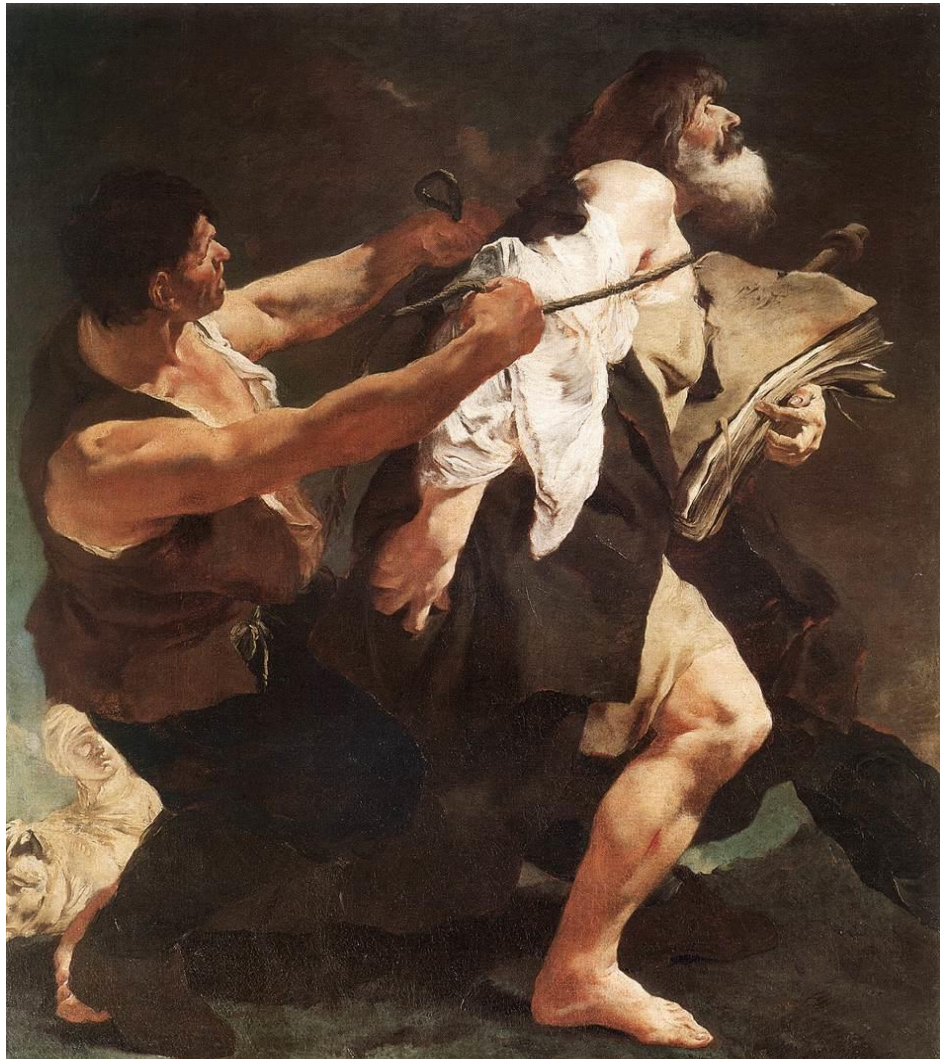


LIVING GODS WILL

The Disciple

JAMES

The Just



**Saint James Brought To Martyrdom
by Giovanni Battista Piazzetta**

The Disciple **JAMES**

Page 1

Born: Unknown
Died: AD 62, Jerusalem
Death: Thrown from the Temple roof,
then stoned and beaten to death

Also known as "**James the Just**", "**Brother of Jesus**" and "**Adelphos**"

He was the son of **Joseph** and **Mary**

He was the **half-brother** of **Jesus**

He was the **brother** of **Jude (Judas), Simon and Joses (Joseph)**

He was the **first Bishop of Jerusalem**

He was one of the **seventy disciples**

The Disciple James authored the book of James of the Holy Bible

James was a son of **Mary and Joseph** and therefore a **half-brother** to **Jesus** and brother to **Jude (Judas), Joses (Joseph), Simon** and their **sisters (Matthew 13:55)**.

According to the **Protoevangelion of James**, **James was the son of Joseph** along with the other '**brethren of the Lord**' mentioned in the scripture, **from a marriage prior to his betrothal to Mary**.

In the Gospels, James is mentioned a couple of times, **but at that time he misunderstood Jesus' ministry and was not a believer (John 7:2-5)**.

James was "**called the Just by all from the time of our Savior to the present day; for there were many that bore the name of James**."

James becomes one of the earliest **witnesses of Jesus' resurrection (1st Corinthians 15:7)**. He then stays in Jerusalem and forms part of the group of believers who **pray in the upper room (Acts 1:14)**. From that time forward, **James' status within the Jerusalem church begins to grow**.

James is still in Jerusalem when the recently **converted Saul arrives to meet with him and Peter (Galatians 1:19)**. Several years later, when Peter escapes from prison, he reports to James about the miraculous manner of the escape (**Acts 12:17**).

Paul further describes **James** as being one of the persons **the risen Christ showed himself to (1st Corinthians 15:3-8)**; then later in **1st Corinthians**,

mentions James in a way that suggests **James had been married (9:5)**; and in **Galatians**, Paul lists James with **Cephas** (better known as Peter) and **John**, as the three "**pillars**" of the Church, and who will minister to "the circumcised" (that is the Jews) in Jerusalem, while Paul and his fellows will minister to the Gentiles (**2:9, 2:12**).

When the **Jerusalem Council** convenes, **James is the apparent chairman (Acts 15:13, 19)**. He is also an elder of the church, called a "pillar" in **Galatians 2:9**. Later, James again presides over a meeting in Jerusalem, this time after Paul's third missionary journey.

James is the author of the **epistle of James**, which he wrote somewhere between **A.D. 50 and A.D. 60**. **James** identifies himself by name but simply describes himself as "**a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ**" (**James 1:1**). His letter deals more with Christian ethics than Christian theology. Its theme is the outworking of faith—the external evidence of internal conversion.

A study of James' life provides some important lessons for us. His conversion gives testimony to the overwhelming power that came from being a **witness of Jesus' resurrection: James turned from being a skeptic to a leader in the church based on his meeting the resurrected Christ.**

James' speech at the Jerusalem Council in **Acts 15:14-21** reveals his reliance on Scripture, his desire for peace within the church, his emphasis of grace over the law, and his care for Gentile believers, **although he himself ministered almost exclusively to Jewish Christians.**

Also worthy of note is James' humility—he never uses his position as **Jesus' blood relative** as a basis for authority. Rather, James portrays himself as a "**servant**" of Jesus, nothing more. In short, James was a gracious leader through whom the church was richly blessed.

The High Priest **Hanan ben Hanan** assembled a **Sanhedrin**, who condemned **James "on the charge of breaking the law"**. The Scribes and Pharisees placed **James** upon the **pinnacle of the temple**, and **threw down the just man**, and they began to **stone him**, for he was not killed by the fall. And one of them, who was a fuller, took the club with which he beat out clothes and **struck the just man on the head killing him**. Dated 62 AD.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

Galatians 1:18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

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

Jude 1:1 Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:



Martyrdom of James The Just