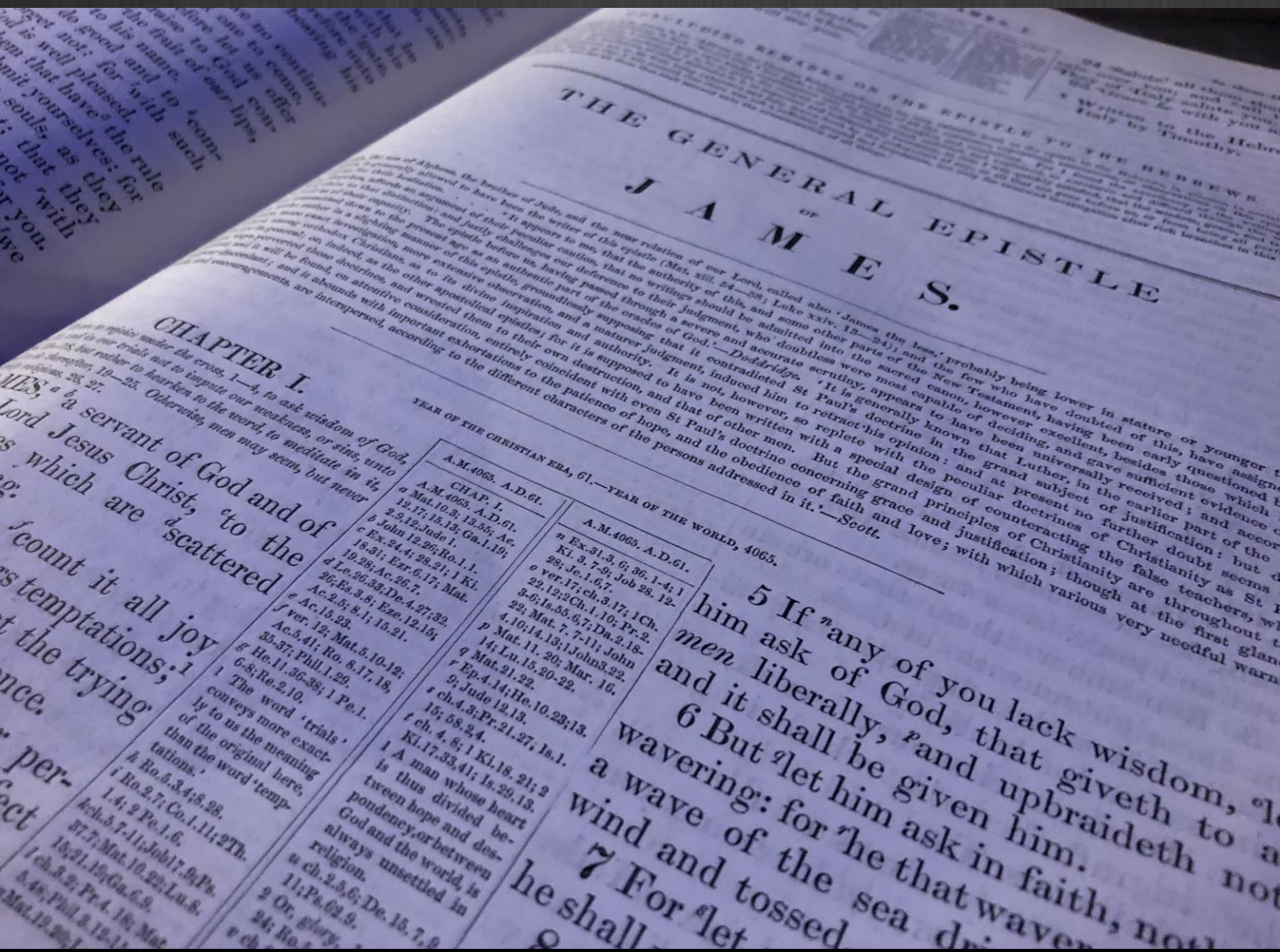


The Epistle of James

A verse by verse study...



