

Studies in the Book of James

By Ray DeCarlo

READING ASSIGNMENTS

- SDA BIBLE COMMENTARY, VOL.7, PG 497-543
- AA CHAPTERS 11-19
- FAITH & WORKS BY E.G.WHITE

HISTORICAL SETTING

AUTHOR

- JAMES THE SON OF ZEBEDEE / THE BROTHER OF JOHN
- JAMES THE SON OF ALPHEUS or JAMES THE LESS / THE COUSIN OF JESUS
- THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AUTHOR HAS TO DO WITH TIME & CONTEXT OF THE BOOK OF JAMES
- EXTERNAL EVIDENCE - THE GREEK, LATIN, SYRIAN MSS. / EARLY CHURCH HISTORIANS / THE CHURCH FATHERS, ETC.
- INTERNAL EVIDENCE - THE BOOK OF JAMES

JAMES & JOHN THE BAPTIST

- JAMES 1:22,27 - BE YE DOERS OF THE WORD / PRACTICE THE PURE RELIGION
MATT. 3:5-8 - BRING FORTH FRUITS FITTING FOR REPENTANCE
- JAMES 2:15,16 - IF YOU HAVE FAITH SHOW IT, CLOTH & FEED THOSE IN NEED
LK. 3:3-11 - REPENT & CLOTH & FEED THOSE IN NEED
- JAMES 2:19,20 - IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO SAY THAT YOU BELIEVE IN GOD, YOU MUST SHOW IT AS WELL
MATT. 3:7-9 - IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO SAY THAT YOU BELIEVE ABRAHAM IS YOUR FATHER, YOU MUST SHOW IT AS WELL
- JAMES 5:1-6 - GOD SHALL PUNISH THE WICKED
MATT. 3:10-12 - GOD WILL PUNISH THE WICKED

JAMES & THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

- JAMES 1:2 - REJOICE IN TRIALS
MATT. 5:10-12 - REJOICE & BE GLAD WHEN YOU ARE PERSECUTED
- JAMES 1:4 - THAT YE MAY BE PERFECT
MATT. 5:48 - BE YE PERFECT
- JAMES 1:5; 5:15 - ASK & PRAY IN FAITH & GOD WILL BLESS
MATT. 7:7-12 - ASK & IT SHALL BE GIVEN YOU
- JAMES 1:20 - THE WRATH OF MAN IS NOT RIGHTEOUS

MATT. 5:22 - THE ANGER OF MAN IS NOT OF GOD

- ▶ JAMES 2:13 - IF YOU DON'T SHOW MERCY, MERCY WON'T BE SHOWN TO YOU
MATT. 6:14,15; 5:7 - IF YOU DON'T FORGIVE THEN GOD WON'T FORGIVE YOU
- ▶ JAMES 2:14 - A FAITH THAT DOESN'T WORK CANNOT SAVE
MATT. 7:21-23 - NOT EVERYONE THAT SAYS UNTO ME, LORD,LORD, SHALL ENTER HEAVEN
- ▶ JAMES 3:17,18 - THE FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS SOWN IN PEACE OF THEM THAT MAKE PEACE
MATT. 5:9 - BLESSED ARE THE PEACE MAKERS
- ▶ JAMES 4:4 - FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD IS ENMITY WITH GOD
MATT. 6:24 - NO MAN CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS
- ▶ JAMES 4:10 - HUMBLE YOURSELVES & GOD WILL LIFT YOU UP
MATT. 5:5 - BLESSED ARE THE MEEK: FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH
- ▶ JAMES 4:11 - JUDGE NOT YOUR BROTHER
MATT. 7:1-5 - JUDGE NOT, THAT YE BE NOT JUDGED
- ▶ JAMES 5:2 - YOUR RICHES ARE CORRUPTED, & YOUR GARMENTS ARE MOTH-EATEN
MATT. 6:19 - LAY NOT UP FOR YOURSELVES TREASURES UPON EARTH, WHERE MOTH & RUST
DOTH CORRUPT
- ▶ JAMES 5:10 - THE PROPHETS SUFFERED AFFLICTION
MATT. 5:12 - FOR SO PERSECUTED THEY THE PROPHETS
- ▶ JAMES 5:12 - SWEAR NOT, NOR MAKE AN OATH: BUT LET YOUR YEA BE YEA & YOUR NAY BE
NAY
MATT. 5:33-37 - SWEAR NOT AT ALL, BUT LET YOUR COMMUNICATION BE, YEA,YEA, NAY, NAY

