

Welcome to

calvary
chapel
portsmouth



23rd November 2014



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Simply teaching the Word simply

Through The Bible Session 45

The Hebrew Christian Epistles:
James, 1 & 2 Peter

From the miracle of our origin to the mystery of our destiny

New Testament

Gospels & Acts - 5

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Acts

7 Churches

Pastoral

Paul's Epistles - 13

Romans

1, 2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

1, 2 Thessalonians

1, 2 Timothy

Titus

Philemon

"Prison Epistles"

Prophetic - 1

Revelation

Hebrew-Christian Epistles - 8

Hebrews

James

1, 2 Peter

1, 2, 3 John

Jude

An open scroll with Hebrew text is shown against a dark background. The scroll is unrolled, revealing text on both sides. A wooden handle is visible on the left side. The text is in Hebrew, and the scroll is illuminated from the left, creating a strong shadow on the right side. The title "The Epistle of James" is overlaid in large, yellow, sans-serif font across the center of the scroll.

The Epistle of James

Yakov's Letter to the 12 Tribes

- Hebrew *Yakov*; Greek *Iakobos*; English Jacob, or James.
- Half-brother of Jesus *Matt 13:55; Mark 6:3; Gal 1:19*
- Unbeliever during lifetime of Jesus *John 7:2-5*
- Became believer after the resurrection *1 Cor 15:7*
- Was married *1 Cor 9:5*
- Leader of the Church in Jerusalem
Acts 15:13-21; 21:17-26
- Written around 12yrs after the resurrection

Yakov's Letter to the 12 Tribes

- When Peter released from prison, he instructed them to *tell James* Acts 12:17
- Issued the
 - Verdict of the Jerusalem Council Acts 15:13-21
 - Proclamation of Gentile Christianity Acts 15:22-29
- Paul reported to him upon arrival Acts 21:17-26
- Name used without permission by the Judaizers Gal 2:12
- Executed in 62 AD

Yakov's Letter to the 12 Tribes

- “He was notable as a very *Jewish* Christian, extremely strict in lifestyle” - William MacDonald
- Many parallels with Matthews's gospel with respect to themes:

Yakov's Letter to the 12 Tribes

• Subject	James	Parallel in Matthew
• Adversity	1:2, 12; 5:10	5:10–12
• Prayer	1:5; 4:3; 5:13–18	6:6–13; 7:7–12
• The Single Eye	1:8; 4:8	6:22, 23
• Wealth	1:10, 11; 2:6, 7	6:19–21, 23–34
• Wrath	1:19, 20; 4:1	5:22
• The Law	1:25; 2:1, 12, 13	5:17–44
• Mere Profession	1:26, 27	6:1–18
• The Royal Law	2:8	7:12

Yakov's Letter to the 12 Tribes

• Subject	James	Parallel in Matthew
• Mercy	2:13	5:7
• Faith and Works	2:14–26	7:15–27
• Root and Fruit	3:11, 12	7:16–20
• True Wisdom	3:13	7:24
• The Peacemaker	3:17, 18	5:9
• Judging Others	4:11, 12	7:1–5
• Rusted Treasures	5:2	6:19
• Oaths	5:12	5:33–37

Yakov's Letter to the 12 Tribes

Conduct, not Creed; Behavior, not Belief; Deed, not Doctrine

- Endurance of Faith
 - Outward Trials & Inward Temptations 1:2-18
- Tests of the Genuineness of Faith
 - Response to the Word of God 1:19-27
 - Response to social distinctions 2:1-13
 - Production of good works 2:14-26
 - Exercise of self-control 3:1-18
 - Reaction to worldliness 4:1-5:12
 - Resort to prayer in all circumstances 5:12-18

Yakov's Letter to the 12 Tribes

- James used nature to illustrate spiritual truth thirty times in five short chapters.
- There are frequent references to the law in this Letter. It is called “the perfect law” (1:25), “the royal law” (2:8), and “the law of liberty” (2:12).
 - James does not teach that his readers are under law for salvation or as a rule of life. Rather, portions of the law are cited as instruction in righteousness for those who are under grace.

Yakov's Letter to the 12 Tribes

- Key words: *Brethren* x 15
Faith x 15
Works x 13
Wisdom x 4
- The most authoritarian letter in the NT?
- James issues instructions more profusely than any of the other writers.
- In the 108 verses, there are 54 commands

Chapter 1

- Introduction 1:1
- Have Joy in trials 1:2-3
- Be single minded 1:5-8
- Be content 1:9-11
- Endure temptation 1:12-21
- Be doers not just hearers 1:22-27

Personal Development Program

2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

James 1:2-4

Worthwhile Work

12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

James 1:12-16

Chain Reaction

13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.

James 1:12-16

Risk of Contamination

²⁷ Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

James 1:27

Chapter 2

- Show no partiality 2:1-13
- Show forth good works 2:14-26

Favouritism?

My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.

James 2:1-4

Favouritism?

- 2 For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;*
- 3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:*
- 4 Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?*

James 2:1-4

Faith & Works

¹⁸ Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

¹⁹ Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

²⁰ But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

James 2:18-20

Chapter 3

- Judgment for teachers 3:1-2
- Bridle the tongue 3:3-12
- Godly wisdom 3:13-18

Wisdom

¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

James 3:17

Chapter 4

- Eschew evil 4:1-5
- Godly humility 4:6-12
- Thy will be done 3:13-17

Choose Your Friends Carefully

Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

James 4:4

Chapter 5

- Futility of riches 5:1-8
- Grudge not 5:9-12
- Grow together 5:13-20

Confession?

16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

James 5:16-20

Confession?

