

*The Letter to the  
12 Tribes*



**James**

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# Which James?

1. Son of Zebedee (Matt. 10:2)
  - John's brother (Acts 12:2)
  - Martyred by Herod – A.D. 44
2. Son of Alphaeus (Matt. 10:3)



# Which James?

3. Son of Joseph & Mary (Matt. 13:55)

– Half-brother of Jesus (Gal. 1:19)

– Brother of Jude (Jude 1)



# What do we know?

- Many siblings (5 boys, 2+ girls)
- Second-born? (listed first: Matt. 13:55-6; Mark 6:3)
- Saw miracles (John 2:11-12; 7:1-4)



# What do we know?

- Did not believe... (John 7:5)
- ...Until after Jesus' resurrection (1 Cor. 15:7)
- Witnessed to his brothers? (15:14)



# What did he do?

- Elder in the Jerusalem church
  - Acts 12:17; 15:13-21; 21:17-18
- Prominent role (Gal. 2:6, 9, 12)
- Tradition: martyred - A.D. 62



To whom was he writing?

- *The Twelve Tribes?*
  - Jews in general?
  - Jewish Christians?
  - The Church?



# To whom was he writing?

–Jewish Christians

- Written early (~ A.D. 45)
- First believers where Jews (see Acts 2; 11:19-21)





# What about us?

- It is written to believers
- It is relevant to today
  - We deal with the same issues
  - Trials (suffering/persecution)



# State Department: Christianity Under Attack Worldwide



CASEY HARPER



report, and the findings show



[theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com)

## Christianity under global threat due to persecution, says report

*Harriet Sherwood*

[Christianity](#) is in danger of ceasing to be a truly global faith as increasing numbers of its followers flee violence and persecution across swaths of the Middle East and Africa, according to a new report.

# What about us?

- Testing?

- Gen. 15:1-6 (Rom. 4; Gal. 3)

- Gen. 22:1-19



# Homework

- Commit to read James once per week
- Invest time this week in Gen. 22
- Pray for the persecuted

