

# The Epistle Of James

James 2:20 (NKJV)

But do you want to know, O foolish man,  
that faith without works is dead?





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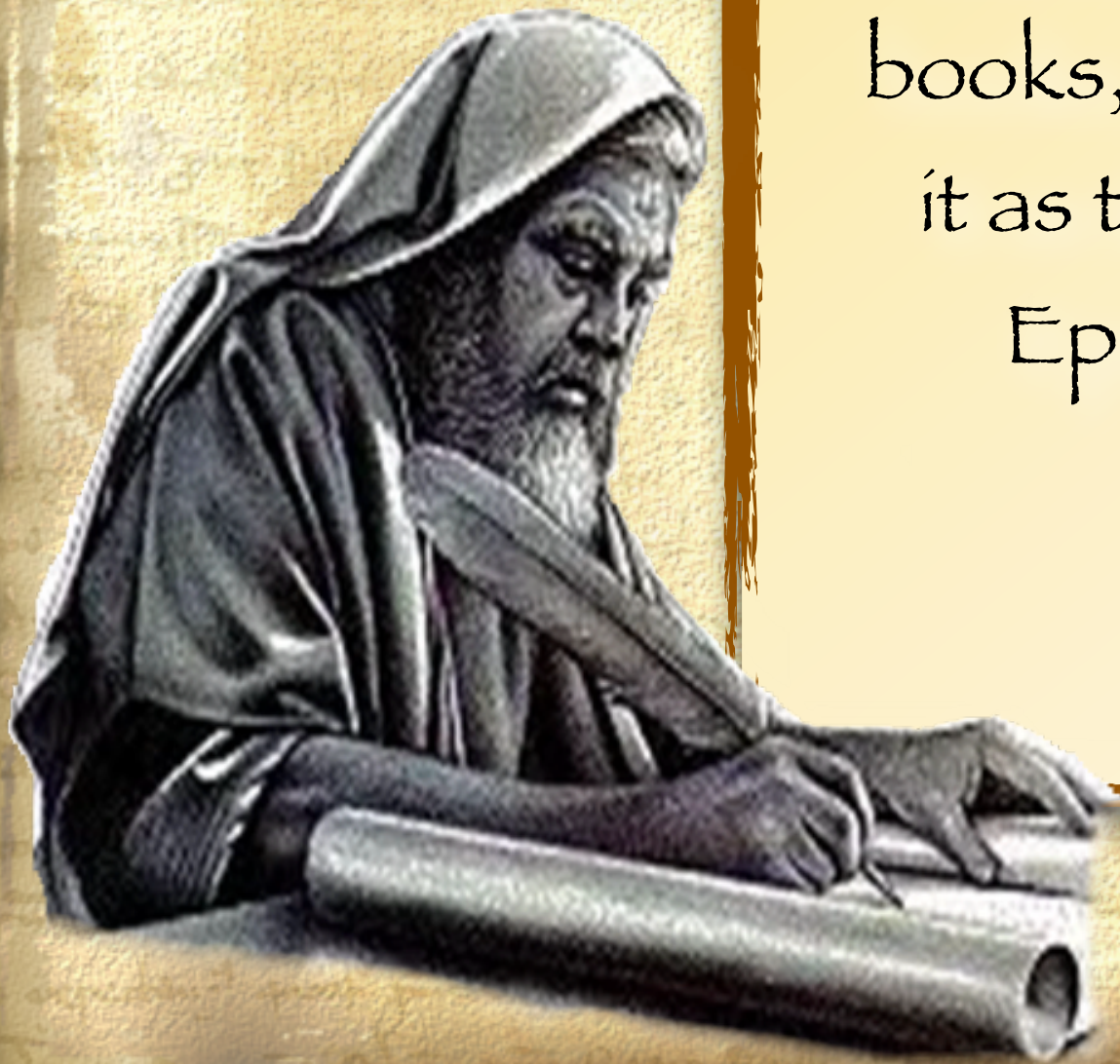
## Introduction



# The Epistle Of James

## Attestation

“Eusebius, who put it among the disputed books, accepted it for himself, referring to it as the first of the Catholic, (universal) Epistles and as used publicly in the churches along with other epistles” (Harrison, p. 383).

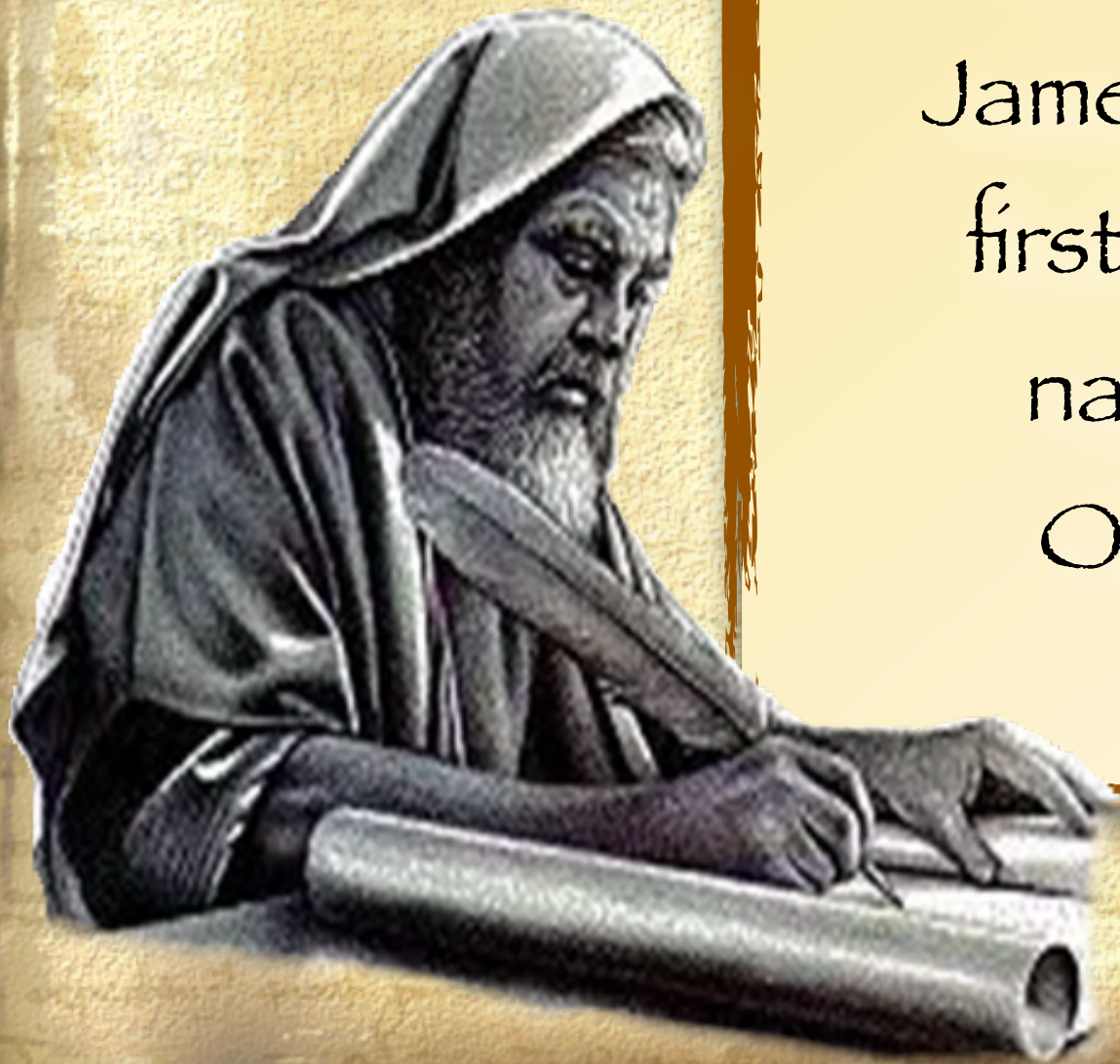




# The Epistle Of James

## Attestation

“Although there may be allusions to James in the Apostolic Fathers, the first writer to refer to the work by name and cite it as Scripture is Origen, in his Commentary on John” (Harrison. 382-3).

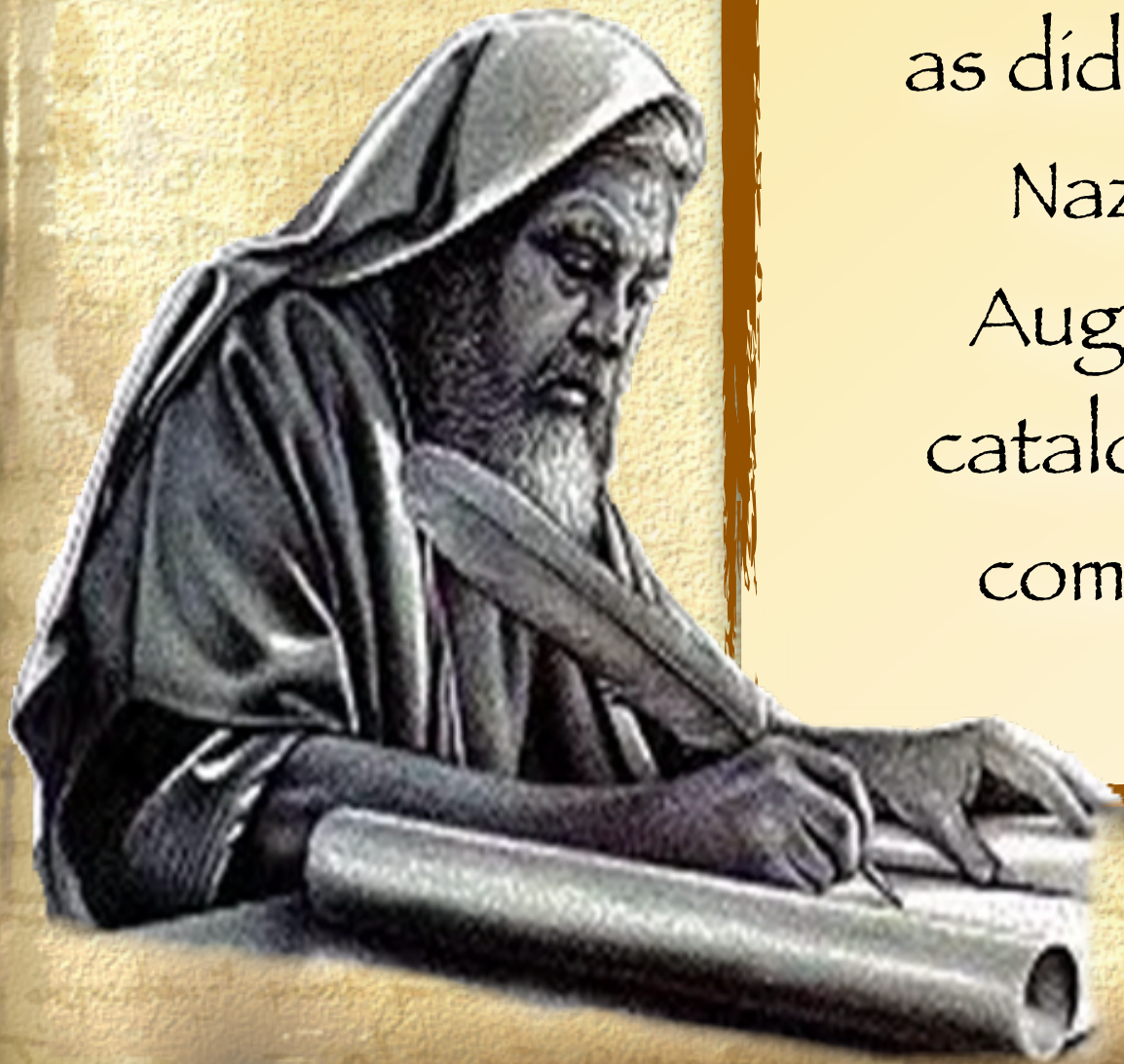




# The Epistle Of James

## Attestation

“... Origen recognized James as Scripture, as did also Cyril of Jerusalem, Gregory of Nazianzus, Athanasius, Jerome, and Augustine . . . “And it is included in the catalogues of accepted books that have come down to us from Asia Minor and Egypt” (Thiessen, p. 273).

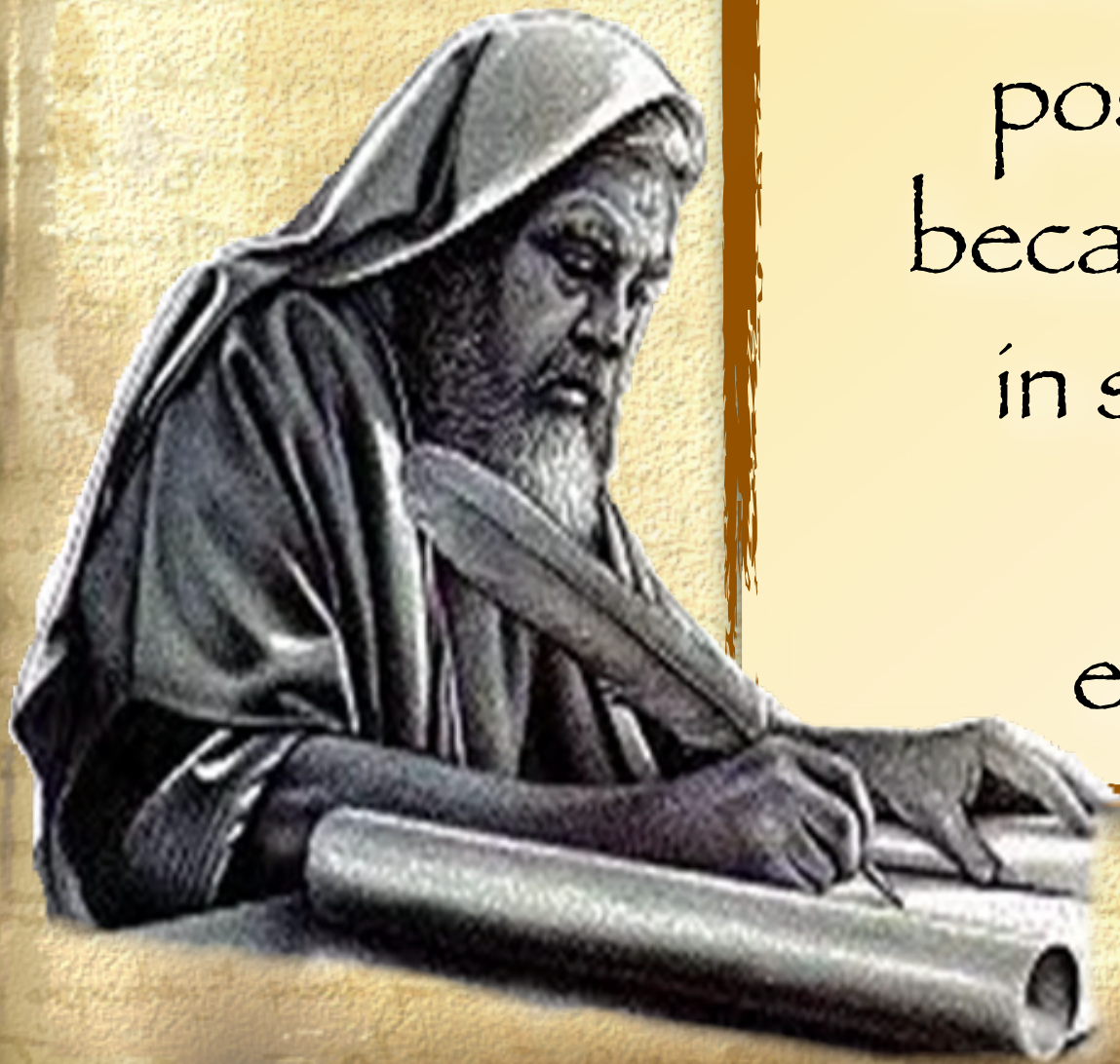




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## Attestation

Luther gave the book a secondary position in the Lutheran Bible because it contradicted his belief in salvation by faith alone. He called it “a right strawy epistle” (Harrison, p.383).

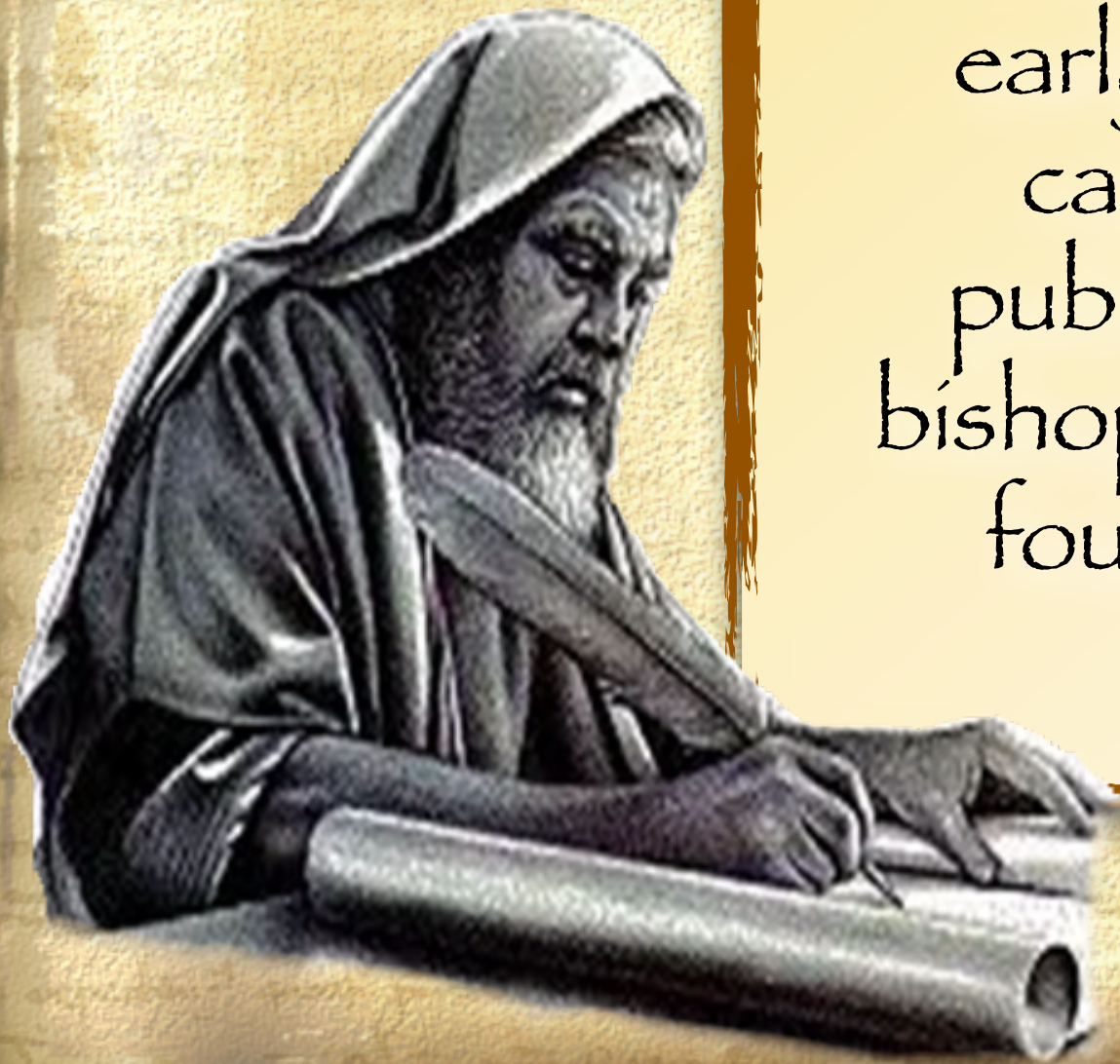




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## Attestation

The letter was accepted as canon early by the Jewish Christians. All catalogs of books of scripture published by whatever councils or bishops or orthodox writers after the fourth century acknowledge the authenticity of the letter.



