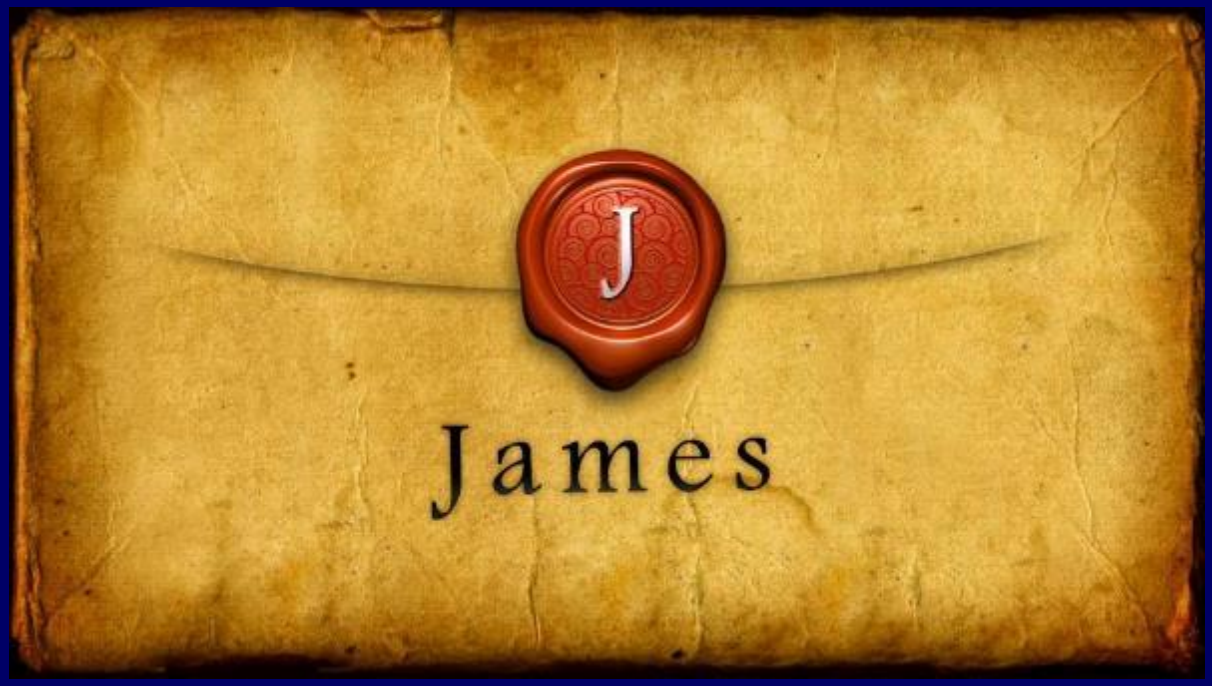
PRACTICAL RIGHTEOUSNESS





Dr. Andy Woods

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church

President – Chafer Theological Seminary

Preview

- Authorship
- Biography
- Audience
- Place of writing
- Date
- Occasion
- Purpose
- Message
- Themes
- Unique characteristics
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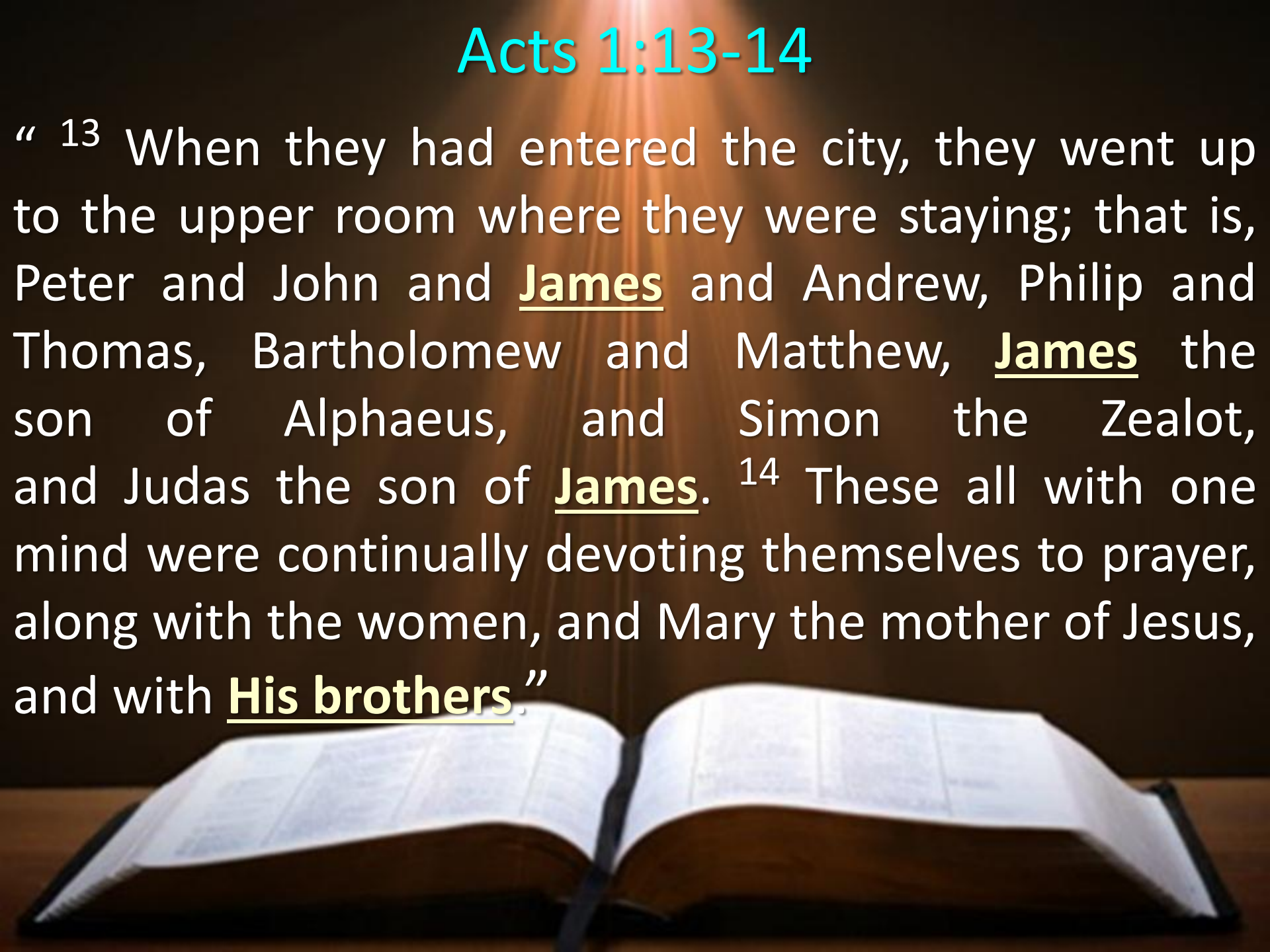
James 1:1

“[1] **James**, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.”



Acts 1:13-14

“ 13 When they had entered the city, they went up to the upper room where they were staying; that is, Peter and John and **James** and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, **James** the son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of **James**. 14 These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with **His brothers**.”



Authorship

- Father of Judas (not Iscariot)
- The son of Alphaeus
- The son of Zebedee and brother of John
- The half brother of Christ



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SIMILARITIES WITH ACTS 15

	James	Acts 15
Greetings	1:1	15:23
Visit	1:27	15:14
Listen	2:5	15:13
Turn	5:19-20	15:19
Being called by God's name	2:7	15:17

Arguments Against James, the Brother of Christ, as Author

- Does not identify himself as Christ's brother
- Greek is too good
- Lack of unanimous acceptance in the early church



