

The Epistle of James

Introduction and Chapter 1

What is an epistle?

Who is the author? James 1:1a....*servant (doulos, δουλος) of God*....

When was it written?

To whom was it written? James 1:1b...*twelve tribes scattered among the nations*...
(Diaspora, διασπορα)

What is its message?

I. The Saint and the Storm (1:1-12)

- A. Introduction (v. 1)
- B. Reasons why the saint has victory through the storms (vv. 2-12)
 - 1. Inward joy not dependent upon outward circumstances (2)
 - 2. The Purpose of Trials (3-12)
 - a) Develops Faith (3)
 - b) Teaches Patience (4a)
 - c) Perfects Character (4b)
 - d) Encourages to Pray (5)
 - e) Leads to Steadfastness (6-8)
 - f) Helps us find true riches (9-11)
 - g) Makes us candidates for the crown of life (12)

II. The Saint and Sin (1:13-17)

- A. God is not responsible for temptation (v. 13)
- B. The Source of Sin is one's own lust (v. 14)
- C. The Wages of Sin is death (v. 15)
- D. Nothing but good comes from immutable God (vv. 16-17)

III. The Saint and Scriptures (1:18-27)

- A. The Saint born again through the Word (v. 18)
- B. Exhortation to hear the Word (v. 19)
- C. Exhortation to be slow to speak (vv. 19-21)
- D. Reasons for Obedience to the Word (vv. 22-27)
 - 1. To hear and not obey is to be deceived (22)
 - 2. To forget what God has spoken is reprehensible (23-24)
 - 3. Only in Obedience to the Word is there blessing (25)
 - 4. Religion without Obedience is vanity (worthless) (26-27)