PETER, JAMES & JOHN & THE TRANSFIGURATION

- ▶ MATTHEW 17:1-8 - THE TRANSFIGURATION
- ▶ JAMES 2:1 - JESUS CHRIST THE "LORD OF GLORY" - CHRIST'S DIVINITY
- ▶ 2 PETER 1:16-18 - WE (PETER, JAMES & JOHN) WERE EYEWITNESSES OF JESUS CHRIST'S
MAJESTY
- ▶ JOHN 1:14 - WE (PETER, JAMES & JOHN) BEHELD HIS GLORY

JAMES & ELIJAH

- ▶ JAMES 1:19,20 - JAMES PROTESTS AGAINST "THE WRATH OF MAN"
- ▶ MK. 3:19 - JESUS CALLS JAMES & JOHN "THE SONS OF THUNDER"
- ▶ LK. 9:54 - JAMES & JOHN DESIRE TO CALL DOWN FIRE FROM HEAVEN AS ELIJAH DID
- ▶ 1 KGS. 19:4-10 - EILJAH LOSES HIS PATIENCE & TRUST IN GOD
- ▶ JAMES 5:17 - ELIJAH A MAN OF LIKE "PASSIONS" AS "WE"

TIME FRAME: AD 42-43

- ▶ JAMES 1:1 - WRITTEN TO THE 12 TRIBES /JEWISH CHRISTIANS - JAMES 2:1
- ▶ JAMES 1:1 - THEY ARE SCATTERED ABROAD - ACTS 8:1-4
- ▶ JAMES 1:2-4 - THEIR FAITH IS BEING TRIED (A TIME OF PERSECUTION) - ACTS 8:1-4
- ▶ "After the death of Stephen there arose against the believers in Jerusalem a persecution so relentless that 'they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria.' Saul 'made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.' Of his zeal in this cruel work he said at a later date: 'I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison. . . . And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities.' That Stephen was not the only one who suffered death may be seen from Saul's own words, 'And when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them.'" *Acts 26:9-11*. - AA 103
- ▶ "The persecution that came upon the church in Jerusalem resulted in giving a great impetus to the work of the gospel. Success had attended the ministry of the word in that place, and there was danger that the disciples would linger there too long, unmindful of the Saviour's commission to go to all the world. Forgetting that strength to resist evil is best gained by aggressive service, they began to think that they had no work so important as that of shielding the church in Jerusalem from the attacks of the enemy. Instead of educating the new converts to carry the gospel to those who had not heard it, they were in danger of taking a course that would lead all to be satisfied with what had been accomplished. To scatter His representatives abroad, where they could work for others, God permitted persecution to come upon them. Driven from Jerusalem, the believers "went everywhere preaching the word." - AA 105
- ▶ **JAMES 1:9-12 - THE RICH CAME TO THE AID THE POOR IN THEIR SUPPORT OF THE GOSPEL & IN THE PROCESS THE RICH BECOME POOR - AA 104-106**
- ▶ "Now, when the Jews were trying to destroy the infant church, Nicodemus came forward in its defense. No longer cautious and questioning, he encouraged the faith of the disciples and used his wealth in helping to sustain the church at Jerusalem and in advancing the work of the gospel. Those who in other days had paid him reverence, now scorned and persecuted him, and he became poor in this world's goods; yet he faltered not in the defense of his faith." - AA 105
- ▶ "Among those to whom the Saviour had given the commission, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations" (Matthew 28:19), were many from the humbler walks of life--men and women who had learned to love their Lord and who had determined to follow His example of unselfish service. To these lowly ones, as well as to the disciples who had been with the Saviour during His earthly ministry, had been given a precious trust. They were to carry to the world the glad tidings of salvation through Christ." - AA 105, 106
- ▶ JAMES 2:1-13 - THE JEWISH CHRISTIANS RETAINED THEIR RACIAL & SPIRITUAL PRIDE & AS A RESULT THEY WERE PREJUDICE AGAINST THE GENTILES - ACTS 10; AA CHAPTER 14; LK. 16:19-31
- ▶ JAMES 2:14-26 - FAITH & WORKS IN RELATION TO JUSTIFICATION WAS AN ISSUE
- ▶ "The apostle James saw that dangers would arise in presenting the subject of justification by faith, and he labored to show that genuine faith can not exist without corresponding works." - *ST, May 19, 1898*
- ▶ JAMES 3 - THE TONGUE / GOSSIP
- ▶ JAMES 4:1 - DIVISIONS AMONG THEM
- ▶ JAMES 4:4 - FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD - WORLDLINESS IN THE CHURCH / DIVIDED LOYALTIES / COMPROMISES