Chapter 5

Overview of the Epistle

- James shows the importance of
 - Conduct over Creed
 - Behaviour over Belief
 - Deed over Doctrine
- James' Epistle is intensely practical for the Christian growing in knowledge & grace
- It is a fitting follow-on from Hebrews which gives the 'why?' of Christian living...
- James gives us the 'how'

Overview of the Epistle

- Endurance of Faith
 - Outward Trials & Inward Temptations 1:2-18
- Tests of the Genuineness of Faith
 - Our Response to the Word of God 1:19-27
 - Response to social distinctions 2:1-13
 - Evidence of good works to accompany Faith 2:14-26
 - The importance of self-control for a believer 3:1-18
 - Our relationship to the World 4:1-5:12
 - The foundation of prayer for a believer 5:12-18

Yakov's Letter to the 12 Tribes

- James used nature to illustrate spiritual truth thirty times in five short chapters.
- There are frequent references to the law in this Letter. It is called “the perfect law” (1:25), “the royal law” (2:8), and “the law of liberty” (2:12).
 - James does not teach that his readers are under law for salvation or as a rule of life.
 - Rather, portions of the law are cited as instruction in righteousness for those who are under grace.

Yakov's Letter to the 12 Tribes

- Key words: *Brethren* x 15
- . *Faith* x 15
- . *Works* x 13
- . *Wisdom* x 4
- The most authoritarian letter in the NT?
- James issues instructions more profusely than any of the other writers.
- In the 108 verses, there are 54 commands

