

# *Women of the Word*

Study with Perspective  
Context

## Turning Around

- Behold God
- Mind Before Heart

## Study with Purpose (The Big Story)

- God's Kingdom, His Rule & Reign
- Creation, Fall, Redemption, Recreation



# BOOK OVERVIEW

BOOK OF THE BIBLE:

WHAT KIND OF WRITING IS THIS? (HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, WISDOM LITERATURE, PROPHETIC LITERATURE, APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE, GOSPEL, EPISTLE, ETC.)

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WHO WROTE THIS BOOK?

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WHEN WAS THIS BOOK WRITTEN?

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WHO WAS THIS BOOK WRITTEN TO?

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WHERE DOES THIS BOOK TAKE PLACE?

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WHO IS INVOLVED IN THIS BOOK?

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WHY WAS THIS BOOK WRITTEN?

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REPEATED WORDS, PHRASES, AND IDEAS:

KEY THEMES AND IDEAS:

# How James fits in the Big Story

## Genre:

Letter / Epistle

Wisdom Literature

James gives instruction for how to live a godly life of faith in Jesus according to God's wisdom.

## Main Theme:

Redemption

James focuses on the sanctification of believers and their call to live out their faith in Jesus.



# BOOK OVERVIEW

BOOK OF THE BIBLE: *James*

WHAT KIND OF WRITING IS THIS? (HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, WISDOM LITERATURE, PROPHETIC LITERATURE, APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE, GOSPEL, EPISTLE, ETC.)

*Genre: Letter / Epistle      Wisdom Literature*

## KEY THEMES AND IDEAS:

*Main Theme:*

*Redemption- Sanctification of Believers*

God's glory does not hover over the text like a cloud to be seen separately from what the authors intended to communicate. It shines in and through what they intended to communicate— their *meaning*.

- John Piper

The most important principle of  
biblical interpretation is that  
**context determines meaning.**

-Daniel Hays

# Study with Perspective

## 2 Major Forms of Context

- Historical-Cultural Context
- Literary Context



# Literary Context

Literary Context relates to the particular form a passage takes (the literary genre) and to the words, sentences, and paragraphs that surround the passage you are studying.

-Daniel Hays

**Bible**

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graph TD; Bible[Bible] --- Book[Book]; Book --- Section[Section]; Section --- Passage[Passage]; Passage --- Verse[Verse];
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**Book**

**Section**

**Passage**

**Verse**

God is absolute reality. We are not. God has spoken, and his word exists as an objective reality outside of us. Human authors existed. They were objectively inspired by God to write certain words with certain meanings. Those words and those intentions of those authors are objective realities outside of us.

*-John Piper*

And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but **men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**

2 Peter 1:19-21

To read with the aim of creating your own meaning, instead of finding the author's meaning, leaves you trapped in the tiny world of self. But to read with the hope and aim and expectation that you might actually be able to see more of reality through the eyes of another and know more of what God and the world are like—that is a glorious thing.

*-John Piper*

# Historical-Cultural Context

Historical context often involves the Biblical writer, the audience, geography, social customs, economic/religious/political elements, and any other cultural ideas within the passage of study.

-Daniel Hays

# Study with Perspective

## Historical & Cultural Context

*What did this passage mean to its original audience?*

# Context

Raking is easy, but you get only leaves;  
digging is hard, but you might find  
diamonds.

-John Piper



# Historical Context

Who wrote the book?

When was it written?

To whom was it written?

What is the style of the author?

Why was it written?

# Who wrote the book?

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.

James 1:1-2

# Who was James?

**“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.”**

James 1:1-2

-A servant of Jesus Christ

# Who is James?

But I saw none of the other apostles  
except James **the Lord's brother**.

Galatians 1:19

**-Jesus Brother**

# Who is James?

And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there, and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? 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? And are not all his sisters with us?

Matthew 13:53-56

**-Jesus Brother**

# Who is James?

For not even his brothers believed in him. John 7:5

**-He was not a follower during Jesus' earthly ministry**

# Who is James?

Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. **Then he appeared to James**, then to all the apostles.

1 Corinthians 15:1-7

- **Jesus appeared to James**

# Who is James?

- A servant of God and the Lord Jesus Christ
- Jesus Brother
- Not a follower of Jesus during his earthly ministry
- Jesus appeared to James after his resurrection



To whom was the book written to?

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

**To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion:**

Greetings.

-Written To: The 12 Tribes of the Dispersion

# Who are the 12 Tribes?

Old Testament

12 Tribes of Israel

New Testament

Jesus appoints 12 Apostles

**-Followers of Jesus are now God's People**

# What is the dispersion?

From the word **diaspora** meaning **scattered**

-The 12 Tribes of Israel were scattered when they were exiled from the land of Israel

# What is the dispersion?

From the word diaspora meaning scattered

And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria Acts 8:1

- **Christians were scattered when they started to be persecuted for their faith in Jesus.**

# To Whom is the Book Written To?

- Not one particular church but followers of Jesus who are scattered all over the region

# Historical Context

Who wrote the book? James: Jesus Brother

When was it written? After Jesus' Ascension

To Whom was it written? Scattered Christians

What is the style of the author? Letter / Wisdom

Why was it written? To instruct believers how to live out their faith

# To Do This Week

See if you can find out more about the  
Context of the Book of James

Read Chapter 5

Answer Questions for Chapter 5

# Groups

Discuss Chapter 4 Questions