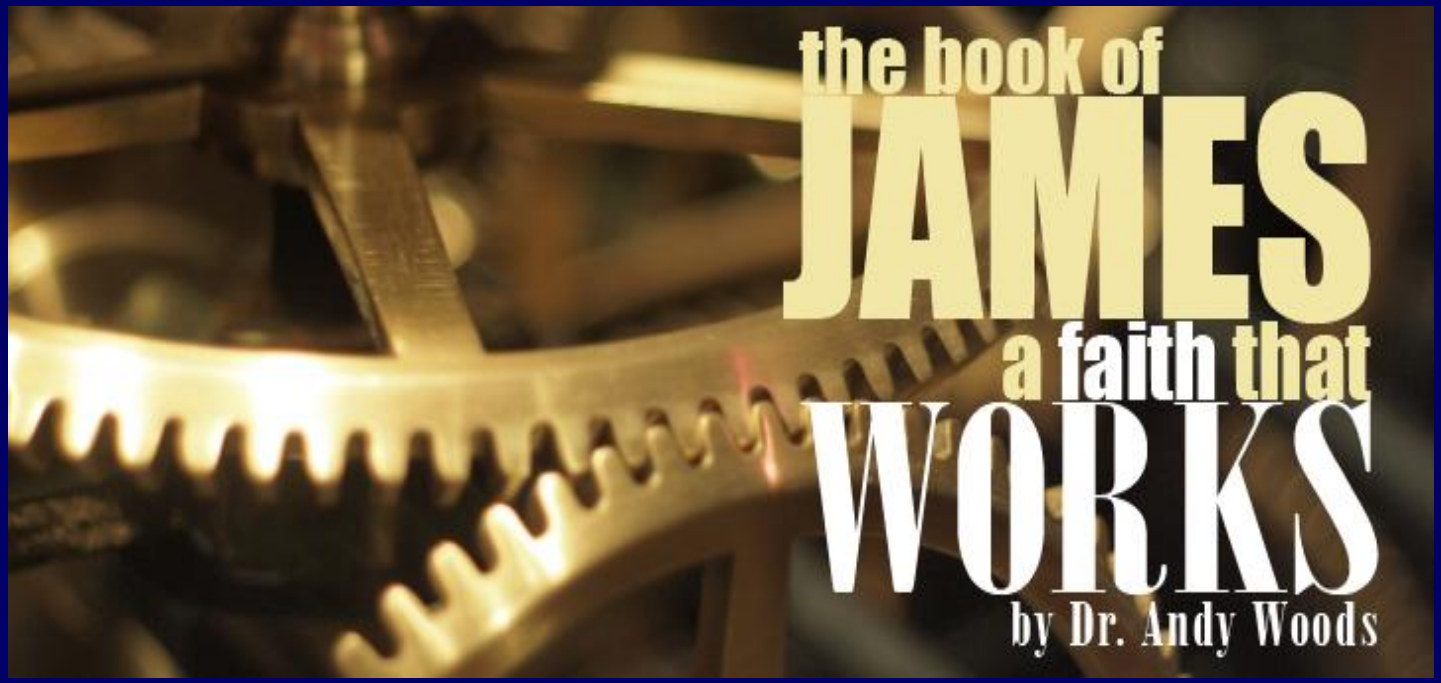
PRACTICAL RIGHTEOUSNESS





Dr. Andy Woods

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church

President – Chafer Theological Seminary

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**

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)



JAMES 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

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



James 1:2-18

- Trials – Jas 1:2-18
  - Rejoicing during trials – Jas 1:2-12
  - Command not to charge God with temptation – Jas 1:13-18



JAMES 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)



Faith Obeys God

(James 1:19-27)

I. Need for Slowness in Speaking & Anger (1:19-20)

II. Need for Obedience to God's Word (1:21-25)

III. Need for True Religion (1:26-27)



JAMES 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)



Favoritism
(2:1-13)

I. Command: no favoritism (2:1)

II. Situation: favoritism in the assembly (2:2-3)

III. Reasoning: favoritism is contrary to God's character & purposes (2:4-13)



Favoritism
(2:1-13)

I. **<u>Command: no favoritism (2:1)</u>**

II. Situation: favoritism in the assembly (2:2-3)

III. Reasoning: favoritism is contrary to God's character & purposes (2:4-13)



Favoritism
(2:1-13)

I. Command: no favoritism (2:1)

II. **Situation: favoritism in the assembly (2:2-3)**

III. Reasoning: favoritism is contrary to God's character & purposes (2:4-13)



James 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."