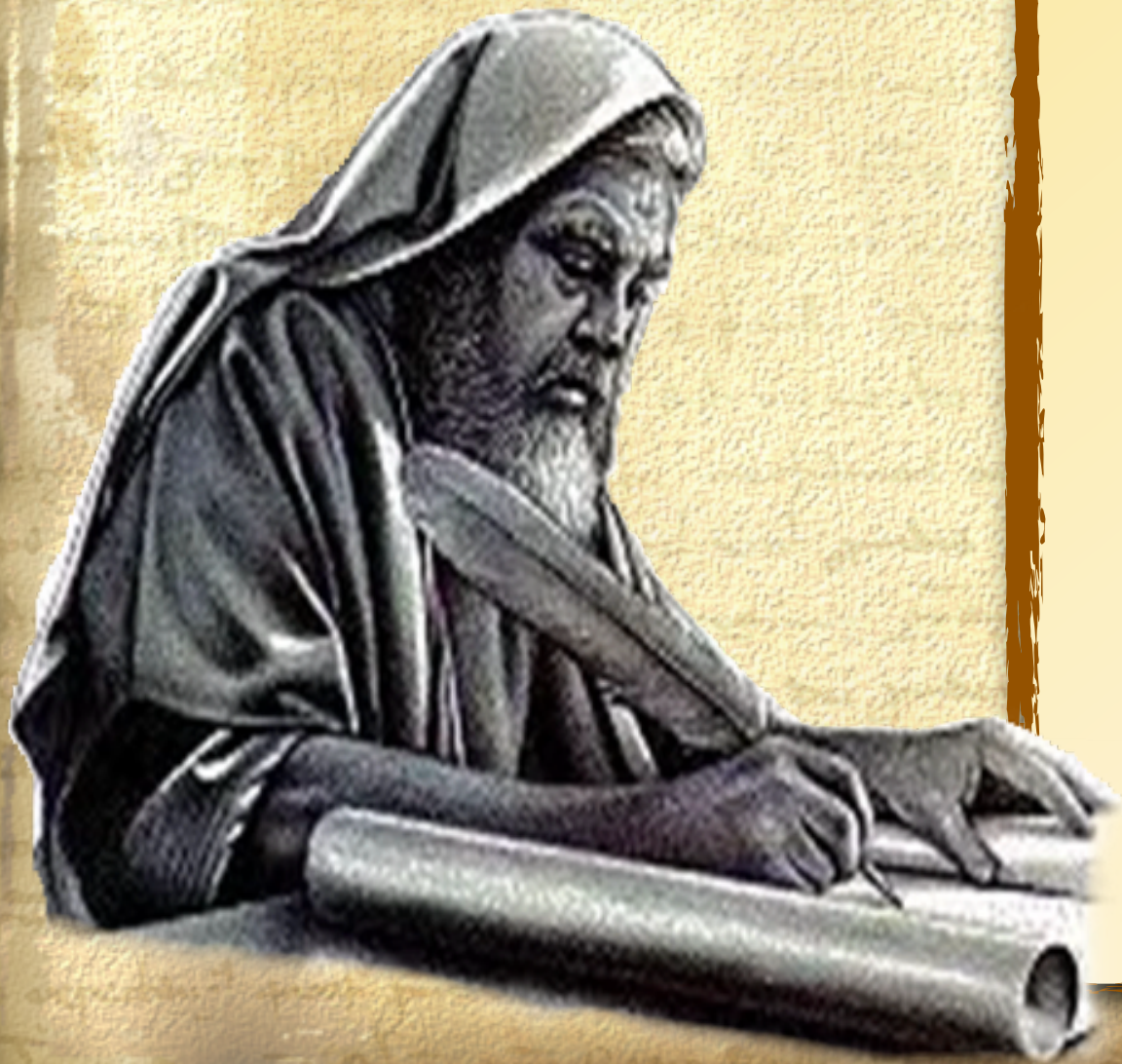


# The Epistle Of James

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Author: James - 1:1

**There Are Three New Testament Characters Named "James."**

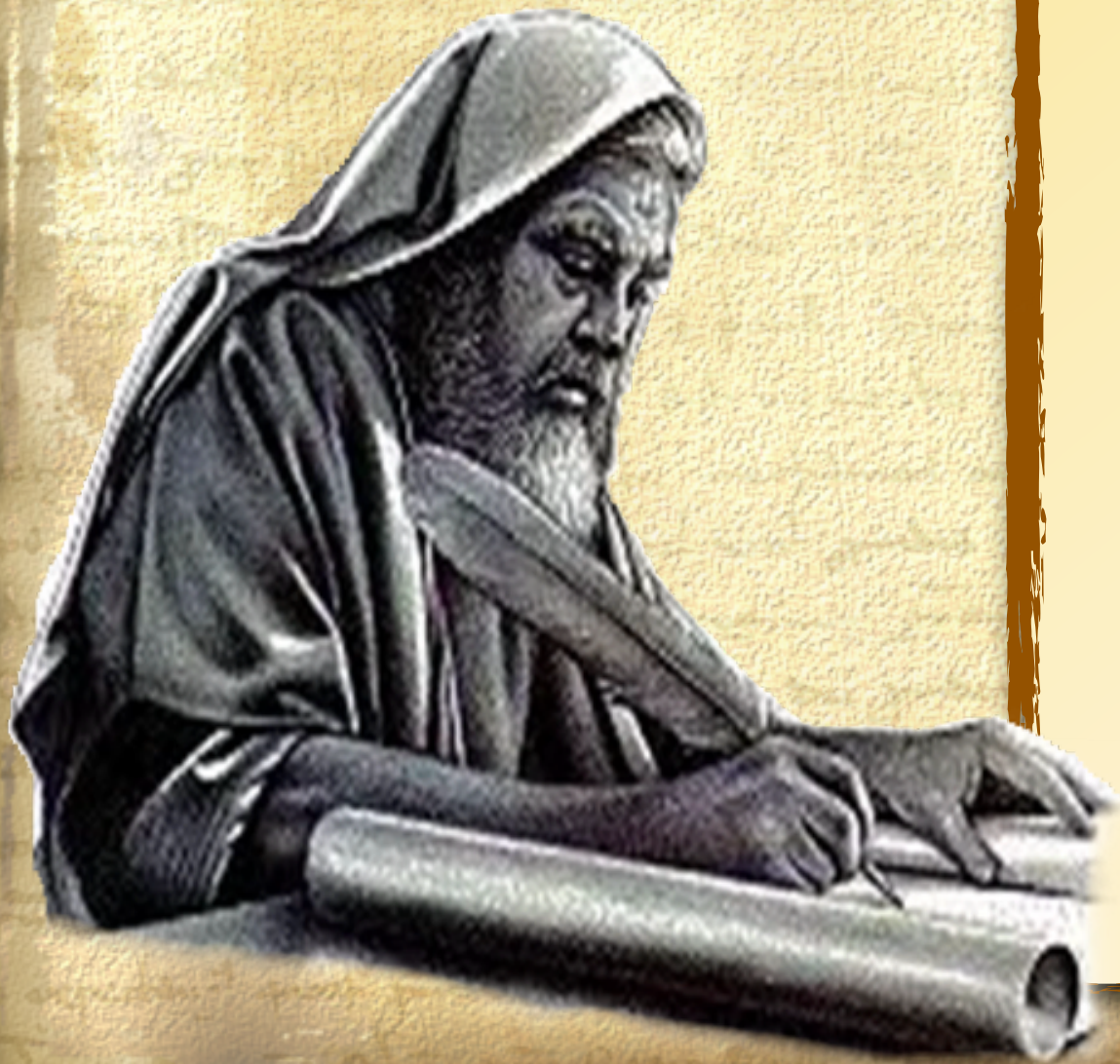




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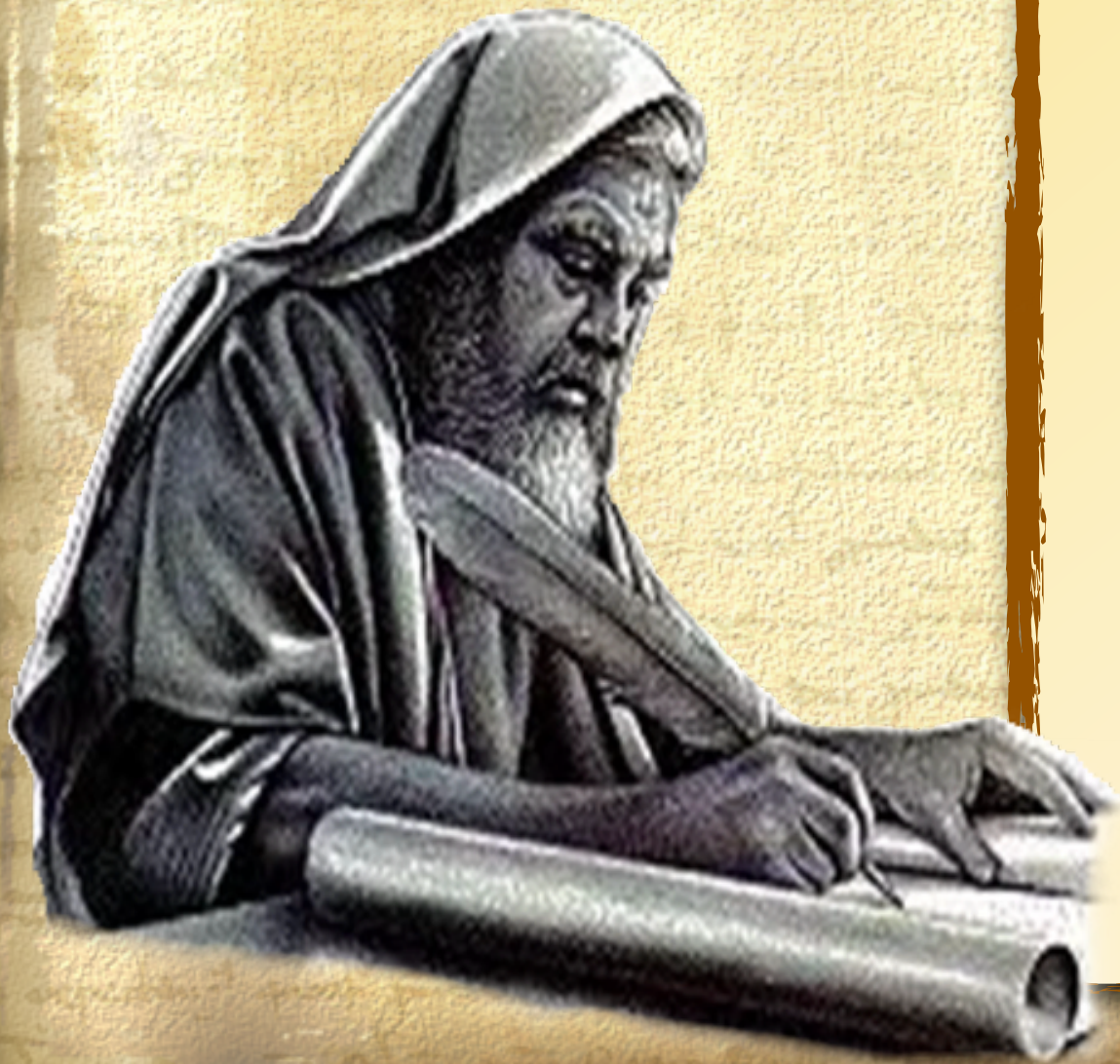
◆ The son of Zebedee, an apostle - Mat. 4:21; 10:2



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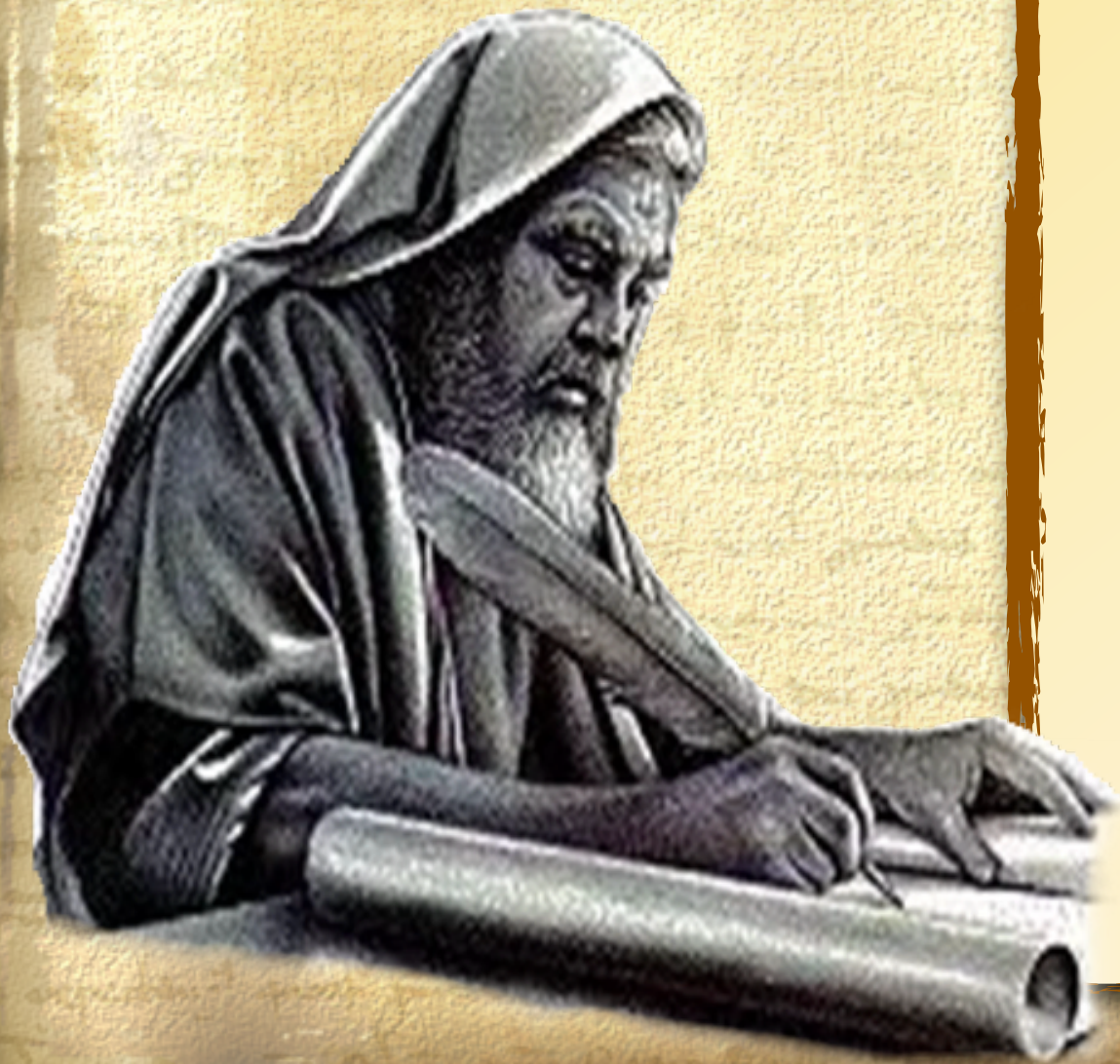
- ◆ The son of Zebedee, an apostle - Mat. 4:21; 10:2
- ◆ The son of Alphaeus, an apostle - Mat. 10:3; Mark 15:40



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- ◆ The son of Zebedee, an apostle - Mat. 4:21; 10:2
- ◆ The son of Alphaeus, an apostle - Mat. 10:3; Mark 15:40
- ◆ The Lord's brother - Mat. 13:55; Gal. 1:19



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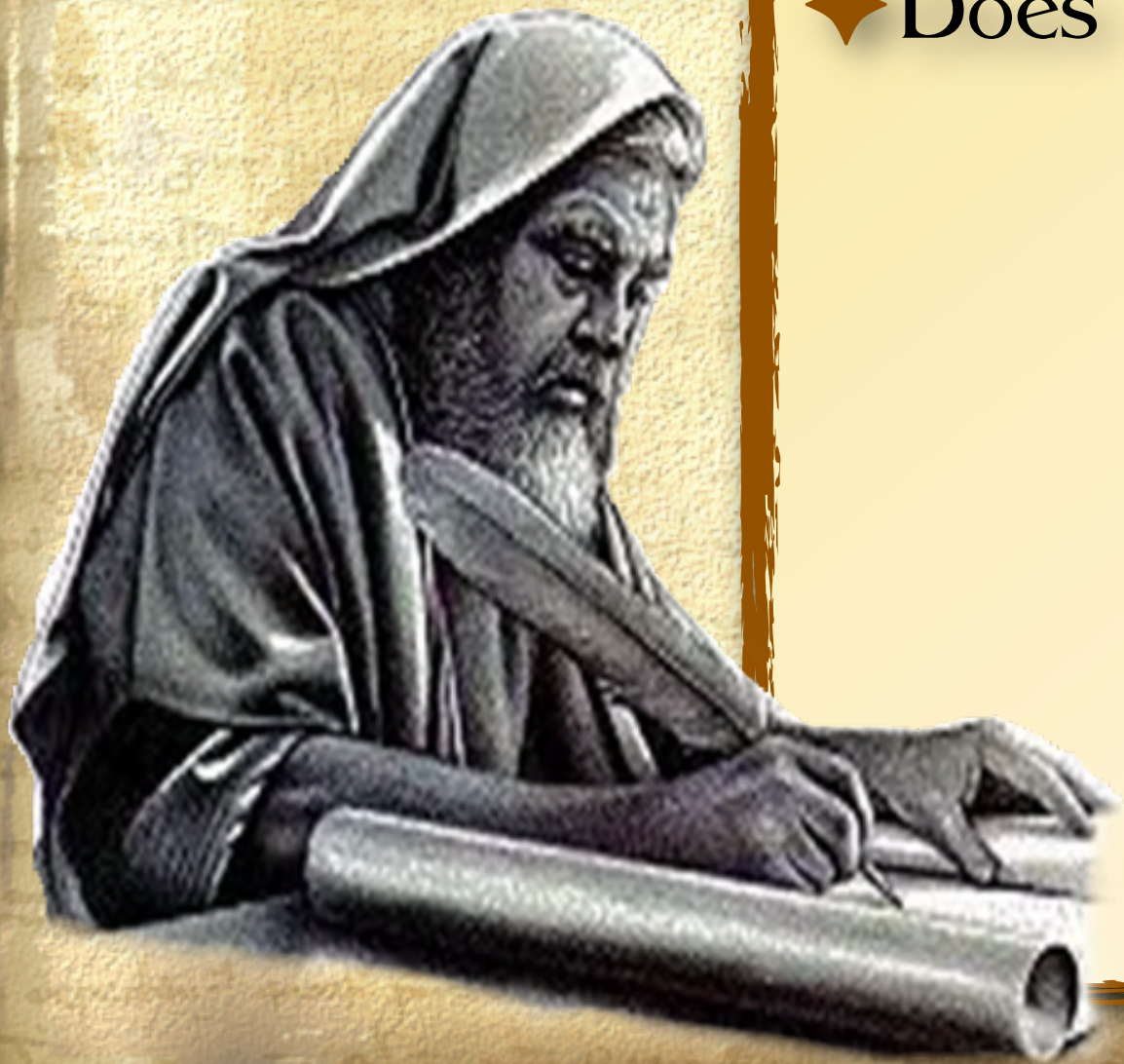


