

James 1:1

I. Author: (1a)

A. James

B. A servant of God

C. And [a servant] of the Lord Jesus Christ

“servant” can be translated “slave” as the term means under ownership and complete control

This is a standard term for Christian leaders, which many of the Biblical authors use to refer to themselves

– cf. Rom. 1:1, Gal. 1:10, Titus 1:1, 2 Peter 1:1, Jude 1:1

II. Recipients: (1b)

A. To the twelve tribes

This refers to the 12 tribes of Israel

It may be literal, in which case, James is writing to Jewish Christians

Or it may be figurative, in which case, James is writing to Gentile Christians as if they were Jews, like Peter does in 1 Peter

It is most likely that James is using the term literally, and writing to Christian Jews, because tradition has James as head of the Jerusalem church of Jewish Christians, and Paul states in Galatians that he was sent to the gentile, and James, Peter and John were sent to the Jews

B. Those in the Diaspora

Diaspora also refers to the Jews scattered away from the land of Israel.

This also may be taken literally, i.e. to those living away from the promised land

Or it may be taken figuratively to refer to Christians who live in this world, far away from their heavenly home

III. Greeting: (1c)

Greetings

This is a standard greeting in an epistle during this time period

It has the generic meaning “rejoice” and implies a wish for happiness given to the recipients