

James (Outline)

I. Opening of the Letter with Greeting

1. (Verse 1) ... James identifies himself as “a SERVANT of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ”. Though James is the half brother of Jesus (Matthew 13:55) and is highly respected among the Christian community (Acts 15:13 & Galatians 2:9) ... he recognizes his true role as SERVANT. He addresses the “*twelve tribes which are scattered abroad.*” Though this could be an indication of an early date of the writing (when most Christians were Jewish) it could also refer to the fact that the TRUE Israel of God is the Church composed of ALL Christians.

II. Chapters 1:2 – 1:18 ... Attitude toward Hardships and Circumstances

1. 1:2 – 1:4 - Hardships from without
2. 1:5 – 1:8 - Hardships are not “*hard*” for God
3. 1:9 – 1:11 - Hardships (comforts) / circumstances / are only temporary
4. 1:12 – 1:15 - Hardships from within
5. 1:16 – 1:18 - Hardships (circumstances) are under God’s power, trust Him

III. Chapters 1:19 – 1:27 ... Attitude toward the Word / Doctrine

1. 1:19 – 1:20 - Wrath / Anger
2. 1:21 - Get wicked out – put the Word in
3. 1:22 – 1:25 - Don’t just HEAR the Word ... DO the Word
4. 1:26 – 1:27 - Real Religion is DOING God’s Word

IV. Chapters 2:1 – 2:26 ... Attitude toward Others

1. 2:1 – 2:13 - Showing partiality is wrong
2. 2:14 – 2:26 - Real Faith Serves and Works

V. Chapters 3:1 – 4:17 ... Attitude toward Self

1. 3:1 – 3:12 - Control our Tongue – Why & How
2. 3:13 – 3:17 - True Wisdom Works
3. 3:18 – 4:10 - Pride & Selfishness brings “*Wars*” ; Humility brings “*Peace*”
4. 4:11 – 4:12 - Our Role is to “*Do*” & “*Keep*” the Law ; not “*Judge*” the Law
5. 4:13 – 4:17 - Trusting Self vs. Trusting God

VI. Chapters 5:1 – 5:19 ... Attitude toward God’s Promises

1. 5:1 – 5:6 - God promises to Punish the Wicked
2. 5:7 – 5:12 - God promises to Return for the Patient
3. 5:13 – 5:19 - God promises to Bless the Righteous