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◆ Does not call himself an apostle - 1:1

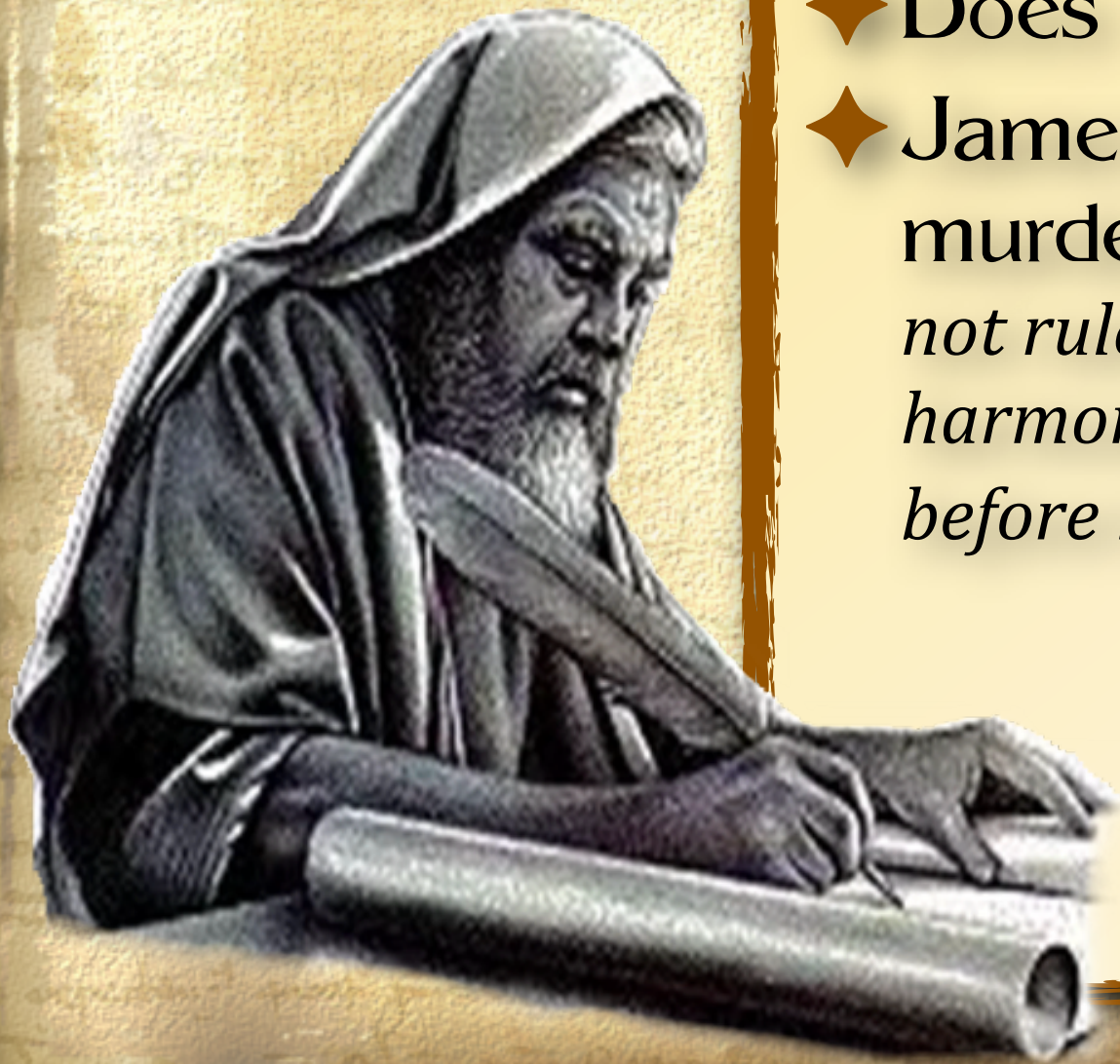




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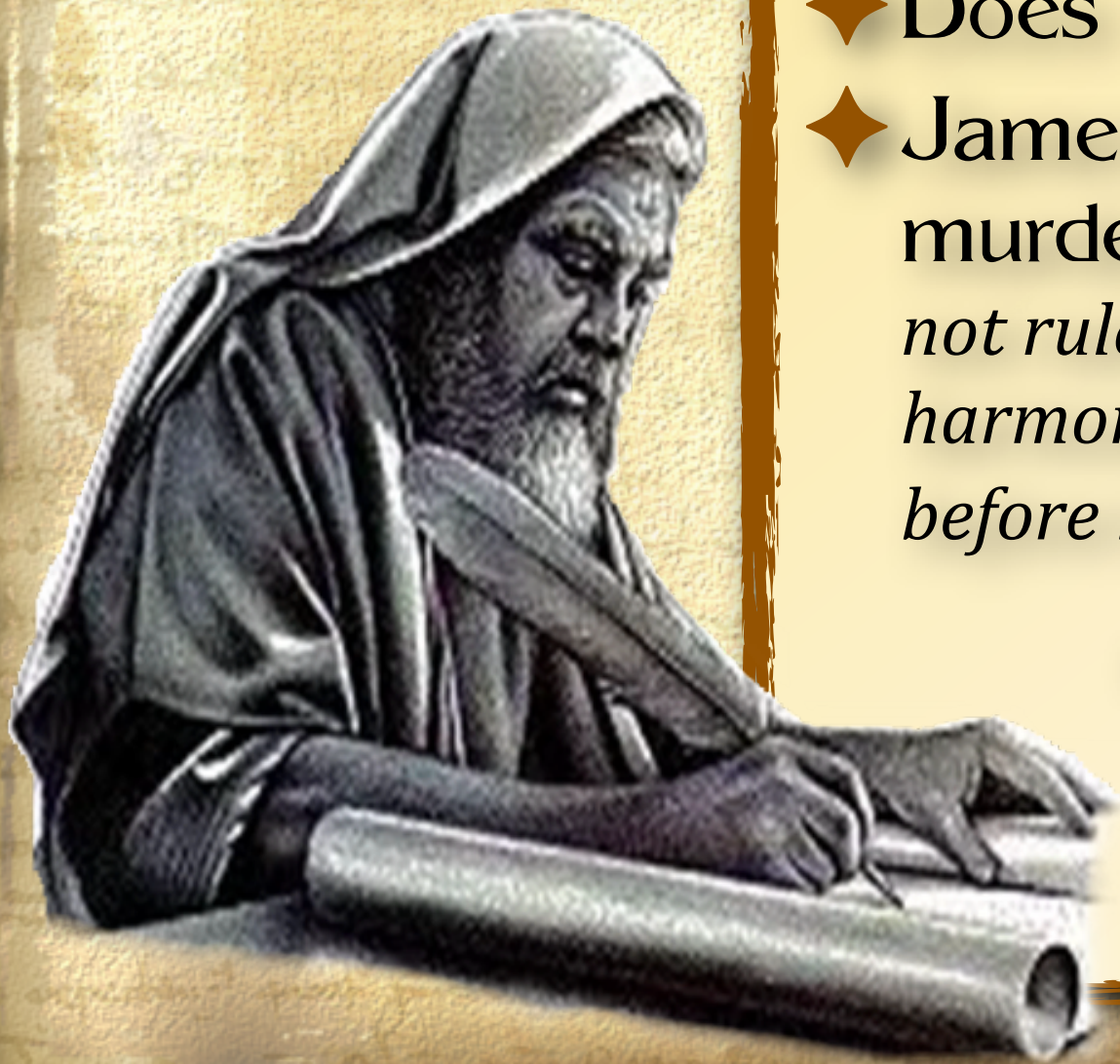
- ◆ Does not call himself an apostle - 1:1
- ◆ James, the son of Zebedee, was murdered by Herod in A.D. 44. (*This does not rule him out as the author, for conditions in harmony with the content of the book were present before his death. - cf. "Date"*) - Acts 12:1-2



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- ◆ Nothing is known scripturally of James the less after the establishment of the church.



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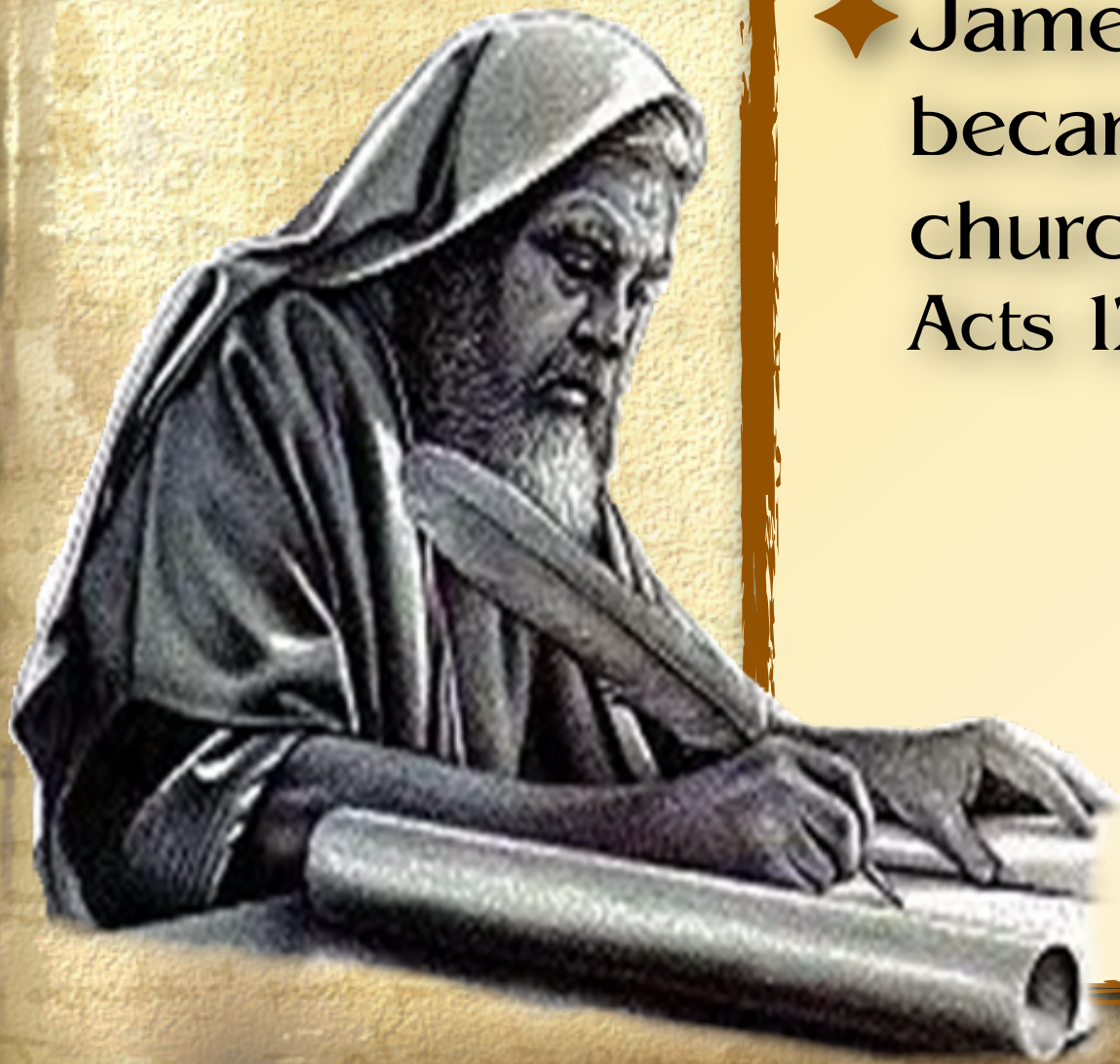




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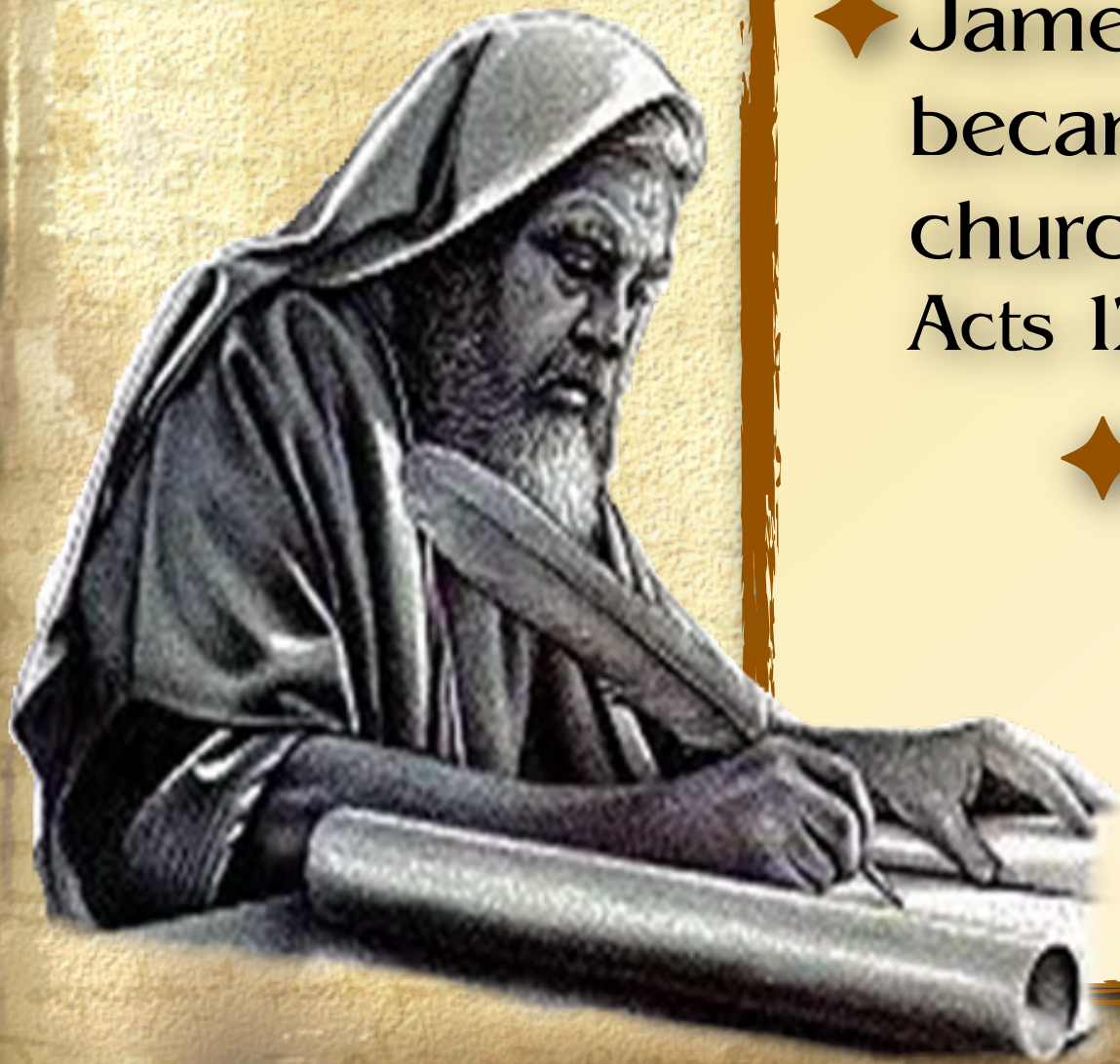
- ◆ James, the Lord's half brother, became prominent in the first century church. - 1 Cor. 15:7; Acts 1:14; Gal 1:18-19; Acts 12:17; 15:13,19; Gal 2:1,9-10,12; Acts 21:18



