in Gal 2:6-9, “pillars”
 - Problem with “men from James” Gal 2:12
- Conclusions:
 - Had a reputation for wisdom, reconciliation
 - Clearly a leader of respect in early church
 - Probably had a strong Jewish emphasis in ministry

His salutation: 1:1,2

- James a servant of God
 - No attitude of superiority here...
 - *doulos* – bond-slave, no glory of title or position
- And the Lord Jesus Christ
 - No advantage of family either...
- The difficulty of the recipients of the epistle
 - 12 tribes scattered – completeness, yet displaced...
 - Is this from persecution of Acts 8?
 - Desire to reach all...

Outline of the Book:

- Trials and Truth 1:2-27
- Problems and Faith 2:1-26
- Words and Wisdom 3:1-18
- Conflicts and Submission 4:1-5:6
- Overcoming 5:7-20