

How can I know for sure that the Book of James and the Book of Jude were written by Jesus' brothers and not by James, the son of Zebedee or Judas Barsabbas and how can I debunk, disprove, and refute the claim made by atheists and Catholics that Jesus didn't have any brothers and that "brother" means spiritual kinsman or cousin?

Mary had other children besides Jesus.

Lydia Montes wrote:

[M]any passages in the Scriptures indicate that Mary and Joseph were blessed with a large family and that Jesus had brothers and sisters. While teaching in a synagogue in his hometown the crowds "were astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? 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? And are not all his sisters with us?" (Matthew 13:54-56). From this passage we know that he had four brothers and at least two sisters indicated by the plural 'sisters'...

...There is no logical reason to disprove that Jesus' brothers and sisters were ... the biological children of both Mary and Joseph.

In John's gospel it is stated that at the Feast of the Booths (Jewish holiday known as Sukkot) that "not even his brothers believed in him" (John 7:5). It is hard to imagine that the biological brothers of Jesus did not believe in him during his ministry after growing up together as a family for so many years. This changed after Jesus ascended into heaven. The apostles "together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers," (Acts 1:14), were praying together in the upper room choosing an apostle to replace Judas who was the traitor. Again the words of Scripture here emphasize the difference between the apostles, the women, his mother and brothers. This verse in Scripture also demonstrates how Mary and Jesus' brothers became followers of Jesus Christ and after receiving the Holy Spirit, shared in the mission of the early church with all believers.<sup>1</sup>

Truth can be found (Ps 119:160) and proven (Ac 18:28) by searching (Jn 5:39) and comparing (2 Pe 1:20, 21) the scriptures.

James, son of Zebedee (Mt 4:21), one of the twelve (Mt 10:2); James, son of Alphaeus (Mk 15:40), identified as "the Less" (Mk 15:40), one of the twelve (Mt 10:3, 4) and James, son of Joseph and Mary (Mt 13:55, 56) were different people.

Jesus' brothers James (Jas 1:1) and Jude (Jud 1) wrote epistles. James and Jude were brothers (Jud 1).

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<sup>1</sup> Montes, Lydia. *What Do We Really Know About Mary? An Examination of Scripture in Contrast to Popular Beliefs*. <https://d2114hms07dut1.cloudfront.net/customers/c6c15290-b8d0-11eb-b10f-0614187498c1/sites/c6f4ef1a-b8d0-11eb-8655-0614187498c1/files/426c9c00-4be9-11ec-8ecd-3f1cce1cdd1e/original/file.pdf>.