

## **Doctrine of James-the Half-brother of Jesus**

1. James the leader of the churches in Jerusalem and James the author of the Epistle were one and the same. This same James was also the half-brother of Jesus.

2. James was not at first a believer. (Joh 7:5)

3. He later was probably included as one of Jesus' brothers with those who awaited Pentecost in the upper room. (Acts 1:13-14)

Joh 7:5 For neither did his brethren believe in him.

Acts 1:13 And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.

Acts 1:14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

4. The risen Savior appeared to him personally after first appearing to the twelve. (1Co 15:5-7)

1Co 15:5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

1Co 15:6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

1Co 15:7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

5. In his capacity as leader of the Jerusalem council of apostles and elders, James announced his authoritative judgment when the discussion had ended. (Acts 15:13 and 19)

Acts 15:13 And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me:

Acts 15:19 Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God:

6. There is a significant coincidence in the fact that when James' decision was sent by letter from the council, he used a Greek word rendered "greeting" in the salutation (Acts 15:23) which appears in the address of only one New Testament epistle, in the salutation of Jam 1:1.

Acts 15:23 And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia.

Jam 1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

7. Peter, after being miraculously released from prison, instructed the household of John Mark to report the event to James. (Acts 12:16-18)

Acts 12:16 But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished.

Acts 12:17 Peter motioned with his hand for them to be quiet and described how the Lord had brought him out of prison. "Tell James and the brothers about this," he said, and then he left for another place.

Acts 12:18 In the morning, there was no small commotion among the soldiers as to what had become of Peter.

8. Paul recognized "James, Cephas, and John" as pillars of the church at Jerusalem. (Gal 2:9)

Gal 2:9 James, Peter and John, those reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the Jews.

9. Obviously, James was the leader of the some 200 Judean Christian churches in Jerusalem, for representatives who came from that church to Antioch were said to have come from James. (Gal 2:12-13)

Gal 2:12 Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group.

Gal 2:13 The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

10. In (Acts 21:18-19) Paul reported to James the things God had wrought among the Gentiles during his missionary journeys.

Acts 21:18 The next day Paul and the rest of us went to see James, and all the elders were present.

Acts 21:19 Paul greeted them and reported in detail what God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.

11. Tradition describes James as very zealous for the law, combining Old Testament righteousness with evangelical faith. "He is said to have abstained from strong drink and to have refrained from cutting his hair like a Nazarite. A man of great virtue, he was called 'James the Just.' Because he spent so much time in prayer, he was described as having knees hard skinned like a camel's. His epistle revealed that he spoke with an air of patriarchal authority, for, its pages glow with stern and severe utterances and the fervency of his spirit."

12. The death of James is mentioned by Josephus (Ant. xx.9.1), and described by Hegesippus (Eusebius II.23), a Jewish Christian who wrote in the middle of the 2nd Century, "Sometime before the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, the Pharisees had him thrown down from the Temple, stoned and beaten with clubs for having faithfully witnessed of his Saviour. He is said to have died praying, 'Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.'"