

The Epistle of James

1 ¹James, a ²servant of God and of *the* Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are of the Dispersion, ³greeting.

2 Count *it* all joy, my brethren, when ye fall into manifold ⁴temptations; 3 knowing that the proving of your faith worketh ⁵patience. 4 And let patience have *its* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, lacking in nothing.

5 But if any of you lacketh wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all liberally and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, nothing doubting: for he that doubteth is like *the* surge of *the* sea driven by *the* wind and tossed. 7 For let not that man think ⁶that he shall receive anything of the Lord; 8 a ⁷doubleminded man, unstable in all his ways.

9 But let the brother of low degree glory in his high estate: 10 and the rich, in that he is made low: because as *the* flower of *the* grass he shall pass away. 11 For the sun ariseth with the scorching wind, and withereth the grass; and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his goings.

12 Blessed *is the* man that endureth temptation; for when he hath been approved, he shall receive the crown of life, ⁸which *the* Lord promised to them that love him. 13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted ⁹of God; for God ¹⁰cannot be tempted with evil things, and he himself tempteth no man: 14 but each man is ¹¹tempted, when he is drawn away by *his* own lust, and enticed. 15 Then the lust, when it hath conceived, beareth sin: and the sin, when it is fullgrown, bringeth forth death. 16 Be not deceived, my beloved brethren. 17 Every good ¹²gift and every perfect gift is from

¹ *Or*, Jacob,

² *Gk.* bondservant

³ *Gk.* wisheth joy.

⁴ *Or*, trials;

⁵ *Or*, steadfastness *And in* vs. 4.

⁶ *Or*, that a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways, shall receive anything of the Lord.

⁷ *Gk.* two-souled man,

⁸ *Lit.* which he promised *So* p²³BAN Ψ 2344 and 4 lesser *Gk. mss.*, cop. 1739 1852 1241 1243 33^{vid} 322 and 12 lesser *Gk. mss.*, vg *read* which God promised (C) and 472 lesser *Gk. mss. read* which the Lord promised

⁹ *Gk.* from

¹⁰ *Or*, is untried in evil,

¹¹ *Or*, tempted by his own lust, being drawn away by *it*, and enticed

¹² *Or*, giving

above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom can be ¹³no variation, neither shadow that is cast by turning. 18 Of his own will he brought us forth by *the* word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruit of his creatures.

19 ¹⁴Ye know *this*, my beloved brethren. But let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: 20 for *the* wrath of man worketh not *the* righteousness of God. 21 Wherefore putting away all filthiness and overflowing of ¹⁵wickedness, receive with meekness the ¹⁶implanted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be ye doers of *the* word, and not hearers only, deluding your own selves. 23 For if any one is a hearer of *the* word and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding ¹⁷his natural face in a mirror: 24 for he beholdeth himself, and goeth away, and straightway forgetteth what manner of *man* he was. 25 But he that looketh into the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and *so* continueth, becoming not a hearer that forgetteth but a doer that worketh, this *man* shall be blessed in his doing. 26 If any one ¹⁸thinketh *himself* to be religious, while he bridleth not his tongue but deceiveth his heart, this man's religion *is* vain. 27 Pure religion and undefiled before *our* God and Father is this, to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

2 My brethren, ¹⁹hold not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the* Lord of glory, with respect of persons. 2 For if *there* come into your ²⁰synagogue a man with a gold ring, in fine clothing, and *there* come in also a poor man in vile clothing; 3 and ye have regard to him that weareth the fine clothing, and say, Sit thou here in a good place; and ye say to the poor man, Stand thou there, or sit under my footstool; 4 ²¹do ye not make distinctions ²²among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? 5 Harken, my beloved brethren; did not God choose them that are poor *as* to the world *to be* rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he promised to them that love him? 6 But ye have dishonored the poor man. *Do* not the rich oppress you,

¹³ *I.e.*, no flickering (*in time*), no asymmetry (*in space*).

¹⁴ *Or*, Know ye *this*,

¹⁵ *Or*, malice,

¹⁶ *Or*, inborn

¹⁷ *Gk.* the face of his birth

¹⁸ *Or*, seemeth to be

¹⁹ *Or*, do ye, in accepting persons, hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the* Lord of the glory?