THEME

- ▶ 1) TO ANIMATE THE JEWISH CHRISTIANS TO ENDURE TRIALS & TEMPTATIONS & TO GUARD AGAINST THE VICES THAT PREVAIL AMONG THE UNBELIEVING JEWS
- ▶ 2) JAMES DOES NOT DWELL ON THE FUNDAMENTAL DOCTRINES OF CHRISTIANITY BUT RATHER ON PRACTICAL GODLINESS ENCOURAGING THE JEWISH CHRISTIANS TO MANIFEST THE FRUITS OF PIETY & HOLINESS
- ▶ 3) THE APOSTLE JAMES FORESAW THE DANGERS THAT “WOULD ARISE IN PRESENTING THE SUBJECT OF JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH. HE LABORED TO SHOW THAT GENUINE FAITH CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT CORRESPONDING WORKS.” - ST, May 19, 1898

SUMMARY

- ▶ JAMES 1 - TEMPTATIONS / HEARERS & DOERS OF THE WORD
- ▶ JAMES 2 - PARTIALITY / FAITH & WORKS
- ▶ JAMES 3 - THE TONGUE / WISDOM
- ▶ JAMES 4 - WORLDLINESS / PRIDE
- ▶ JAMES 5 - LAST DAY EVENTS / PRAYER FOR THE SICK

ANALYSIS

JAMES 1

- ▶ VS.1 - SALUTATION
- ▶ THE 12 TRIBES - JAMES 2:1
- ▶ SCATTERED ABROAD -ACTS 8:1-4; SP VOL.3, 300,301; AA CHAPTER 11
- ▶ VS.2-4 - THE NEED TO ENDURE TEMPTATIONS - AA CHAPTER 11
- ▶ "James writes: 'My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.' The word does not say that we are to count it all joy when we fall under temptation, but when we fall into temptation. It is not necessary to fall under temptation; for temptation comes upon us for the trying of our faith. And the trying of our faith worketh patience, not fretfulness and murmuring. If we put our trust in Jesus, he will keep us at all times, and will be our strength and shield. We are to learn valuable lessons from our trials. Paul says, 'We glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us...'
"Our faith is to be tried by trials and temptations, that patience may have her perfect work, and we may be perfect, wanting nothing. We know nothing about the strength of our faith until it is tried. You may not understand the way in which God is leading you, you may not be filled with joy, but may be in heaviness because of temptation; but in all this it is your privilege to say, 'I believe the Lord will give me the things I have asked for. I can and will trust God.' When you have done this, be thankful, knowing that the trying of your faith worketh patience." - *RH, May 19, 1891*
- ▶ "Jesus does not present to His followers the hope of attaining earthly glory and riches, and of having a life free from trial, but He presents to them the privilege of walking with their Master in the paths of self-denial and reproach, because the world knows them not.
"...Persecution and reproach await all who are imbued with the Spirit of Christ..."

"Through trials and persecution, the glory--character--of God is revealed in His chosen ones. The church of God, hated and persecuted by the world, are educated and disciplined in the school of Christ. They walk in narrow paths on earth; they are purified in the furnace of affliction.

"They follow Christ through sore conflicts; they endure self-denial and experience bitter disappointments; but their painful experience teaches them the guilt and woe of sin, and they look upon it with abhorrence. Being partakers of Christ's sufferings, they are destined to be partakers of His glory." - *MB 29-31*

▶ VS.5-8 - PRAY IN FAITH

▶ "The apostle says, 'Let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord. A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.' God is behind every promise, and we cannot dishonor Him more than by questioning and hesitating, by asking and not believing, and then by talking doubt. If you do not immediately receive what you have asked for, will you go on in sullenness and unbelief? Believe; believe that God will do just what He has promised. Keep your prayers ascending, and watch, work, and wait. Fight the good fight of faith. Say to your heart, 'God has invited me to come. He has heard my prayer. He has pledged His word that he will receive me, and He will fulfill His promise. I can trust God; for He so loved me that He gave His only-begotten Son to die for me. The Son of God is my Redeemer.' 'Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.' 'If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?' " - *FE 299*.

