

James' letter to the church

Author?

Only _____ men have ever been seriously considered as the author of this brief letter to be identified as "*James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ*", 1:1.

1. James the _____, son of Zebedee and brother to John the apostle, Matthew 10:1-4 & Acts 1:13
2. James the _____, Matthew 13:55-56 & Mark 6:3

The evidence very much favors James the Lord's brother as the author

- James the apostle was _____ by Herod Agrippa 1st about 44AD (Acts 12:1-2) before there is any evidence that the letter appeared within the _____
 - Though James, Jesus' brother, did not at first _____ (John 7:3-5) he later became a prominent leader in the church in _____, Acts 12:17, 15:13, 21:17-18, 1st Corinthians 15:7, Galatians 1:18-19, 2:9 & 12 & Jude 1
 - It seems reasonable that the brother of the Lord, would have found it unnecessary to _____ himself, though any other man named James almost certainly would have. At the same time, to have identified himself as the brother of the Lord may have seemed _____ to either himself, the Holy Spirit or both
 - While James the apostle was commissioned by Jesus along with the rest of the apostles to go into all the _____ (Matthew 28:18-20 & Mark 16:15-16), this letter is addressed to the "twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad" who are likely those _____ Christians of the dispersion caused by the _____ Luke records first in Acts 8:1-4 (34AD) and mentions again in 11:19 (41AD) but may also include those dispersed during Herod Agrippa 1st's persecution which took place in 44AD
3. Regardless of authorship, the _____ of the letter remains the same

Date?

A relatively _____ date for the letter is likely (45-49AD) since its content and tenor address a decidedly _____ audience which of course would have described the church in its early years before it had made a complete (?) departure from the Law of Moses.

- _____ and his family were converted around 41AD. Two councils/meetings were held in Jerusalem to discuss and resolve controversies concerning the matter of _____ coming into the kingdom, one in 41AD (Acts 11) and the other around 50-53AD (Acts 15). This lends weight to the conclusion that this letter was written prior to this second council.
- James addresses the idea of a _____, 2:2, rather than a _____ or congregation (sunagogay vs. ekklesia)
- The letter tends to set forth the gospel as it relates to _____, 1:25, 2:8-12 & 4:11
- _____ are a prominent feature, 1:5 (Proverbs 2:6), 1:19 (P 29:20), 3:18 (P 11:30), 4:13-16 (P 27:1) & 5:20 (P 10:12)
- The controversy of Gentiles entering the church is _____
- Problems with _____ that later troubled the church are not noted
- The letter almost certainly falls between 34AD (the time of the _____ mentioned in Acts 8) and James' _____ mentioned by the historian Josephus which took place around 61-62AD