

# JAMES

## GREETING

**1** James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ:  
To the twelve tribes dispersed abroad.<sup>a</sup>  
Greetings.

## TRIALS AND MATURITY

**2** Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, **3** because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. **4** And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

**5** Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God — who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly — and it will be given to him.

**6** But let him ask in faith without doubting.<sup>b</sup> For the doubter is like the surging sea, driven and tossed by the wind. **7** That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord, **8** being double-minded and unstable in all his ways.<sup>c</sup>

**9** Let the brother of humble circumstances boast in his exaltation, **10** but let the rich boast in his humiliation because he will pass away like a flower of the field. **11** For the sun rises and, together with the scorching wind, dries up the grass; its flower falls off, and its beautiful appearance perishes. In the same way, the rich person will wither away while pursuing his activities.

**12** Blessed is the one who endures trials, because when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life that God<sup>d</sup> has promised to those who love him.

**13** No one undergoing a trial should say, “I am being tempted by God,” since God is not tempted by evil, and he himself doesn’t tempt anyone. **14** But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desire. **15** Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.

**16** Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. **17** Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

**18** By his own choice, he gave us birth by the word of truth so that we would be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

## HEARING AND DOING THE WORD

**19** My dear brothers and sisters, understand this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger,<sup>e</sup> for human anger does not accomplish God’s righteousness. **21** Therefore, ridding yourselves of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent,<sup>f</sup> humbly receive the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

**22** But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. **23** Because if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like someone looking at his own face<sup>g</sup> in a mirror. **24** For he looks at himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of person he was. **25** But the one who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer who works — this person will be blessed in what he does.

**26** If anyone<sup>h</sup> thinks he is religious without controlling his tongue, his religion is useless and he deceives himself. **27** Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

## THE SIN OF FAVORITISM

**2** My brothers and sisters, do not show favoritism as you hold on to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ. **2** For if someone comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and a poor person dressed in filthy clothes also comes in, **3** if you look with favor on the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Sit here in a good place,” and yet you say to the poor person, “Stand over there,” or “Sit here on the floor by my footstool,” **4** haven’t you made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

**5** Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Didn’t God choose the poor in this world to be rich

<sup>a</sup>1:1 Gk *diaspora*; Jewish people scattered throughout Gentile lands <sup>b</sup>1:6 Or *without divided loyalties* <sup>c</sup>1:8 Or *in all his conduct* <sup>d</sup>1:12 Other mss read *that the Lord* <sup>e</sup>1:21 Or *the abundance of evil* <sup>f</sup>1:23 Or *at his natural face* <sup>g</sup>1:26 Other mss add *among you*

in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup> Yet you have dishonored the poor. Don't the rich oppress you and drag you into court? <sup>7</sup> Don't they blaspheme the good name that was invoked over you?

<sup>8</sup> Indeed, if you fulfill the royal law prescribed in the Scripture, **Love your neighbor as yourself**, <sup>a</sup> you are doing well. <sup>9</sup> If, however, you show favoritism, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup> For whoever keeps the entire law, and yet stumbles at one point, is guilty of breaking it all. <sup>11</sup> For he who said, **Do not commit adultery**, <sup>b</sup> also said, **Do not murder**. <sup>c</sup> So if you do not commit adultery, but you murder, you are a lawbreaker.

<sup>12</sup> Speak and act as those who are to be judged by the law of freedom. <sup>13</sup> For judgment is without mercy to the one who has not shown mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

#### FAITH AND WORKS

<sup>14</sup> What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Can such faith save him?

<sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is without clothes and lacks daily food <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, stay warm, and be well fed," but you don't give them what the body needs, what good is it? <sup>17</sup> In the same way faith, if it doesn't have works, is dead by itself.

<sup>18</sup> But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." <sup>d</sup> Show me your faith without works, and I will show you faith by my works. <sup>19</sup> You believe that God is one. Good! Even the demons believe — and they shudder.

