

Book of James Study

Men of Grace

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James 1:12-18

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Quick Facts

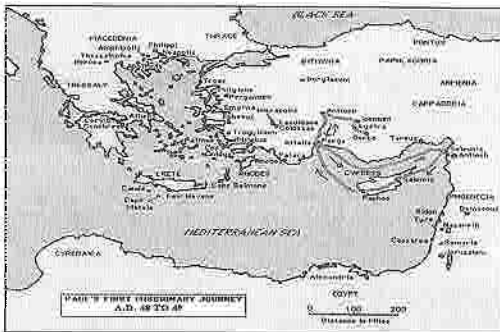
Author: James
-- the (half) brother of Jesus
-- the lead elder of the Jerusalem church

Recipients: Jewish Christians outside of Israel
-- Eastern Mediterranean basin
-- Probably Syria, Phoenicia and Cyprus
-- Scattered as a result of the "great persecution" after Stephen's stoning (See Acts 8:1-2 and 11:19)

Date: A.D. 45 - 46

Place of Writing: Jerusalem

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Major Themes

Three major themes – repeated

- ***Trials and testing of faith***
- ***Wisdom – especially in the areas of speech and obedience***
- ***Riches and Poverty***

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Major Themes – con't

Central Theme of James

A right approach to wealth and poverty

Main Idea of James

In the midst of your financial trials and social tensions you need to repent of your drift into worldliness and commit to single-minded faith in God alone

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Outline

Outline of James

- I. ***Greetings (1:1)***
- II. ***Statement of Three Key Themes (1:2-11)***
 - A. ***Trials in the Christian Life (1:2-4)***
 - B. ***Wisdom (1:5-8)***
 - C. ***Riches and Poverty (1:9-11)***

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Outline of James – con't

iii. **Restatement of the Three Themes (1:12-27)**

- A. **Trials/Temptations in Relation to God (1:12-18)**
- B. **Wisdom in the Areas of Speech and Obedience (1:19-26)**
- C. **The "Have-Nots" and the Responsibility of the "Haves": The Thesis of the Letter (1:27)**

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James 1:12-18

Main Idea

Christians should not respond to trials or temptations by blaming God but by acknowledging him as the source of everything good. When Christians respond to external trials with proper perseverance, they will be blessed. When they allow such trials to turn into seductions to sin, they have only themselves to blame.

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Outline of James 1:12-18

iii. **Restatement of the Three Themes (1:12-27)**

- A. **Trials/Temptations in Relation to God (1:12-18)**
 - 1. **Christians Can Acknowledge God's Goodness in Testing Because They Know They Will Be Blessed after Passing the Test (v. 12).**
 - 2. **Christians Should Not Blame God for Temptation Because They and Not God Are the Problem (vv. 13-15).**
 - a. **God is not the problem because he cannot be tempted to do evil and therefore cannot tempt others to do evil (v. 13).**

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Outline of James 1:12-18 – con't

- b. **People are the problem because they succumb to temptation due to their own evil desires, which if unchecked lead to death (vv. 14-15).**
- 3. **Christians Should Instead Acknowledge God As the Source of Everything Good (vv. 16-18).**
 - a. **Christians must guard against deception in this matter (v. 16).**
 - b. **All good gifts come from God, as demonstrated ever since creation (v. 17)**
 - c. **The best illustration of God's good gifts is his regeneration of Christians (v. 18).**

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James 1:12-18

Five "Crown" Metaphors

- **crown of life (James 1:12)**
- **incorruptible crown (1 Cor. 9:25)**
- **crown of rejoicing (1 Thess. 2:19)**
- **crown of righteousness (2 Tim. 4:8)**
- **crown of glory (1 Peter 5:4)**

All are vivid metaphors of the perfection and glory of eternal life

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James 1:12-18

Dietrich Bonhoeffer on Temptation:

"In our members there is a slumbering inclination toward desire, which is both sudden and fierce. With irresistible power, desire seizes mastery of the flesh. All at once a secret, smoldering fire is kindled...It makes no difference whether it is a sexual desire, or ambition, or vanity, or desire for revenge, or love of fame and power, or greed for money...At this moment God is quite unreal to us. He loses all reality, and only desire for the creature is real...Satan does not here fill us with hatred of God, both with forgetfulness of God."

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James 1:12-18

**Helpful Verse regarding Temptation:
I Corinthians 10:13**

“The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.”

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Discussion Questions

1. ***What is the “crown of life”? What do we have to do to get it? (vs 12) When do we get it? What is the reality behind the metaphor?***
2. ***How do we break the “reproductive cycle” of desire-sin-death? General strategies? Specific strategies? (vs 14-15)***
3. ***What is God like according to vs 17-18? What is His supreme gift? What are some of his other gifts?***

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Thank You

JAMES 1:12-18

1:12 GOD BLESSES THOSE

WHO PATIENTLY ENDURE TESTING AND TEMPTATION.

AFTERWARD

THEY WILL RECEIVE THE CROWN OF LIFE

THAT GOD HAS PROMISED

TO THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.

13. ~~AND~~ REMEMBER

WHEN YOU ARE BEING TEMPTED,
DO NOT SAY, "GOD IS TEMPTING ME."

GOD IS NEVER TEMPTED TO DO WRONG

~~AND~~

HE NEVER TEMPTS ANYONE ELSE.

14. TEMPTATION COMES FROM OUR OWN DESIRES

WHICH ENTICE US

AND DRAG US AWAY.

15. THESE DESIRES GIVE BIRTH TO SINFUL ACTIONS.

~~AND~~

WHEN SIN IS ALLOWED TO GROW,

IT GIVES BIRTH TO DEATH.

1:16 So

DON'T BE MISLED, MY DEAR BROTHERS.

17. WHATEVER IS GOOD

AND PERFECT COMES DOWN TO US

FROM GOD OUR FATHER,

WHO CREATED ALL THE LIGHTS

IN THE HEAVENS.

HE NEVER CHANGES

OR CASTS A SHIFTING SHADOW.

18.

HE CHOSE TO GIVE BIRTH TO US

BY GIVING US HIS TRUE WORD,

~~AND~~

WE

BECAME HIS PRIZED POSSESSION