▶ "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth {*talks faith one moment, and acts unbelief the next*} is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord. A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways." - *JAMES 1:2-8 - FE 437*

▶ VS.9-11 - THE POOR ARE EXALTED & THE RICH ARE MADE POOR

▶ VS.12-18 - THE SOURCE OF TEMPTATIONS

▶ VS.19-21 - THE WRATH OF MAN

▶ VS.22-27 - HEARERS & DOERS OF THE WORD / TRUE RELIGION

▶ "{James 1:23-27 quoted.} This is the word of the living God. The law is God's great moral looking glass. Man is to compare his words, his spirit, his actions with the Word of God. . . . True religion means living the Word in your practical life. Your profession is not of any value without the practical doing of the Word." - *MS 7, 1898 / 7BC 935*

JAMES 2

"Read the second chapter of James. Practice the truth in your daily life and you will know the work that the Lord has given you to do. Read also the fourth chapter, especially verses 5-12; and chapter 5, especially verses 13-20. These chapters are a dead letter to the larger number of those who claim to be Seventh-day Adventists. I am directed to point you to these scriptures, and to the seventh chapter of Matthew. You need to study every word as for your life." - *TM 125*

▶ **James 2 - VS.1-13 - THE SIN OF PARTIALITY**

1) LEV. 1:15 - THOU SHALT DO NO UNRIGHTEOUS IN JUDGMENT

2) DEUT. 1:16,17 - YE SHALL NOT RESPECT PERSONS IN JUDGMENT

3) DEUT. 16:19 - THOU SHALT NOT RESPECT PERSONS

4) PROV. 24:23 - IT IS NOT GOOD TO HAVE RESPECT OF PERSONS IN JUDGMENT

5) PROV. 28:21 - TO HAVE RESPECT OF PERSONS IS NOT GOOD

6) MATT. 22:15,16 - THOU (JESUS) REGARDDEST NOT THE PERSON OF MEN

7) MATT. 23:1-12 - YE ARE ALL BRETHREN

8) ACTS 10:34 - GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS

9) JUDE 16 - HAVING MEN'S PERSONS IN ADMIRATION BECAUSE OF ADVANTAGE

▸ **VS.14-26 - FAITH & WORKS**

1) VS.14-20 - FAITH THAT WORKS

2) VS.21-26 - ILLUSTRATIONS OF FAITH

▸ **1) VS.14-20 - FAITH THAT WORKS**

a) LK. 10:25-37 - THE GOOD SAMARITAN

b) COL 376-389 - WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

c) MATT. 26:6-13; MK. 14:3-9; LK. 7:36-50; JN. 12:1-9 - THE SUPPER AT BETHANY

▸ The priest and the Levite both *professed* piety, but the Samaritan *showed* that he was truly converted. It was no more agreeable for him to do the work than for the priest and the Levite, but in *spirit* and *works* he *proved* himself to be in harmony with God... *Show* the same tender kindness to those in need. Thus you will give *evidence* that you keep the whole law. - COL 380

▸ Genuine faith always works by love. When you look to Calvary it is not to quiet your soul in the non-performance of duty, not to compose yourself to sleep, but to create faith in Jesus, faith that will work, purifying the soul from the slime of selfishness. When we lay hold of Christ by faith, our work has just begun. Every man has corrupt and sinful habits that must be overcome by vigorous warfare. Every soul is required to fight the fight of faith. - 6BC 1111

▸ **JAMES 2 - VS.21-26 - TWO ILLUSTRATIONS OF FAITH - ABRAHAM & RAHAB**

▸ "The apostle James saw that dangers would arise in presenting the subject of justification by faith, and he labored to show that genuine faith can not exist without corresponding works. The experience of Abraham is presented. "Seest thou," he says, "how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?" Thus genuine faith does a genuine work in the believer. Faith and obedience bring a solid, valuable experience.

"There is a belief that is not a saving faith. The word declares that the devils believe and tremble. The so-called faith that does not work by love and purify the soul will not justify any man. "Ye see," says the apostle, "how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." Abraham believed God. How do we know that he believed? His works testified to the character of his faith, and his faith was accounted to him for righteousness.

"We need the faith of Abraham in our day, to lighten the darkness that gathers around us, shutting out the sweet sunlight of God's love, and dwarfing spiritual growth. Our faith should be prolific of good works; for faith without works is dead. Every duty performed, every sacrifice made in the name of Jesus, brings an exceeding great reward. In the very act of duty, God speaks and gives His blessing.

"Being justified freely by His grace," the apostle Paul says, "through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus; whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; to declare, I say, at this time His righteousness; that He might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."

"Here the truth is laid out in plain lines. This mercy and goodness is wholly undeserved. The grace of Christ is freely to justify the sinner without merit or claim on his part. Justification is a full, complete pardon of sin. The moment a sinner accepts Christ by faith, that moment he is pardoned. The righteousness of Christ is imputed to him, and he is no more to doubt God's forgiving grace.