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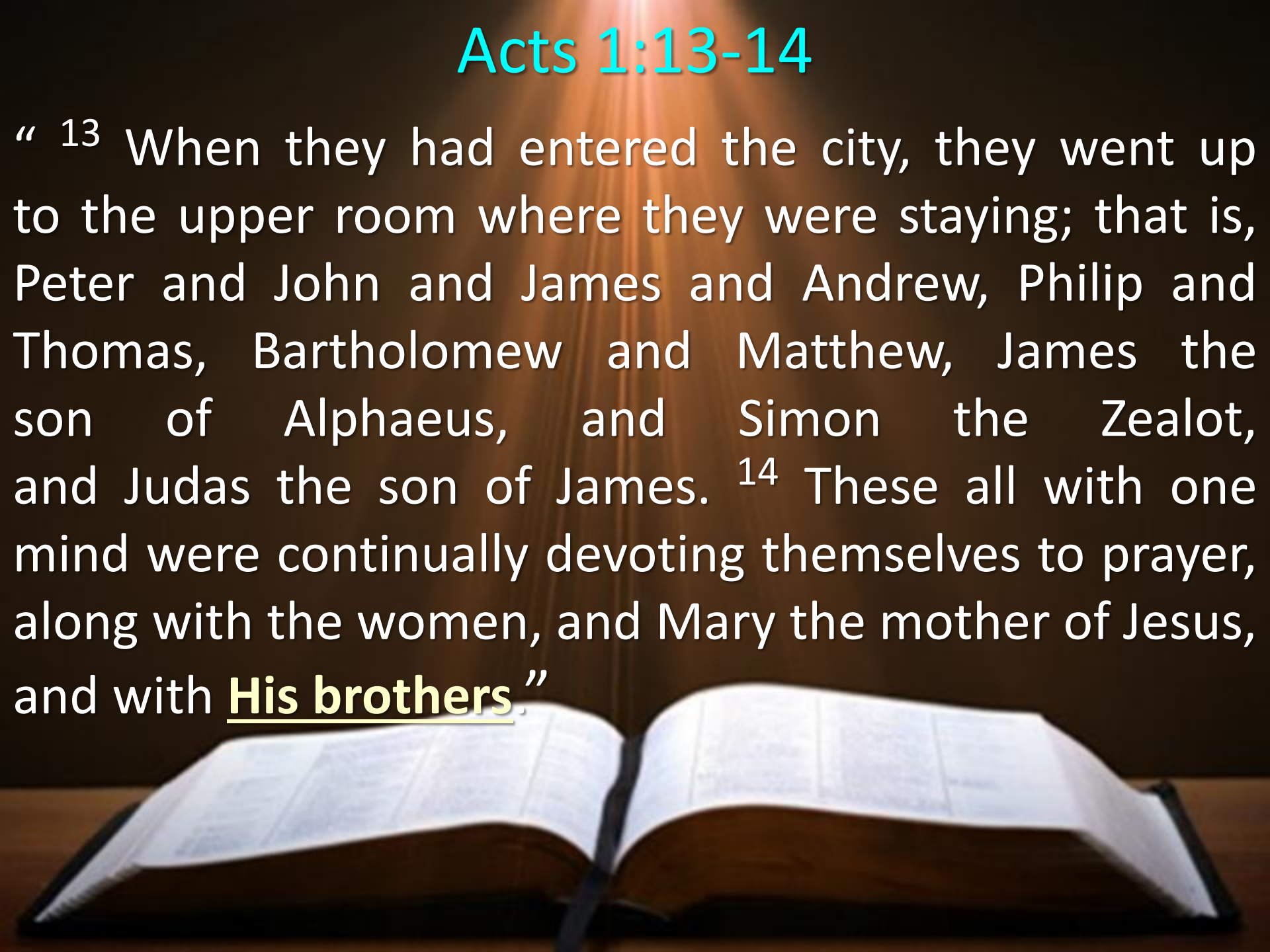
James' Biography

- Half brother of Christ
- Initial unbelief (John 7:5)
- One of the first to receive word of Christ's resurrection (John 20:17)
- Post resurrection ministry (Acts 1:14)
- Leader of Jerusalem church (Acts 15)
- Married (1 Cor 9:5)
- Camel knees
- James the Just
- Martyrdom



Acts 1:13-14

“ 13 When they had entered the city, they went up to the upper room where they were staying; that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. 14 These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with **His brothers**.”



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Audience

- Jewish (1:1)
- Persecution (Acts 8:1-4; 11:19)
- In Babylon-Mesopotamia or North-Central Turkey?
- Believers (Jas 1:2-4)



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"[1] James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the **twelve tribes** who are dispersed abroad: Greetings."



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Every Geographical Location in Acts/Epistles



Map of Ancient Near East



Map of Ancient Near East



Josephus

Antiquities, 15.2.2

"But when Hyrcanus was brought into Parthia the king Phraates treated him after a very gentle manner, as having already learned of what an illustrious family he was; on which account he set him free from his bonds, and ***gave him a habitation at Babylon, where there were Jews in great numbers. These Jews honored Hyrcanus as their high priest and king, as did all the Jewish nation that dwelt as far as Euphrates***; which respect was very much to his satisfaction..."

