

Welcome to

**Journey
through
the Bible**



**Book by book
Bible study**

James

True Faith Triumphs

in the

Tests and Trials of Life

Distinctive features of James

- ★ Works a necessary evidence of faith
- ★ Marked similarity to Jesus' teaching
- ★ OT roots & Jewish character evident
- ★ Absence of major doctrinal teaching
- ★ 50% of verses are imperatives
- ★ Literary style = contrasts, repetition
- ★ Wisdom shows itself in/by its works

JAMES: True Faith is Proven in the Tests of Life

Key verse- 2:26, *just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.*

Key words:
 Faith - works
 Rich - poor
 Proud - humble
 Brothers
 Wisdom
 Tongue
 Consider

True Faith

Tested

Triumphant

1:1	1:2-12	1:13-18	1:19-27	2:1-13	2:14	2:26	3:1-18	4:1-17	5:1-6	5:7-12	5:13-20
James to the 12 tribes	Matures through trials	Withstands temptation	Obeys the Word	Loves without favoritism	Evidenced by its works		Controls the tongue	Submits to God not to the world	Warning against wealthy oppressors	Patiently awaits the Lord's coming	Prevails through prayer
<p>True faith is evidenced by the fruit of works!</p>											

James
 AD 45-49
 To Jewish
 Christians of
 the Diaspora

True faith matures through trials

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (1:2–4)

**Don't live “under the circumstances”
rise above the circumstances!**

When in doubt, pray and believe!

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, ... Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those that love him.

(1:5-6, 12)

Temptation is an inside job!

When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. (1:13–15)

God only gives good gifts!

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. (1:17–18)

True faith obeys God's Word

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

(1:19–21)

Listen to the Bible! Live the Bible!

Do not merely listen to the word, ... Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks ... and continues in it ... they will be blessed in what they do. (1:22–25)

Litmus test for genuine Christianity

Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. (1:26–27)

True faith loves without favoritism

If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. ... Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, (2:8–9, 12)

Faith wears work boots!

Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. (2:14–17)

The little tongue makes big trouble

The tongue is a small part of the body but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. (3:5-6)

Beware the “double tongue”

The tongue is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. (3:7–10)

Fights & quarrels are an 'inside job'

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. (4:1–2)

Remember whose side you are on!

You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ... But he gives us more grace. ... God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.

(4:4–6)

Say yes to God! Say no to Satan!

Submit yourselves, then, to God.
Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ... Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. (4:7–10)

Let God govern and guide your plans!

Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” (4:13–15)

**Money is a good servant,
but a poor master!**

Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. (5:1–3)

True faith is patient and persistent

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ... The Judge is standing at the door! (5:7–9)

True faith perseveres in tough times

We count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. ... Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. (5:11, 13)

Reach out to others when you are sick!

Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. (5:14–15)

I am my brother's keeper!

My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins. (5:19–20)