"There is nothing in faith that makes it our saviour. Faith can not remove our guilt. Christ is the power of God unto salvation to all them that believe. The justification comes through the merits of Jesus Christ. He has paid the

price for the sinner's redemption. Yet it is only through faith in His blood that Jesus can justify the believer." - *ST, May 19, 1898*

- ▶ " 'Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the friend of God.' James 2:23. And Paul says, 'They which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.' Galatians 3:7. But Abraham's faith was made manifest by his works. 'Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?' James 2:21, 22. There are many who fail to understand the relation of faith and works. They say, 'Only believe in Christ, and you are safe. You have nothing to do with keeping the law.' But genuine faith will be manifest in obedience. Said Christ to the unbelieving Jews, 'If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.' John 8:39. And concerning the father of the faithful the Lord declares, 'Abraham obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.' Genesis 26:5. Says the apostle James, 'Faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.' James 2:17. And John, who dwells so fully upon love, tells us, 'This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.' " 1 John 5:3. - *PP 153,154*

JAMES 3

▶ **VS.1-12 - THE SINS OF THE TONGUE**

- ▶ "The voice and tongue are gifts from God, and if rightly used, they are a power for God. Words mean very much. They may express love, devotion, praise, melody to God, or hatred and revenge. Words reveal the sentiments of the heart. They may be a savor of life unto life or of death unto death. The tongue is a world of blessing, or a world of iniquity." - *MS 40, 1896 / 3BC 1159*
- ▶ "In the use of language, there is, perhaps, no error that old and young are more ready to pass over lightly in themselves than hasty, impatient speech. They think it is a sufficient excuse to plead, 'I was off my guard, and did not really mean what I said.' But God's word does not treat it lightly. The Scripture says: 'Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him.' 'He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.'
"The largest share of life's annoyances, its heartaches, its irritations, is due to uncontrolled temper. In one moment, by hasty, passionate, careless words, may be wrought evil that a whole lifetime's repentance cannot undo. Oh, the hearts that are broken, the friends estranged, the lives wrecked, by the harsh, hasty words of those who might have brought help and healing!...
"There is a wonderful power in silence. When impatient words are spoken to you, do not retaliate. Words spoken in reply to one who is angry usually act as a whip, lashing the temper into greater fury. But anger met by silence quickly dies away. Let the Christian bridle his tongue, firmly resolving not to speak harsh, impatient words. With the tongue bridled, he may be victorious in every trial of patience through which he is called to pass.
"In his own strength man cannot rule his spirit. But through Christ he may gain self-control. In His strength he may bring his thoughts and words into subjection to the will of God. The religion of Christ brings the emotions under the control of reason and disciplines the tongue. Under its influence the hasty temper is subdued, and the heart is filled with patience and gentleness.
"Hold firmly to the One who has all power in heaven and in earth. Though you so often fail to reveal patience and calmness, do not give up the struggle. Resolve again, this time more firmly, to be patient under every provocation. And never take your eyes off your divine Example." - *RH, October 31, 1907*
- ▶ "Closely connected with Christ's warning in regard to the sin against the Holy Spirit is a warning against idle and evil words. The words are an indication of that which is in the heart. 'Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.' But the words are more than an indication of character; they have power to react on the character. Men are influenced by their own words. Often under a momentary impulse, prompted by Satan, they give utterance to jealousy or evil surmising, expressing that which they do not really believe; but the expression reacts on the thoughts. They are deceived by their words, and come to believe that true which was spoken at Satan's instigation. Having once expressed an opinion or decision, they are often too proud to retract it, and try to prove themselves in the right, until they come to believe that they are. It is dangerous to utter a word of doubt, dangerous to question and criticize divine light. The habit of careless and irreverent criticism reacts upon the

character, in fostering irreverence and unbelief. Many a man indulging this habit has gone on unconscious of danger, until he was ready to criticize and reject the work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, 'Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.' - *DA 323*

