

# James

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

My Brethern,

## Introduction

**Reminder:** I am presenting that James in A.D. 44, who IS NOT one of the 'Inner 12' apostles who will rule over Jerusalem in the Messianic Kingdom (**Mt. 19:28; Lk 22:28; Rev. 21:14**), but he IS an apostle (**Gal. 1:19**), writing from Jerusalem as one of the 'Pillars of the Church' to the other 'sent out' Apostle-Ambassadors serving out their Commission throughout the land and in the churches.

**A Quick Study of scripture** gives evidence to the 'election of apostleship' being held by more than 12, with the anointing of Apostolic gifts and Commission to go with the Gospel of the Resurrected Christ to the WORLD.

These **Apostle-Ambassadors** were warned, prepared, equipped, and trained for when the persecutions from the Jews and the Gentile world would come.

These **Apostle-Ambassadors** were Jewish, and we find throughout the NT that many of the 'Problem Passages' are simply records of these **Apostle-Ambassadors** turning back to Judaism from 'the faith' [**instructions-Commands of Christ**].

**The Content and format:** shows that this letter is written by James to the [120?] **Apostle -Ambassadors** serving in the Commission; With the recorded sermons, parables and teachings before Him. Reminding – Rebuking – Exhorting these men to the Messianic Law – Teaching – Instructions that they had heard, saw, experienced and handled concerning their 'Call' to representing Christ as **Apostle-Ambassadors**.

**In this 'Presentation'** I am not looking to remove the 'traditional Jewish scattered Churches in the Dispersion' interpretation. Rather, I am looking to 'narrow in' on the audience, with obvious practical applications being applied to the 'body of Christ' naturally afterwards.

**Application is found: II Cor. 5:20...We are Ambassadors of Christ without the 'Apostolic Part'!!**

**Gospel Equation 4 Salvific Position and Progression in Sanctification:**

**Gospel Equation=** '

God's Plan 4 Man's Place in His Presence'- [**Faith**]

'In His Promises' – [**Obedience 4 Fellowship**]

[Kingdom-Place/Position-Inheritance-Blessing]

**Where does the Role of an Apostle/Ambassador 'of God' Begin?**

**From the first Separation of humanity from God:**

All were called to be **Ambassadors of God:**

1. **Parents** - [The Primary role of Evangelism: godly offspring/ambassadors– **Mal. 2:10-17**]
2. **Seth's Line** – '*then men began to call on the name of the Lord.*' [worship/proclaiming] **Gen. 4:26**
  - a. Enosh – Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, Noah...

All Proclaimed '**the faith**' -

**Definition for Faith:**

"God's Revelation Responded to → "Belief with a Resolve to Obey"

**This is Key to understanding James Chapter 2: Hebrews 11:4-10**

3. **Abraham** a 'pagan Gentile' called out of the World – **Called to be an Ambassador: Gen. 15:6**
4. **Isaac, Jacob** – **Gen. 26:23; 28:13**
5. **Moses** - **Ex. 3:1-14**
6. **Jesus Himself** as the **Deut. 18:15-22** 'New Prophet' like Moses- God's Ambassador/Apostle/Mediator [**Heb.3:1**] :
  - a. [**OF-FROM-FOR** God as King]
7. **Joshua** – Sent to Proclaim '**the faith of YHWH**' – **Deut. 20:1**

# James

## Pause 4 a Second & ask the Question:

“Are the Heathen ‘Lost’/Eternally damned without ‘The Gospel Light’ from an ‘ambassador’?”