<sup>20</sup> Senseless person! Are you willing to learn that faith without works is useless? <sup>21</sup> Wasn't Abraham our father justified by works in offering Isaac his son on the altar? <sup>22</sup> You see that faith was active together with his works, and by works, faith was made complete, <sup>23</sup> and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, **Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness**, <sup>e</sup> and he was called God's friend. <sup>24</sup> You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. <sup>25</sup> In the same way, wasn't Rahab the prostitute also justified by works in receiving the messengers and sending them out by a different route? <sup>26</sup> For just as the

body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

#### CONTROLLING THE TONGUE

**3** Not many should become teachers, my brothers, <sup>f</sup> because you know that we will receive a stricter judgment. <sup>2</sup> For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is mature, able also to control the whole body. <sup>3</sup> Now if we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we direct their whole bodies. <sup>4</sup> And consider ships: Though very large and driven by fierce winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup> So too, though the tongue is a small part of the body, it boasts great things. Consider how a small fire sets ablaze a large forest. <sup>6</sup> And the tongue is a fire. The tongue, a world of unrighteousness, is placed <sup>g</sup> among our members. It stains the whole body, sets the course of life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup> Every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and fish is tamed and has been tamed by humankind, <sup>8</sup> but no one can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup> With the tongue we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in God's likeness. <sup>10</sup> Blessing and cursing come out of the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, these things should not be this way. <sup>11</sup> Does a spring pour out sweet and bitter water from the same opening? <sup>12</sup> Can a fig tree produce olives, my brothers and sisters, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a saltwater spring yield fresh water.

#### THE WISDOM FROM ABOVE

<sup>13</sup> Who among you is wise and understanding? By his good conduct he should show that his works are done in the gentleness that comes from wisdom. <sup>14</sup> But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your heart, don't boast and deny the truth. <sup>15</sup> Such wisdom does not come down from above but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. <sup>16</sup> For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there is disorder and every evil practice. <sup>17</sup> But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peace-loving, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without pretense. <sup>18</sup> And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who cultivate peace.

<sup>a</sup>2:8 Lv 19:18 <sup>b</sup>2:11 Ex 20:14; Dt 5:18 <sup>c</sup>2:11 Ex 20:13; Dt 5:17 <sup>d</sup>2:18 The quotation may end here or after v. 18b or v. 19.

<sup>e</sup>2:23 Gn 15:6 <sup>f</sup>3:1 Or *brothers and sisters* <sup>g</sup>3:6 Or *places itself, or appoints itself*

## PROUD OR HUMBLE

**4** What is the source of wars and fights among you? Don't they come from your passions that wage war within you?<sup>a</sup> <sup>2</sup>You desire and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and wage war.<sup>b</sup> You do not have because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and don't receive because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

<sup>4</sup>You adulterous people!<sup>c</sup> Don't you know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? So whoever wants to be the friend of the world becomes the enemy of God. <sup>5</sup>Or do you think it's without reason that the Scripture says: The spirit he made to dwell in us envies intensely?<sup>d</sup>

<sup>6</sup>But he gives greater grace. Therefore he says:

**God resists the proud,  
but gives grace to the humble.<sup>e</sup>**

<sup>7</sup>Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup>Be miserable and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup>Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

<sup>11</sup>Don't criticize one another, brothers and sisters. Anyone who defames or judges a fellow believer<sup>f</sup> defames and judges the law. If you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. <sup>12</sup>There is one lawgiver and judge<sup>g</sup> who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

## OUR WILL AND GOD'S WILL

<sup>13</sup>Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will travel to such and such a city and spend a year there and do business and make a profit." <sup>14</sup>Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring — what your life will be! For you are like vapor that appears for a little while, then vanishes.

<sup>15</sup>Instead, you should say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." <sup>16</sup>But as it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. <sup>17</sup>So it is sin to know the good and yet not do it.

## WARNING TO THE RICH

**5** Come now, you rich people, weep and wail over the miseries that are coming on you. <sup>2</sup>Your wealth has rotted and your clothes are moth-eaten. <sup>3</sup>Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have stored up treasure in the last days. <sup>4</sup>Look! The pay that you withheld from the workers who mowed your fields cries out, and the outcry of the harvesters has reached the ears of the Lord of Hosts.<sup>h</sup> <sup>5</sup>You have lived luxuriously on the earth and have indulged yourselves. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. <sup>6</sup>You have condemned, you have murdered the righteous, who does not resist you.

## WAITING FOR THE LORD

<sup>7</sup>Therefore, brothers and sisters, be patient until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth and is patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, because the Lord's coming is near.

