

The Father of James and Jude

Hi Jim~

I feel a little "dumb" asking this question, but if I don't ask I won't know. So, here goes. In reading Ch. 29 in *The New Covenant in Christ*, it states in the first paragraph that James and Jude were brothers of Jesus Christ. On the following page in the third paragraph it states that the father of James & Jude is Alphaeus. I'm confused because Joseph was the earthly father of Jesus, so wouldn't he have been the father of James and Jude as well? I'm sure there is a simple answer to this, but in the meantime I'm confused.

Thanks for your help! :)

~Pam

From the book: Page 160;

“Bible scholars are not united on the identity of the author of this epistle {Jude}. There is an ancient tradition that the writer was the brother of James, who was also the brother of Christ {Matt 13:55; Mark 6:3}. As the brothers of Jesus, James and Jude were initially skeptical about His messianic claims {John 7:3-5}.”

Matt 13:55

Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?

Mark 6:1-3

He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ² And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? ³ Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him.

John 7:1-5

After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him. ² Now the Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand. ³ So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. ⁴ For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world." ⁵ For not even his brothers believed in him.

From the book: Page 161;

“As Jude was the servant of Christ, he was also ‘the brother of James.’ Again, if James refers to the apostle, then we know that the father of these men is spoken of in Scripture as being Alphaeus {Matt 10:3; Mk 3:18}.”

Matt 10:1-4

And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. ² The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Mark 3:13-19

¹³ And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. ¹⁴ And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach ¹⁵ and have authority to cast out demons. ¹⁶ He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); ¹⁷ James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); ¹⁸ Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Cananaean, ¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

First to avoid confusion, James, son of Zebedee, and brother of John is James the Great – Sons of Thunder.

James the Less is the brother of Jesus and Jude.

Now the question is how can James the Less be “James the son of Alphaeus” and also be the brother of Jesus, whose earthly father was Joseph the husband of the Virgin Mary?

Commentary:

Mark 3:18-19

James the son of Alphaeus, or Clopas (not Cleophas): called "the Less," either because he was junior in age, or rather in his call, to James the Great, the brother of John. This James, the son of Alphaeus, is called the brother of our Lord. St. Jerome says that his father Alphaeus, or Clopas, married Mary, a sister of the blessed Virgin Mary, which would make him the cousin of our Lord. This view is confirmed by Bishop Pearson (Art. 3: on the Creed). He was the writer of the Epistle which bears his name, and he became Bishop of Jerusalem.

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ALPHAÆUS

Alphae'us

(Ἀλφᾱῖος), the name of two men.

1. The putative [supposed] father of James the Less (Matt 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:15; Acts 1:13), and husband of Mary, the sister-in-law of our Lord's mother (John 19:25) ... for which reason James is called "the Lord's brother" (Gal 1:19). See James. A.D. ante 26. It seems that he was a (perhaps elder) brother of Joseph, to whom, on his decease without issue, his widow was married according to the Levirate Law (q.v.). By comparing John 19:25, with Luke 24:10, and Matt 10:3, it appears that *Alphaeus* is the Greek, and *Cleophas* or *Clopas* (q.v.) the Hebrew or Syriac name of the same person, according to the custom of the provinces or of the time, when men had often two names, by one of which they were known to their friends and countrymen, and by the other to the Romans or strangers....

2. The father of the evangelist Levi or Matthew (Mark 2:14).

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ALPHAÆUS

ALPHAÆ'US (al-fe'us).

1. The putative father of James the Less (Matt 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:15; Acts 1:13) and husband of that Mary who, with the mother of Jesus and others, was standing by the cross during the crucifixion (John 19:25). By comparing John 19:25 with Luke 24:18 and Matt 10:3, it appears that Alphaeus is the Gk., and Cleopas or Clopas, the Heb. or Syr., name of the same person.

2. In the KJV and NIV, the father of the evangelist Levi, or Matthew (Mark 2:14). Rendered Alphaeus in the NASB.

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John 19:25

but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

Luke 24:10

Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles,

JAMES THE LESS

called the Less because younger or smaller in stature than James the son of Zebedee. He was the son of Alpheus or Clopas and brother of our Lord (see above); was called to the apostolate, together with his younger brother Jude, in the spring of the year 28.

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James

(the Greek form of Jacob, supplanter).

1. James the son of Zebedee, one of the twelve apostles. He was elder brother of the evangelist John. His mother's name was Salome. We first hear of him in A.D. 27, Mark 1:20, when at the call of the Master he left all, and became, one and forever, his disciple, in the spring of 28. Matt 10:2; Mark 3:14; Luke 6:13; Acts 1:13. It would seem to have been at the time of the appointment of the twelve apostles that the name of Boanerges was given to the sons of Zebedee. The "sons of thunder" had a burning and impetuous spirit, which twice exhibits itself. Mark 10:37; Luke 9:54. On the night before the crucifixion James was present at the agony in the garden. On the day of the ascension he is mentioned as persevering with the rest of the apostles and disciples, in prayer. Acts 1:13. Shortly before the day of the Passover, in the year 44, he was put to death by Herod Agrippa I. Acts 12:1,2.

2. James the son of Alpheus, one of the twelve apostles. Matt 10:3. Whether or not this James is to be identified with James the Less, the son of Alphaeus, the brother of our Lord, is **one of the most difficult questions in the gospel history**. By comparing Matt 27:56, and Mark 15:40 with John 19:25 We find that the Virgin Mary had a sister named, like herself, Mary, who was the wife of Clopas or Alpheus (varieties of the same name), and who had two sons, James the Less and Joses. By referring to Matt 13:55, and Mark 6:3 We find that a James the Less and Joses, with two other brethren called Jude and Simon, and at least three sisters, were sisters with the Virgin Mary at Nazareth by referring to Luke 6:16, and Acts 1:13 We find that there were two brethren named James and Jude among the apostles. It would certainly be natural to think that we had here but one family of four brothers and three or more sisters, the children of Clopas and Mary, nephews and nieces of the Virgin Mary. There are difficulties however, in the way of this conclusion into which we cannot here enter; but in reply to the objection that the four brethren in Matt 13:55, are described as the brothers of Jesus, not as his cousins, it must be recollected that adelphoi, which is here translated "brethren," may also signify **cousins**.

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