**Answer: ‘Yes’**

## How does that work with ‘God’s Love’?

1. God DOES NOT Desire it: **I Tim. 2:4; II Pt. 3:9**
2. God DOES declare His ‘Light’ to ALL men: **Ps. 14; Rom. 1:18; Acts 14:17; Heb. 1:1-2**
3. God DOES require ALL men with ‘His Light’...**to seek MORE Light/Him – John 1:7**
4. God DOES make it possible to find Him (General Revelation): **Acts 17:27** (Optative-Possible)

## What is the Light – Faith – Gospel?

- **Rev. 14:6-7 –**
- **NT Church age – I Cor. 15:1-8; Jn 20:31; I Jn 5:20; Acts 16:31**

## What About Israel?

- Rejected the ‘Light’ - **John 1:10-18**
- Rejected the Messiah – **Mt. 12; Rm 11**

## They were ‘Cut off’/ Temp. Cursed:

- Parables kept ‘Light’ from them sparing them from Judgment: **Mt. 13:10-13**
- **Matt. 12:36...Matt. 23...Present Judgment AD 70 – Future GWT Judgment**

## So... Summary?

1. Every Human is given ‘Some Light’ that there is a Creator/Supreme Being (God’s Grace/Mercy and Human Design ensures that) **Zech 12:1**
2. Every Human is Responsible to ‘Seek – Grope – Pursue’ that ‘Light’: Seeking Light will bring MORE Light. [God will send/bring/give]
  - a. Word, Messenger, Ambassador, Missionary...etc., etc. [**Acts 4:12; Jn 14:6**]

3. Every Human is responsible 4 the Light Given: In this Dispensation it is Christ Crucified & Resurrected as the Son of God [OF-FOR-FROM God as King]; believe that sins are forgiven.
4. Every Human themselves is Responsible for Light Rejected: God’s Justice.

## **Gospel Equation 4 Salvific Position and Progressive Sanctification:**

### Gospel Equation= ‘

God’s Plan 4 Man’s Place in His Presence’- [**Faith**]

‘In His Promises’ – [**Obedience 4 Fellowship**]

[Kingdom-Place/Position-Inheritance-Blessing]

### **Positional Salvation:**

1. **OT** God ‘would provide’ Mess./Redemptive Sacrifice: **Gen. 3:15; Gen. 22**
2. Transgracial Period (Jesus’ Earthly ministry)
  - a. He is the Christ the Son of God, offering the Messianic Kingdom of God. (**Matt. 4:17**)
3. **NT** Age of Grace: Messiah/Christ pd the price for Past-Present-Future Sins – Propitiation/Redemption.
  - a. For all who by faith apply it to their account – **justification**.
4. **Tribulation** – will be same requirements as Age of Grace.
5. **Messianic Kingdom** – 4 Humanity will be **Faith** evidenced thru Obedience 4 Fellowship [Law]
6. **Eternal State** -God’s Tabernacle is with men

### The ‘Lordship of Christ’:

1. For the NT Believer is Seen in Sanctification and Surrender [NOT Condition 4 Salvation]
2. Is fully recognized in HIS PRESENCE:
  - a. Creation – Earthly Throne
  - b. Believer – Judgment Seat of Christ

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

My Brethern,

'UNPAUSE' 😊

**Where does the Role of an Apostle/Ambassador In the NT Begin?**

8. Jesus WAS anointed & authenticated as God's **Deut. 18:15** 'New Prophet' Mediator Like Moses (Apostle – Ambassador (**Heb. 3:1**) to Israel:

- a. <sup>16</sup> When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. <sup>17</sup> And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, **"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."**

- i. **Son** – heirship; title to the throne as King

9. The 12 'Inner' Disciples WERE sent out as Apostle – Ambassadors: **Matthew 10**

➤ **'apostle'** - ἀπόστολος **apōstōlōs**, *ap-os'-tol-os*; a *delegate*; spec. an *ambassador* of the Gospel; officially a *commissioner* of Christ [*"apostle"*] (with miraculous powers):—apostle, messenger, he that is sent.