<sup>9</sup>Brothers and sisters, do not complain about one another, so that you will not be judged. Look, the judge stands at the door!

<sup>10</sup>Brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the Lord's name as an example of suffering and patience. <sup>11</sup>See, we count as blessed those who have endured.<sup>i</sup> You have heard of Job's endurance and have seen the outcome that the Lord brought about — the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

## TRUTHFUL SPEECH

<sup>12</sup>Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "yes" mean "yes," and your "no" mean "no," so that you won't fall under judgment.<sup>j</sup>

## EFFECTIVE PRAYER

<sup>13</sup>Is anyone among you suffering? He should pray. Is anyone cheerful? He should sing praises. <sup>14</sup>Is anyone among you sick? He should call for the elders of the church, and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup>The prayer of faith

<sup>a</sup>4:1 Or war in your members <sup>b</sup>4:2 Or You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and wage war. <sup>c</sup>4:4 Lit Adulteresses <sup>d</sup>4:5 Or Scripture says: He jealously yearns for the spirit he made to live in us?, or Scripture says: The Spirit he made to dwell in us longs jealously? <sup>e</sup>4:6 Pr 3:34 <sup>f</sup>4:11 Or his brother or sister <sup>g</sup>4:12 Other mss omit and judge <sup>h</sup>5:4 Gk Sabaoth; or the Lord of Armies <sup>i</sup>5:11 Or persevered <sup>j</sup>5:12 Other mss read fall into hypocrisy

will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up; if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect. <sup>17</sup> Elijah was a human being as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and for three years and six months it

did not rain on the land. <sup>18</sup> Then he prayed again, and the sky gave rain and the land produced its fruit.

<sup>19</sup> My brothers and sisters, if any among you strays from the truth, and someone turns him back, <sup>20</sup> let that person know that whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

# Where to Turn

When you are blue .....	Psalm 42:5 .....	494
When tempted to do wrong .....	Matthew 4:1-11 .....	857
When you face physical danger .....	Acts 27:13-26 .....	994
When you are discouraged .....	2 Corinthians 1:3-11 .....	1023
When you are bored .....	Psalm 103 .....	528
When you need forgiveness .....	Psalm 51 .....	499
When nothing seems to be going right .....	Psalm 37:1-4 .....	490
When you worry about having enough of life's necessities ....	Psalm 37:25-26 .....	491
When you are afraid .....	Psalm 27 .....	484
When you are lonely .....	Psalm 13 .....	477
When you are anxious for those you love .....	Psalm 107 .....	532
When you sin .....	1 John 1:8-10 .....	1082
When you need restoration .....	Luke 15:11-24 .....	928
When you are feeling shame .....	Proverbs 28:13 .....	581
When you feel no one understands .....	Hebrews 4:14-16 .....	1063
When you are tempted to be stingy .....	Proverbs 11:25 .....	563
When you plan your budget .....	2 Corinthians 9:6-9 .....	1027
When you have to leave home .....	Psalm 121 .....	543
When you are tired .....	Psalm 127:1-2 .....	544
When friends seem to turn on you .....	Psalm 55 .....	500
When you lose a loved one .....	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 .....	1047
When you are afraid of death .....	Psalm 23 .....	483
When you want to take revenge .....	Romans 12:19 .....	1007
When God seems far away .....	Psalm 139 .....	548
When you have failed God .....	2 Timothy 2:12-13 .....	1055
When you feel abandoned .....	Hebrews 13:5 .....	1070
When you need more than human help .....	Psalm 46 .....	496
When your past haunts you .....	Colossians 1:21-22 .....	1043
When you need to get your head on right .....	Philippians 4:8 .....	1042
When you think you are the only one being tempted .....	1 Corinthians 10:13 .....	1017
When you need to know how to stay on the right path .....	Psalm 119:9-11 .....	538
When temptation seems stronger than you are .....	Ephesians 6:10-18 .....	1039
When the devil comes after you .....	James 4:7 .....	1073
When you are sick .....	James 5:14 .....	1073
When you feel weak .....	2 Corinthians 12:9 .....	1029
When you experience trouble .....	2 Corinthians 1:3-11 .....	1023
When you have left God .....	Luke 15:11-32 .....	928
When you're feeling bitter .....	Hebrews 12:15 .....	1069
When someone has wronged you .....	Colossians 3:13 .....	1044
When you are anxious .....	Luke 12:22-34 .....	924
When you need guidance .....	Proverbs 3:5-6 .....	555
When you feel sorry for yourself .....	Psalm 102 .....	527
When you are jealous of others' success .....	Proverbs 14:30 .....	567
When you doubt that God wants to hear from you .....	Luke 18:1-8 .....	930