²⁰ *Or*, assembly *Compare* Hb 10:25 (*in Greek*).

²¹ *Or*, are ye not divided

²² *Or*, in your own mind,

and themselves drag you before the judgment-seats? 7 Do not they blaspheme the honorable name ²³by which ye are called? 8 Howbeit if ye fulfil *the* royal law, according to the scripture, ²⁴Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well: 9 but if ye have respect of persons, ye commit sin, being convicted by the law as transgressors. 10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is become guilty of all. 11 For he that said, ²⁵Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou dost not commit adultery, but killest, thou art become a transgressor of *the* law. 12 So speak ye, and so do, as men that are to be judged by a law of liberty. 13 For judgment *is* without mercy to him that hath showed no mercy: mercy glorieth against judgment.

14 What *is* the profit, my brethren, if a man say he hath faith, but have not works? can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister be naked and in lack of daily food, 16 and one of you say unto them, Go in peace, be ye warmed and filled; and yet ye give them not the things needful to the body; what *is* the profit? 17 Even so faith, if it have not works, is dead in itself. 18 ²⁶Yes, a man will say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith apart from *thy* works, and I by my works will show thee *my* faith. 19 Thou believest that ²⁷God is one; thou doest well: the demons also believe, and shudder. 20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith apart from works is ²⁸barren? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, *in that he* offered up Isaac his son upon the altar? 22 ²⁹Thou seest that faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect; 23 and the scripture was fulfilled which saith, And ³⁰Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned unto him for righteousness; and he was called ³¹*the* friend of God. 24 Ye see that by works a man is justified, and not only by faith. 25 And in like manner was not also Rahab the harlot justified by works, in that she received the messengers, and sent *them* out another way: 26 For

²³ Gk. which was called upon you? See Ac 15:17.

²⁴ Lv 19:18.

²⁵ Ex 20:13f.; Dt 5:17f.

²⁶ Or, But some one will say,

²⁷ So p⁷⁴AN^{1739 1241} ((322 and the majority of lesser Gk. mss.)) cop vg arm. But B 1852 (C 1243 2344 33^{vid}) and 23 others read *there is one God*; Ψ almost alone reads *God is*;

²⁸ So BC* 1739 1243 322 cop^{sa} vg. ANΨ 1852 1241 2344 33 and the majority of lesser Gk. mss., cop^{bo} read *dead*? p⁷⁴ virtually alone reads *empty*?

²⁹ Or, Seest thou ... perfect?

³⁰ Ge 15:6.

³¹ Is 41:8; 2Chr 20:7.

as the body apart from *the* ³²breath is dead, even so faith apart from works is dead.

3 Be not many *of you* teachers, my brethren, knowing that we shall receive greater condemnation. 2 For *in* many *things* we all stumble. If any stumbleth not in word, the same *is* a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body also. 3 Now if we put the horses' bridles into *their* mouths that they may obey us, we turn about their whole body also. 4 Behold, the ships also, *though they* are so great and are driven by rough winds, are yet turned about by a very small rudder, whither the impulse of the steersman willeth. 5 So the tongue also is a little member and boasteth great things. Behold, ³³how much wood is kindled by how small a fire! 6 And the tongue *is* ³⁴a fire: the world of iniquity among our members is the tongue, which defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the wheel of ³⁵nature, and is set on fire by ³⁶Gehenna. 7 For every ³⁷kind of beasts and birds, of creeping things and things in *the* sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed ³⁸by ³⁹mankind: 8 but the tongue can no one tame; *it is* a restless evil, *it is* full of deadly poison. 9 Therewith bless we ⁴⁰the Lord and Father; and therewith curse we men, who have become after the likeness of God: 10 out of the same mouth cometh forth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. 11 Doth the fountain send forth from the same opening sweet *water* and bitter? 12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, yield olives, or a vine figs? neither *can* salt water yield sweet *water*.