Date
(AD 44-47)

- AD 70
- AD 62-63
- AD 49
- AD 48-49
- Sermon on the Mt



- **<u>Primitive congregational worship (Jas 2:2; 3:1; 5:14)</u>**
- Jas 1:1 = Acts 8:1-4; 11:19

Favoritism
(2:1-13)

I. Command: no favoritism (2:1)

II. Situation: favoritism in the assembly (2:2-3)

III. **Reasoning: favoritism is contrary to God's character & purposes (2:4-13)**



III. Reasoning: Favoritism is Contrary to God's Character & Purposes (2:4-13)

A. We judge where God has not (4)

B. God elects all (2:5)

C. Rich oppressors (2:6-7)



D. Favoritism violates God's Law (2:8-11)

E. God will judge those showing favoritism (2:12-13)

III. Reasoning: Favoritism is Contrary to God's Character & Purposes (2:4-13)

A. **We judge where God has not (4)**



B. God elects all (2:5)

C. Rich oppressors (2:6-7)

D. Favoritism violates God's Law (2:8-11)

E. God will judge those showing favoritism (2:12-13)

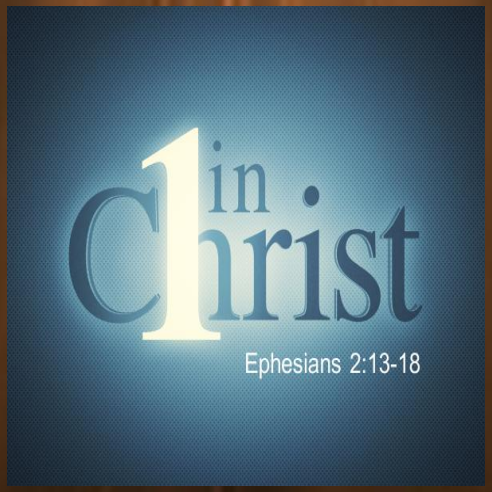
Galatians 3:28

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”



Ephesians 2:14

"For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall."



1 Corinthians 4:5

"Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, *but wait* until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and **disclose the motives of men's hearts**; and then each man's praise will come to him from God."