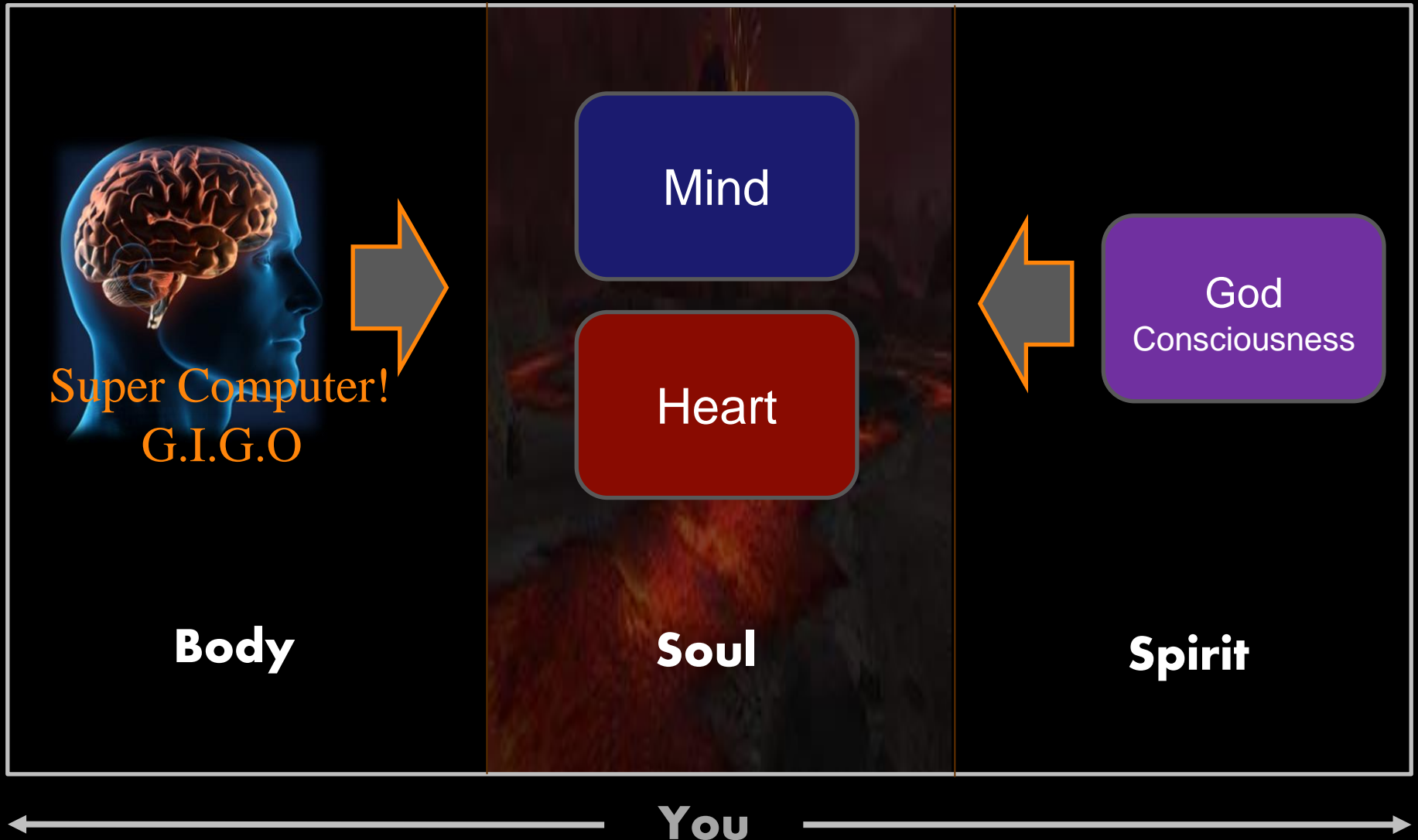
Overview of the Epistle

- James argues that justification by faith is demonstrated by works;
- If you truly profess to believe something, your actions will demonstrate your profession.
- If you are saved, your life will show it
 - by your works (ch. 1–2),
 - your words (ch. 3),
 - and a rejection of worldliness (ch. 4-5).