- Someone **'appointed'** with authority to Act in a **'Delegates' – King's Place**: [with Full Power/Authority]
- <sup>6</sup> But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup> And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' <sup>8</sup> Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

10. The 70 (72) Disciples WERE sent out as Apostle-Ambassadors: **Luke 10:1-23**

- a. <sup>17</sup> Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."  
<sup>18</sup> And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. <sup>19</sup> Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. <sup>20</sup> Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

## James

**1:2** 'My Brethern,...

**Why is this important again?** 😊

- B/c there are a # of Verses in James that apply specifically to the 'Calling of the Apostle-Ambassador'
  - 1:19 – aorist verb tense: what they had heard (**I Jn 1**) –
    - [Past-Knowing Present (just is with assurance) -Present]
  - **1:21 – Revelatory gift** – implanted word
  - **1:25** – having looked into (experienced) the 'perfect law of liberty
  - **The Entire Context** is written to Men who had been instructed by Christ and were tempted – in the process – or facing the idea of 'Turning back to Judaism.'
- CONTEXT: Reminder – Rebuke – Exhortation of Apostle-Ambassadors
  - Parallel to **Gal. 1; 2:11-21; Hebrews 6:1-7; I Jn 1:1-4; 2:18-23**

**Verse being 'Examined' :**

**Acts 1** "The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, <sup>2</sup> **until the day in which He was taken up**, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments **to the apostles whom He had chosen**, <sup>3</sup> **to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs**, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of **the things pertaining to the kingdom of God**.

### Qualification of an Apostle – Ambassador – Witness of the Resurrected Christ:

1. Accompanied us in the Earthly Ministry of Jesus (I Jn 1:1-4) [Acts 1:21] (12+)
  - Baptism of John – Jesus’ Baptism or John’s **Malachi 3** Ministry to Israel? (12+)
2. Witness to the Ascension of Christ – Mt. Olives: **Acts 1:1-11; Lk 24:33-** (at least 13 😊 )
3. Witness to the Resurrection:
  - a. Road to Emmaus; Cephas; 12; 500; I Cor. 15:6-

<sup>3</sup>For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that **He was seen by Cephas,[Lk 24:34] then by the twelve.** <sup>6</sup>After that **He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once,**

of whom the greater part remain [μένω mēnō – stay, continue] to the present, but some have fallen asleep. [ κοιμάω kōimaō, koy-mah'-o – sleep of death]

- **Is this an age thing?** [Paul writing AD 55-56]
- **Witnesses of the Resurrection sleeping? Chastisement? -Death**
- Jesus Gave Warnings to His disciples (12+) - Mt. 10:22; 28 16:25; Jn 15:6
- Apostle-Ambassadors **Departing** from - living God (Judaism) Heb. 6:2-4;
- **10:19-34** – ‘saving the [born again’ soul from death’; Lk 21:19; Js. 1:21; 5:20
- **Acts 5? II Cor. 5; I Cor. 11:30**

<sup>7</sup>After that He was seen **by James,** then by **all the apostles.** <sup>8</sup>Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

4. Peter selects out of ‘How Many?’: Potential Apostle candidates 4 the ‘Larger Ministry’:
  - a. **See Next Page for Acts 1:15 Discussion ‘Exegesis’**
  - b. **1:15** – 120 disciples in that ‘Upper Room’ scene
  - c. Wasn’t Peter told to WAIT 4 THE SPIRIT?!! (Lk 24:39)
5. How many were @ Pentecost? (Acts 2:1) – 119 + 11 + ‘New Guy’ = 131
6. Who did the Spirit rest on? Who spoke in tongues? – each, all...

So How Many actual [Not Inner 12 Ruling Apostles]...‘Sent Apostle-Ambassadors’ are there?

**Acts 1:15 Scene Change: Vs 25 – ‘ministry and apostleship’; what’s going on here?**

<sup>15</sup>And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said, <sup>16</sup>“Men *and* brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus;

**<sup>17</sup>for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry.”**

- **‘ministry’** - διακονία diakōnia, dee-ak-on-ee'-ah; **functioning in the interest of a larger public, service, office** of the prophets and apostles – I Tim. 1:12.
  - **12 Judges Rulers over Israel – Matt. 5-7; 18; - Parables**
  - **Messianic Kingdom; Matt. 19:28; Lk 22:28; Rev. 21:14]**

<sup>18</sup>(Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. <sup>19</sup>And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.)

