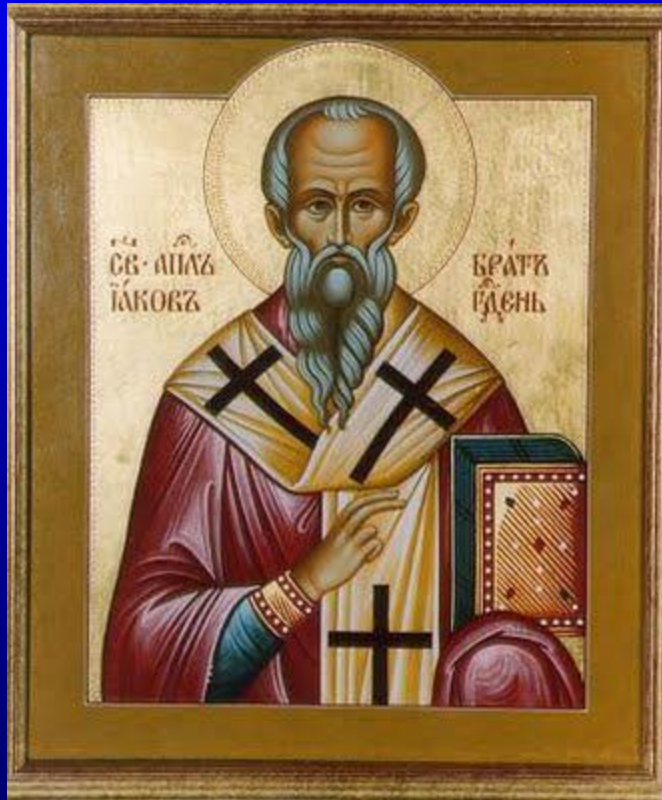


The Epistle of James

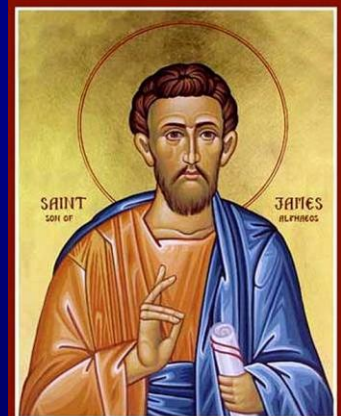


St. Mark's Church
Yr 9 & 10

James in the New Testament

Three named James in the NT:

- James son of Zebedee, brother of John (Matthew 10:2). *Disciple*
- James the son of Alphaeus (Matthew 10:3). *Disciple*
- James the half-brother of Jesus (Galatians 1:19). *Our author*



James the writer of the Epistle

- Appointed as the first bishop of Jerusalem, and considered as James the elder.
- Presided over the first Council held in Jerusalem
- Lived an ascetic and holy life. Was called 'Just'.
- Wrote the Epistle in about 61-62 AD.
- Martyred in 62 AD.

Historical Setting to the Epistle

- People were being persecuted and deceived by the Jews.
- Lots of poverty, and injustice between the rich and poor
 - Despite the bitterness amongst the poor, the unrighteous were rich.
- Hypocrisy and quarrels in the Church.

Why was the epistle written?

- To encourage the Christians to endure trials and suffering.
- To encourage the Christians to be firm in the practical faith of the Lord.
- To emphasize that the faith is not a substitute of works.
- To highlight the danger of some sins which may be counted as trivial sins.

What is the epistle's style?

- It is a practical epistle concentrates on the daily behavior.
- A firm message uncover the fault and condemn it but in love.
- A message correlating both Testaments.
 - It has the spirit of the sermon on the mountain
 - With many references to the OT prophets , as Elijah and Job (Ch. 5)

Epistle of James

Asking God for Wisdom (1:1-18)

Hearing & doing the Word (1:19-27)

Problem with Partiality (2:1-13)

Faith & Works (2:14-21)

Taming the Tongue (3:1-12)

Wisdom from above (3:13-18)

Warnings...

Over Quarrels & Conflicts (4:1-16)

Against Arrogant Boasts (4:11-17)

Against the Rich (5:1-11)

About the need for Prayer (5:12-20)

Couple of points for discussion

