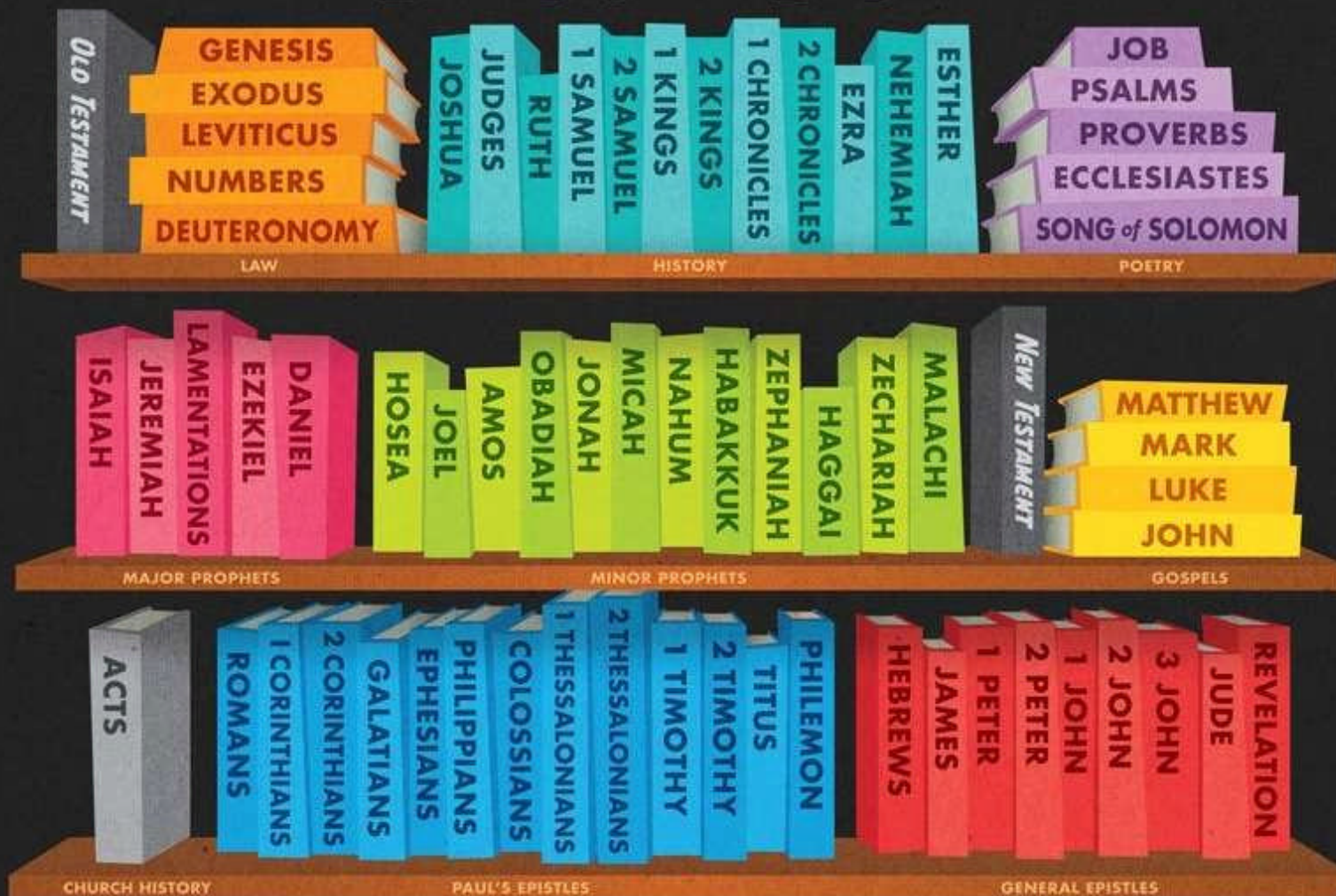


James

An Introduction

The Books of the Bible



REVELATION

JUDE

3 JOHN

2 JOHN

1 JOHN

2 PETER

1 PETER

JAMES

HEBREWS

GENERAL EPISTLES

Who wrote James?

James 1:1 ^(NIV) James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

**James the son of Joseph
Brother of Jesus**

Four James' in the NT?

James the son of Zebedee?

James the son of Alphaeus?