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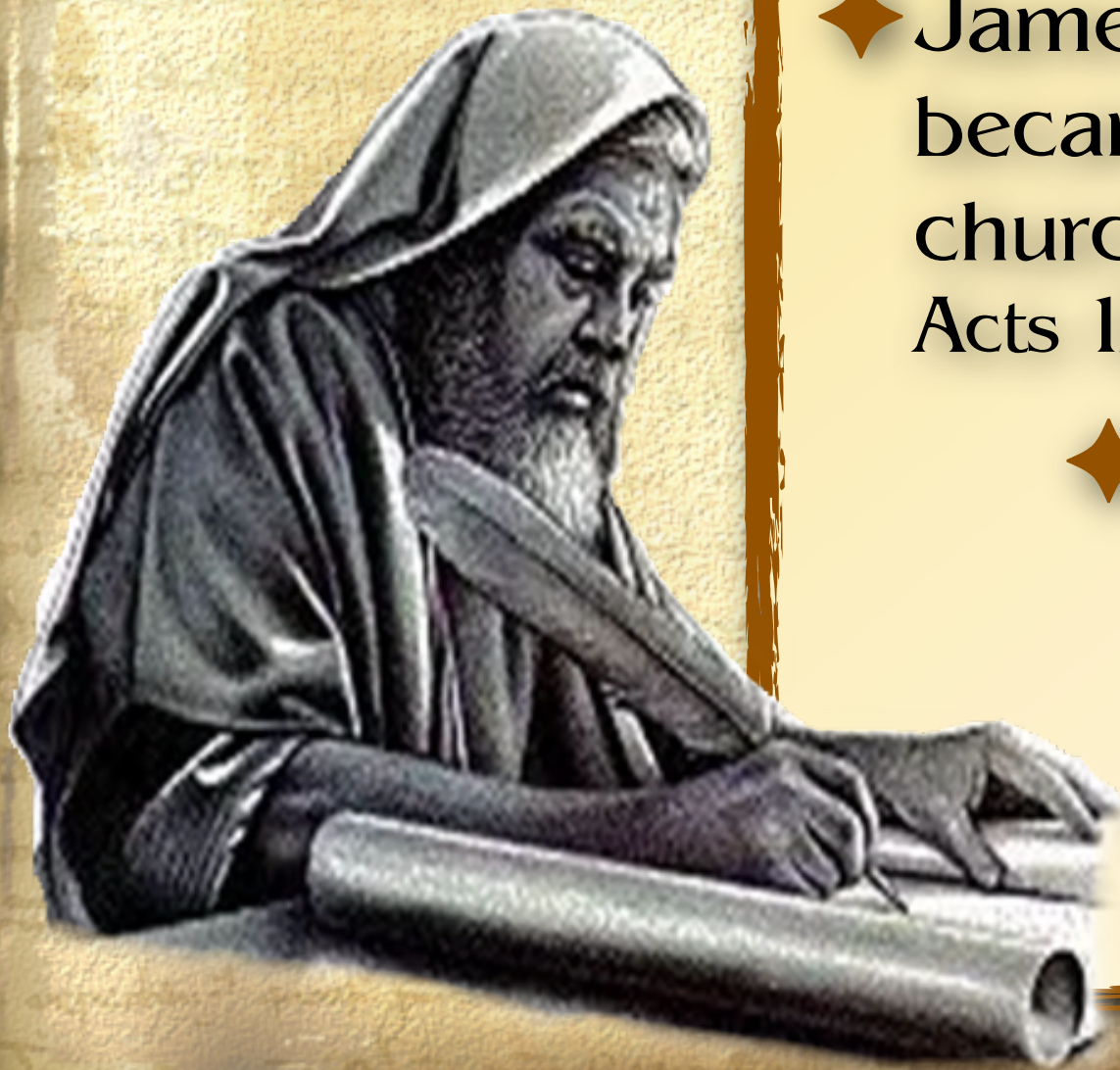
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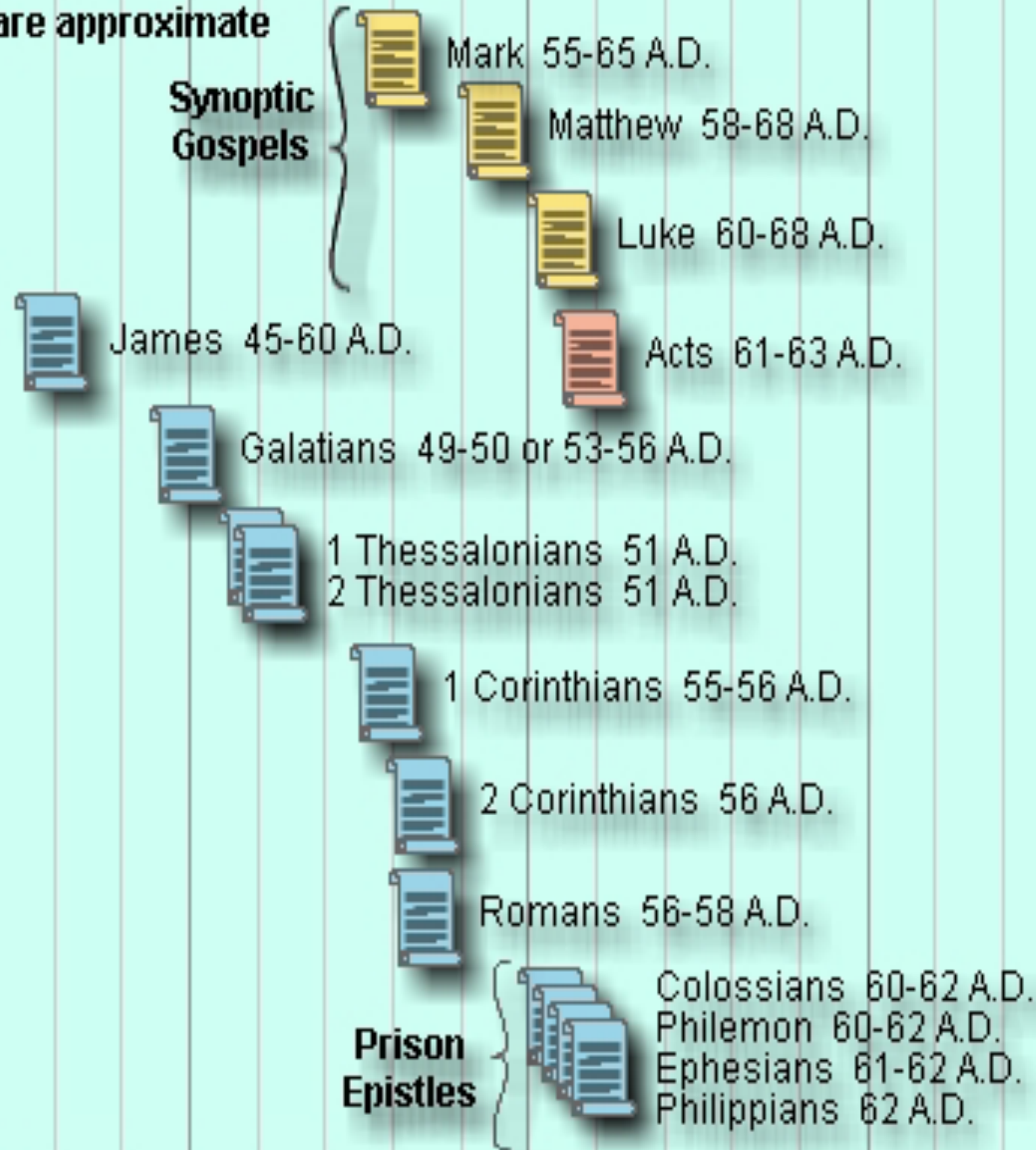


- ◆ James, the Lord's half brother, became prominent in the first century church. - 1 Cor. 15:7; Acts 1:14; Gal 1:18-19; Acts 12:17; 15:13,19; Gal 2:1,9-10,12; Acts 21:18
- ◆ The greeting of 1:1 is similar to that of James, the Lord's brother, in Acts 15:23.
- ◆ Most likely James, brother of the Lord.



# New Testament Books

All dates are approximate



**Gospels**  
**History**  
**Epistles**  
**Prophecy**

40 A.D.

50 A.D.

60 A.D.

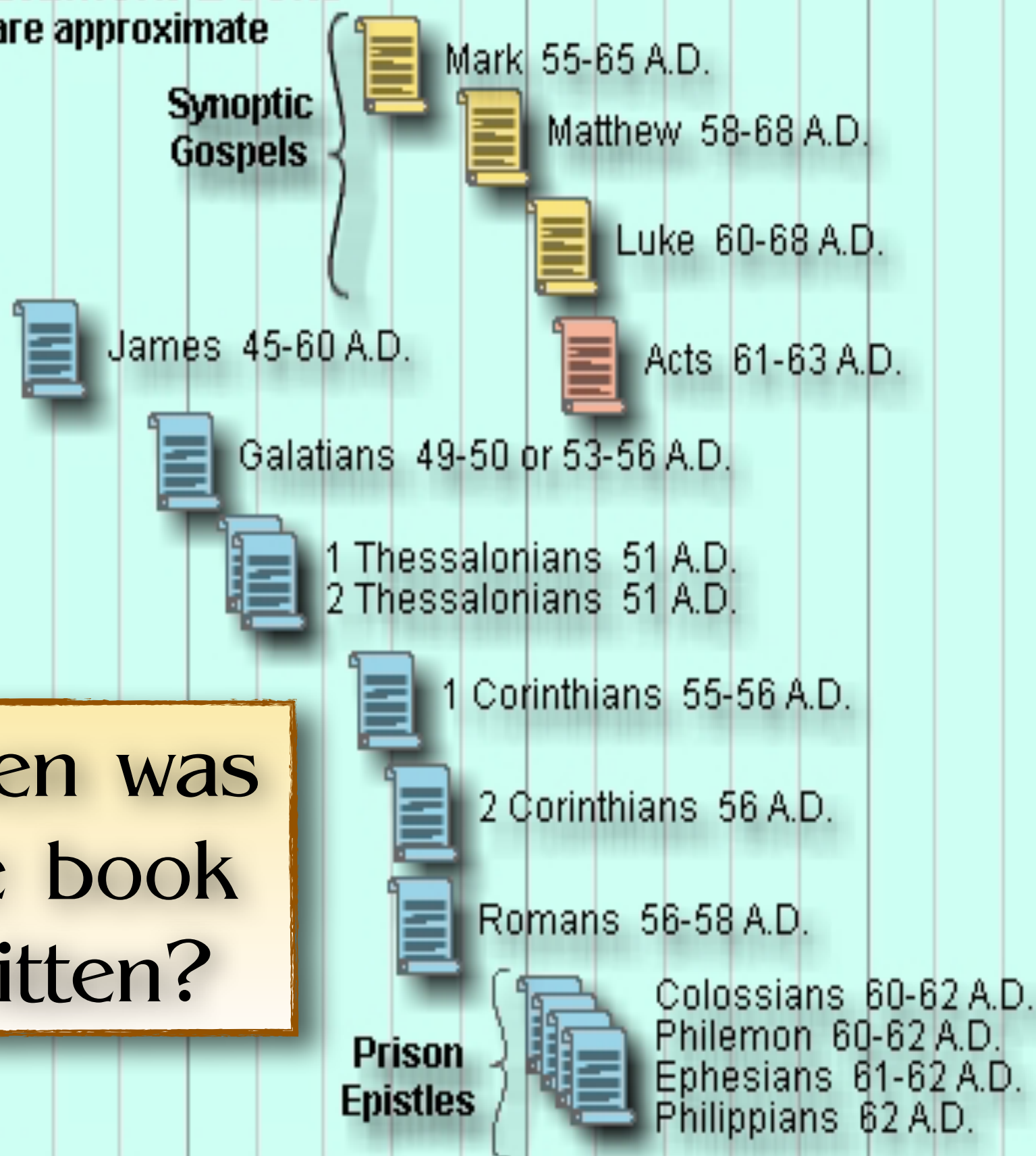
70 A.D.

80 A.D.



# New Testament Books

All dates are approximate



When was  
the book  
written?

40 A.D.

50 A.D.

60 A.D.

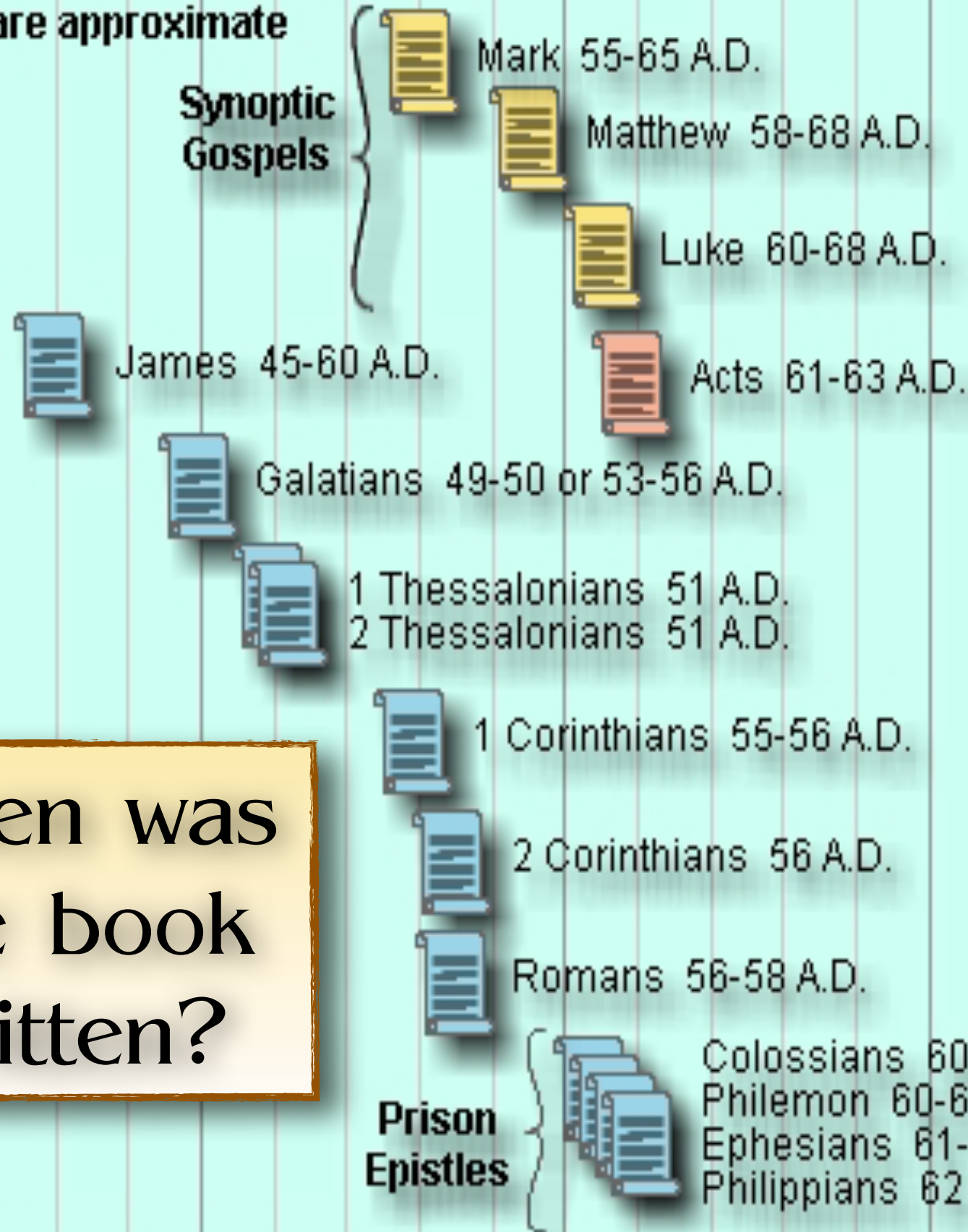
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# New Testament Books

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When was  
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✦ After Acts 8 . . .  
The Christians  
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40 A.D.

50 A.D.

60 A.D.

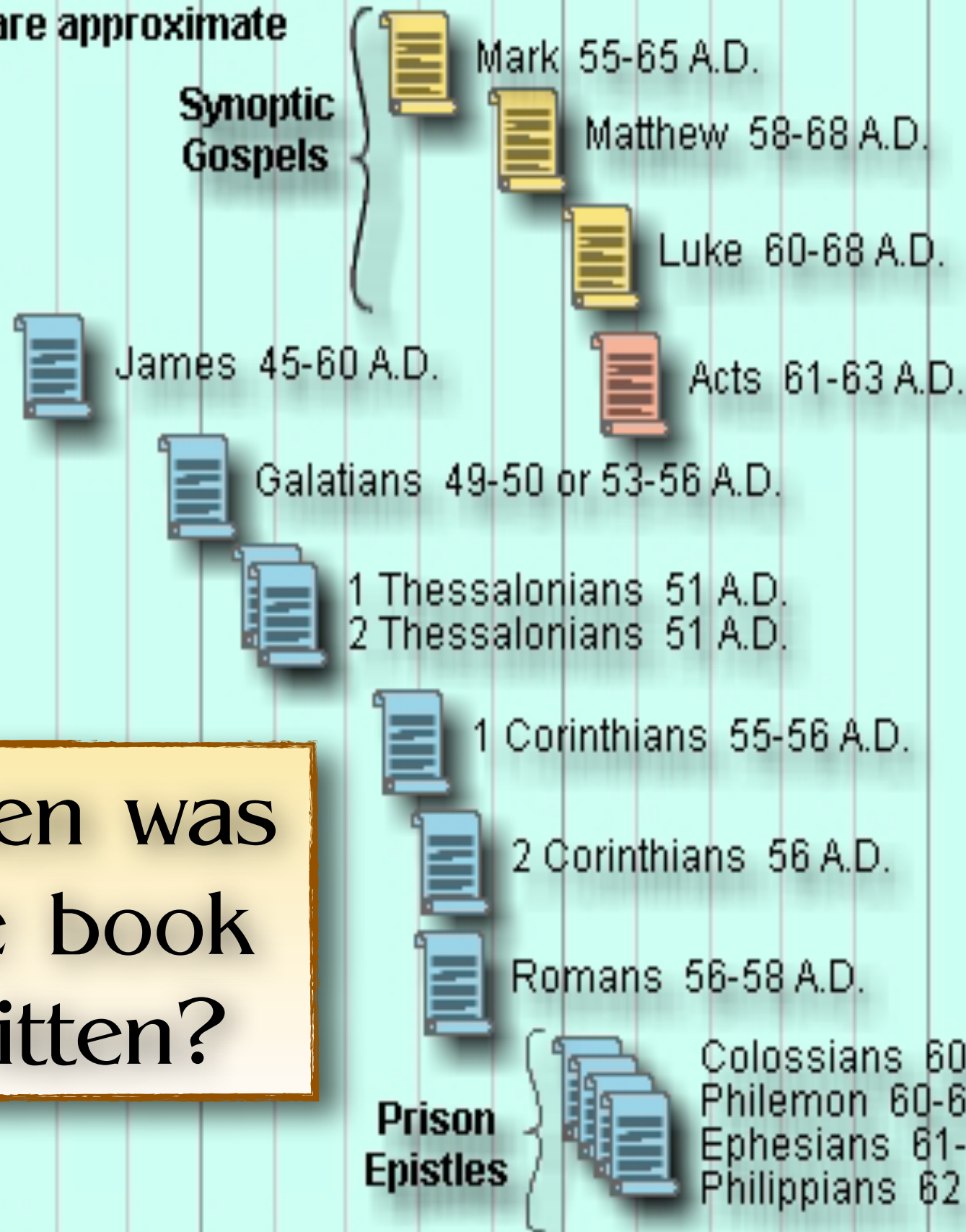
70 A.D.

80 A.D.



# New Testament Books

All dates are approximate



When was  
the book  
written?

