

1. Why have scholars concluded that James, the half brother of Jesus, authored this epistle?

**Refer** to the introductory notes I. A.

**Holy Spirit** is the ultimate source (1 Pet 1:21; 2 Thess 2:13; 1 Cor 2:12-16)

**There** is a slight possibility that James (son of Zebedee) penned this epistle soon after the Dispersion because there is no mention of the problems inflicted by Judaistic teaching.

2. What do we know of this James from other New Testament passages?

**Refer** to introductory notes I. B.

3. If this James were the author, what would this suggest about the letter's purpose?

**Refer** to introductory notes III. A. 4.

4. What is the theme of the epistle?

**Refer** to introductory notes III. B

**Thematic passage:** (James 1:22, 27)

**Epistle** for practical living – **Epistle** describing the life of faith:

1. Faith seen by...            **Enduring trials & temptations**
2.                            ...**Doing the word**
3.                            ...**Loving our neighbor**
4.                            ...**Works of obedience**
5.                            ...**Taming the tongue**
6.                            ...**Using wisdom from above**
7.                            ...**Drawing near to God**
8.                            ...**Subjecting our plans to God's will**
9.                            ...**Patience in trial**
10.                            ...**Fervency in prayer**
11.                            ...**Restoring the erring**

5. Who were the “twelve tribes” to whom the letter is addressed?

**Refer** to introductory notes II. A. B. C.

**Verses** like (5:10, 17) suggest that it was written to Jewish Christians.

6. Where were these “twelve tribes”?

“**Scattered abroad**” or “**dispersion**” – commonly used to refer to all Jews living outside of Palestine.

**But here** the context limits that description to Jewish Christians who had been forced to flee Jerusalem (Acts 8:1; 12:1).

**These** highly regarded James as their teacher & counselor while living in Jerusalem before the persecutions.

**It may** have been 10 years or more since most of them had heard anything from James.

**The** epistle is not merely a pat on the back, James, by inspiration, is aware of the problems they face, & he addressed those issues forthrightly.

## 7. What specific & immediate need occasioned the writing of this epistle?

**The** frustrations & the temptations of being totally “out on your own”.

**They** had to leave behind the comforts of being in a large group of Christians.

**Now**, they had to stand on their own:

**They** had to learn how to get along with one another & work together.

**They** had to learn how to face trial, temptation & persecution without a large support group present to rely upon.

**Similarities:** Epistle of James & Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount.

James 1:2-4; 5:10-12

Matt 5:10-12

James 1:5

Matt 7:7-11

James 1:19-20

Matt 5:22

James 1:22-27; 2:14-26

Matt 7:24-27

James 2:1-13

Matt 5:43-48

See attached article for more examples.