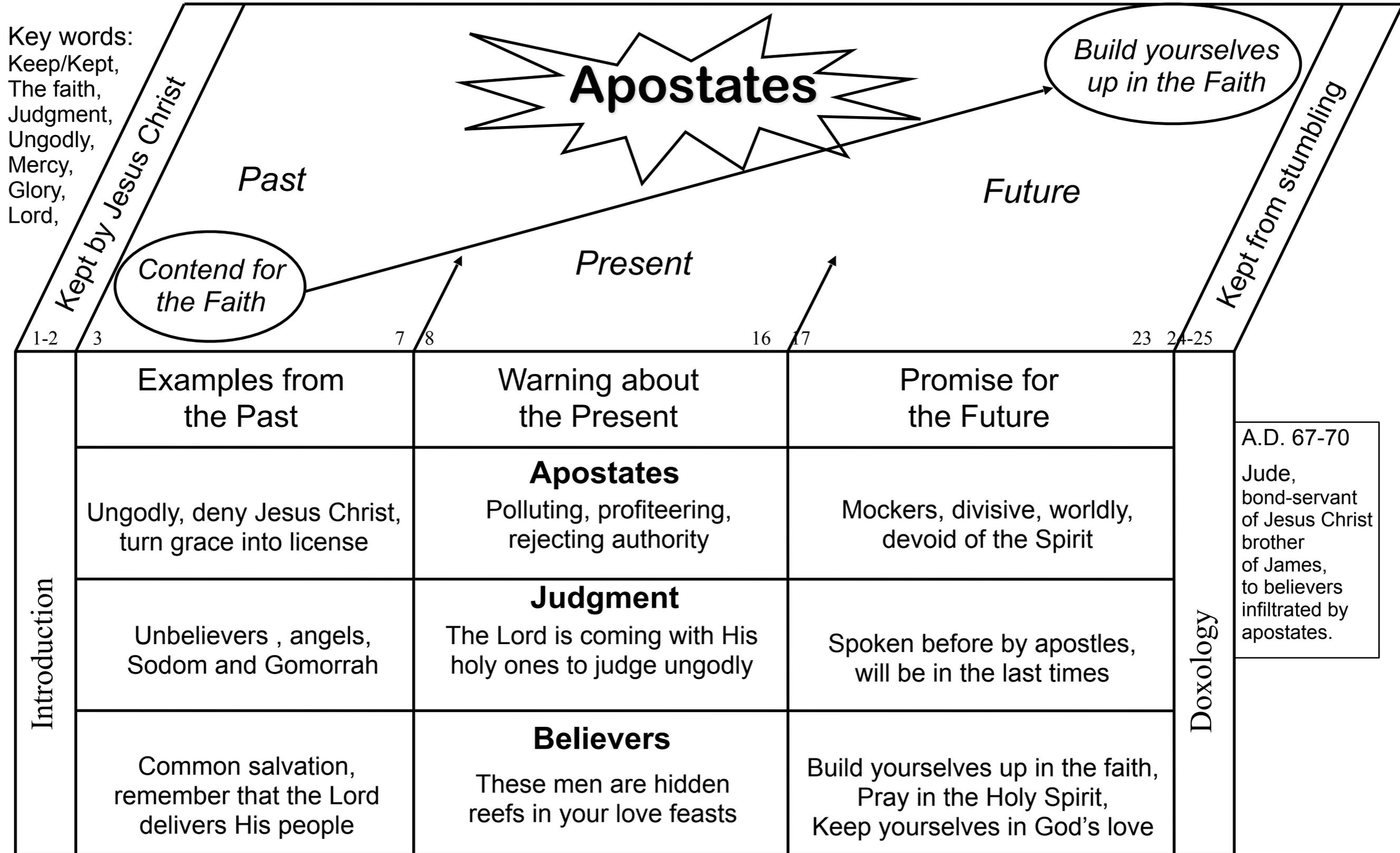
Jude
Contending
for the faith

Distinctive features of Jude

- ★ Severity of tone and words used
- ★ Use of triads (over 10 lists of three's)
- ★ Illustrations from Old Testament people
- ★ Doxology is a model for all believers
- ★ Fallen angels held in eternal bonds
- ★ Marked similarity to 2 Peter

JUDE: Contending for The Faith

Key verse: 3, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith.



We must vigorously defend the faith

Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people. (3)

“The faith” is the foundation for life and must be defended and proclaimed

Guard against the grace abusers

For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord. (3–4)

Some reject and ridicule the truth

... these ungodly people pollute their own bodies, reject authority and heap abuse on celestial beings. ... Yet these people slander whatever they do not understand, and the very things they do understand by instinct—as irrational animals do—will destroy them. (8, 10)

They will self destruct!

They are betrayed by their actions!

These people are blemishes at your love feasts ... shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted—twice dead. They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever. (12–13)

Their day of reckoning is coming!

Enoch, ... prophesied about them: “See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts ... and of all the defiant words ...” These people are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.

(14–16)

They are dividing the church!

But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. They said to you, “In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.” These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

(17–19)

Be proactive: build each other up!

But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love ...

Be merciful to those who doubt; save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh. (20–23)

The benediction of faith!

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. (24–25)

See you next week!

1 Peter

True grace for fiery trials