- ✦ After Acts 8 . . . The Christians were scattered abroad –
- ✦ The churches had elders – James 5:14

40 A.D.

50 A.D.

60 A.D.

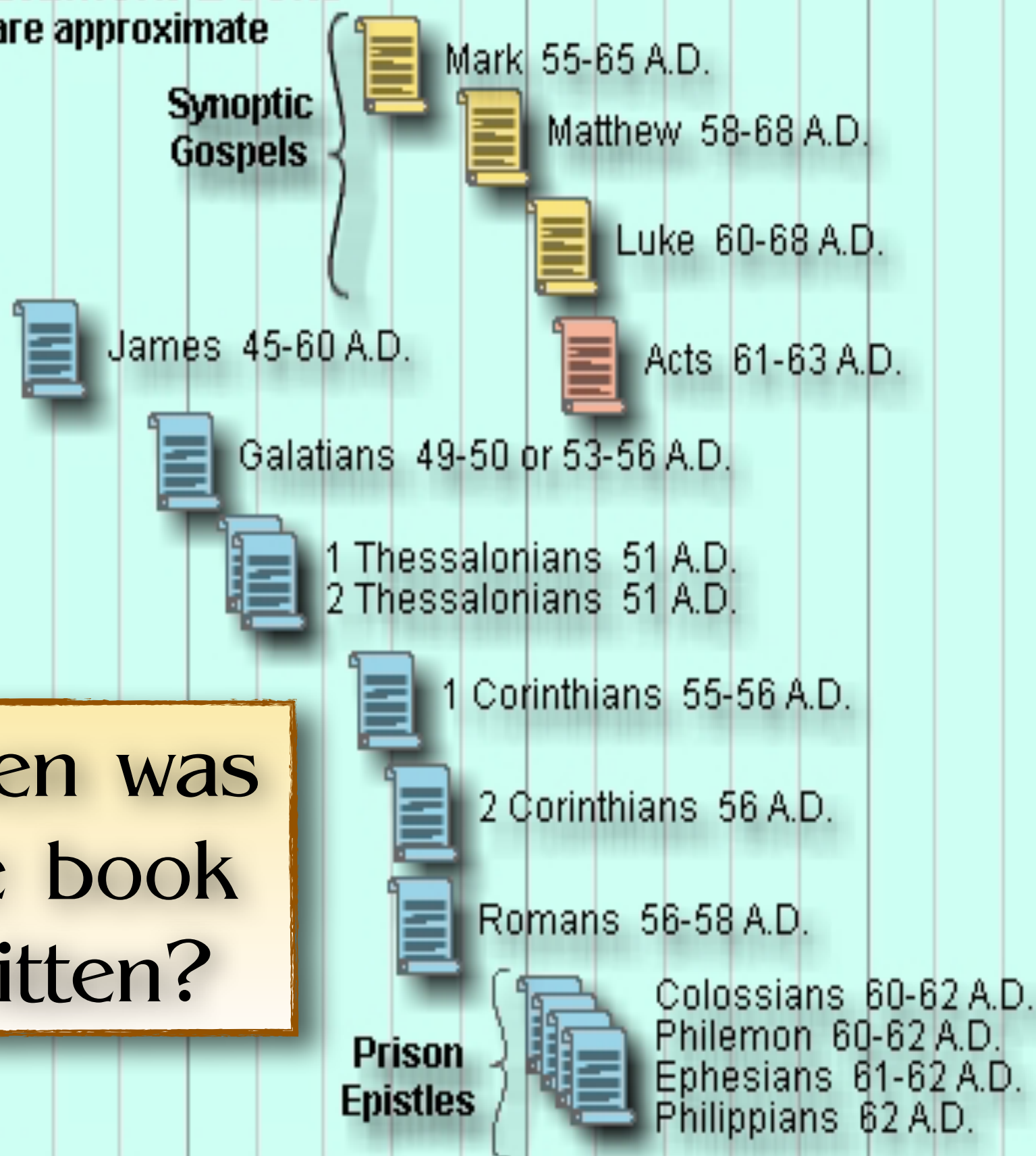
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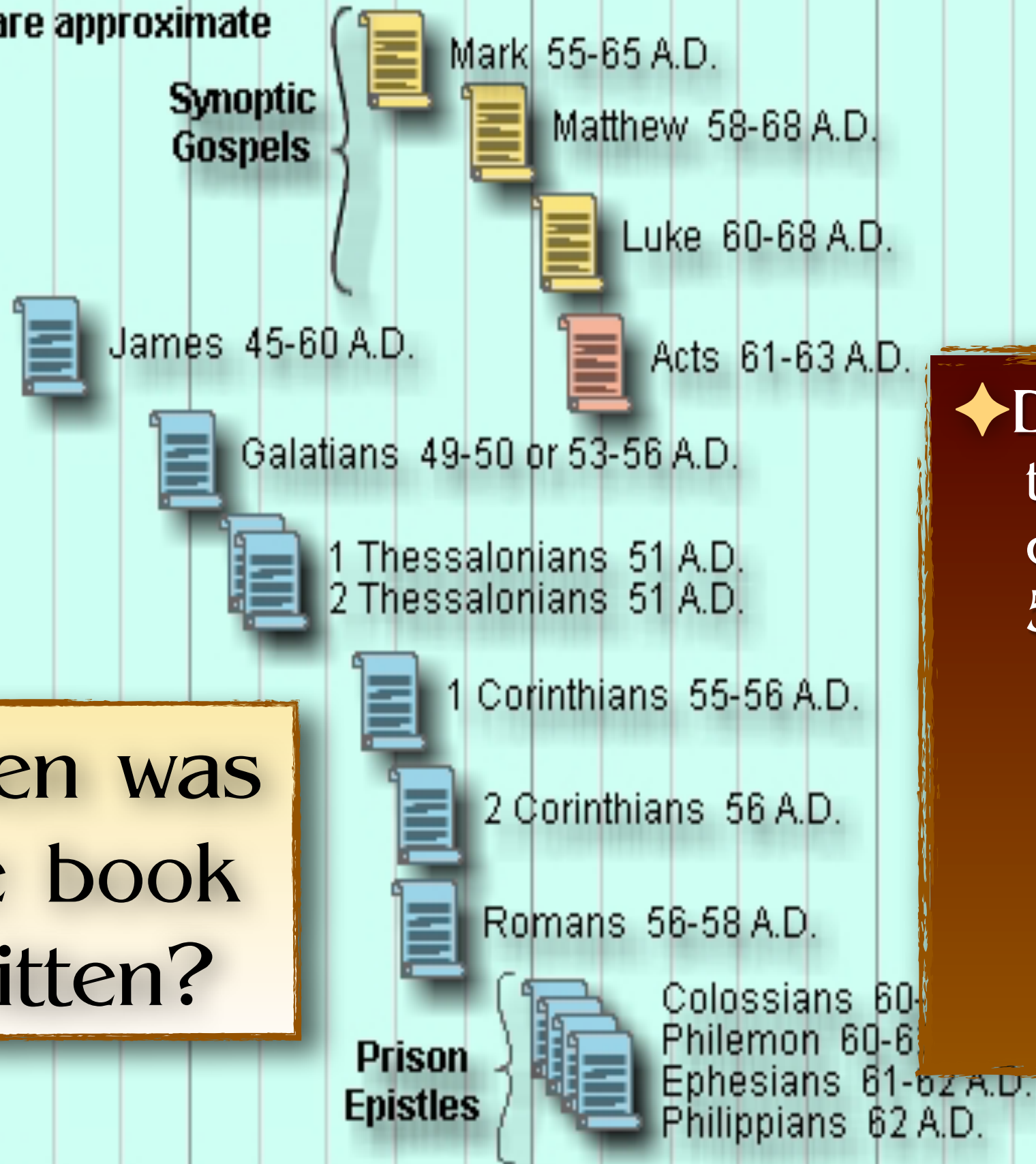
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When was  
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✦ Doesn't deal with  
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50's – (Acts 15)

40 A.D.

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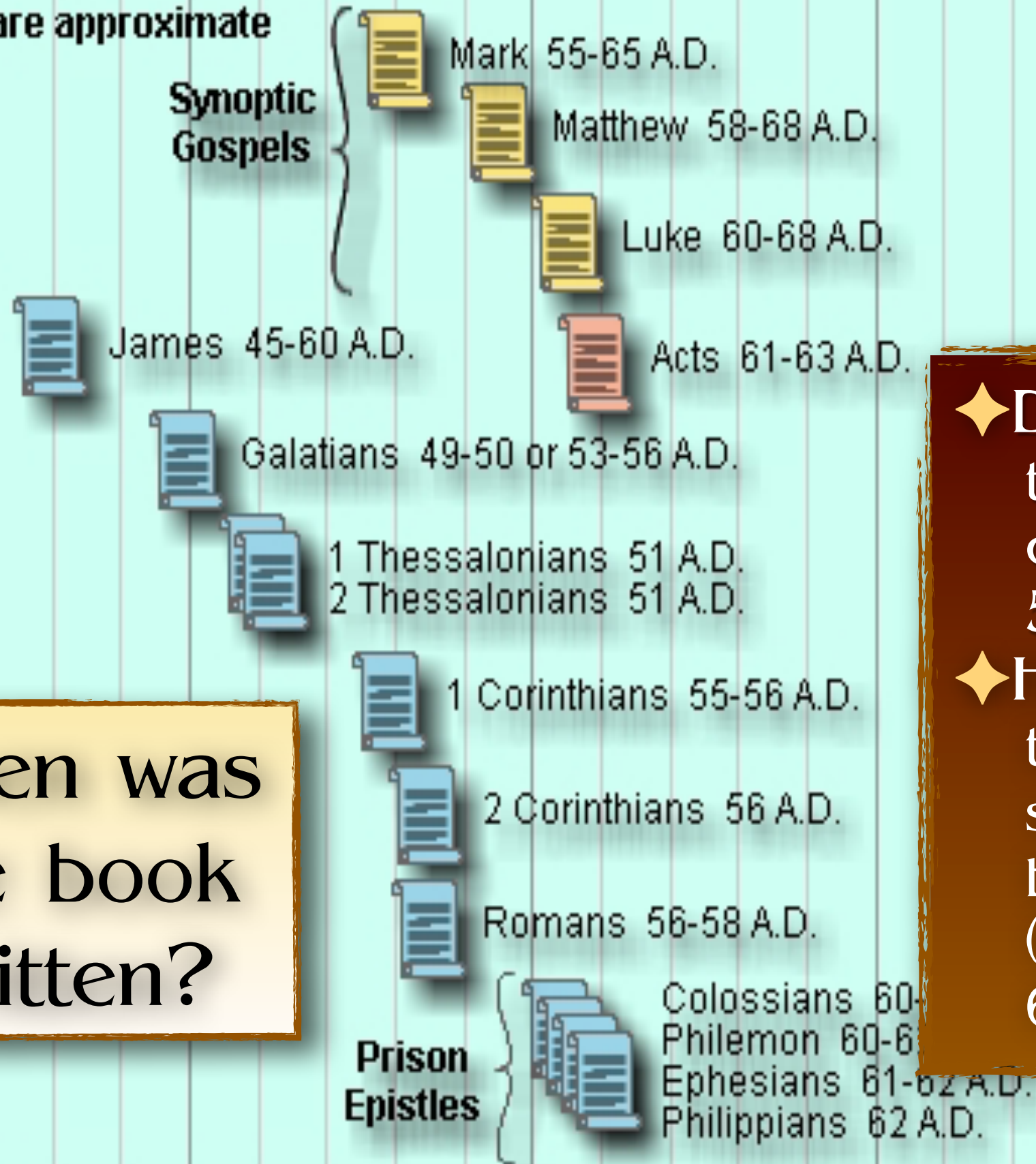
70 A.D.

80 A.D.



# New Testament Books

All dates are approximate



When was  
the book  
written?

- ✦ Doesn't deal with the problem of circumcision in the 50's – (Acts 15)
- ✦ History indicates that James was stoned to death between 62 AD, (Hegesippus) and 65 AD, (Josephus)

40 A.D.

50 A.D.

60 A.D.

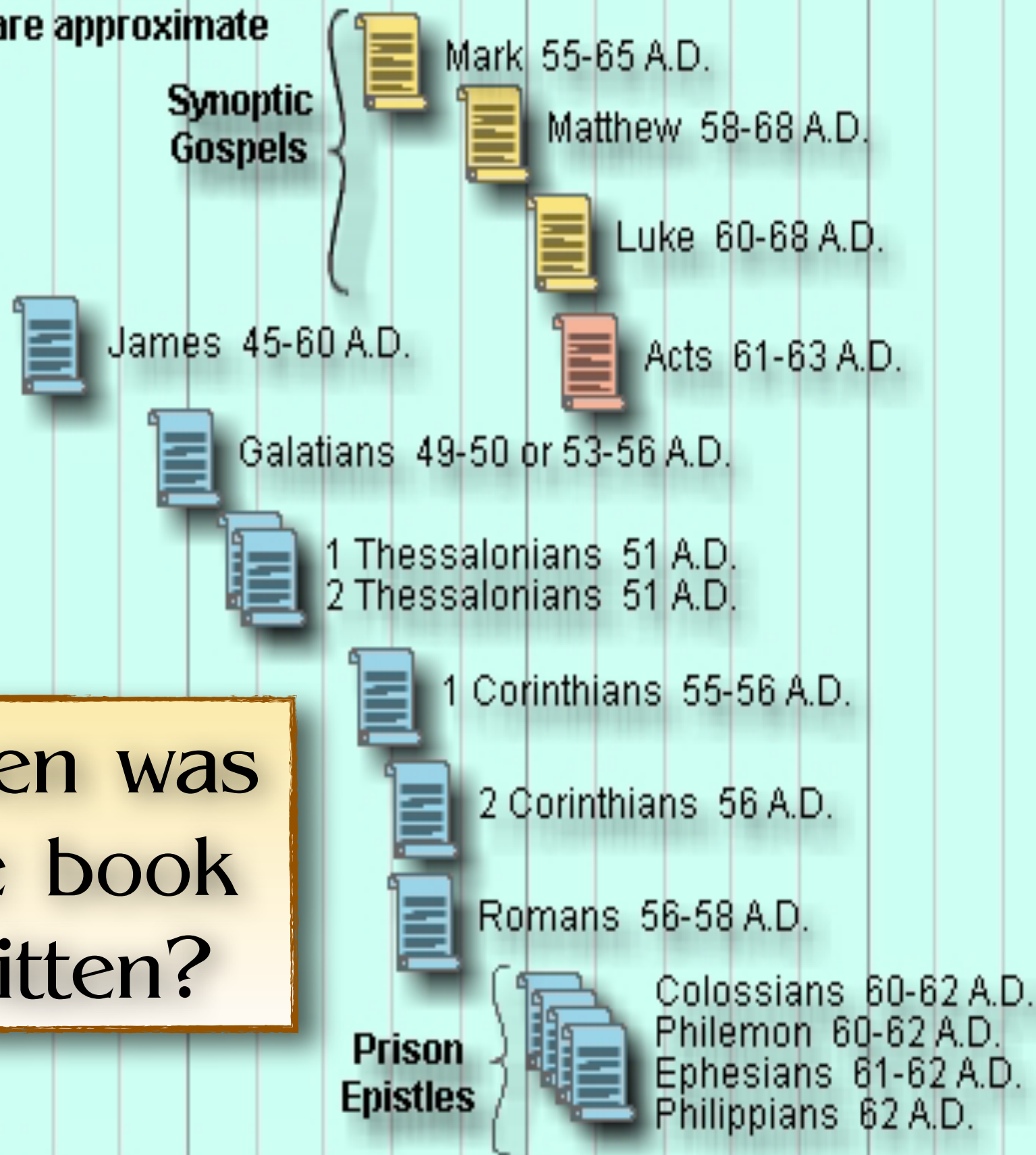
70 A.D.

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# New Testament Books

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When was  
the book  
written?

40 A.D.

50 A.D.

60 A.D.

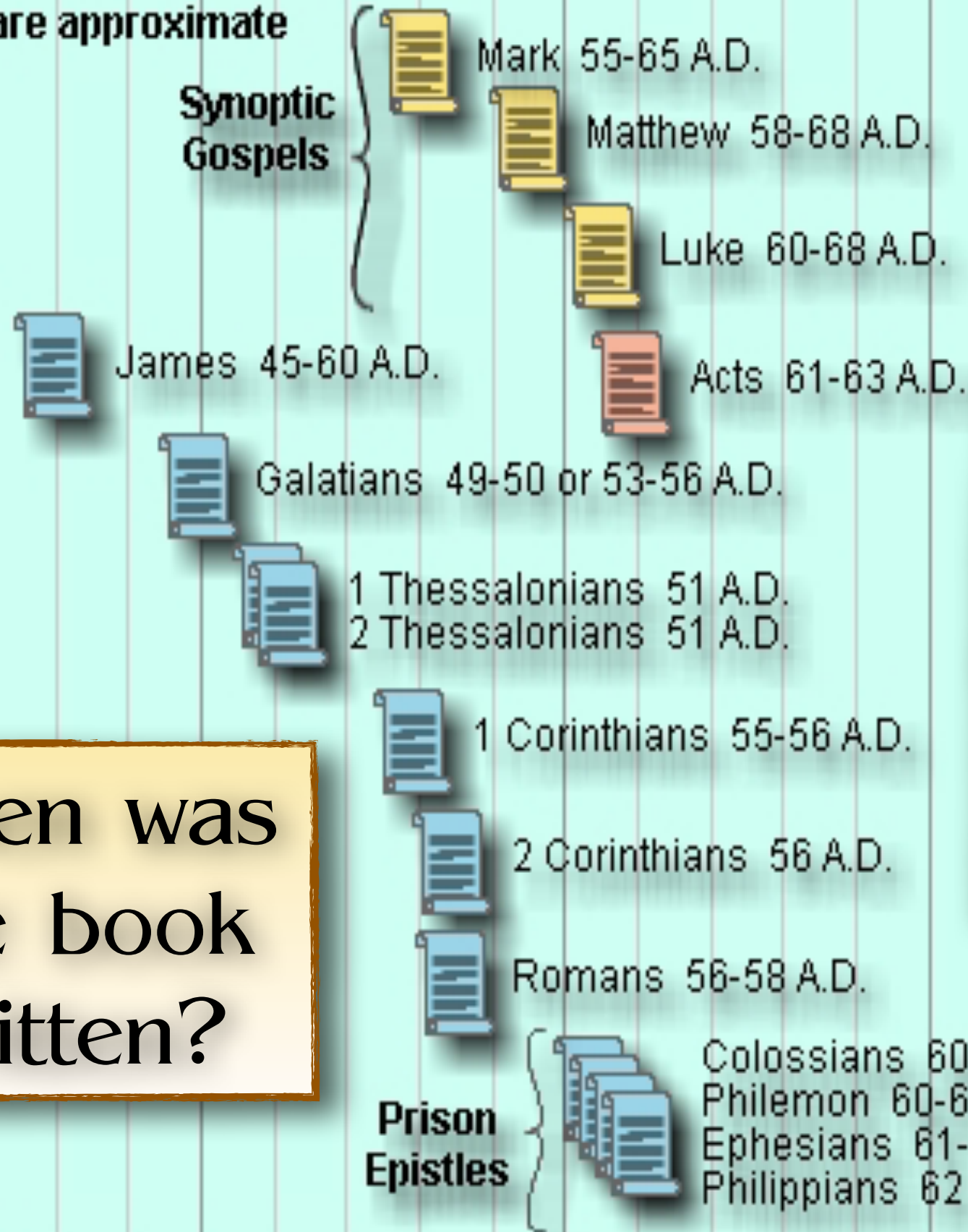
70 A.D.

80 A.D.



# New Testament Books

All dates are approximate



When was  
the book  
written?

✦ So probably was  
written between  
AD 42 and AD  
65 . . . probably  
in the early to  
mid 40's.

40 A.D.

50 A.D.

60 A.D.

70 A.D.

80 A.D.



# The Epistle Of James

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## To Whom Was It Written?

