

- (3) The Greek philosophical and religious concepts with which the author of James seems to be familiar are widespread popular concepts that would have been known by decently educated people on the streets in Palestine.
- c. James, the Lord's brother, couldn't have written the book of James because his attitude towards the O.T. law was different than the attitude expressed by the author of the book of James.

James, the Lord's brother, was concerned about the ritual law. This is demonstrated by the fact that he sought to impose the ritual law on Paul in Acts 21:20-25 and is known in both Jewish and Christian tradition as an example of obedience to it. James, the author of the book of James, ignores the ritual law and focuses only on the moral law. Thus, James, the Lord's brother couldn't have written the book of James.

Responses to the argument:

- (1) *The traditional picture of James, the Lord's brother, as a stickler for obedience to the ritual law is not a true picture.*  
James told Paul to keep the ritual law in order to show that it was legitimate for Jewish Christians to keep it. He did this to maintain the best possible relationship between Jews and Jewish Christians. But nowhere does James argue that Jewish Christians must continue to observe the ritual law. Furthermore, James opposed the attempt ~~to impose~~ <sup>to raise</sup> the ritual law ~~on~~ <sup>to</sup> Gentile Christians (Acts 15:13-21). Thus the picture of James, the Lord's brother, as a ritually legalistic person is an unhistorical fabrication. It is simply not a true picture of him. *The true picture of James, the Lord's brother with regard to the ritual law fits well with the book of James.*
- (2) James didn't mention the observance of the ritual law because it wasn't a problem among the Jewish Christians to whom he was writing. But this doesn't mean he wasn't concerned about the observance of the ritual law. The evidence indicates he was concerned about it, for he wanted Paul to keep it in order to maintain the best possible relationship between Jews and Jewish Christians.

- d. James, the Lord's brother couldn't have written the book of James because of the relationship between James and Paul in their teaching on justification.

Paul taught justification by faith, but after a considerable length of time, his teaching was misunderstood. James then wrote a letter dealing with this misunderstanding of Paul's teaching, but James didn't understand what Paul actually taught. Therefore, James, the Lord's brother, couldn't have written this letter because he would have understood what Paul actually taught, for the two were participants in the first council of the church in