

BACKGROUND AND CHARACTER OF JAMES

- Written as early as 44 AD, by James, the half-brother of Jesus
- Originally not a believer – John 7:1-5
- Bond-Slave/ Servant/ Slave – *Duolos* – A slave that chooses serve his master (Exodus 21). Not viewed highly in Greek culture.
- James, **of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ**, a servant, to the Twelve Tribes who are in the dispersion: Hail! (YLT)

“In all our services we should have an eye to the Son as well as the father. We cannot acceptably serve the Father unless we are also servants of the Son.” - Matthew Henry

- Martyred in 62 AD – Thrown from a rooftop, stoned or beaten
- The Fall of Jerusalem has been in part, attributed to his death – Eusebius/ Josephus

MAIN POINT #1 – WE MUST PARTAKE IN THIS FOR IT TO HAVE ITS EFFECT

² Consider *it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you encounter various trials,*

- Consider or Count – Verb and an Imperative
- Preparing our minds for action (NASB), Gird up the loins of our mind (NKJV) – 1 PET 1:13

“The meaning is to pull in all the loose ends of ones thinking, **by rejecting the hindrances of the world and focusing of the future grace of God.**” – MacArthur Commentaries

MAIN POINT #2 – WHEN THESE TRIALS COME, PASS THE TEST

² Consider it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you encounter various trials, James 1:2

- WHEN – 1 PET 4:12 – Do not be surprised!
- ENCOUNTER – To fall into, or among - Same word used in The Good Samaritan Luke 10:30-39
- Not always a grand affliction such as JOB 1: 6-19, 2:7-10
- NOT consequences of our sin 1 PET 4:15
- Trials – temptations to sin - 1 Chronicles 21:1-2, Luke 22:31-32
- God is not tempting us! – James 1:13-15
- TEST (Wrong Response)– TEMPTATION - SIN

MAIN POINT #3 – KNOWING OUR TESTING PRODUCES GOOD RESULTS

³ **knowing** that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:3-4

- KNOWING – To come to know or recognize. Experiential knowledge, not just technical memorization. - *Perception of things as they are, not an opinion about them* -
- TESTING – Think smelting metals. Our faith is made pure, stronger, resulting in endurance
- We CAN endure them - 1 COR 10:13
- 1 PET 1:6-7, ROM 5:3-5
- **We may not always know why something is happening but we are to count it as joy, church family, when we encounter these trials because God is refining us, strengthening our faith, and building our character so that we may be joyful as we serve the Lord.**