

# BIBLE STUDY

## THE EPISTLE OF ST. JAMES

*One of the seven Catholic Epistles in the New Testament*



*The Writer is St. James*

### WRITTEN TO:

*The 12 tribes scattered abroad*

*(the Jewish Christians)*

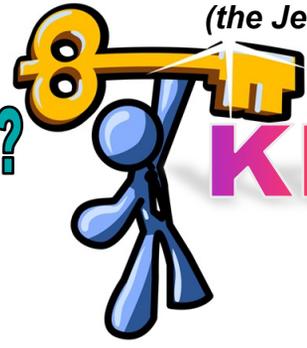


### WHO IS ST. JAMES?

*Called the brother of the Lord  
(His cousin)*

*The 1st Bishop of the Church  
of Jerusalem*

*The Leader of the 1st Council  
held in Jerusalem*

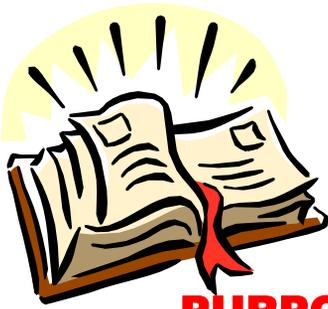


### KEYWORD

**FAITH & WORK**

### KEY VERSE

*"For as the body without the spirit is dead,  
so faith without works is dead also."  
James 2:26*



### PURPOSE

A large number of Christians had left Jerusalem and had gone to live in other countries. St. James wrote to help them to encourage them to live as Christians. The Christian faith produces Christian behavior.



### Church Sacraments mentioned in this letter

# 3

- ❖ Confession
- ❖ Unction of the Sick
- ❖ Priesthood



**Written between  
40 to 60 AD**

# THE EPISTLE OF ST. JAMES - CONT.

Benefiting from trials- Trials build character  
Ask God for wisdom  
Every good gift comes from God

**Faith  
without  
work is  
dead**



**BE**

Doers of the word not hearers only  
Humble and submit to God  
Patient and persevering



**DO NOT!**

Show partiality  
Judge a brother  
Boast about tomorrow

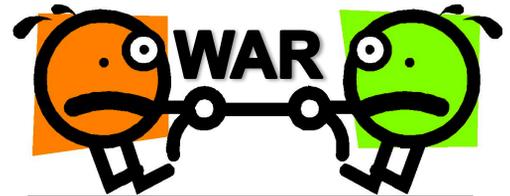


## THE TONGUE

Is a fire can cause serious problems,  
beware of it, think before you speak  
and allow God to give you self-control.



*Let every man be swift  
to hear and slow to speak*



*Comes from desire of  
pleasure that wars in  
your members*

### **THE TRUE RELIGION IS**

*Praying, fasting, living a holy life,  
caring for the widows and orphans  
and giving to the poor*



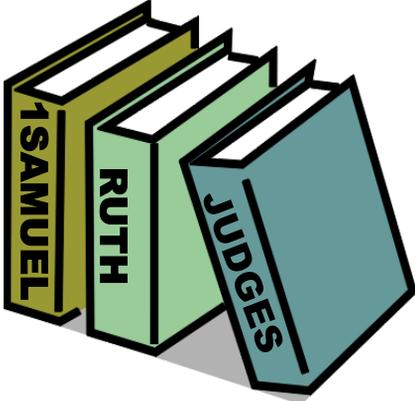
**Seek** heavenly wisdom (pure,  
peaceable, gentle,  
willing to yield, full of  
mercy and good  
fruits, without  
partiality, without  
hypocrisy)



Bring back the erring one

# THE BOOK OF RUTH

## WHERE IN THE BIBLE?



*The story took place at the time of the Judges*

## WHO IS RUTH?

A gentile from Moab  
The great grandmother of David  
Listed among the four women in the genealogy of Christ  
Her name means “companion, friend” or “satisfied”

*After the Book of Judges and before the book of 1 Samuel*

## DID YOU KNOW?



"One of only two books in the bible named after a woman"

# WOW!

## THE BEST STORY EVER TOLD!



*A famine in the land of Judah Elimelech and his wife Naomi and their sons Mahlon and Chilion move to Moab*

*In Moab, the sons took gentile women as wives, Mahlon married Ruth and Chilion married Orpah*