<sup>20</sup>“For it is written in the Book of Psalms:

*‘Let his dwelling place be desolate, And let no one live in it’;*

and,

*‘Let another take his office.’*

- **‘office’** - (ἐπισκοπή ěpiskōpē, ep-is-kop-ay - **position of responsibility, position, assignment;** not just office/work but activity of witnessing in line with the specifications in **Ac 1:8, 21f) Ac 1:20** (Ps 108:8).

<sup>21</sup>“Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup>beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.”

<sup>23</sup>And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. <sup>24</sup>And they prayed and said, “You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen **<sup>25</sup>to take part in this ministry and apostleship** from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.” <sup>26</sup>And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

## Where does the Role of an Apostle/Amb. In the NT Cont. Post - Calvary?

### 1. Eph. 4:8 Therefore He says:

*"When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."*

<sup>9</sup>(Now this, "*He ascended*"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? [**Grave -Dead Dead – 3 days Dead**]) <sup>10</sup>He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

<sup>11</sup>And He Himself gave **some to be apostles**, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>**for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ**, <sup>13</sup>till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; <sup>14</sup>that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, <sup>15</sup>but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—<sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

2. **Acts 14:14** "But when the **apostles Barnabas and Paul** heard this,..."

3. **Acts 15:22** "Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, **to send chosen men of their own company** to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, *namely*, Judas who was also named Barsabas, and **Silas**, leading men among the brethren.

a. **I Thess. 1:1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy**, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

b. **I Thess. 2: 4-6** <sup>4</sup>But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts. <sup>5</sup>For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness—God *is* witness. <sup>6</sup>Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when **we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.**

3. **Galatians 1:19** <sup>19</sup>But I saw none **of the other apostles except James**, the Lord's brother.

4. **Romans 1:1** Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, **called to be an apostle**, separated to the gospel of God..."

5. **I Cor 12:27** **Now you are the body of Christ**, and members individually.

<sup>28</sup>**And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles**, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. <sup>29</sup>*Are* all apostles? *Are* all prophets? *Are* all teachers? *Are* all workers of miracles? <sup>30</sup>Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup>But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

6. **I Cor. 11:5 - Different 'Ranks' of Apostles** – For I consider that I am not at all inferior to the most eminent **apostles.**"

7. **I Cor. 11:12** "But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast. <sup>13</sup>For such *are* **false apostles**, deceitful workers, **transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.** <sup>14</sup>And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. <sup>15</sup>Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works."

a. **There HAD to be more than 12 Apostles b/c churches were 'embracing' FALSE Apostles.**

8. **II Cor 12: 11** "I have become a fool in boasting; you have compelled me. For I ought to have been commended by you; for in nothing was I behind the most eminent apostles, though I am nothing. <sup>12</sup>**Truly the signs of an apostle** were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds. <sup>13</sup>For what is it in which you were inferior to other churches, except that I myself was not burdensome to you? Forgive me this wrong!

9. **Rev. 2:2** "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; <sup>3</sup>and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.

## Concluding Thoughts – Observations: On Apostles [More than 12]

### Qualifications:

1. Earthly Ministry of Jesus
2. Baptism of John
3. Witness of Resurrection
4. Witness of Ascension.
5. Pentecost? (120)
6. Signs, wonders, helps –
  - a. What is helps anyhow? Miracles of feeding/providing like Jesus did?
  - b. **Was Stephen ‘appointed’ and Apostle? Acts 6:8**

### **Ministry in the ‘Dispersed’ Local Church:**

1. Leadership roles in the Churches
2. Receiving the ‘Implanted Word’ [Lk 21]
3. Speaking/Acting on Christ’s behalf: **John 14-17 Model**
4. Leadership against the Gov./World (**Mt. 10**)
5. Provisions [Asking]; (**Js. 3**) teachers;
6. Suffering as Testimony of Christ (**I Cor 4:9**)

**There were obviously more than 12 Apostles-** Which solidifies the Audience that I am presenting, that James is writing to:

**II Cor. 5:20...** Today we are called to be **Ambassadors** without the Apostolic Position or Spiritual gifting [Or Succession...that’s just weird.]