- ▶ "Where the heart is purified and refined, and made fit for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the tongue will be sanctified to the glory of God.... You can surround your souls with an atmosphere that will be like breezes from the heavenly Eden. Open your heart to the Lord Jesus. Guard your tongue. Let not your tongue run at random in jesting and joking. These are signs that your heart needs to be cleansed from its defilement.... Our words index the state of our heart; and whether men talk much or little, their words express the character of their thoughts. A man's character may be quite accurately estimated by the nature of his conversation. Sound, truthful words have the right ring in them." - *YI, JUNE 13, 1895*
- ▶ "Words once spoken, deeds once done, can never be recalled. Angels have registered both the good and the evil. The mightiest conqueror upon the earth cannot call back the record of even a single day. Our acts, our words, even our most secret motives, all have their weight in deciding our destiny for weal or woe. Though they may be forgotten by us, they will bear their testimony to justify or condemn.
"As the features of the countenance are reproduced with unerring accuracy on the polished plate of the artist, so the character is faithfully delineated in the books above. Yet how little solicitude is felt concerning that record which is to meet the gaze of heavenly beings. Could the veil which separates the visible from the invisible world be swept back, and the children of men behold an angel recording every word and deed, which they must meet again in the judgment, how many words that are daily uttered would remain unspoken, how many deeds would remain undone." - *GC 486,487*
- ▶ "It is a solemn thing to die, but a far more solemn thing to live. Every thought and word and deed of our lives will meet us again. What we make of ourselves in probationary time, that we must remain to all eternity. Death brings dissolution to the body, but makes no change in the character. The coming of Christ does not change our characters; it only fixes them forever beyond all change." - *5T 466*
- ▶ **VS.13-18 - EARTHLY WISDOM vs HEAVENLY WISDOM**
- ▶ **8T 239-243 - ONE WITH CHRIST IN GOD**
- ▶ "Read carefully and prayerfully the third chapter of James, especially verses 13-18. The whole chapter is an eye-opener, if men wish to open their eyes." - *Lt 55, 1895 / PM 127*
- ▶ "It is not the opposition of the world that endangers us the most; it is the evil cherished in the hearts of professed believers that works our most grievous disaster and most retards the progress of God's cause. There is no surer way of weakening our spirituality than by being envious, suspicious of one another, full of faultfinding and evil surmising. {James 3:15-18 quoted}
"Harmony and union existing among men of varied dispositions is the strongest witness that can be borne that God has sent His Son into the world to save sinners. It is our privilege to bear this witness. But, in order to do this, we must place ourselves under Christ's command. Our characters must be molded in harmony with His character, our wills must be surrendered to His will. Then we shall work together without a thought of collision." - *8T 242,243*

JAMES 4

- ▶ **VS.1-10 - REPROOF OF PASSION & PRIDE**
 - 1) VS. 1-5 - OUR PASSIONS, THE SOURCE OF OUR TROUBLES
 - 2) VS. 6-10 - EXHORTATION TO HUMILITY

▸ **1) VS.1-5 - THE SOURCE OF OUR TROUBLES**

a) VS.1-2a - SELF-WILLED

b) VS.2b-3 - THEY PRAY NOT & WHEN THEY DO THEY PRAY FOR THE WRONG THINGS

c) VS.4 - DIVIDED LOYALTIES / WORLDLINESS

d) VS.5 - THE SPIRIT OF ENVY

READ - MY TRANSLATION OF JAMES 4:1-6; AH 179; OFC 56

- **VS.1** - FROM WHERE COME THESE QUARRELS & FUEDS AMOUNG YOU? ARE THEY NOT FROM YOUR SELFISH DESIRES THAT WAGE WAR IN YOUR MEMBERS?
- **VS.2** - YOU PASSIONATELY LUST AFTER, BUT YOUR SELFISH DESIRES ARE NOT GRATIFIED. SO YOU WAGE WAR. YOU DESIRE TO HAVE YOUR WAY, BUT YOU CANNOT OBTAIN IT. YOU CONSTANTLY FIGHT & WAR WITH EACH OTHER, YET YOU ARE UNSUCCESSFUL, WHY? BECAUSE YOU DON'T PRAY.
- **VS.3** - AND WHEN YOU DO PRAY, YOU DON'T RECEIVE, WHY? BECAUSE YOUR PRAYERS ARE NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOD'S WILL. YOU ONLY PRAY TO HAVE YOUR SELFISH DESIRES FULFILLED.
- **VS.4** - YOU ADULTERERS & ADULTERESSES, YOU HAVE BROKEN YOUR MARRIAGE CONTRACT WITH GOD. DON'T YOU KNOW THAT TO BE FRIENDS WITH THE WORLD IS TO MANIFEST HATRED TOWARDS GOD?
- **VS.5** - DO YOU THINK THE SCRIPTURE SPEAKS IN VAIN or FALSELY WHEN IT STATES, THE SPIRIT OF THE WORLD THAT DWELLS IN MAN PASSIONATELY DESIRES TO LEAD US TO ENVY?
- **VS.6** - BUT RATHER GOD GIVES EXCEEDINGLY ABUNDANT & MIGHTY, STRONG GRACE. THEREFORE HE SAYS IN PROVERBS 3:34, GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. - SEE ALSO PSALM 18:27
- "The cause of division and discord in families and in the church is separation from Christ. To come near to Christ is to come near to one another. The secret of true unity in the church and in the family is not diplomacy, not management, not a superhuman effort to overcome difficulties--though there will be much of this to do--but union with Christ.
"Picture a large circle, from the edge of which are many lines all running to the center. The nearer these lines approach the center, the nearer they are to one another.
"Thus it is in the Christian life. The closer we come to Christ, the nearer we shall be to one another. God is glorified as His people unite in harmonious action." - *AH 179*
- "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 1 John 4:7.
"From the Christian standpoint, love is power. Intellectual and spiritual strength are involved in this principle. Pure love has special efficacy to do good, and can do nothing but good. It prevents discord and misery and brings the truest happiness. Wealth is often an influence to corrupt and destroy; force is strong to do hurt; but truth and goodness are the properties of pure love.
"A man at peace with God and his fellow men cannot be made miserable. Envy will not be in his heart; evil surmising will find no room there; hatred cannot exist. The heart in harmony with God is lifted above the annoyances and trials of this life.
"That which Satan plants in the heart—envy, jealousy, evil surmising, evil speaking, impatience, prejudice, selfishness, covetousness, and vanity—must be uprooted. If these evil things are allowed to remain in the soul,