## Within 10 years the 3 men died leaving behind widows without children



*Naomi decided to go back to Bethlehem in Judah She urged Ruth and Orpah to return to their family and look for another husband. Orpah agreed and left.*

*Ruth absolutely refused to leave.*

**“For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, and your God my God” Ruth 1:16**



# RUTH – CONT.

They arrived to Bethlehem at the time of the

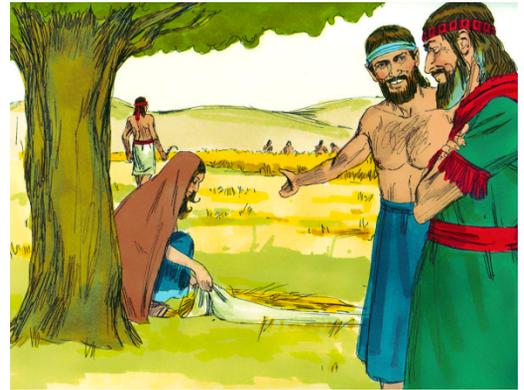


According to Moses' Law, the poor are allowed to collect any crops that were missed by the reapers. So Ruth decided to go gleaning behind the reapers.

**Fortunately she chose Boaz's field**

Boaz heard how Ruth refused to abandon Naomi. He ordered the workers to leave extra grain for her and not to be bothered by anyone.

Ruth returned to Naomi with more than half a bushel of grain and reported what happened. Naomi was thrilled.



## Who is Boaz?

**"The man is a relative of ours, one of our nearest kin" 2:20**

The Law obliged a man to marry his brother's widow to produce children to carry the dead brother's family name. The rule could be extended to include relatives other than brothers.

**"Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative" 3:9**



Boaz told Ruth that he was not the closest relative. He could marry her only if the other relative chose not to.



**The "unnamed" relative waived his right**

# RUTH – CONT.



***Boaz married Ruth and together they had a son “Obed” the father of “Jesse” and the grandfather of “David”***

*Then the women said to Naomi, “..... may his name be famous in Israel! And **may he be to you a restorer of life** and a nourisher of your old age.*

A thousand years later  
“Jesus” a descendant of  
Obed was born in  
Bethlehem  
**He is the One who  
gives life to all men.**

## PEOPLE IN THE BOOK OF RUTH

### *Hebrew names meaning*

**ELIMELECH** – God is King

**NAOMI**- Pleasant

**MAHLON** - Sickness

**CHILION** - Wasting

**RUTH**- Companion/ friend or satisfied

**ORPAH**- neck or cloud

**BOAZ**- strength or might

**OBED** – Worshiper

# NEHEMIAH

## THE MAN BEHIND THE WALL!

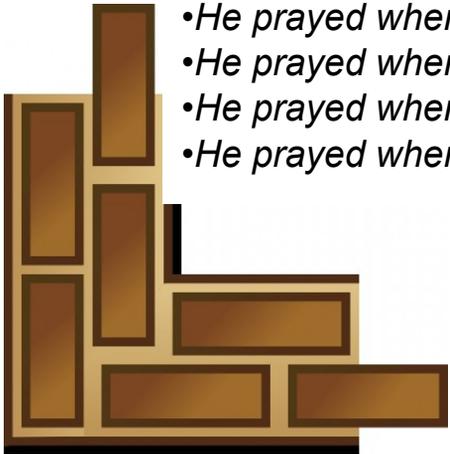
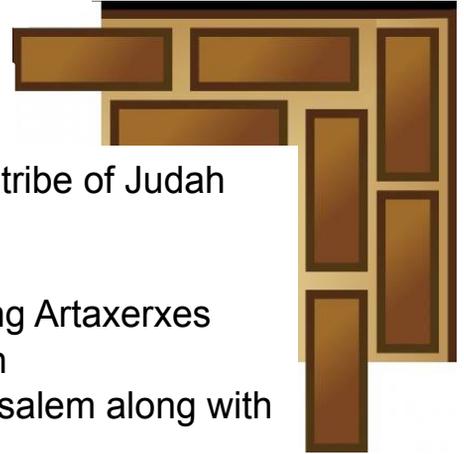
(Chapter 1 to 6)

