

L. James was neglected - but not rejected. Why?

1. Doubt about the apostolic origin of the book.
2. The traditional character of much of James' teaching - There is nothing in James to help with the debates that were going on.
3. *The demise of the Jewish church in Palestine as a result of the* Jewish revolts in 66-70 A.D. and 132-135 A.D. may have resulted in a slow-down of the circulation of the letter.

M. Erasmus - he questioned whether James was written by the Lord's brother because of the high quality of the Greek in it.

N. Luther

1. He said James mangles the Scriptures and ~~merely~~ opposes Paul and all Scripture.
2. He said James wasn't one of the chief books in the Bible (John's Gospel, I John, Paul's epistles, I Peter)
3. He called James "an epistle of straw". This doesn't mean Luther thought James was worthless because he included it in the canon and quoted over half the verses in James as ^{authoritative} authoritative in his writings. He contrasted James unfavorably with the chief books, but he said that it has many good sayings in it. *He included James in his German translation of the New Testament, though he put ^{James} it at the end of it.*

O. Calvin

1. He said that one would expect an apostle to make salvation clearer, but that not every apostle is required to say the same thing.
2. He accepted the apostolic authority of James.
3. He argued for harmonization between James and Paul on the issue of justification.

III. Authorship of James

A. Negatively

1. Not James, the son of Zebedee cf. Mk. 1:19

Why?

- (a) Because James was beheaded by Herod Agrippa I in 44 A.D. (cf. Acts 12:2) and it is unlikely that James would have been written prior to that event.
- (b) Because before James' death the preaching of the Gospel was chiefly confined to Palestine, but James is written to Jewish believers outside the land of Palestine. It is hardly credible that in so short a time after the ascension of Christ, enough Jewish Christians would be scattered abroad outside of Palestine as to make it probable that a letter would be sent to them.