

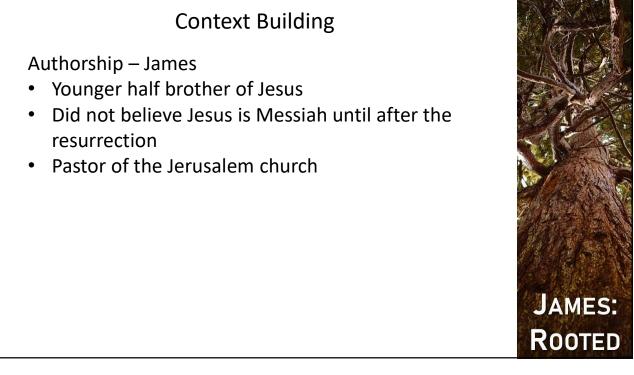


THERE WILL BE GROWING PAINS FOR CHURCH AND INDIVIDUAL BELIEVERS.



ROOTED

James 1:1–8 [1] James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings. [2] Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, [3] for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. [4] And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. [5] If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. [6] But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. [7] For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; [8] he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

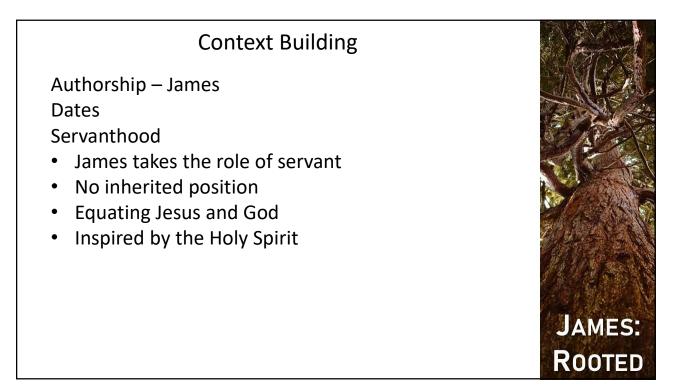


Context Building

Authorship – James Dates

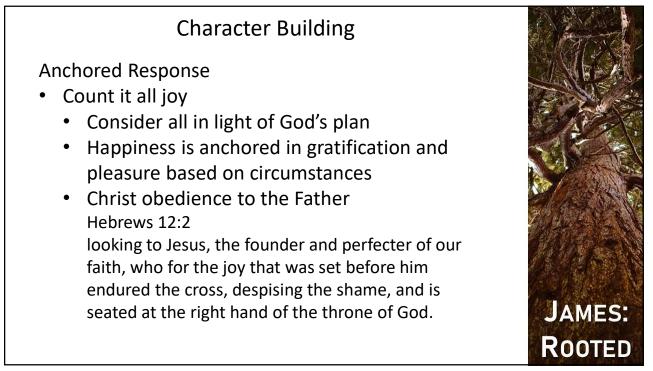
- Early to mid AD 40
- Before the Jerusalem Council AD 48-49 (Acts 15)
- Church began AD 33-34 (Acts 2)
- Historical record James executed AD 62





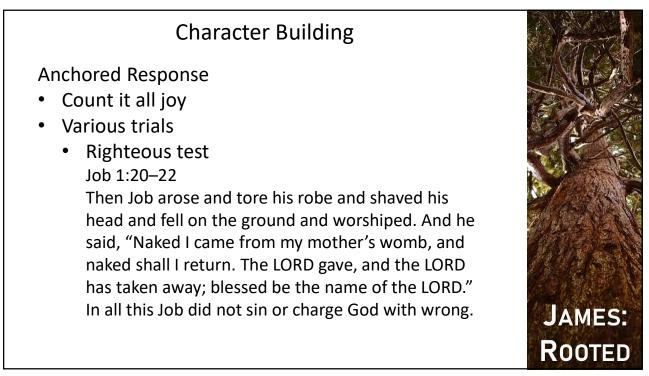
ROOTED

Context Building Authorship – James Dates Servanthood Audience • 12 tribes scattered • Historically scattered throughout the Old Testament • Church scattered – Acts 8:1 • Church still scattered awaiting Christ return



Character Building Anchored Response Count it all joy Consider all in light of God's plan Happiness is anchored in gratification and pleasure based on circumstances Christ obedience to the Father Happiness present realities of pleasure vs. Joy eternal realities of God's promise

