

## **TEN IMPORTANT FACTORS WHEN STUDYING THE BOOK OF JAMES**

### **Introduction to chapter two of the Book of James**

**(Jas.2:1)** “My brethren, do not hold (me) [not] (echo) [hold] (p.a.impv.2pl) your faith (ten pistis) in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism.”

#### **1. The Book of James is classified in the New Testament as one of eight General Epistles.**

- Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2, 3 John, and Jude
- These General Epistles were directed towards Christians everywhere, rather than to specific churches like the books of Romans and Corinthians.

#### **2. James addressed his Book to “twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad” (Jas.1:1b).**

- It is interesting that “dispersed” is a phrase and not a verb in (Jas.1:1) (en /loc of place/ te diaspora/ def. article/ lsf).
- It emphasizes the hope in Christ to the believing Jews and the reuniting of the 12 tribes because of the Coming of Jesus Christ (First and Second Advents).

#### **3. Book of James consists of 5 chapters with 108 verses.**

- Chap.1-2 consists of half of the verses.
- There are 54 imperative (command) verbs in these 108 verses.
- Five are found in Jas.2:1-7.

#### **4. James’ Bible was the Septuagint (The Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible).**

- He is writing to Hellenistic believing Jews involved in the dispersion.
- Paul ministered to many of these on his missionary evangelism trips (Book of Acts).

#### **5. The date of 45AD is important to the Book of James as is the date of 49AD to the Book of Galatians.**

- Why? Because neither mention the Apostolic Creed given at the Jerusalem Church Conference in 50AD (Acts 15:1-35/ 15:22-29).
- This Apostolic Creed could have resolved some earlier conflicts as recorded in (Acts 15:1, 5, 11 and Gal.2:11-21).

#### **6. When you read the Book of James, you become aware that the Christian Church at Jerusalem was still engaging (applying) Old Covenant theology to their Christian way of life (walk).**

- James is struggling with the doctrine of grace
- Paul is struggling with the doctrine of the Law (Acts 21:17-31)

**7. The Books of James, Galatians, Acts and Hebrews all show the difficulty believers had during the transition from Old Covenant Law to New Covenant Grace (30-70AD).**

The Christian Church at Jerusalem seemed to ignore the importance of:

- The Veil of the Holy of Holies within the Temple being torn from top to bottom (Matt.27:51-54)
- Jesus Christ fulfilling the Law (Matt.5:17; Rom.10:4)
- Jesus saying from the Cross, “It (your redemption) is finished! (John 19:30) (Heb.9:12)

**8. (James 2:2) shows the Jews engaged in Old Covenant worship and rituals (S/C)**

- “For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your **assembly**” (synagogue) [the place where Judaism assembled] (Acts 13:44-50)
- The Book of Acts shows the same principle occurring from 30-70 AD.

**9. During the writing of this letter Jewish believers who preached the grace gospel of Jesus Christ were persecuted by apostate religious Jews as well as by apostate Christian Jews (Act 8:1-3; 9:4-5; 12:1-4).**

- James is writing to these persecuted Jewish believers.
- In 62AD, Jewish politicians (politics) murdered James like they did his half-brother Jesus (Acts 12:1-4).

**10. When we study Book of James we see that:**

- James gives clarity of spiritual problems but does not give clarity to the doctrinal grace solutions.
- Therefore, it becomes the responsibility the New Covenant pastor-teacher to give clarity to the spiritual doctrinal solutions.