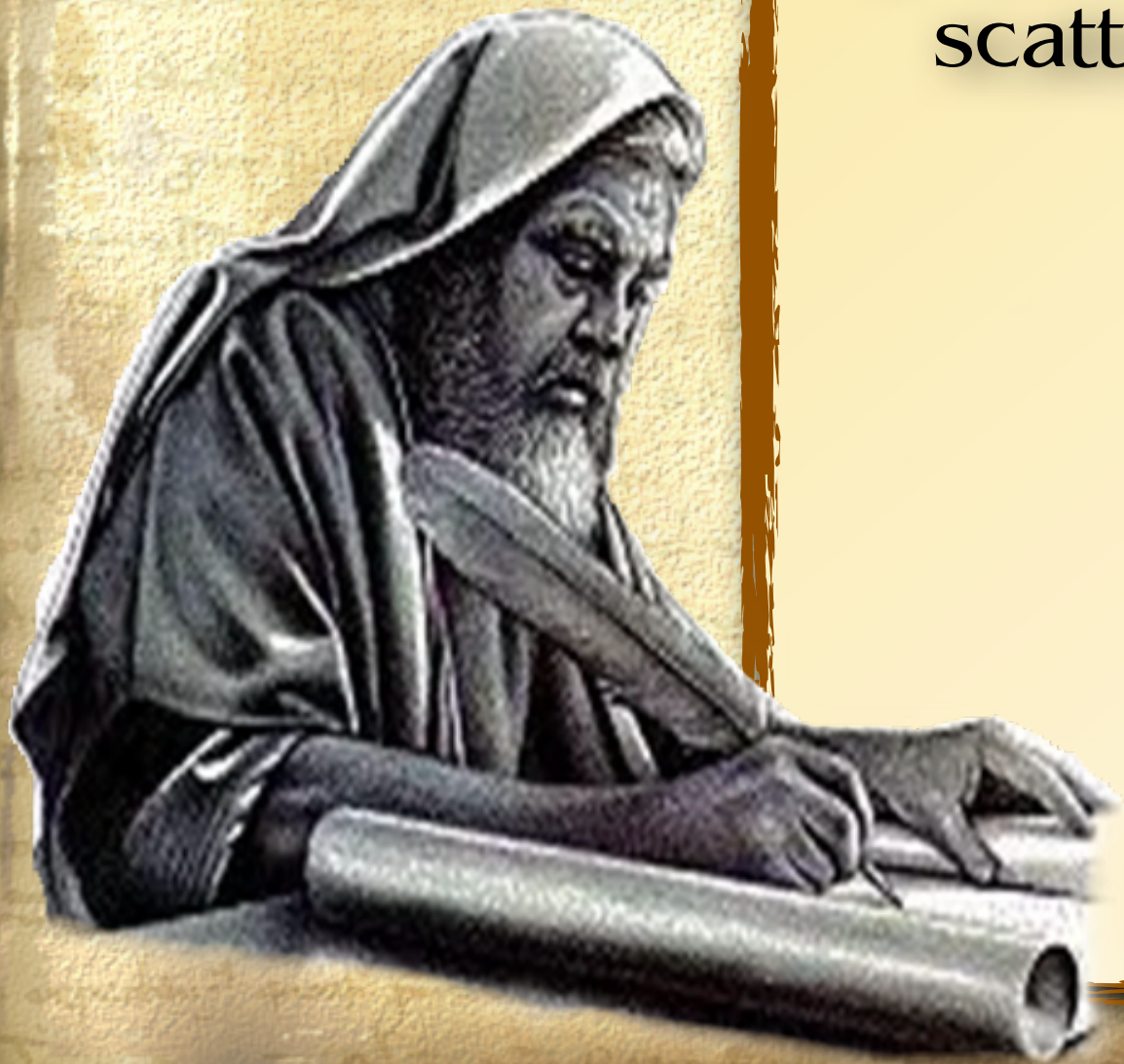




# The Epistle Of James

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- ◆ "To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad" (Ja 1:1) i.e.

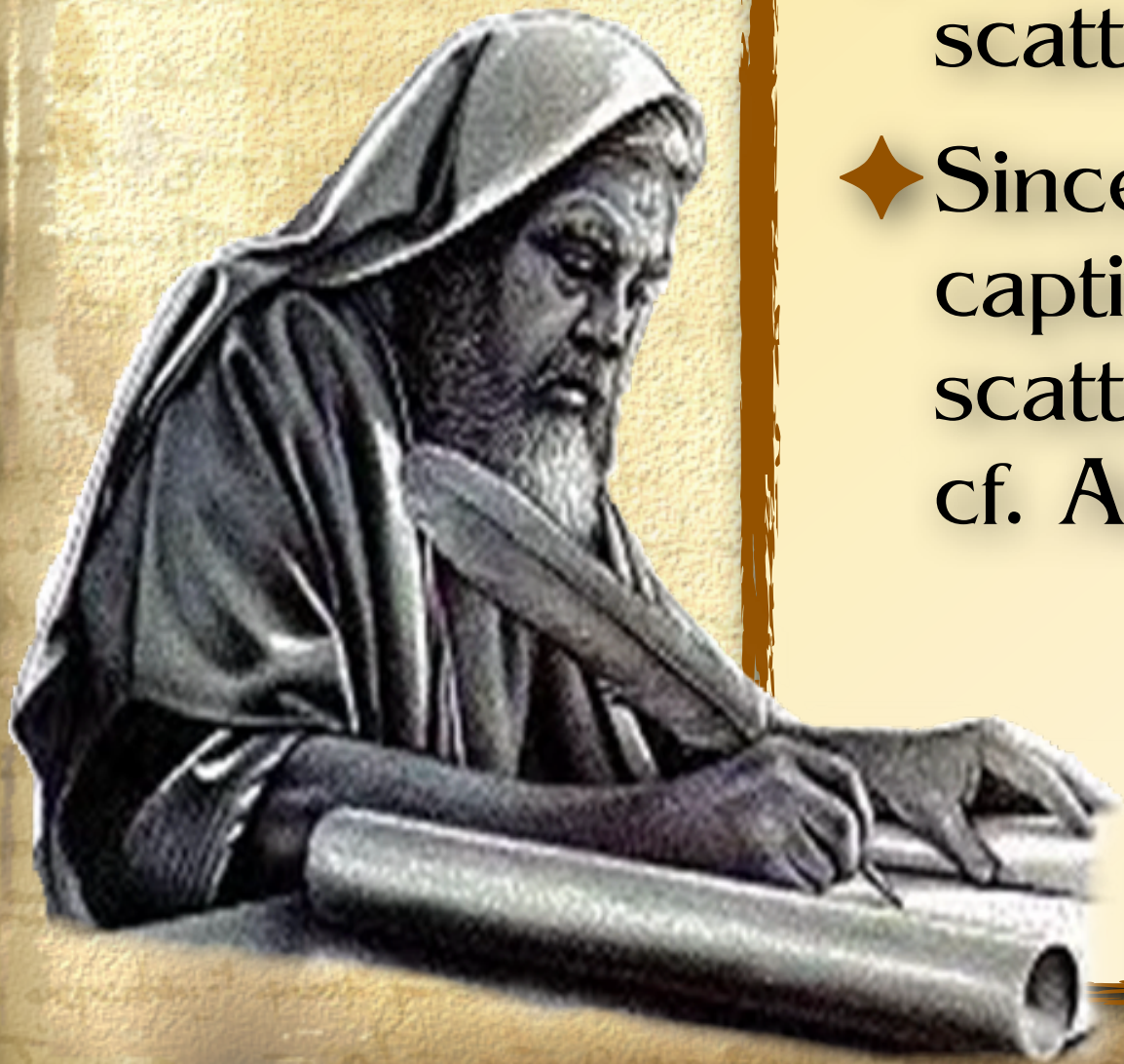




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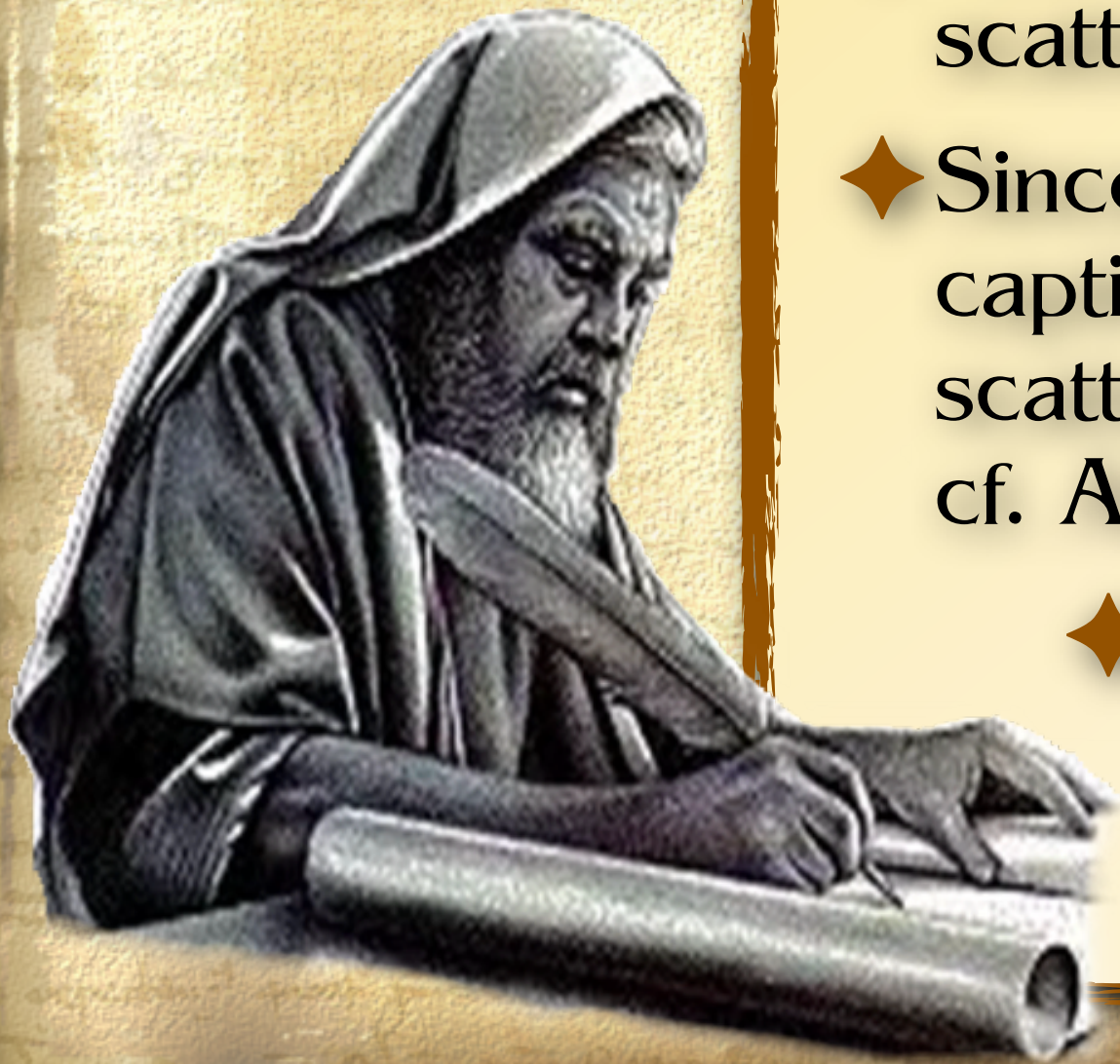
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- ◆ Since the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities, many of the Jews were scattered throughout different nations - cf. Ac 2:5-11





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- ◆ Since the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities, many of the Jews were scattered throughout different nations - cf. Ac 2:5-11
  - ◆ Jewish Christians scattered abroad among the Gentile countries. (Acts 8:4; 26:6-7)



# The Epistle Of James

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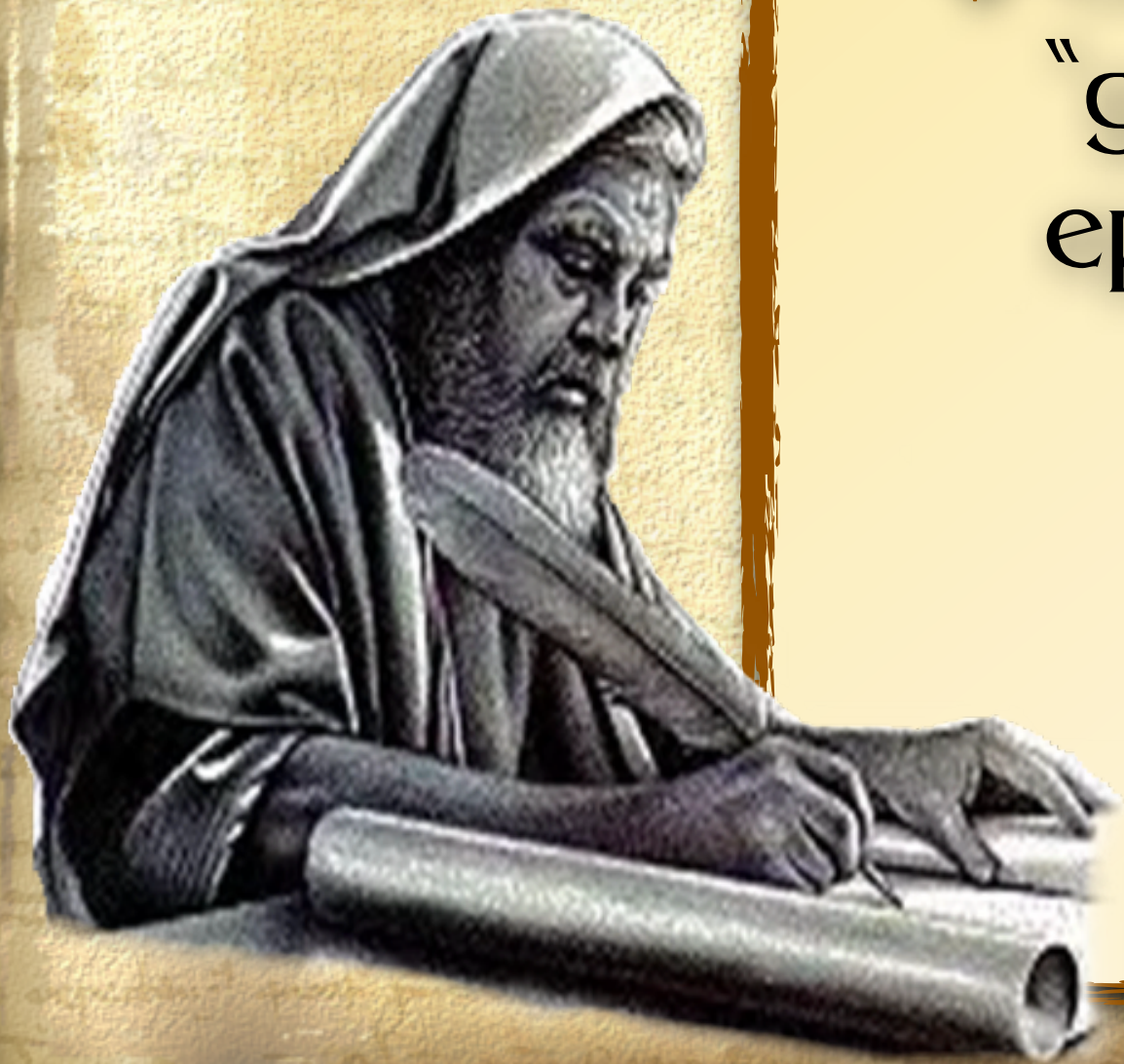




# The Epistle Of James

## To Whom Was It Written?

- ◆ Called a “catholic” i.e. “general” or universal epistle - (one of seven)

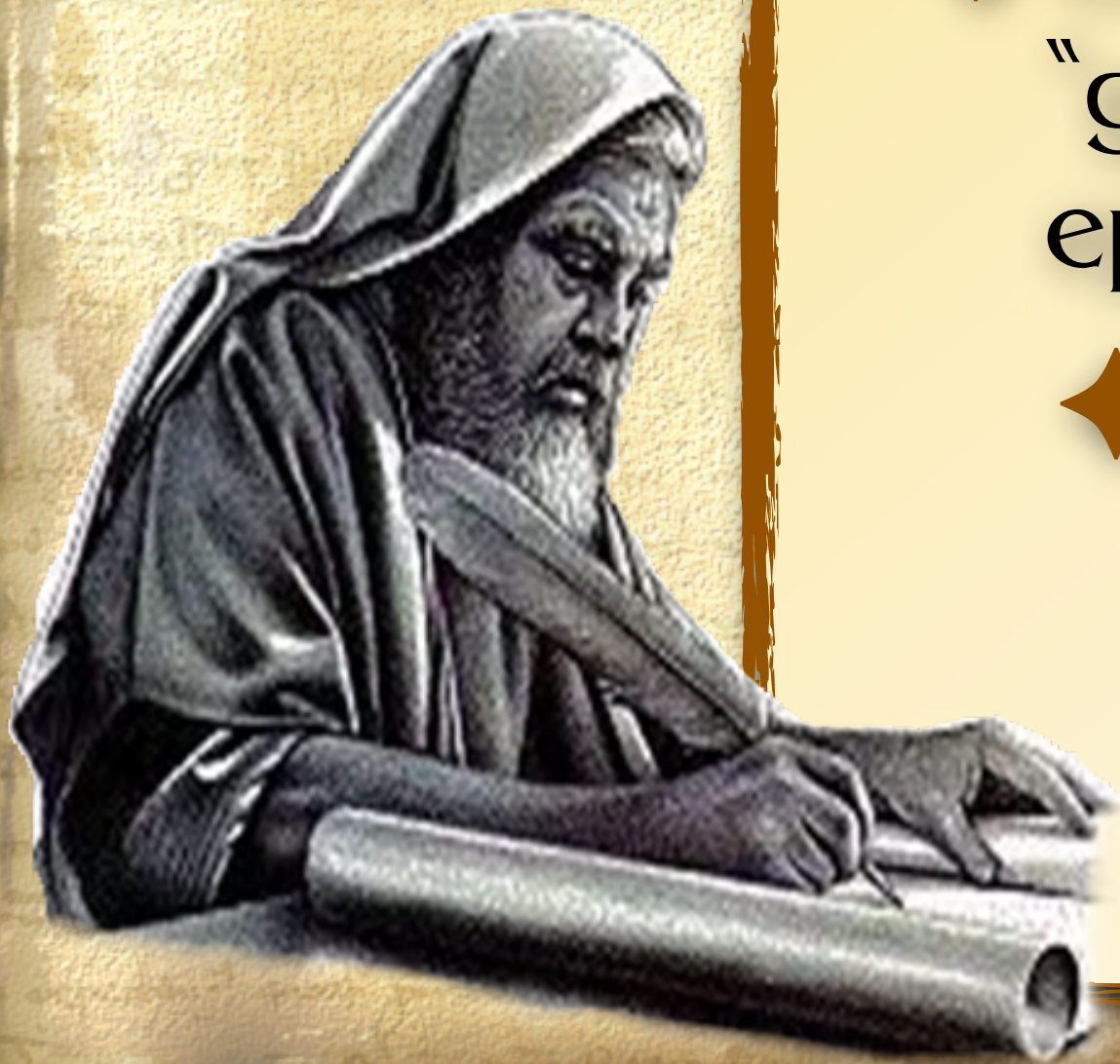




# The Epistle Of James

## To Whom Was It Written?

- ◆ Called a “catholic” i.e. “general” or universal epistle - (one of seven)
- ◆ These letters are James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Jude



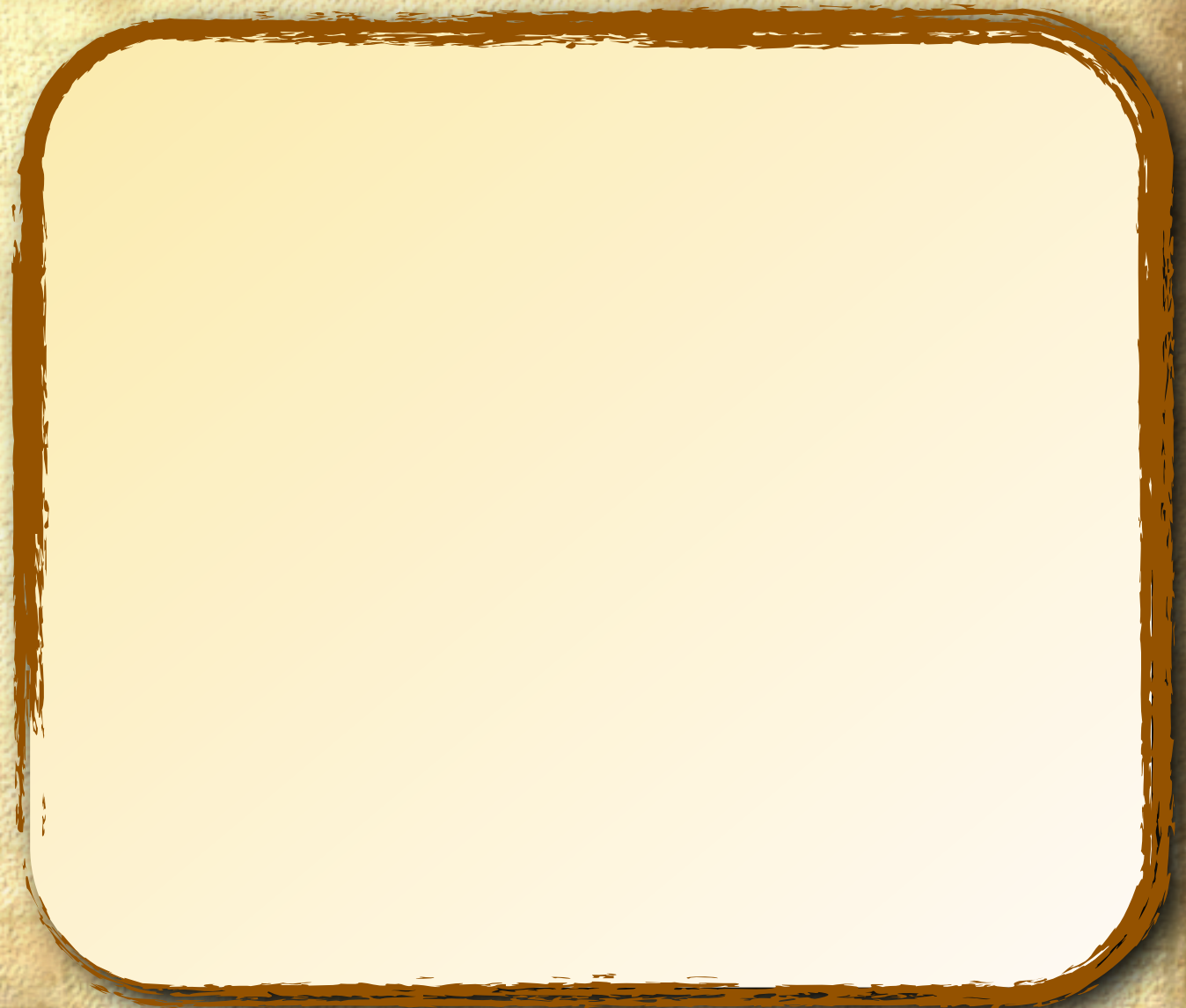


# The Epistle Of James

**Much of the teaching is a repetition of  
Jesus' earthly teaching.**

James 1:4 (NKJV)

4 But let patience have  
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you may be perfect  
and complete, lacking  
nothing.