13 Who *is* wise and understanding among you? let him show by *his* good life his works in meekness of wisdom. 14 But if ye have bitter jealousy and faction in your heart, glory not and lie not against the truth. 15 This wisdom is not *a wisdom* that cometh down from above, but *is* earthly, ⁴¹sensual, ⁴²devilish. 16 For where jealousy and faction *are*, there *is* confusion, and every vile deed. 17 But the wisdom that is from above

³² Or, spirit *or*, wind (Gk. pneuma, from which the English pneumatic implies wind force.)

³³ Or, how great a forest

³⁴ Or, a fire, that world of iniquity: the tongue is among our members that which *etc.*

or, a fire: that world of iniquity, the tongue, is among our members that which *etc.*

³⁵ Or, birth,

³⁶ That is, the lake of fire, Jerusalem's garbage dump.

³⁷ Gk. nature

³⁸ Or, unto

³⁹ Gk. the human nature:

⁴⁰ So p²⁰BANCV 1739 1852 1241 33 arm. 1243 2344 322 and a majority of lesser Gk. mss., cop^{sa,ach} read *God, even the Father*;

⁴¹ Or, natural, *or*, animal, (Lit. of the soul)

⁴² Gk. demoniacal

is first pure, after that peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without ⁴³doubtfulness, without hypocrisy. 18 And *the* fruit of righteousness is sown in peace ⁴⁴for them that make peace.

4 Whence *come* wars and whence *come* fightings among you? *come they* not hence, *even* of your pleasures that war in your members? 2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill and ⁴⁵covet, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war; ye have not, because ye ask not. 3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask ⁴⁶amiss, that ye may spend *it* in your pleasures. 4 Ye ⁴⁷adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore would be a friend of the world maketh himself an enemy of God. 5 Or think ye that the scripture ⁴⁸saith in vain? ⁴⁹Doth the spirit which ⁵⁰he made to dwell in us long unto envying? 6 But he giveth ⁵¹more grace. Wherefore *the scripture* saith, ⁵²God resisteth *the* proud, but giveth grace to *the* humble. 7 Be subject therefore unto God; but resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* ⁵³doubleminded. 9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and *your* joy to heaviness. 10 Humble yourselves in *the* sight of *the* Lord, and he shall exalt you.

11 Speak not one against another, brethren. He that speaketh against a brother, or judgeth his brother, speaketh against *the* law, and judgeth *the* law: but if thou judgest *the* law, thou art not a doer of *the* law, but a judge. 12 One *only* is *the* lawgiver and judge, *even* he who is able to save and to destroy: but who art thou that judgest *thy* neighbor?

⁴³ Or, variance, *or*, partiality,

⁴⁴ Or, by

⁴⁵ Gk. are jealous,

⁴⁶ Gk. ill, (κακῶς, kakōs, *as in cognate*: cacophony, *bad sound, dissonance*)

⁴⁷ *That is, who break your marriage vow to Christ,* So B^AN 1739 1852 1241 33 cop vg. Ψ 1243 2344 323 and the majority of lesser Gk. mss. read adulterers and adulteresses,

⁴⁸ Or, saith in vain:

⁴⁹ Or, The Spirit which he made to dwell in us, *it* yearneth for even unto jealous envy. Cf. Jer 3:14; Hos 2:19f. Or, That Spirit which he made to dwell in us yearneth for us even unto jealous envy.

⁵⁰ So p⁷⁴B^NΨ 1739 1241 (A 81). 1852 1243 2344 33 322 and the majority of lesser Gk. mss., vg arm read dwelt in us

⁵¹ Gk. a greater grace.

⁵² Pr 3:34.

⁵³ Gk. two-souled men.

13 Come now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into this city, and spend a year there, and trade, and get gain: 14 whereas ⁵⁴ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. What *is* your life? ⁵⁵For ye are a vapor that appeareth for a little time, and afterwards disappeareth. 15 ⁵⁶For that ye *ought* to say, If the Lord will, we shall both live, and do this or that. 16 But now ye glory in your vauntings: all such glorying is evil. 17 To *him* therefore that knoweth to do good, and doeth *it* not, to him it is sin.