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Biblical Psychology 101



The Epistle of James

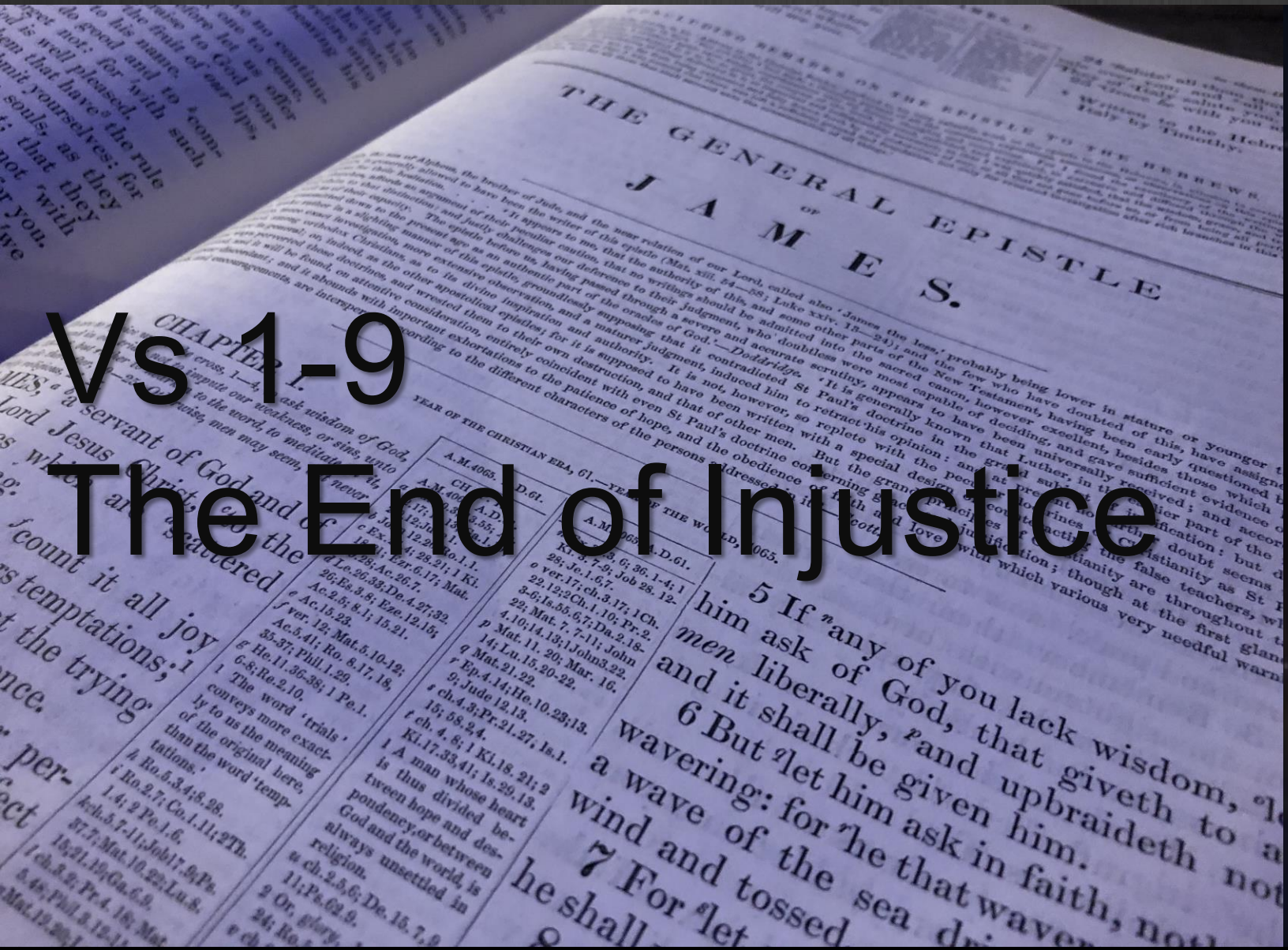
A verse by verse study...



Chapter 5

Vs 1-9

The End of Injustice



- **Question:**
- Which Old Testament character, without having a book attributed to him, wrote more of the Bible than Jonah, Amos, Micah, Joel, Malachi, Zephaniah, Zechariah, Habakkuk, Naaum, Haggai, Obadiah, Peter & James?
- **Answer:** Asaph
 - He wrote Psalm 50, 73-83,
- He was a prophet
- He ministered in the house of the LORD from the days of David through to the time of Rehoboam

1 Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart.

2 But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped.

3 For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

4 For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm.

5 They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men.

6 Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain;
violence covereth them as a garment.

7 Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more
than heart could wish.

8 They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning
oppression: they speak loftily.

9 They set their mouth against the heavens, and their
tongue walketh through the earth.

10 Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a
full cup are wrung out to them.

Psalm 73:6-10

- 11 And they say, How doth God know?
and is there knowledge in the most High?*
- 12 Behold, these are the ungodly,
who prosper in the world; they increase in riches.*
- 13 Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain,
and washed my hands in innocency.*
- 14 For all the day long have I been plagued, and
chastened every morning.*
- 15 If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend
against the generation of thy children.*

16 When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me;

17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.

18 Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction.

19 How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.

20 As a dream when one awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image.

Psalm 73:16-20

¹ Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. ² Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. ³ Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.

James 5:1-3

- See Matthew 19:23-24

Revelation 18

8 Therefore shall her plagues come in **one day**, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.

9 And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,

Revelation 18:8-9

Revelation 18

- IO** Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.
- II** And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:

Revelation 18:10-11

Revelation 18

- 12** The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble,
- 13** And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.

Revelation 18:12-13

Revelation 18

- 14** And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.
- 15** The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,

Revelation 18:14-15

Revelation 18

- 16** And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!
- 17** For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off,

Revelation 18:16-17

The Destruction of Babylon

- The coming One World Church will be huge and will end up controlling so much of the world's economy that the coming 'Ten Kings' will feel compelled to get rid of her.
- Trade on earth is going to change dramatically from this point as the world moves from separate democracies to a global dictatorship.