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[Lk 21:19](#) — By your patience possess your souls.



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[Lk 21:19](#) — By your patience possess your souls.

[Mt 5:48](#) — Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.



# The Epistle Of James

**Much of the teaching is a repetition of Jesus' earthly teaching.**

James 1:5 (NKJV)

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.





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James 1:5 (NKJV)

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[Mt 7:7-11](#) — "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."



# The Epistle Of James

**Much of the teaching is a repetition of Jesus' earthly teaching.**

James 1:6 (NKJV)

But let him ask in faith,  
with no doubting, for  
he who doubts is like a  
wave of the sea driven  
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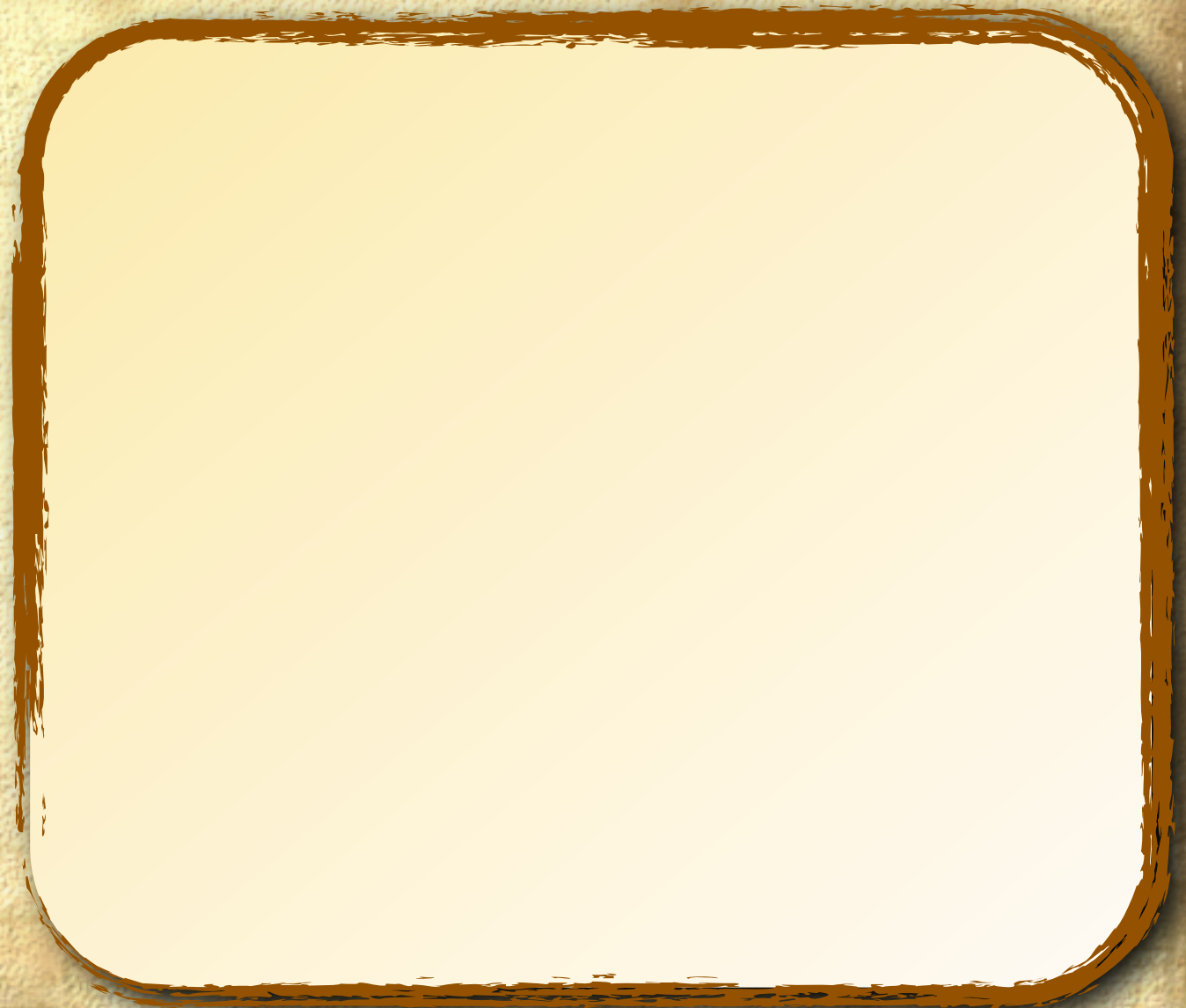
[Mk 11:22-24](#) — So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. 23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.



# The Epistle Of James

**Much of the teaching is a repetition of  
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James 1:22 (NKJV)  
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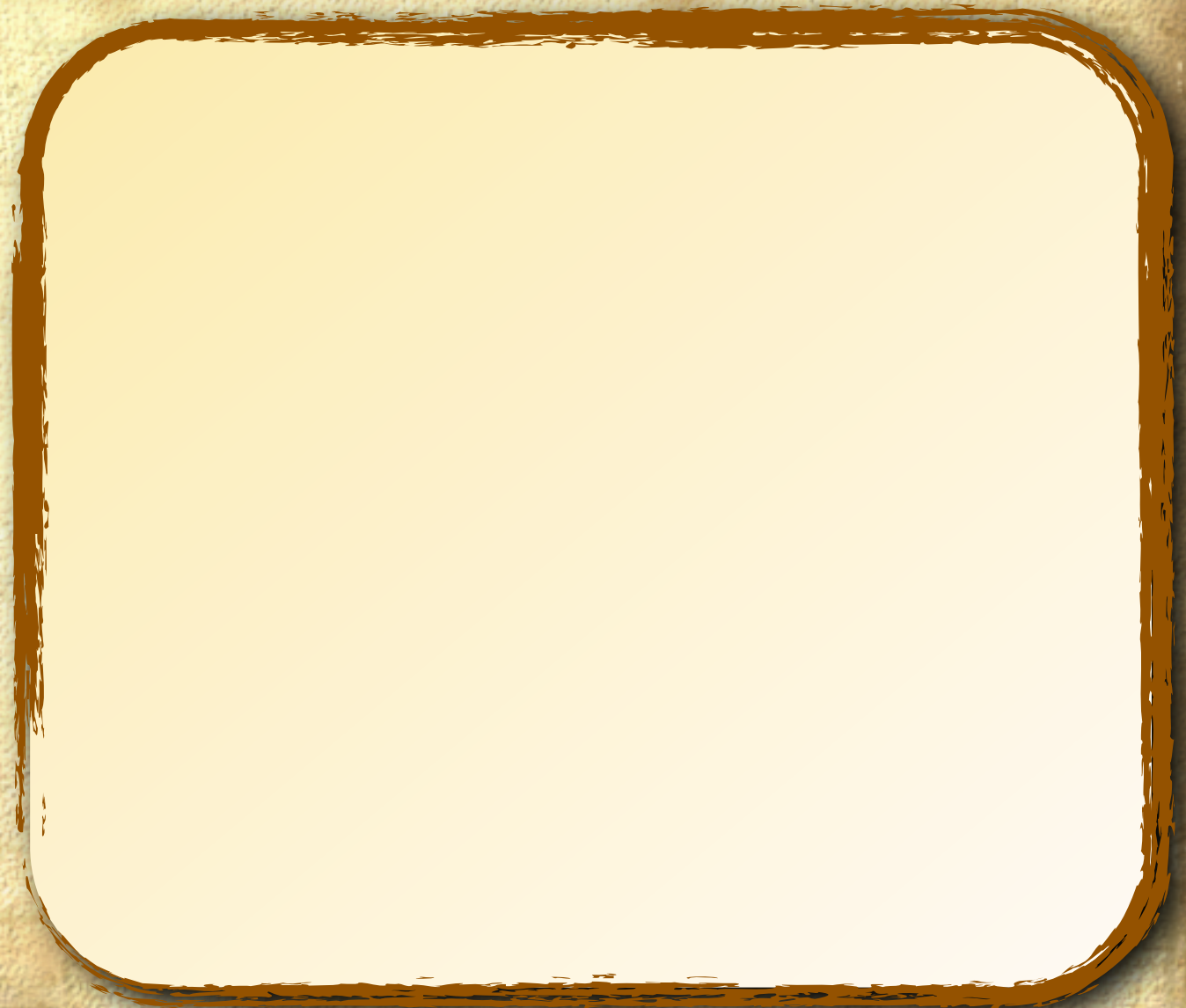
[Mt 7:21-25](#) — "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. . . . 24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:



# The Epistle Of James

**Much of the teaching is a repetition of Jesus' earthly teaching.**

James 4:10 (NKJV)  
Humble yourselves  
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[Mt 23:12](#) — And  
whoever exalts  
himself will be  
humbled, and he who  
humbles himself will  
be exalted.

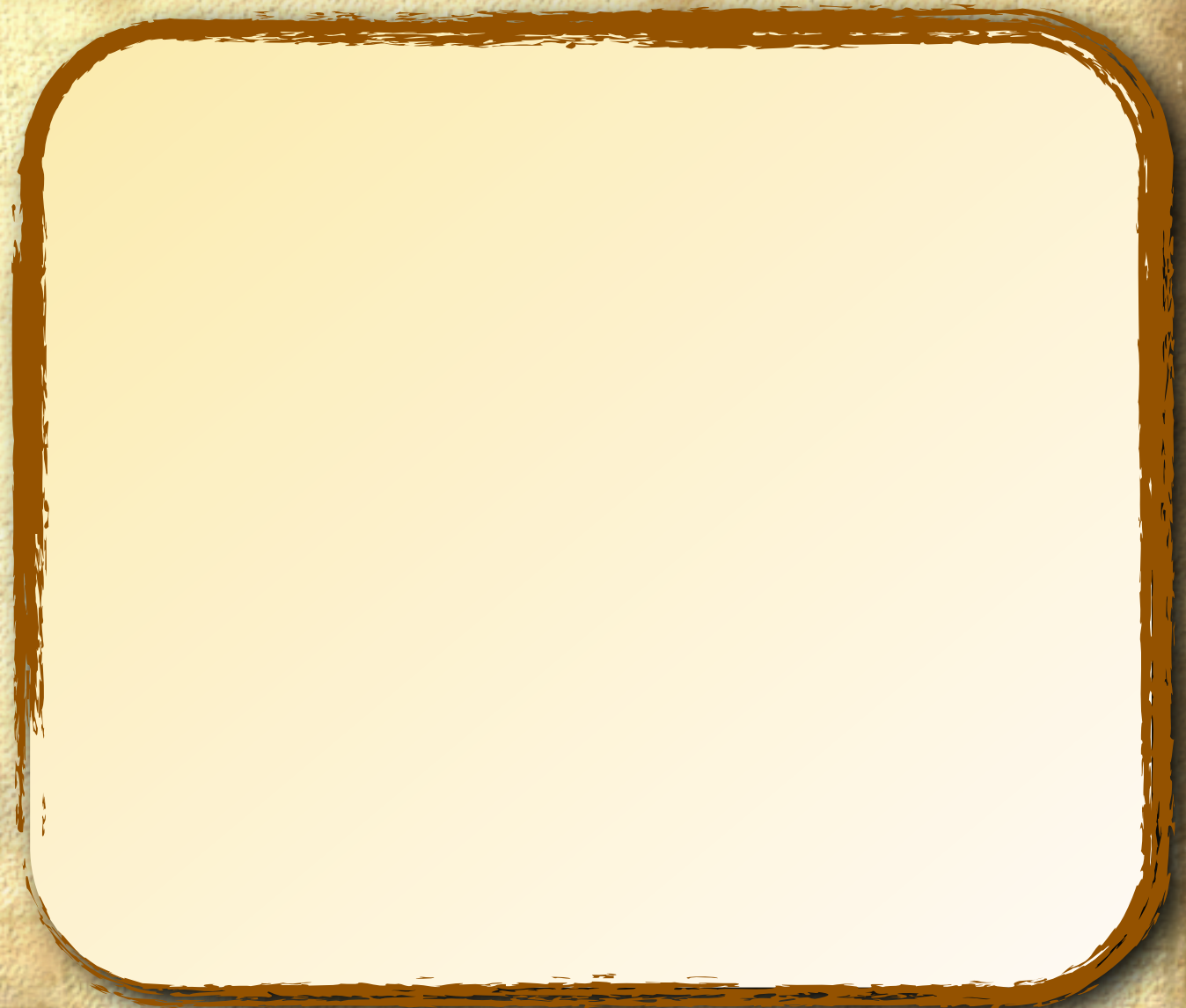


# The Epistle Of James

**Much of the teaching is a repetition of Jesus' earthly teaching.**

James 4:12 (NKJV)

There is one  
Lawgiver, who is able  
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destroy. Who are you  
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[Mt 7:1,2](#) — "Judge not, that  
you be not judged. — For  
with what judgment you  
judge, you will be judged;  
and with the measure you  
use, it will be measured  
back to you.

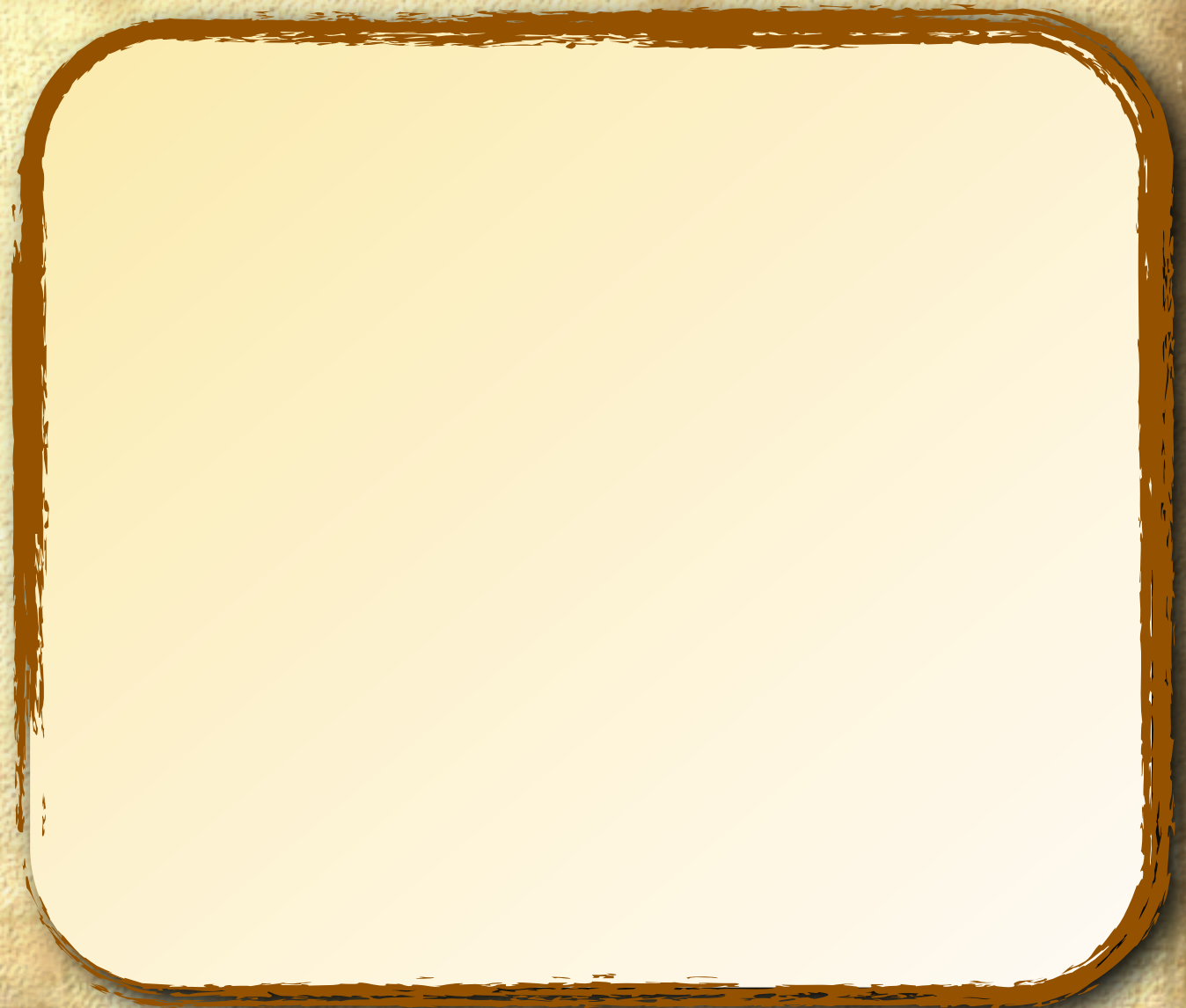


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James 5:12 (NKJV)

But above all, my brethren,  
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[Mt 5:33-37](#) — "... 34 But I  
say to you, do not swear at  
all: neither by heaven, for it  
is God's throne; ... 37 But  
let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and  
your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever  
is more than these is from the  
evil one.



