

1. The Book of James is written in the period of time covered by Acts 1-12, when the church is still dominated by Jewish Christians.

2. The sins James mentions are particularly Pharasaical; he uses the word “synagogue” for ‘meeting’, and he calls God “Kyrios Sabaoth” (Lord Almighty), and Old testament name for God.

3. James Says, “Pure religion is to look after widows and orphans and keep yourself unspotted from the world.”

4. Chapters 3-5 carry forth with the theme of the practical results of true faith.

5. The devastating power of our tongues:

- a. Our tongues have enormous power for both good and evil.
- b. Pr. 10:19 – “Where words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.”
- c. Pr. 12:18 - “Reckless words pierce like an arrow, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”
- d. Our words are actions.

6. Not many should presume to be teachers, because they will be judged more strictly than others.

7. Submissions and humility are 2 very important words on the early church.

8. The spirit-filled life is one of humility and submission in all our relationships.

9. James teaches the importance of prayer:

- a. If you lack wisdom, pray.
- b. If you are in trouble, pray.
- c. If you are happy, pray prayers of praise.
- d. If you are sick, call for the elders and have them pray.

10. Calling for the elders to come and pray and anoint you with oil when you are sick:

- a. Sickness is sometimes the result of sin.
- b. There is a connection between our righteousness and the effectiveness of our prayers.
- c. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

1. The Book of James is very much like Old Testament wisdom literature.

2. Both James and Proverbs place emphasis on the tongue.

3. The positive possibilities of the tongue found in Proverbs 10 and 12:

- a. 10:11: “The mouth of the righteous of a fountain of life.”
- b. 10:13, 31: The key word is “wisdom.”
- c. 10:20: “The tongue of the righteous is choice silver.”
- d. 10:21: “The lips of the righteous nourish many.”
- e. 10:32: “the lips of the righteous know what is fitting.”
- f. 12:6: “The speech of the upright rescues them.”
- g. 12:14: “From the fruit of his lips a man is filled with good things.”
- h. 12:18: “The tongue of the wise brings healing.”
- i. 12:25: “A kind word cheers a man up.”

4. The negative affects our tongues and words can engender:

- a. 10:6, 11: “Violence overwhelms the mouth of the wicked.”
- b. 10:8, 10: “...a chattering fool comes to ruin.”
- c. 10:19: “Where words are many, sin is not absent.”
- d. 10:18; 12:222: “Lying lips conceal hatred and God hates lying lips.”
- e. 10:18: Our words can spread slander.”
- f. 12:13: “The evil man is trapped by his own sinful talk.”
- g. 12:18: “Reckless words pierce like arrows.”

5. Proverbs 10 and 12, just like the Book of James, evidence a strong concern with practical godliness.

6. In the list of the tribes, the half tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh (Joseph's sons) are listed as separate tribes and the tribe of Levi is not mentioned.

7. Whenever the Israelites camped, the tribes were arranged around the Tabernacle of God in the center of the camp.

8. The four lead tribes in the encampment were:

- a. Judah on the east
- b. Dan on the north
- c. Ephraim on the west
- d. Reuben on the south

9. Tradition says that the emblem on the standard of the tribe of Judah was the lion, which fit with the prophecy in Gen. 49:9.

2) We have been set apart, as a kingdom of priests, for the exclusive use of the Lord of the church.

c. Third:

1) At Sinai and the incident of the golden calf, it was the sons of Levi who responded to the question, “Who is on the Lord’s side?”

2) The key to understanding the Old and New Testaments is found in the theme of redemption.

d. Fourth:

1) The work of the Levites was dangerous because the objects they were handling were holy.

2) Nadab and Abihu – When you come to God, you come on His terms.

3) We are told to worship God in spirit and in truth.

1. In Numbers 1 and 2 the people were organized into a disciplined military camp. In chapters 3 and 4, the Levites were set apart for the special work of transporting and caring for the Tabernacle.

2. Chapters 5 and 6 underscore the importance of purity.

3. The parallels between what sin does spiritually and what leprosy does physically:

- a. Both are incurable
- b. Both are progressive
- c. Both are increasingly horrible
- d. Both were seen as greatly contagious

4. Moses turns from physical purity to spiritual purity. If we are going to have fellowship with God, we must maintain a high level of purity.

5. Israel needed to understand that they were on an impossible journey and totally dependent on God, who would graciously meet all their needs, but He demanded purity.

6. Church discipline is necessary for corporate purity.

7. Purity, physically and morally and in the marital relationship are important prerequisites for the task of talking with God.

8. A Nazarite vow:

- a. It was voluntary, and usually for a specific period of time.
- b. There were 3 conditions to be met:
 - 1) Abstain from strong drink.
 - 2) Stop cutting your hair.
 - 3) Do not touch a dead body.
- c. It means “to set apart”
- d. It could not be broken.

9. Ecclesiastes 5:4, 5: “When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow. It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it.”

10. Numbers 6 ends with this blessing: “The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.”