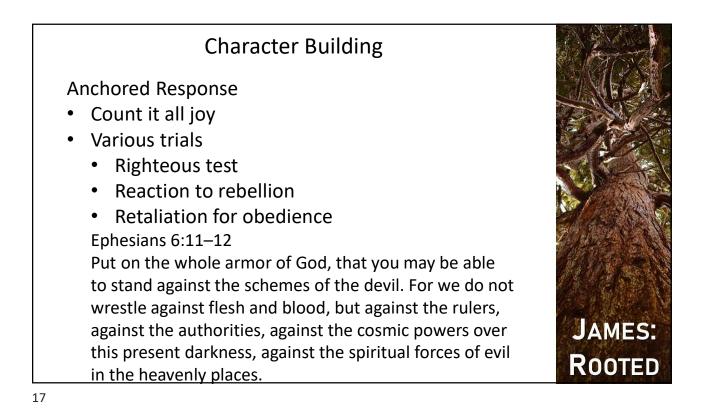
14



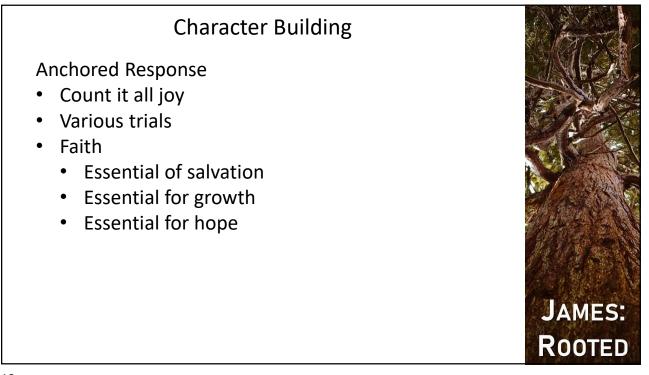
Character Building Anchored Response • Count it all joy • Various trials • Righteous test • Reaction to rebellion Lamentations 3:22–25

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.

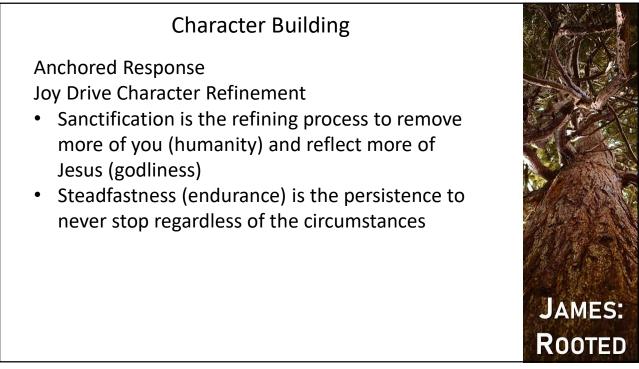




Character Building Anchored Response Count it all joy Various trials **Righteous test** • Reaction to rebellion Retaliation for obedience • **Realities of persecution** • Acts 8:1 And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in **JAMES:** Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ROOTED



Character Building Anchored Response Joy Drive Character Refinement • Sanctification is the refining process to remove more of you (humanity) and reflect more of Jesus (godliness)



Character Building

Anchored Response Joy Drive Character Refinement Maturing Faith

- Unwavering heart, action, and faith
- Perfect and complete to face trials with God
- Lacking in nothing total dependence on God
- Total dependency on God does not come naturally for believers; constant surrender is necessary



22

Character Building

Matthew 5:10–12

[10] "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[11] "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. [12] Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

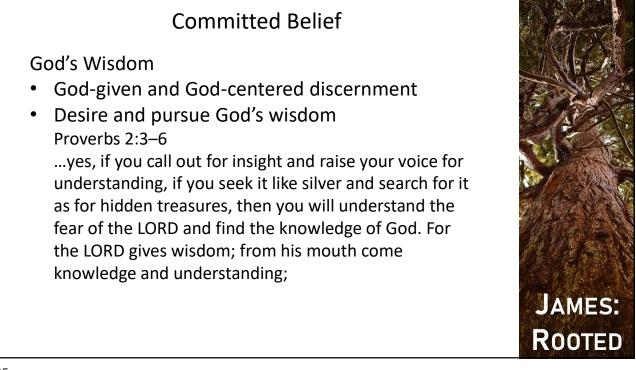


Character Building

Romans 5:2–5

[2] Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. [3] Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, [4] and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, [5] and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.



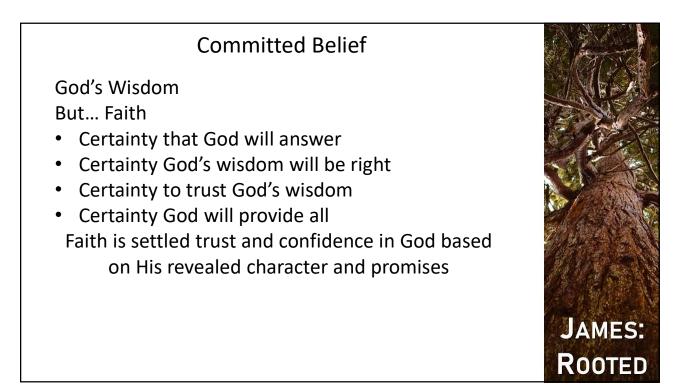


Committed Belief

God's Wisdom

- God-given and God-centered discernment
- Desire and pursue God's wisdom
- God's vantage point not ours
- Ask God
 - God gives generously
 - God gives without regret





Committed Belief God's Wisdom But... Faith No Faith Doubter in God • A wave driven by the wind Tossed not rooted Will receive nothing from God • Attempting to live for the world and for God • Unstable in all his ways • Hebrews 11:6 JAMES: And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who ROOTED seek him.