they will bear fruit by which many shall be defiled. Oh, how many cultivate the poisonous plants, that kill out the precious fruits of love and defile the soul!

"Only the love that flows from the heart of Christ can heal. Only He in whom that love flows, even as the sap in the tree or the blood in the body, can restore the wounded soul.

"Love's agencies have wonderful power, for they are divine. The soft answer that "turneth away wrath," the love that "suffereth long, and is kind," the charity that "covereth a multitude of sins" would we learn the lesson, with what power for healing would our lives be gifted! How life would be transformed, and the earth become a very likeness and foretaste of heaven!" - *OFC 50-old edition, 56-new edition.*

- ▶ JAMES 4 - 2) VS.6-10 - EXHORTATION TO HUMILITY
- ▶ NOTE: VS.6-10 - THEY ARE PROUD
- ▶ VS.11-12 - EVIL SPEAKING; HE WHO JUDGES HIS BROTHER USURPS THE ROLE OF THE LAW & THE LAWGIVER
- ▶ NOTE: SEE ROM. 7:7; JN. 16:7,8
- ▶ VS.13-17 - A WARNING AGAINST PRESUMPTUOUS BOASTING
- ▶ NOTE: SEE PS. 37:23; PROV. 3:5,6; MATT. 6:33

JAMES 5

▶ VS.1-6 - LAST DAY EVENTS

"In this generation the desire for gain is the absorbing passion. Wealth is often obtained by fraud. There are multitudes struggling with poverty, compelled to labor hard for small wages, unable to secure even the barest necessities of life. Toil and deprivation, with no hope of better things, make their burden heavy. Careworn and oppressed, they know not where to turn for relief. And all this that the rich may support their extravagance or indulge their desire to hoard!

"Love of money and love of display have made this world as a den of thieves and robbers. The Scriptures picture the greed and oppression that will prevail just before Christ's second coming." James 5:1, 3-6 quoted. - *PK 651*

- ▶ "The intense passion for money getting, the thirst for display, the luxury and extravagance--all are forces that, with the great mass of mankind, are turning the mind from life's true purpose. They are opening the door to a thousand evils. Many, absorbed in their interest in worldly treasures, become insensible to the claims of God and the needs of their fellow men. They regard their wealth as a means of glorifying self. They add house to house and land to land; they fill their homes with luxury, while all about them are human beings in misery and crime, in disease and death.

"By every species of oppression and extortion, men are piling up colossal fortunes, while the cries of starving humanity are coming up before God. There are multitudes struggling with poverty, compelled to labor hard for small wages, unable to secure the barest necessities of life. Toil and deprivation, with no hope of better things, make their burden heavy. When pain and sickness are added, the burden is almost unbearable. Care-worn and oppressed, they know not where to turn for relief.

"The Scriptures describe the condition of the world just before Christ's second coming. James the apostle pictures the greed and oppression that will prevail. He says: James 5:1-6 quoted.

"This is a picture of what exists today. 'Judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey.'" Isaiah 59:14, 15. - *9T 90, 91*

- ▶ "There are men in the ranks of Sabbathkeepers who are holding fast their earthly treasure. It is their god, their idol; and they love their money, their farms, their cattle, and their merchandise better than they love their Saviour, who for their sakes became poor, that they, through His poverty, might be made rich. They exalt their earthly treasures, considering them of greater value than the souls of men. Will such have the "Well done" spoken to

them? No; never. The irrevocable sentence, "Depart," will fall upon their startled senses. Christ has no use for them. They have been slothful servants, hoarding the means God has given them, while their fellow men have perished in darkness and error.

