

## "On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

## James 1

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The Book of James was called by Martin Luther, "An epistle of straw" because he perceived it contradicted the Book of Romans teaching of "Justification by faith." Nothing could be farther from the truth. We will deal with that in both a short commentary and podcast in the days ahead, *stay tuned*. James is one of four men named in the gospel accounts. This James is also called, "James the Just" because of his godliness and leadership in the early Jerusalem church (Matthew 13:55; Acts 15:3; Galatians 2:9). He is what most would call the Lead Elder or Senior Pastor of the great Jerusalem congregation. There were other men named James. James who was labeled the son of Alphaeus, who was often called James the less, which means younger (Matthew 10:3). James is the father of Judas (Luke 16:6). The most popular and most often mentioned, James, the brother of John, called with John the Son of Zebedee (Matthew 4:21, etc.). It seems the best date for the book of James is between 45-57 A.D. James is writing to Jewish believers, "***The twelve tribes scattered abroad.***" James would have been writing to those Jewish believers who lived outside of Judea, Samaria, and Galilee. They were being persecuted, as we have seen through the eyes of other New Testament

writers, during this critical period in the early history of the Church.

***My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him*** (James 1:2-5).

James instructs the scattered believers to realize that they will encounter all sorts of trials. The word various is the word for variegated yarn or thread. That is trials come in many different colors, not all trials are the same. Trials are not monotonous, they are sometimes long, short, extreme, or milder sort. They come in all different seasons of life. Many times, we don't understand what the Father wants us to learn during a trial. He wants us to know. He is not trying to hide His plan from us unless we want to know it so we can negotiate our obedience and submission to that plan. The above verse is an admonition along with a promise. The admonition is that if we do not understand the purpose of the trial, we can ask our great God and He will give us clarity and will not fuss at us for asking for that clarity and direction.

### ***Prayer and Action Steps***

***Father in heaven, Thank you for giving direction in our lives when we go through various times of testing and trials. Thank you that you ask us to come to you and you will answer. Thank you for wanting us to do that and you don't "get on to us" for asking!***

***Amen***