19 Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him;

20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

James 5:16-20



The Epistles of Peter

The Epistles of Peter

- 1 Peter: Christ the cornerstone of our faith
- 2 Peter: Christ our Strength
- Key word: Precious x 7
 - Precious trial of faith 1:7
 - Precious blood 1:19
 - Precious cornerstone 2:4-6
 - Precious Christ 2:7
 - Precious Spirit 3:4
 - Precious faith 2 Peter 1:1
 - Precious promises 2 Peter 1:4

The 1st Epistle of Peter

An unrolled scroll of parchment with Hebrew text, resting on a wooden handle, set against a dark background. The scroll is partially unrolled, showing several lines of text in a traditional Hebrew script. The wooden handle is on the left side, and the scroll curves to the right. The background is dark, making the scroll and the text stand out.

1st Epistle of Peter

To the Elect Sojourners of the Dispersion

- **The Status of the Believer** 1 – 2:10
 - Foreknowledge of God
 - Unto Obedience of Faith
 - The Living Stone (to the Remnant)
 - Stone of Stumbling, Rock of Offense (to the non-Remnant) **Psalm 118:22**
- **The Pilgrim Life** 2:11-4:11
 - Citizens, Servants, Marriage
- **The Fiery Trial** 4:12 – 5:11
 - Rejoice; Commit; Be Vigilant
 - Farewell 5:12-14

Written from Babylon

- Babylonia
 - had the highest concentration of Jews outside the land
 - was the center of Judaism outside the land
- Babylonian Talmud was developed there
- Peter, the Apostle of the Circumcision, would naturally base there
- A challenge to the popular miss-conception that Peter wrote from Rome

The Theme of the NT

- We have been begotten into a lively hope 1:3
- We have and incorruptible inheritance 1:4, 5:10
- We are kept by the power of God 1:5
- We are being purified to stand with Christ 1:7
- We have the assurance of Salvation 1:9
- We've been given an incredible gospel 1:12
 - That even angels desire to look into
- We have a great hope 1:13
- We have redemption through His blood 1:18-19
- We are born again by His Word 1:23

The Theme of the NT

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:3-5

Chapter 1

- Introduction 1:1-5
- Perseverance through trials 1:6-9
- The privilege of *our* Gospel! 1:10-25

Privileged Position

IO Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

II Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

1 Peter 1:10-12

Privileged Position

12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

1 Peter 1:10-12

So because of this...

- 13** Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;
- 14** As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:
- 15** But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;
- 16** Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

1 Peter 1:13-16

Chapter 2

- Growing up into His house 2:1-8
- Our transition & response 2:9-10
- God's order
 - In the government 2:13-17
 - The workplace 2:18-25

Living Stones

5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:5

Royal Priesthood

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

1 Peter 2:9-11

The Heat of Battle

ii Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

1 Peter 2:11

Chapter 3

- Instruction for Wives 3:1-6
- Instruction for Husbands 3:7
- Congregational Unity 3:8-14
- The Christian's way of life 3:8-14
 - Who preached to whom, and where?

Marriage

- The Hebrew word for marriage means ‘sanctification’ – to be set apart
- Marriage is the only thing that has come to us from the other side of the fall
 - The only thing that survived Eden
- There is something in marriage that reflects God’s nature
- In the OT marriage was so sacred that the punishment for adultery was death

Instruction for Wives

Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;

1 Peter 3:1

- Peter has just been laying down the standard for order in the nation, the workplace, the church, and now focuses on the home
- The family is the basic building block

Instruction for Wives

I Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;

1 Peter 3:1

- Note: Women are not subject to men!
- But wives are to be subject to their own husbands
- Your godly example has the power to change your husband – it will cause him to think!

Instruction for Husbands

7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

1 Peter 3:7

- ...because of God's prescribed order
- 6 verses for the wives...
- just 1 verse for husbands!
 - Peter was married

Instruction for Husbands

7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

1 Peter 3:7

- 1. Dwell with them – spend time with your wife!
- 2. Knowledge – we are to understand that our wives are the way they are – how God created them!

Instruction for Husbands

7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

1 Peter 3:7

- 3. Giving honour – ‘precious’, ‘price’ – value!
 - It is her God-given right (think how Christ values us)
- 4. ‘Weaker vessel’ – both are weak!
 - as protecting something of great value
 - ‘Jealously guarding’

Instruction for Husbands

7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

1 Peter 3:7

- 5. Understand that we are joint heirs
 - Husbands have a responsibility before God to love, cherish and care for their wives

One Flesh

7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; **that your prayers be not hindered.** 1 Peter 3:7

- As Husband and Wife, God says “*you come together or I’m not going to listen!*”
- You are now one!
 - and that is how you are to approach the throne!
 - Of course God will hear us individually, but we must understand the importance God places on our union in marriage!

A Reasonable Faith

¹⁵ But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

1 Peter 3:15

Chapter 4

- Suffering in service

Chapter 5

- Feed the flock of God



The Epistle of 2nd Peter

2nd Epistle of Peter

- **The Need to Grow** 1
 - In Virtue, Knowledge, Self-Control, Patience, Godliness, Kindness, and Love
 - By “more sure Word of Prophecy”
- **False Teachers** 2
 - Will infect with slander and immorality
 - God delivers to/from judgment
 - Fallen Angels vs Noah and family Gen 6
 - Sodom & Gomorrah vs Lot and family Gen 19
- **Promise for End-Times** 3
 - Scoffers of 2nd Coming

The Redeemed Life

- We have been given precious promises
- We have not followed fables
- There will be attacks from within the Church
 - false teachers
- The righteous will be preserved
- There will be persecution from without
 - Scoffers at His Word
- The LORD is not slack re His promises!
- *“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen”.*



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