***“Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach.” Nehemiah 2:17***

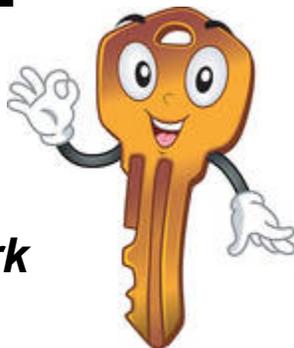
# WHO

## Is Nehemiah?

- He was a Jew, Son of Hachaliah of the tribe of Judah
- His name means “the comfort of God”
- Born during the Babylon exile
- He was the cupbearer of the Persian king Artaxerxes
- He is the writer of the book of Nehemiah
- He was made the civil governor of Jerusalem along with Ezra the priest, at the time of the return
- He preserved God’s covenant
- He was not moved by opposition
- **He was a man of prayer**
  - *He prayed when he heard of the state of Jerusalem*
  - *He prayed when he faced the king*
  - *He prayed when in the face of opposition*
  - *He prayed when he was falsely accused*
  - *He prayed when the work was completed*

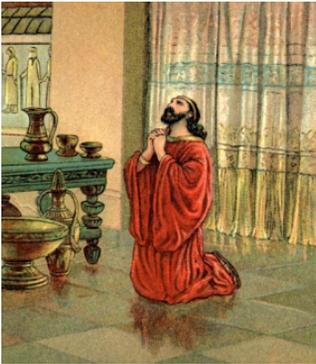


**Keywords**  
***Prayer and Work***



***“I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.” Nehemiah 1:4***

# BOOK OF NEHEMIAH OVERVIEW



*Nehemiah wept and prayed when he heard that the wall of Jerusalem was broken and its gates burned with fire.*



*The king allowed Nehemiah to go back to his land to build the wall.*



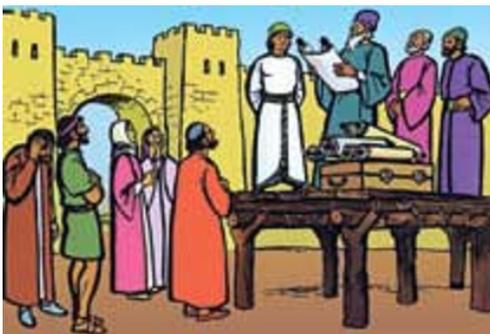
*Nehemiah organized the people to build the wall*



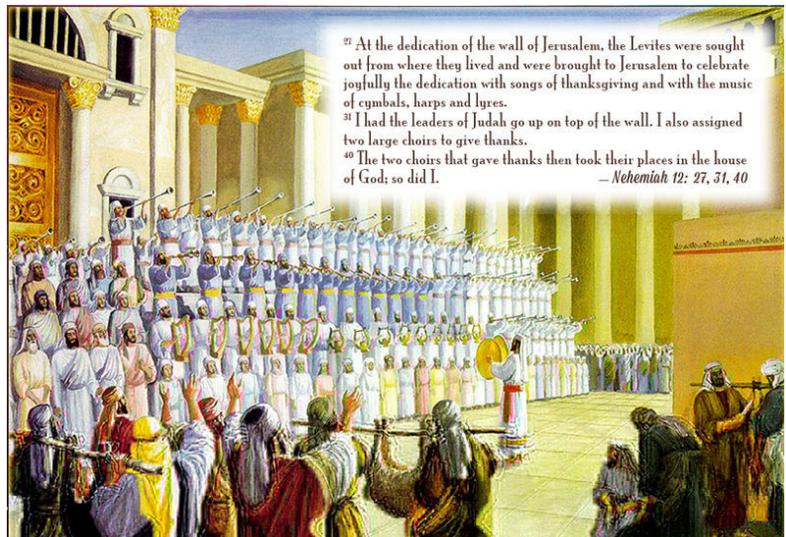
*The enemies started to oppose Nehemiah's work; but the people started to carry their weapon with one hand and work with the other.*

*The enemies tried to force Nehemiah to leave Jerusalem and told the king that Nehemiah is against him.*

**The wall was completed in 52 days**



*The people gathered to hear God's word read by Ezra. They vowed to obey God.*



<sup>22</sup> At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were sought out from where they lived and were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully the dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps and lyres.

<sup>23</sup> I had the leaders of Judah go up on top of the wall. I also assigned two large choirs to give thanks.

<sup>40</sup> The two choirs that gave thanks then took their places in the house of God; so did I.  
— Nehemiah 12: 27, 31, 40

*Consecration of the wall and rejoicing*