Every Geographical Location in Acts/Epistles



Map of Ancient Near East



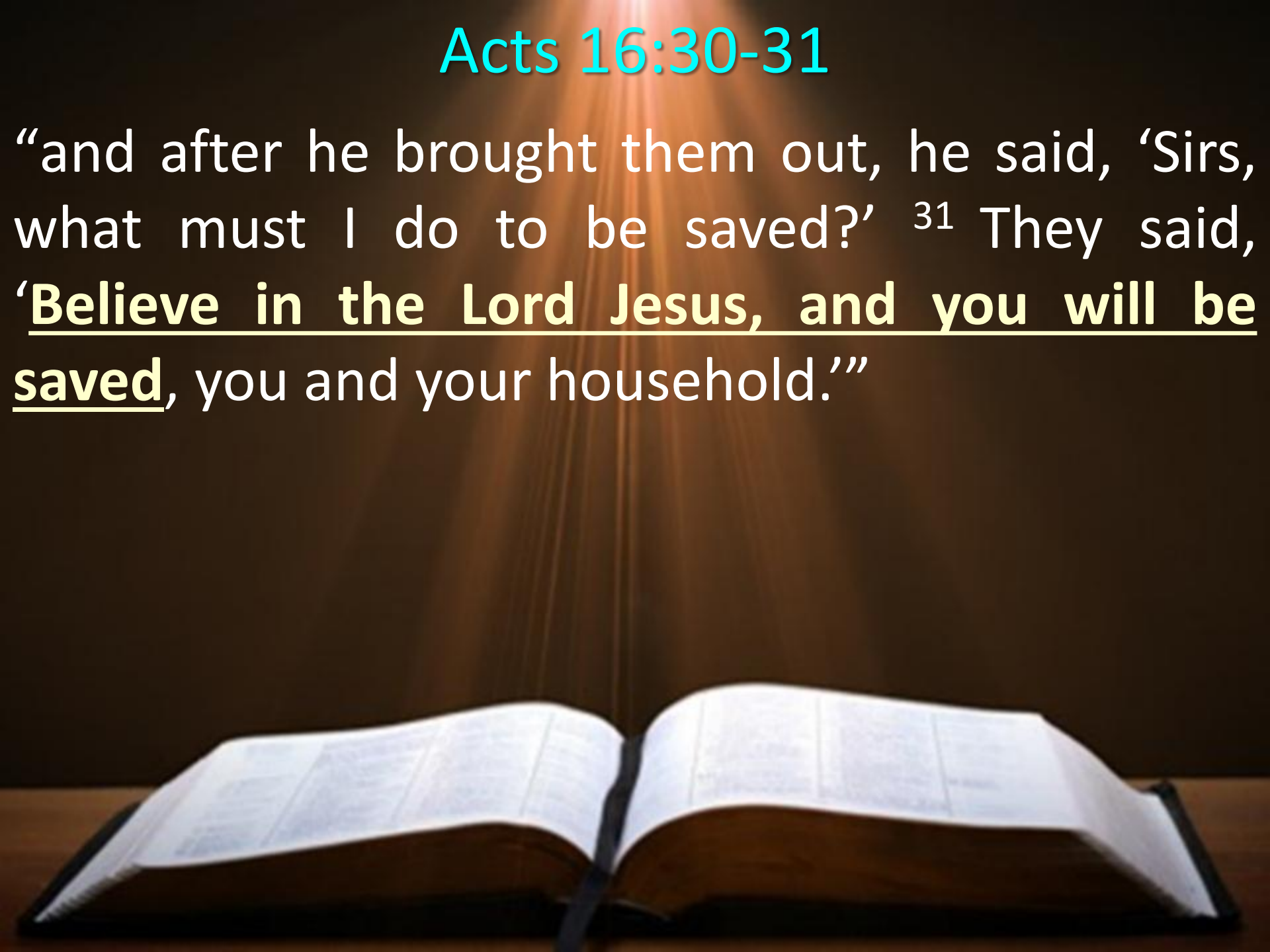
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Acts 16:30-31

“and after he brought them out, he said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ 31 They said, ‘**Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved**, you and your household.’”



