

*Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for March 7-8, 1998**

**"Introduction to James"**

**Dale Whitehead**

**James 1:1**

Theme of Epistle: Tests of a living faith

Verses that emphasize importance of examination (Psalms 17:3; 26:1-2; 139:23-24; Lamentations 3:40; Ezekiel 18:28; 2 Corinthians 13:5).

Scripture portions that emphasize importance of examination (Matthew 5-7).

Bible books that emphasize importance of examination (1 John, James).

Who wrote the epistle? There are four choices:

James the son of Alpheus

James the father of Judas

James the son of Zebedee

James the brother of Jesus

James the brother of Jesus was not a follower of Christ during his earthly ministry (John 7:1-5).

James was converted after the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:7).

What kind of man was James?

He had a forceful personality.

He was called in church history "James the righteous."

He was a respected and effective leader within the church.

James is writing to Christian Jews living outside of Jerusalem.

The "twelve tribes" is referring to the nation of Israel (Matthew 19:28, Acts 26:7, Revelation 7:4).

The forced expulsions by the gentiles were indirectly responsible for the Jewish Christians living outside of Israel.

The first major expulsion took place when the ten northern tribes were taken captive by Assyria in 722 BC (2 Kings 17:4-6).

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The second major expulsion took place when the two remaining tribes were taken captive by Babylon in 586 BC (2 Kings 24:14-16, 25).

The third major expulsion took place when Rome conquered the Jews in 63 BC.

The forced expulsion of the Jewish Christians by their fellow Jews were directly responsible for them living outside of Israel (Acts 8:1).