

From the Pastor:

Like most subjects among the scholars of this world many aspects of the Epistle of James are debated from who the author actually was to when it was written. However, according to *The Anchor Bible Dictionary* (ABD) the traditionally accepted author is James, the Lord's brother. ABD records, "There is no other serious contender among the Jameses of the NT."

This James was obviously not James the brother of John. Two of the original twelve apostles were James and John the sons of Zebedee (Matthew 4:21). James, John's brother, was killed by Herod (Acts 12:2). This occurred between the time of Paul's conversion as described in Acts 9 and Paul's ordination in Acts 13:1-3. After Peter was released from prison by an angel he went to the house where many disciples were. Once he had explained what had happened, he said to, "Go, tell these things to James and to the brethren." (Acts 12:17) this was obviously a different James since James the brother of John had been killed already.

There was a James who had become a pillar of the Jerusalem congregation. After Paul was converted and taught by Jesus Himself, he went to Jerusalem to see Peter. At that time he also saw James, the Lord's brother whom he equates with the other apostles. Galatians 1:18-19 records:

"Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But, I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother."

This would be the James mentioned in Matthew 13:55, "Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas?" Since James is mentioned first he would have been the eldest of the four sons of Joseph and Mary after Jesus was born. James after Jesus' death not only became a believer, but also, a minister and an apostle—a pillar in the Jerusalem congregation.

This is the James who had an important voice at the Jerusalem conference described in Acts 15: 13-21.

"And after they had become silent, James answered, saying, 'Men and brethren, listen to me: Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name... Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God...'"

Obviously the letter was written before James' death. However, there is not a clear indication as to the date of his death. His death "is variously reported as in 62 C.E. [or, A.D.]...or as in 67 C.E. immediately before Vespasian's invasion of Palestine." (ABD) Both dates would be before the siege of Jerusalem and the destruction of the temple in 70 C.E.

Before the siege walls completely surrounded Jerusalem and the city was destroyed, the headquarters congregation fled to the small town of Pella. Edward Gibbon in his classic work *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* wrote, "The Nazarenes retired from the ruins of Jerusalem to the little town of Pella beyond the Jordan, where that ancient church languished above sixty years in solitude and obscurity."

Of course the church that James was writing to never died out. But, that is another bit of history.

We will start with James 1:1 next time

Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



July 14, 2018

Victoria

Sermon: DVD

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: Mark Monsivais
Sermon: Steve Moody

Harlingen

Sermonette: Orlando Mascorro
Sermon: Michael Watts

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

Hebrews 11:6

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	8:29pm	8:27pm	8:26pm
Sunset Friday 7-20	8:26pm	8:25pm	8:24pm

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 7/14	Regular times and locations for all congregations.
Sabbath 7/21	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in San Antonio and Victoria. Mr. Mendez will be in Corpus Christi and Harlingen.

Camps: Please be praying about the weather and safety at the upcoming camps.

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

TEEN CAMPS:

Camp Carter – July 8-15

Camp Sequoia – July 22-29

Camp Fort Bluff – July 29 – Aug. 5

Camp Heritage – Aug. 5-12

Winter Camp – Dec. x, 2018 – Jan. x, 2019

PRETEEN CAMPS:

Camp Arrowhead – July 29 – Aug. 1