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Place of Writing

- Jerusalem
- Pastor of Jerusalem church
- Lived his entire life in Jerusalem



Map of Ancient Near East




CASPIAN SEA
HARRAN
ASSYRIA
NINEVEH
Tigris River
Euphrates River
CYPRUS
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
SIDON
TYRE
DAMASCUS
SAMARIA
JERUSALEM
Jordan River
BABYLON
Chebar River
SUSA
BABYLONIA
ELAM
UR
CHALDEA
PERSIAN GULF
ARABIAN DESERT
THE CHEBAR RIVER
Ezekiel 1:1
Map Design by: Gabriel Morris 2014

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Date (AD 44-47)

- AD 70
- AD 62-63
- AD 49
- AD 48-49
- Sermon on the Mt
- Primitive congregational worship (Jas 2:2; 3:1; 5:14)
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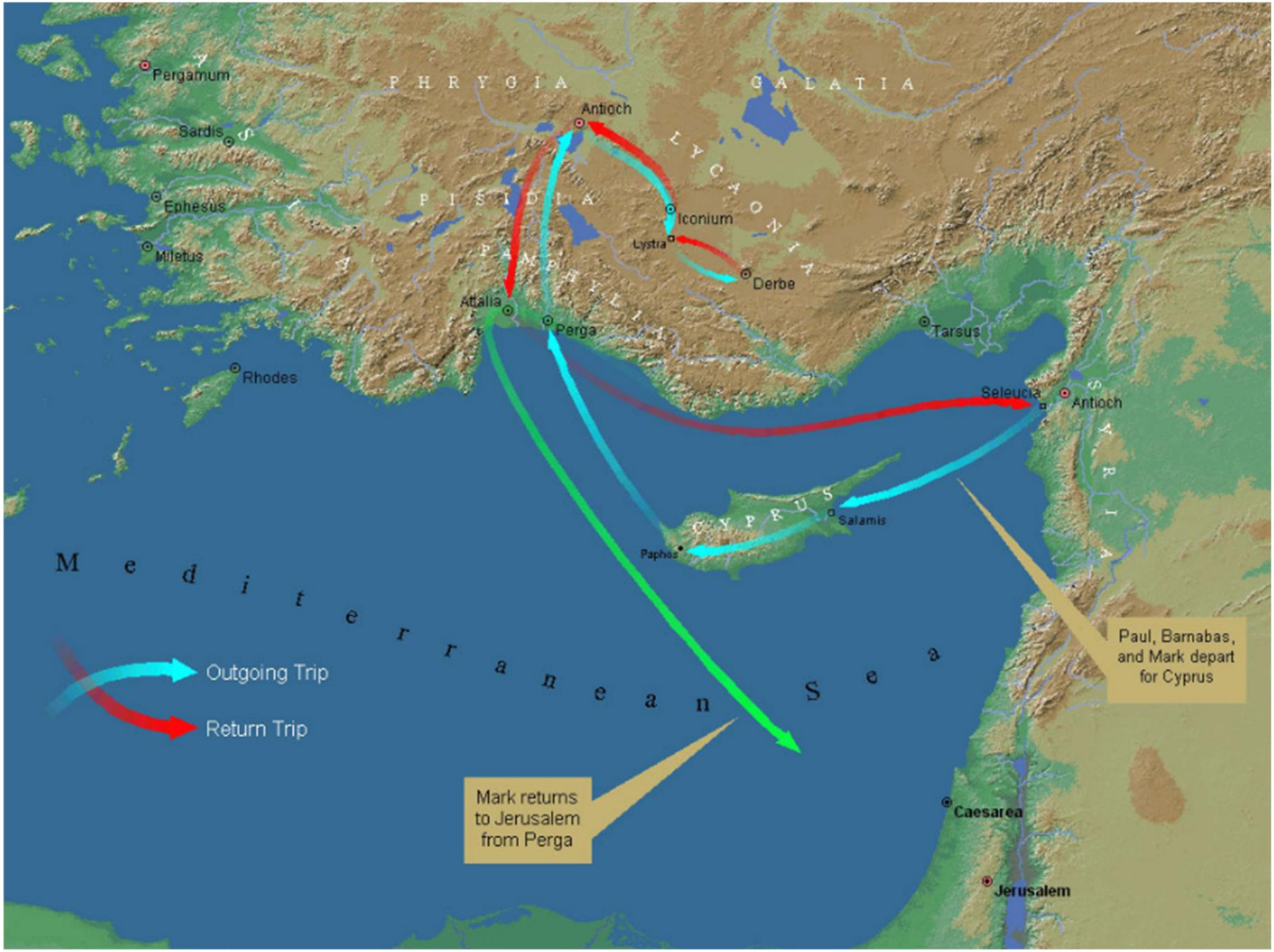
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Pergamum
PHRYGIA
GALATIA
Antioch
Sardis
LYCAONIA
Ephesus
PISIDIA
Iconium
Lystra
Miletus
PAMPHYLIA
Derbe
Attalia
Perga
Tarsus
Rhodes
Seleucia
Antioch
SYRIA
CYPRUS
Salamis
Paphos
Mediterranean Sea
Outgoing Trip
Return Trip
Paul, Barnabas, and Mark depart for Cyprus
Mark returns to Jerusalem from Perga
Caesarea
Jerusalem