# The Epistle Of James

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## Epistle of Common Sense

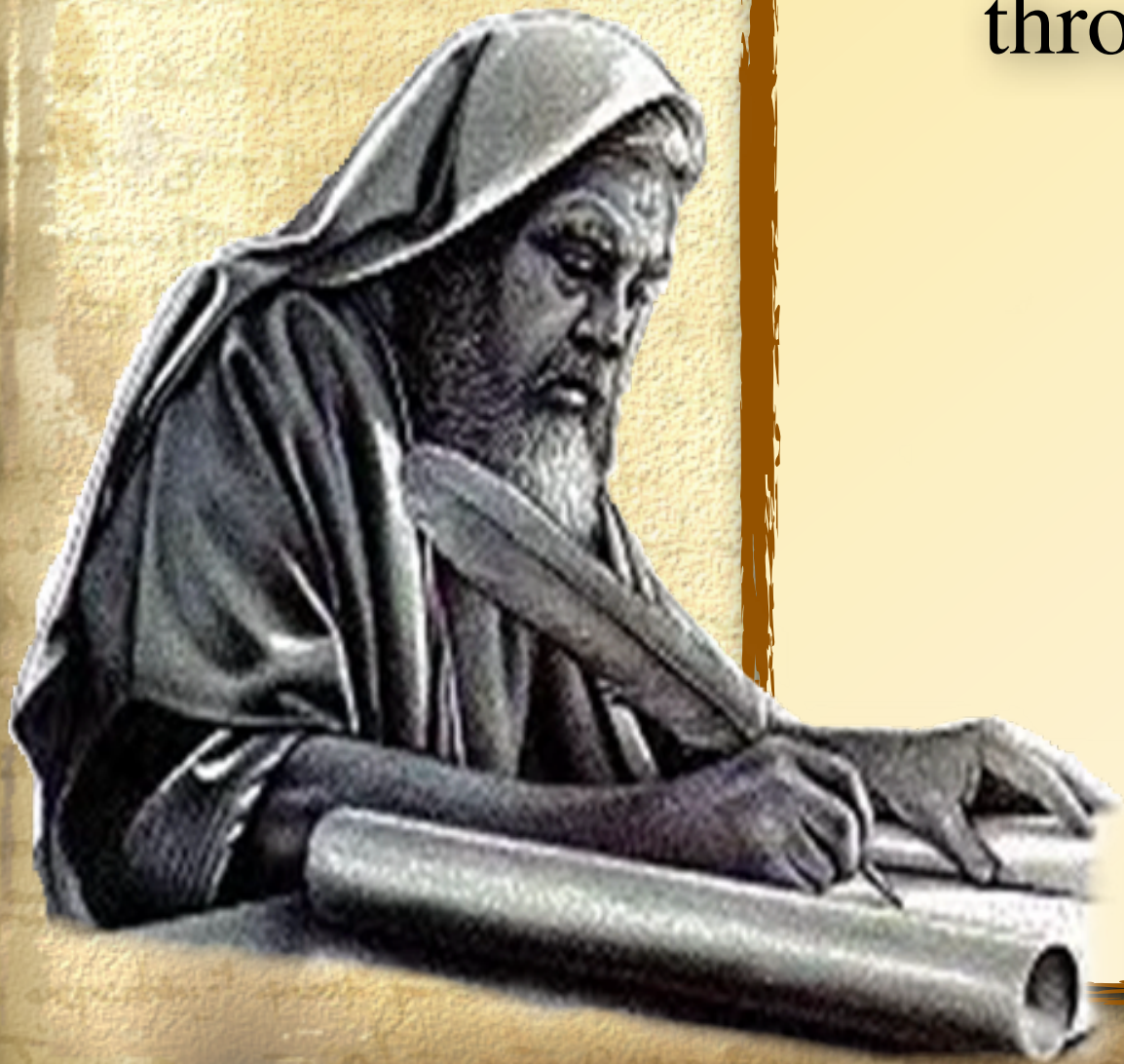




# The Epistle Of James

## Epistle of Common Sense

- ◆ The book is on practical living throughout.

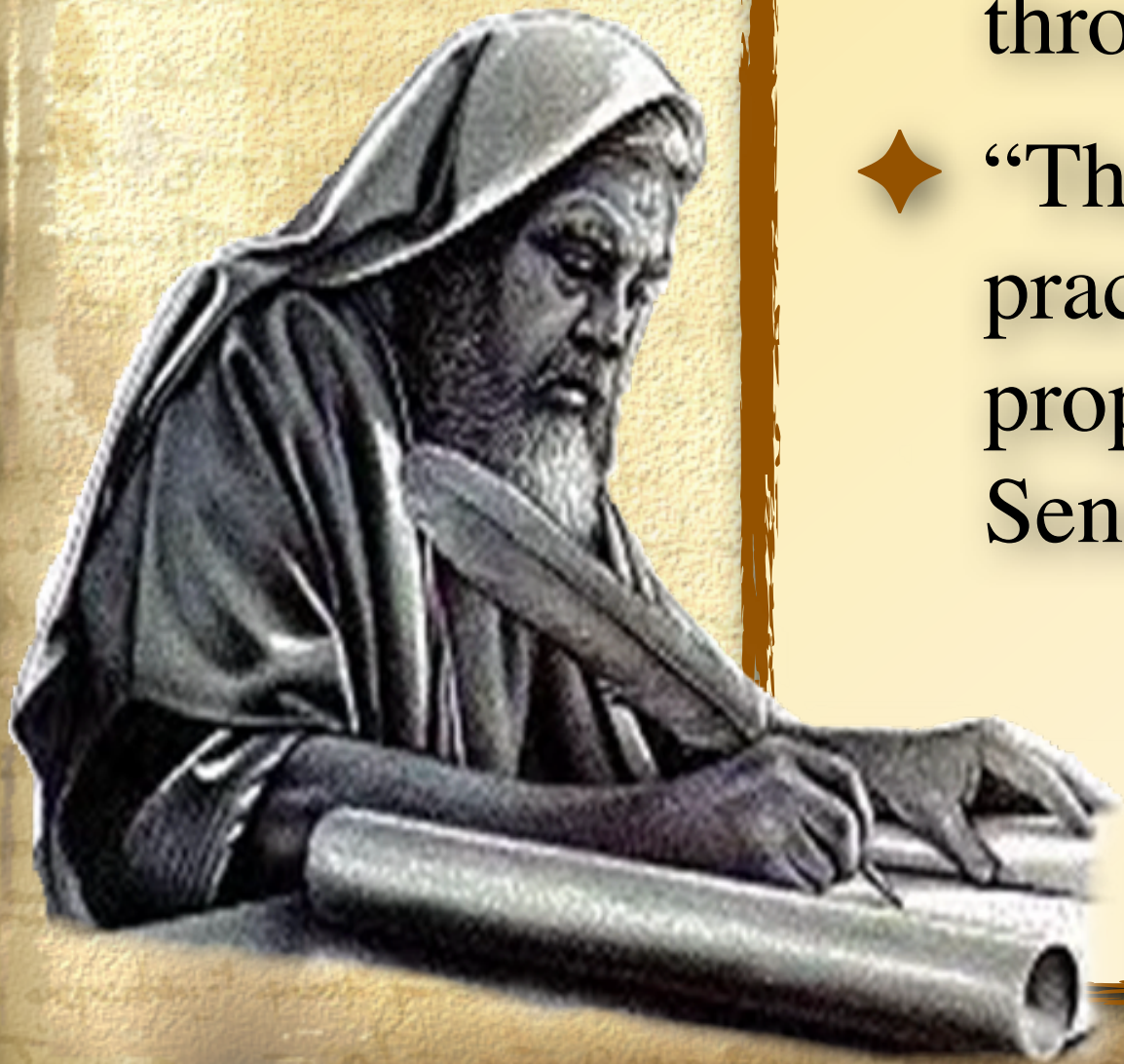




# The Epistle Of James

## Epistle of Common Sense

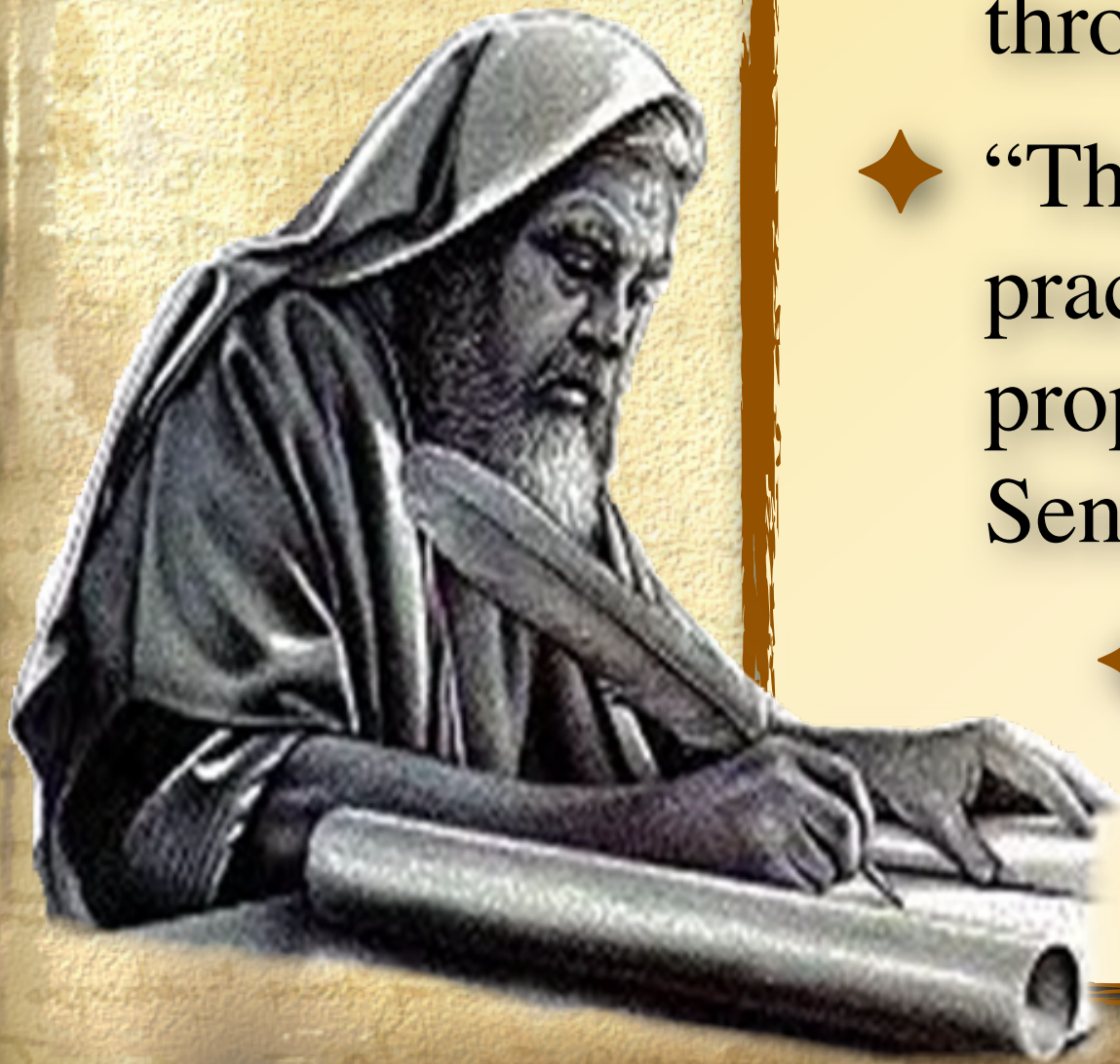
- ◆ The book is on practical living throughout.
- ◆ “The Letter, because of its eminently practical character, has been quite properly styled ‘the Gospel of Common Sense’” (Woods. 17-18).





# The Epistle Of James

## Epistle of Common Sense



- ◆ The book is on practical living throughout.
- ◆ “The Letter, because of its eminently practical character, has been quite properly styled ‘the Gospel of Common Sense’” (Woods. 17-18).
- ◆ “There are over 50 imperatives in the Epistle, he did not suggest – he commanded!” (Wiersbe. 10)



# The Epistle Of James

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## Theme of The Epistle

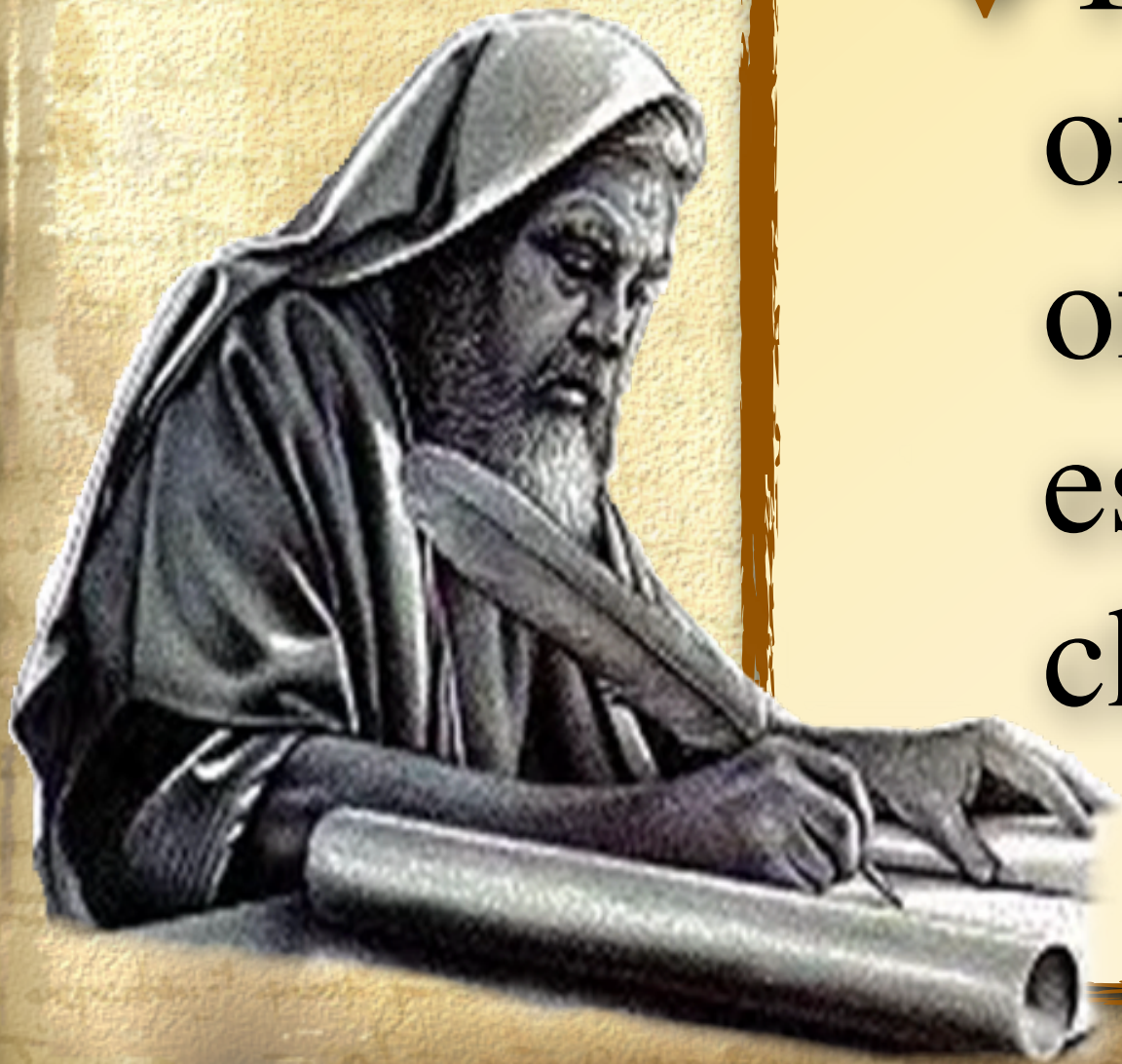




# The Epistle Of James

## Theme of The Epistle

- ◆ The value and necessity of faith in every aspect of the Christian's life - especially in view of the challenges of this life!





# The Epistle Of James

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## Outline:



# The Epistle Of James

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## Outline:

- ◆ Faith and the Trials of Life -  
1:2-8



# The Epistle Of James

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## Outline:

- ◆ Faith and the Trials of Life -  
1:2-8
- ◆ Faith and the Riches of the  
World - 1:9-11



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- ◆ Faith and the Trials of Life - 1:2-8
- ◆ Faith and the Riches of the World - 1:9-11
- ◆ Faith and Sin - 1:12-20



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- ◆ Faith and the Riches of the World - 1:9-11
- ◆ Faith and Sin - 1:12-20
- ◆ Faith and Obedience - 1:21-27



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- ◆ Faith and Sin - 1:12-20
- ◆ Faith and Obedience - 1:21-27
- ◆ Faith and Partiality - 2:1-13.



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- ◆ Faith and the Trials of Life - 1:2-8
- ◆ Faith and the Riches of the World - 1:9-11
- ◆ Faith and Sin - 1:12-20
- ◆ Faith and Obedience - 1:21-27
- ◆ Faith and Partiality - 2:1-13.
- ◆ Faith and Works - 2:14-26.



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- ◆ Faith and the Trials of Life - 1:2-8
- ◆ Faith and the Riches of the World - 1:9-11
- ◆ Faith and Sin - 1:12-20
- ◆ Faith and Obedience - 1:21-27
- ◆ Faith and Partiality - 2:1-13.
- ◆ Faith and Works - 2:14-26.
- ◆ Faith and the Tongue - 3:1-12



# The Epistle Of James

## Outline:

- ◆ Faith and the Trials of Life - 1:2-8
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- ◆ Faith and Wisdom - 3:13-18.



# The Epistle Of James

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- ◆ Faith and the Trials of Life - 1:2-8
- ◆ Faith and Submission - 4:1-10.
- ◆ Faith and the Riches of the World - 1:9-11
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- ◆ Faith and the Greedy - 5:1-6



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- ◆ Faith and patience - 5:7-12.



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- ◆ Faith and Prayer - 5:13-18.
- ◆ Faith and the one who had fallen - 5:19-20



# The Epistle Of James

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# The Epistle Of James

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James 1:1 (NKJV)

1 James, a bondservant of God  
and of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
To the twelve tribes which are  
scattered abroad: Greetings.



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James 1:1 (NKJV)

1 James, a bondservant of God  
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To the twelve tribes which are  
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James 1:21 (NKJV)

Therefore lay aside all filthiness and  
overflow of wickedness, and receive  
with meekness the implanted word,  
which is able to save your souls.



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James 2:20 (NKJV)

But do you want to know, O  
foolish man, that faith  
without works is dead?

James 1:21 (NKJV)

Therefore lay aside all filthiness and  
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James 5:20 (NKJV)

let him know that he who turns a sinner  
from the error of his way will save a soul  
from death and cover a multitude of sins.







# The Epistle Of James

## **Charts by Don McClain**

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Preached March 11, 2012

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