My soul feels to the very depths on this point. Will the men of means sleep on until it is too late? until God shall reject them and their treasures, saying, 'Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you.' What a revelation will be made in the day of God, when hoarded treasures, and wages kept back by fraud, cry against their possessors, who were professedly good Christians, and flattered themselves that they were keeping the law of God, when they loved gain better than they loved the purchase of Christ's blood, the souls of men. - *RH, March 14, 1878*

▸ **VS.7-12 - PATIENCE UNTO THE COMING OF CHRIST**

- 1) THE EARLY & LATTER RAIN
- 2) THE PATIENCE OF PROPHETS & JOB

THE EARLY RAIN

- THE EARLY RAIN IS TO GIVE US COMPLETE VICTORY OVER SIN; TO RID US OF EVERY HEREDITARY & CULTIVATED TENDENCY TO EVIL. THIS INCLUDES EVERY PROPENSITY TO SIN. IT IS TO DEVELOP & BRING US TO FULL MATURITY OF CHRISTIAN CHARACTER; TO RESTORE US TO THE PERFECTION OF ADAM'S CHARACTER BEFORE THE FALL. THE EARLY RAIN IS THE INDISPENSABLE PREPARATION FOR THE SEAL OF GOD, THE LATTER RAIN, THE LOUD CRY & THE SECOND COMING.
- DA 671; 1T 619; YI, JUNE 7, 1894; 1T 307; EW 71; 5T 214; 5T 216; RH, APRIL 10, 1894; RH, JULY 21, 1896; RH, MARCH 22, 1892; RH, FEBURARY 25, 1890; RH, MARCH 22, 1887; RH, DECEMBER 12, 1908; 6BC 1055; 1T 187, 188; 7BC 943; DA 391; COL 69; TM 506; SC 126; RH, OCTOBER 25, 1895

THE LATTER RAIN

- 1) THE LATTER RAIN RIPENS THE GRAIN, "THE COMPLETION OF THE WORK OF GOD'S GRACE IN THE SOUL" & PREPARES IT FOR THE SICKLE
TM 506; RH, MARCH 2, 1897; ED 106; 4T 367; IHP 186
- 2) THE LATTER RAIN SEALS GOD'S PEOPLE, FIXING THEIR CHARACTER FOREVER
5T 216; 5T 475,476; FILB 287
- 3) THE LATTER RAIN EMPOWERS & FITS GOD'S PEOPLE TO GIVE THE LOUD CRY
EW 85,86; 1T 186; TM 91,92
- 4) THE LATTER RAIN PREPARES THE PEOPLE OF GOD FOR THE TIME OF TROUBLE
1T 353; EW 85,86; EW 277
- 5) THE LATTER RAIN PREPARES THE PEOPLE OF GOD FOR THE COMING OF CHRIST
AA 55; TM 506
- 6) THE LATTER RAIN PREPARES THE PEOPLE OF GOD FOR THE FINISHING TOUCH OF IMMORTALITY & TRANSLATION
1T 187; 2T 505; 2T 355
- 7) THE LATTER RAIN PREPARES THE PEOPLE OF GOD "TO LIVE IN THE SIGHT OF A HOLY GOD."
EW 71; DA 671

‣ **2) THE PATIENCE OF PROPHETS & JOB**

‣ READ - MATT. 5:5; JAMES 1:4; 2 PET. 1:5-8; 4T 116; 2SM 165,166; ML 97

‣ The more we learn in the school of Christ, the more eager we are to advance in that knowledge. All our acquirements are of little value unless the character is ennobled by religion.... The Lord frequently places us in difficult positions to stimulate us to greater exertion. In His providence special annoyances sometimes occur to test our patience and faith. - *4T 116*

‣ We are traveling, strangers and pilgrims, traveling to a better country....Heaven's path is too narrow for rank and riches to ride in state, too narrow for the play of ambition, too steep and rugged for carriages of ease to climb. Toil, patience, self-sacrifice, reproach, poverty, hard work, enduring the contradiction of sinners against Himself, was the portion of Christ, and it must be the portion of man if he ever enters the Paradise of God. - *2SM 165,166*

‣ Some of us have a nervous temperament, and are naturally as quick as a flash to think and to act; but let no one think that he cannot learn to become patient. Patience is a plant that will make rapid growth if carefully cultivated. By becoming thoroughly acquainted with ourselves, and then combining with the grace of God a firm determination on our part, we may be conquerors, and become perfect in all things, wanting in nothing. - *ML 97*

‣ **JAMES 5 - VS.13-18 - PRAYER FOR THE SICK**

‣ **MH 225-233 - PRAYER FOR THE SICK**

‣ **VS.19-20 - REDEEM THOSE IN ERROR**