

James grew up in the same household as Jesus did. James knew the perfect Son of God better than most people at that time. In this article, we will examine what we can learn from the life and teachings of Jesus' younger brother who became a pillar in the first-century Christian congregation.

(James 1:1) James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the 12 tribes that are scattered about: Greetings!

Paragraph 2

(Matthew 13:55) Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary, and his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?

(Luke 2:46, 47) Well, after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers and listening to them and asking them questions. 47 But all those listening to him were in constant amazement at his understanding and his answers.

(Luke 2:52) And Jesus went on progressing in wisdom and in physical growth and in favor with God and men.

Paragraph 3

(John 7:3-5) So his brothers said to him: "Leave here and go into Ju-de'a, so that your disciples may also see the works you are doing. 4 For no one does anything in secret when he seeks to be known publicly. If you are doing these things, show yourself to the world." 5 His brothers were, in fact, not exercising faith in him.

(Mark 3:21) But when his relatives heard about it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying: "He has gone out of his mind."

(John 19:25-27) By the torture stake of Jesus, however, there were standing his mother and his

mother's sister; Mary the wife of Clo'pas and Mary Mag'da-lene. 26 So when Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother: "Woman, see! Your son!" 27 Next he said to the disciple: "See! Your mother!" And from that hour on, the disciple took her into his own home.

Paragraph 5

(1 Corinthians 15:7) After that he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

(Acts 1:13, 14) When they arrived, they went up into the upper room where they were staying. There were Peter as well as John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bar-thol'o-mew and Matthew, James the son of Al-phae'us, and Simon the zealous one, and Judas the son of James. 14 With one purpose all of these were persisting in prayer, together with some women and Mary the mother of Jesus and with his brothers.

(Acts 15:6) So the apostles and the elders gathered together to look into this matter.

(Acts 15:13-22) After they finished speaking, James replied: "Men, brothers, hear me. 14 Sym'e-on has related thoroughly how God for the first time turned his attention to the nations to take out of them a people for his name. 15 And with this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written: 16 'After these things I will return and raise up again the tent of David that is fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins and restore it, 17 so that the men who remain may earnestly seek Jehovah, together with people of all the nations, people who are called by my name, says Jehovah, who is doing these things, 18 known from of old.' 19 Therefore, my decision is not to trouble those from the nations who are turning to God, 20 but to write them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from what is strangled, and from blood. 21 For from ancient times Moses has had those who preach

him in city after city, because he is read aloud in the synagogues on every sabbath." 22 Then the apostles and the elders, together with the whole congregation, decided to send chosen men from among them to Antioch, along with Paul and Bar'na-bas; they sent Judas who was called Bar'sab-bas and Silas, who were leading men among the brothers.

(Galatians 2:9) and when they recognized the undeserved kindness that was given me, James and Ce'phas and John, the ones who seemed to be pillars, gave Bar'na-bas and me the right hand of fellowship, so that we should go to the nations but they to those who are circumcised.

(James 1:1) James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the 12 tribes that are scattered about: Greetings!

Paragraph 6

(John 11:53) So from that day on they conspired to kill him.

(John 12:9-11) Meanwhile, a large crowd of Jews got to know that he was there, and they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Laz'a-rus, whom he had raised up from the dead. 10 The chief priests now conspired to kill Laz'a-rus also, 11 since it was because of him that many of the Jews were going there and putting faith in Jesus.

(Matthew 28:11-15) While they were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened. 12 And after these had gathered with the elders and had consulted together, they gave a considerable number of silver pieces to the soldiers 13 and said: "Say, 'His disciples came in the night and stole him while we were sleeping.' 14 And if this gets to the governor's ears, we will explain the matter to him and you will not need to worry." 15 So they took the silver pieces and did as they were instructed, and this

story has been spread abroad among the Jews up to this very day.

Paragraph 7

(John 12:37-40) Although he had performed so many signs before them, they were not putting faith in him, 38 so that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, who said: "Jehovah, who has put faith in the thing heard from us? And as for the arm of Jehovah, to whom has it been revealed?" 39 The reason why they were not able to believe is that again Isaiah said: 40 "He has blinded their eyes and has made their hearts hard, so that they would not see with their eyes and understand with their hearts and turn around and I heal them."