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- Jas 1:1 = Acts 8:1-4; 11:19

James 2:2

“[2] For if a man comes into your **assembly** [***synagōgē***] with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes.”



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Order of Paul's Letters

1. Galatians (A.D. 49)
2. 1–2 Thessalonians (A.D. 51)
3. 1–2 Corinthians (A.D. 56)
4. Romans (A.D. 57)
5. Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon, Philippians (A.D. 60–62)
6. 1 Timothy, Titus (A.D. 62–66)
7. 2 Timothy (A.D. 67)



Preview

- Authorship
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Occasion

- Diaspora (Jas 1:1; Acts 8:1-4; 11:19)
- Outside of Jerusalem
- Without the supervision of an apostle
- Without the law
- National history
- Concerned with practical righteousness



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Deuteronomy 28:49-50

“49 The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar,
from the end of the earth, as the eagle swoops down,
a nation whose language you shall not understand, 50 a nation of fierce countenance who will have no respect for the old, nor show favor to the young.”



ISRAEL'S JUDGMENTS

- Division of the kingdom in 931 B.C. (1 Kgs. 12)
- Assyrian judgment in 722 B.C. (2 Kgs. 17)
- Babylonian captivity in 586 B.C. (2 Kgs. 25)



Occasion

- Diaspora (Jas 1:1; Acts 8:1-4; 11:19)
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Preview

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Purpose

- James wrote in order to show his Jewish-Christian readers living in the Diaspora how to achieve practical righteousness



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Message

- Practical righteousness is attainable when believers live by faith and walk by wisdom



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Themes

- Hearer to doer
- Belief to behavior
- Doctrine to deed



The Writer/Apostle of…

- Paul – Faith
- Peter – Hope
- John – Love
- Jude – Truth
- James – Conduct



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UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

■ Sermon on Mt	■ Concise
■ OT	■ High quality GK
■ Illustrations from nature and daily living	■ Proverbs and Amos of the NT
■ Undeveloped Christology	■ Imperatives
■ Practical	■ Oldest book in NT
■ Many literary devices	■ Difficult to outline

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JAMES STRUCTURE

I. Faith (James 1:1–3:12)

II. Wisdom (James 3:13–5:20)



JAMES STRUCTURE

I. **Faith (James 1:1–3:12)**

II. Wisdom (James 3:13–5:20)



Structure

- Faith (1:1–3:12)
  - Trials (1:2-18)
  - Obedience to the Word (1:19-27)
  - Favoritism (2:1-13)
  - Faith manifesting works (2:14-26)
  - Tongue (3:1-12)



JAMES STRUCTURE

I. Faith (James 1:1–3:12)

II. <u>Wisdom (James 3:13–5:20)</u>



Structure

- Wisdom (3:13–5:20)
  - Wisdom defined (3:13-18)
  - Spirituality (4:1-12)
  - Commerce (4:13-17)
  - Use of wealth (5:1-6)
  - Waiting for the Lord’s return (5:7-12)
  - Prayer (5:13-18)
  - Restoration of the erring brother (5:19-20)



CONCLUSION

Answering Eleven Questions



1) Who wrote it? – **James**
2) What do we know about the author? – **Christ's ½ Brother**
3) Who was the audience? – **Believing Jews in the Diaspora**
4) Where was if written from? – **Jerusalem**
5) When was the book written? – **A.D. 44–47**
6) What was the book's occasion? – **Practical righteousness**
7) What is the book's purpose? – **Achieving practical righteousness**
8) What is the book about? – **Practical righteousness**
9) What is the book's theme? – **Daily living**
10) What makes the book different? – **Practicality**
11) How is the book organized? – **Faith and Wisdom**