4 Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.

5 Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.

6 Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you

James 5:4-6

7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain

James 5:7

- *“Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord”*. – **Psalm 27:14**
- The early rains = Autumn
- The latter rains = Spring

8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

James 5:8

- *“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”*

– Galatians 6:9

And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

Luke 21:28-35

And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

Luke 21:28-35

9 Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.

James 5:9

- The Judge of the whole earth!
- He is coming to judge the church...
 - Psalm 50:4-6
 - 1 Corinthians 3:11-16
 - 1 Peter 4:17
- And the World

Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

Philippians 2:14-16

The Epistle of James

A verse by verse study...



Chapter 5

Vs 10-12 The End of Trials



5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and it shall be given to him: and it shall not be with wavering: for he that wavereth is as a wave of the sea, driven and tossed of the wind.

6 But let him ask in faith, not doubting, for he that doubteth is as a wave of the sea, driven and tossed of the wind.

7 For let him that wavereth think that he shall receive nothing of the Lord: he is double minded, and unstable in all his ways.

10 Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.

James 5:10

II Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

James 5:11

12 But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.

James 5:12

The Epistle of James

A verse by verse study...



Chapter 5

Vs 13-20

The End of Self



13 Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.

James 5:13

14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him

James 5:14-15

16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

James 5:16

17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

James 5:17-18

Elijah

- Elijah the Tishbite...
 - Tishba: a town in northern Israel?
 - From the area of Gilead around Galilee
- His name means 'Yahweh is my God'
 - Indicates Godly parents
- He is the major character in Kings
 - More so than Solomon
- Mentioned more in the NT than any other prophet
 - not quoted – he didn't write anything!
 - He is a prophet, but not predictive

Elijah

- Eight recorded miracles:
 1. Stopping the rain for 3 ½ years
 2. Being fed by ravens twice a day
 3. The grain and oil multiplying
 4. Raising the widow's son
 5. Calling fire down from heaven
 6. Starting the rain again
 7. Running for 30 miles
 8. Supernaturally sustained for 40 day/night

An Ordinary Man

¹⁷ Elijah was a man of like passions with us, and he prayed fervently 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. **James 5:17-18**

- When did he start to pray?
- Why did he start to pray?
 - **Convicted by God's word**

An Ordinary Man

¹³ Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁴ And he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword.

1 Kings 19:13-14

^I And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

1 Kings 17:1

- Psalm 39:3 *“My heart was hot within me, while I was musing the fire burned: then spake I with my tongue”*

Blessing or Curse

⁸ Therefore shall ye keep all the commandments which I command you this day, that ye may be strong, and go in and possess the land, whither ye go to possess it;

⁹ And that ye may prolong your days in the land, which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give unto them and to their seed, a land that floweth with milk and honey.

Deuteronomy 11:8-17

Blessing or Curse

IO For the land, whither thou goest in to possess it, is not as the land of Egypt, from whence ye came out, where thou sowedst thy seed, and wateredst it with thy foot, as a garden of herbs:

II But the land, whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven:

Deuteronomy 11:8-17

Blessing or Curse

¹³ And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul,

Deuteronomy 11:13

Blessing or Curse

- 14 That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil.*
- 15 And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full.*
- 16 Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them;*

Deuteronomy 11:8-17

Blessing or Curse

¹⁷ And then the LORD's wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you.

Deuteronomy 11:8-17

- Deuteronomy 28:23 adds that *“thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass”*

The Power of Prayer

- Elijah was on his own...
- No one to support, no one to encourage
- He was just one man
 - What difference could he make?
- How could he change the course of his nation?
- What effect could he have on the politics of his day?
- None, until God calls him to PRAY!

19 Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him;

20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

James 5:19-20



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