

# The Epistle of James

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## Essay Questions

LESSON  
ONE

## INTRODUCTION TO JAMES



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## Essay Questions

1. Name 3 reasons critical scholars challenge the authorship of James. Why do we affirm the traditional outlook that Jesus' brother wrote this book?
2. What clues can we gather from James' epistle about his original audience? Support your answer with specific references from Scripture.

3. Where, when, and why did James write his epistle? What factors have led scholars to these conclusions?

4. The epistle of James has been called the New Testament book of wisdom. How is the structure of the letter similar to other wisdom literature of James' day? How is it different?

5. What can we learn about James' character from his short greeting (1:1)?

6. James encouraged his audience to have "pure joy" in the midst of trials (1:2).  
According to James, how does the pursuit of wisdom make this possible?

7. The epistle of James teaches that wisdom from God leads to faithful obedience. List and describe a few ways that James called his audience to live out their faith.

8. Explain three problems that threatened to destroy the peace among those in James' original audience. What remedies did James prescribe for these problems?

9. According to James' cautions about wisdom and the future, what was wrong with making plans and hoarding wealth? What could his audience anticipate if they waited patiently?

10. In what circumstances did James instruct his readers to draw near to God for wisdom and devote themselves to prayer?

11. What parting exhortation did James give his audience with regard to their responsibility toward one another?

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## Essay Questions

LESSON  
TWO

## TWO PATHS OF WISDOM



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