III. Reasoning: Favoritism is Contrary to God's Character & Purposes (2:4-13)

A. We judge where God has not (4)

B. **<u>God elects all (2:5)</u>**

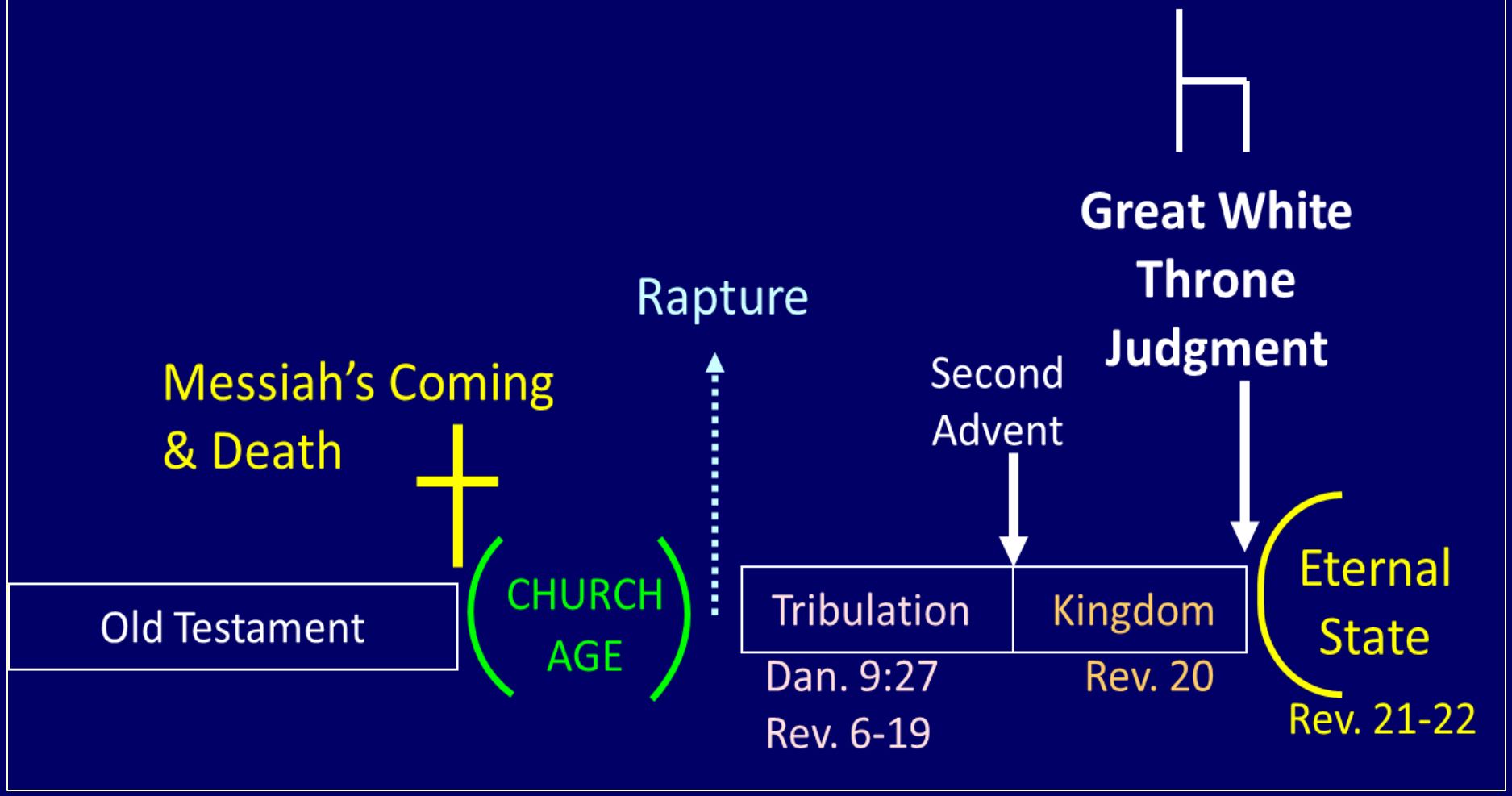


C. Rich oppressors (2:6-7)

D. Favoritism violates God's Law (2:8-11)

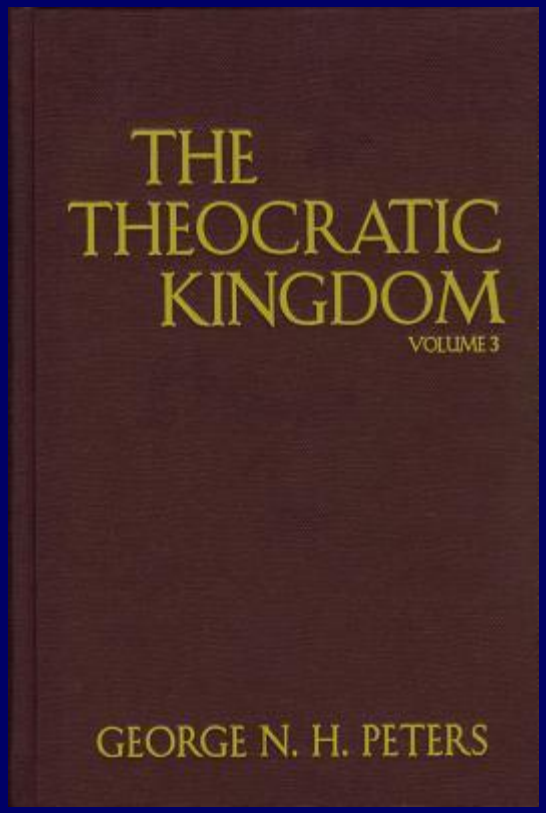
E. God will judge those showing favoritism (2:12-13)

Prophecy Panorama



G.N.H. Peters

Theocratic Kingdom, 1:600



Premillennial scholar Peters asks, “If the church is the Kingdom, and believers are now in it, why designate them ‘heirs,’ etc., of a Kingdom.”

CONCLUSION

JAMES 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)



Favoritism
(2:1-13)

I. Command: no favoritism (2:1)

II. Situation: favoritism in the assembly (2:2-3)

III. Reasoning: favoritism is contrary to God's character & purposes (2:4-13)