5 Come now, *ye* rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon *you*. 2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and your silver are rusted; and their rust shall be for a testimony ⁵⁷against you, and shall eat your flesh as fire. Ye have laid up your treasure in *the* last days. 4 Behold, the hire of the laborers who mowed your fields, which is of you ⁵⁸kept back by fraud, crieth out: and the cries of them that reaped have entered into the ears of *the* Lord of ⁵⁹Hosts. 5 Ye have lived delicately on the earth, and taken your pleasure; ye have nourished your hearts in a day of slaughter. 6 Ye have condemned, ye have killed the righteous *one*; he doth not resist you.

7 Be patient therefore, brethren, until the presence of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient over it, until ⁶⁰it receive ⁶¹*the* early and latter rain. 8 Be ye also patient; establish your hearts: for the presence of the Lord has drawn near. 9 Murmur not, brethren, one against another, that ye be not judged: behold, the judge standeth before the doors. 10 Take, brethren, *for* an example of suffering and of patience, the prophets who spake in the name of *the* Lord. 11 Behold, we call them blessed that endured: ye have heard of *the* ⁶²patience of Job, and have seen the end of *the* Lord, how that the Lord is full of pity, and merciful.

⁵⁴ B *almost alone reads* ye know not what your life *shall be* on the morrow.

⁵⁵ So 1852 1243 81. B 1739 322 read For ye are a vapor that appeareth (A omits For) Ψ and many lesser Gk. mss. read For ye shall be a vapor that appeareth (33 cop^{sa,bo} vg) and many lesser Gk. mss. read For it is a vapor that appeareth Ṡ alone reads which appeareth

⁵⁶ Gk. Instead of your saying,

⁵⁷ Or, unto you,

⁵⁸ B*Ṡ read withheld, *or*, kept in arrear,

⁵⁹ Gk. Sabaoth. Hb. word meaning hosts.

⁶⁰ Or, he

⁶¹ So p⁷⁴B 1739 1241 048 cop^{sa} vg arm. AΨ 1852 1243 2344 33 322 and the majority of lesser Gk. mss. read *the* early and latter rain. Ṡ* with only four lesser mss., (cop^{bo}) read the early and latter fruit.

⁶² Or, endurance *or*, steadfastness

12 But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by the heaven, nor by the earth, nor *by* any other oath: but ⁶³let your Yes *mean* yes, and your No *mean* no; that ye fall not under judgment.

13 Is any among you suffering? let him pray. Is any cheerful? let him sing praise. 14 Is any among you weak? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, having anointed *him* with oil in the name ⁶⁴of the Lord: 15 and the prayer of faith shall save him that is sick, and the Lord shall ⁶⁵raise him up; and if he have committed sins, it shall be forgiven him. 16 Confess therefore ⁶⁶*your* sins one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. *The* supplication of a righteous man availeth much in its working. 17 Elijah was a man of ⁶⁷like passions with us, and he prayed ⁶⁸fervently that it might not rain; and it rained not on the earth for three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again; and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

19 My brethren, if any among you err from the truth, and one convert him; 20 ⁶⁹let him know, that he who converteth a sinner from *the* error of his way shall save ⁷⁰his soul from death, and shall cover a multitude of sins.

End of the Epistle of James

⁶³ *Or*, let yours be the yes, yes, and the no, no;
Compare Mt 5:37.

⁶⁴ *B alone omits* of the Lord

⁶⁵ *Or*, awaken him;

⁶⁶ *So* BANΨ 1739 1852 1241 1243 2344 33 048.
322 and 452 still lesser *Gk. mss. read your faults*
cop^{sa} vg *read your faults*

⁶⁷ *Or possibly*, like nature with us,

⁶⁸ *Gk.* with prayer

⁶⁹ *So* AN 1739 1852 1241 1243 2344 322 and the
majority of lesser Gk. mss., vg arm. *B and a few*
others read know ye that p⁷⁴ cop^{sa} *omit* let him
know, that Ψ *virtually alone omits* let him know,

⁷⁰ *So* AN 1739 2344 33 048^{vid} cop^{bo} vg arm. p⁷⁴B *with*
few others read a soul from his death, Ψ 1852
1241 1243 and the *majority of lesser Gk. mss.*, cop^{sa}
read a soul from death,