(Matthew 23:13) "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because you shut up the Kingdom of the heavens before men; for you yourselves do not go in, neither do you permit those on their way in to go in.

(Matthew 23:33) "Serpents, offspring of vipers, how will you flee from the judgment of Ge-hen'na?

(James 3:17) But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, reasonable, ready to obey, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial, not hypocritical.

Paragraph 8

(Acts 4:13) Now when they saw the outspokenness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were astonished. And they began to realize that they had been with Jesus.

Paragraph 9

(James 5:11) Look! We consider happy those who have endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome

Jehovah gave, that Jehovah is very tender in affection and merciful.

Paragraph 10

(Romans 11:33) O the depth of God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How unsearchable his judgments are and beyond tracing out his ways are!

Paragraph 11

(James 1:22) However, become doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves with false reasoning.

(James 2:1-3) My brothers, you are not holding to the faith of our glorious Lord Jesus Christ while showing favoritism, are you? 2 For if a man with gold rings on his fingers and in splendid clothing comes into your meeting, but a poor man in filthy clothing also enters, 3 do you look with favor on the one wearing the splendid clothing and say, "You take this seat here in a fine place," and do you say to the poor one, "You keep standing" or, "Take that seat there under my footstool"?

(James 3:8-10) But no human can tame the tongue. It is unruly and injurious, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we praise Jehovah, the Father, and yet with it we curse men who have come into existence "in the likeness of God." 10 Out of the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, it is not right for things to happen this way.

(James 5:13-15) Is there anyone suffering hardship among you? Let him carry on prayer. Is there anyone in good spirits? Let him sing psalms. 14 Is there anyone sick among you? Let him call the elders of the congregation to him, and let them pray over him, applying oil to him in the name of Jehovah. 15 And the prayer of faith will make the sick one well, and Jehovah will raise him

up. Also, if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

Paragraph 12

(James 4:1-4) What is the source of the wars and fights among you? Do they not originate from your fleshly desires that carry on a conflict within you? 2 You desire, and yet you do not have. You go on murdering and coveting, and yet you are not able to obtain. You go on fighting and waging war. You do not have because of your not asking. 3 When you do ask, you do not receive because you are asking for a wrong purpose, so that you may spend it on your fleshly desires. 4 Adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever, therefore, wants to be a friend of the world is making himself an enemy of God.

(James 4:10) Humble yourselves in the eyes of Jehovah, and he will exalt you.

Paragraph 13

(James 1:16) Do not be misled, my beloved brothers.

(James 1:19) Know this, my beloved brothers: Everyone must be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger,

(James 2:5) Listen, my beloved brothers. Did not God choose those who are poor from the world's standpoint to be rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom, which he promised to those who love him?

(James 3:2) For we all stumble* many times. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able to bridle also his whole body.

Ftn: Or "make mistakes."

Paragraph 15

(James 3:2-6) For we all stumble many times. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able to bridle also his whole body. 3 If we put bridles in the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide also their whole body. 4 Look also at ships: Although they are so big and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the man at the helm is inclined to go. 5 So, too, the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it makes great brags. See how small a fire it takes to set a great forest ablaze! 6 The tongue is also a fire. The tongue represents a world of unrighteousness among our body members, for it defiles all the body and sets the whole course of life on fire, and it is set on fire by Ge-hen'na.

(James 3:10-12) Out of the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, it is not right for things to happen this way. 11 A spring does not cause the fresh water and the bitter water to bubble out of the same opening, does it? 12 My brothers, a fig tree cannot produce olives, or a grapevine figs, can it? Neither can salt water produce fresh water.

Paragraph 17

(James 1:22-25) However, become doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves with false reasoning. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, this one is like a man looking at his own face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself, and he goes away and immediately forgets what sort of person he is. 25 But the one who peers into the perfect law that belongs to freedom and continues in it has become, not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work; and he will be happy in what he does.