**Who was the
letter of James
written to?**

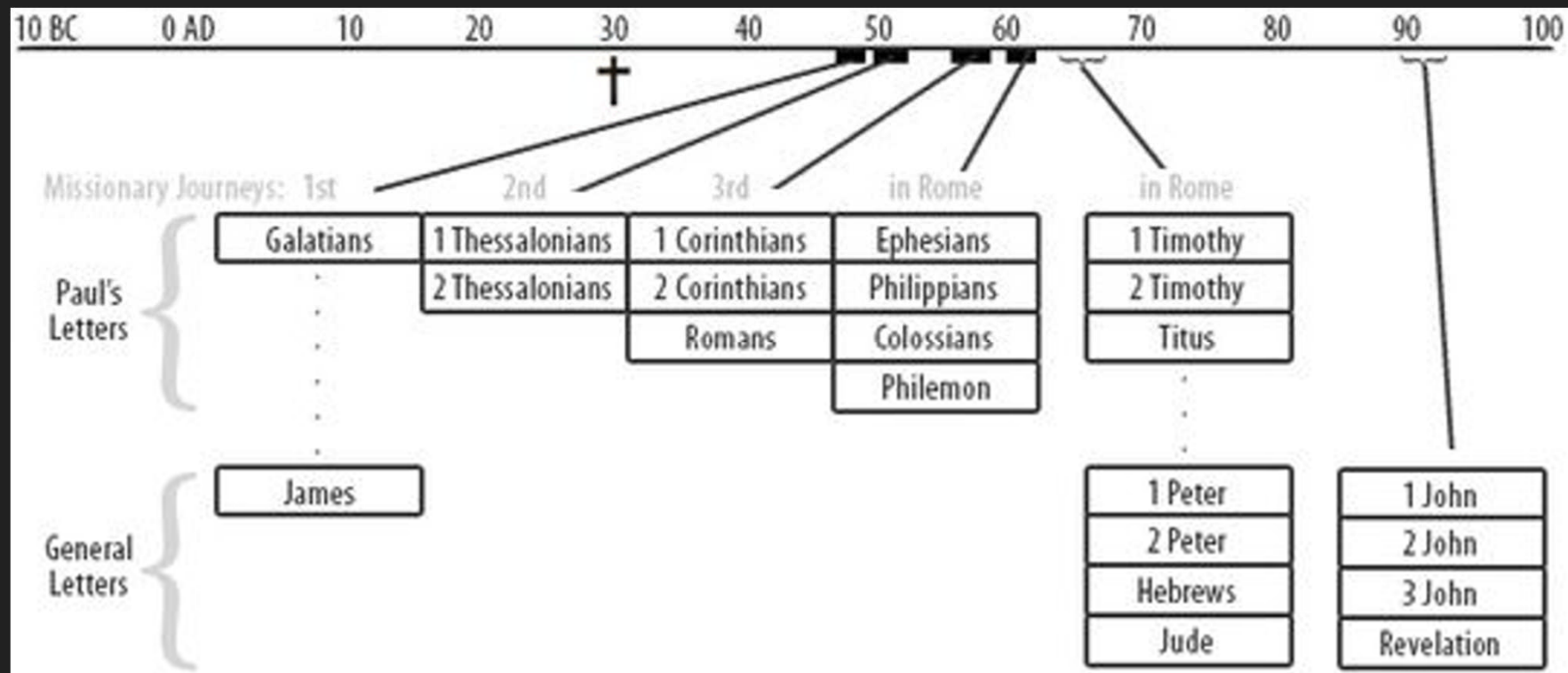
James 1:1 (NIV)

..... To the twelve tribes
scattered among the
nations: Greetings.

**The church began in
Israel and scattered out
due to persecution**

When was James written?

Late 40's
15-20 years
after Christ



Criticism #1

Low emphasis on Christ!

James 1:1 (NIV)

James, a servant of God and of the **Lord Jesus Christ**, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.

James 2:1 (NIV)

My brothers and sisters, believers in our **glorious Lord Jesus Christ** must not show favoritism.

Criticism #1

Low emphasis on Christ!

Many statements based on Jesus teaching

James 4:13–14 ^(NIV)

Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” ¹⁴ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

Matthew 6:33–34 ^(NIV)

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Criticism #2

All practical
with no deep
truths of the
faith

Doctrine of God

James 1:5 ^(NIV)

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

James 1:17 ^(NIV)

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Criticism #2
All practical
with no deep
truths of the
faith

Doctrine of God

James 1:13 ^(NIV)

When tempted, no one should say,
“God is tempting me.” For God
cannot be tempted by evil, nor does
he tempt anyone;

Criticism #2

**All practical
with no deep
truths of the
faith**

- **Importance of works of righteousness in a believers life**
- **About the end times and the 2nd coming of Christ**
- **The judgement of God upon evil oppressors of vulnerable people**

The Main Themes of James

The Authentic Christian Life

- Trials and Testing
- Wisdom and Speech
- Wealth and Poverty

Trials and Testing

- Oppression and persecution was part of their life
- The wise response to trials has positive effects in this life and life to come
- Improper response can lead to temptation and a victory of the enemy
- Oppression can come from wealthy unbelievers.

Wisdom and Speech

- God wants to impart his wisdom to others
- Wisdom is the application of knowledge about the things of God to daily life
- Wisdom or lack of wisdom shows in the way we speak
- Words without a corresponding obedience is like Faith without action – dead!

Wealth and Poverty

- Instruction to all Christians (rich or poor) not to trust in material possessions
- Material wealth should be used for the needy especially needy believers
- To be a wealthy Christian and selfish is a severe contradiction
- Wealthy unbelievers who use wealth to disadvantage the poor will receive severe judgement

The Authentic Christian Life

James 4:4 ^(NIV)

You adulterous people,
don't you know that
friendship with the world
means enmity against God?
Therefore, anyone who
chooses to be a friend of
the world becomes an
enemy of God.

Matthew 6:24 ^(NIV)

"No one can serve two
masters. Either you will
hate the one and love the
other, or you will be
devoted to the one and
despise the other. You
cannot serve both God and
money."