When you need to know the ABCs of prayer .....	Luke 11:1-4 .....	922
When you feel like giving up .....	Luke 11:5-13 .....	922
When your faith feels insufficient .....	Mark 9:14-24 .....	896
When you fear failure .....	Psalm 37:23-24 .....	491
When you experience a power shortage .....	Ephesians 1:19-20 .....	1036
When your hopes are dashed .....	Psalm 34:18 .....	489
When trouble comes in wave after wave .....	James 1:2-4 .....	1071
When you doubt your worth .....	Psalm 139:13-18 .....	548
When reading the Scripture seems dull .....	1 Thessalonians 2:13 .....	1046
When people misread your intentions .....	Matthew 5:11-12 .....	858
When you are prideful .....	Romans 12:3 .....	1006
When you doubt that God is able .....	Ephesians 3:20 .....	1037
When you are angry .....	Ephesians 4:26-27 .....	1038
When you see evil people prosper .....	Psalm 37:1-3 .....	490
When you are tempted to look out only for #1 .....	Luke 12:13-21 .....	924
When you carry a heavy load .....	Matthew 11:28-30 .....	865
When you need direction .....	Psalm 25:9 .....	484
When you worry .....	Matthew 6:34 .....	860
When selfishness gets you in its grip .....	Matthew 16:25-26 .....	871
When you suffer for doing right .....	1 Peter 1:6-7 .....	1075
When you doubt that God loves you .....	John 3:16 .....	943
When you think that God owes you mercy .....	Romans 2:4 .....	998
When the evil in the world seems overwhelming .....	Romans 8:18-39 .....	1003
When evil seems greater than God .....	Revelation 19:6 .....	1101
When you don't feel at peace with God .....	Romans 5:1-5 .....	1000
When someone has harmed you .....	Matthew 6:14-15 .....	860
When God seems to delay .....	John 11:1-44 .....	953
When you need wisdom .....	James 1:5-8 .....	1071
When you are tempted to look down on others .....	Matthew 7:1-6 .....	860
When there are troubles with your wife .....	Ephesians 5:25-30 .....	1039
When there are troubles with your husband .....	Ephesians 5:22-24 .....	1039
When you are tempted to commit sexual sins .....	1 Corinthians 6:18-20 .....	1014
When God does not seem to act .....	Luke 24:13-35 .....	939
When you seek assurance of God's purpose for you .....	Psalm 138:7-8 .....	548

# Table of Weights and Measures

## Weights

Biblical Unit	Language	Biblical Measure	U.S. Equivalent	Metric Equivalent	Various Translations
Gerah	Hebrew	1/20 shekel	1/50 ounce	.6 gram	gerah; oboli
Bekah	Hebrew	1/2 shekel or 10 gerahs	1/5 ounce	5.7 grams	bekah; half a shekel; quarter ounce; fifty cents
Pim	Hebrew	2/3 shekel	1/3 ounce	7.6 grams	2/3 of a shekel; quarter
Shekel	Hebrew	2 bekahs	2/5 ounce	11.5 grams	shekel; piece; dollar; fifty dollars
Litra (pound)	Greco-Roman	30 shekels	12 ounces	.4 kilogram	pound; pounds
Mina	Hebrew/Greek	50 shekels	1 1/4 pounds	.6 kilogram	mina; pound
Talent	Hebrew/Greek	3,000 shekels or 60 minas	75 pounds/ 88 pounds	34 kilograms/ 40 kilograms	talent/talents; 100 pounds

## Length

Handbreadth	Hebrew	1/2 cubit or 1/3 span	3 inches	8 centimeters	handbreadth; three inches; four inches
Span	Hebrew	1/2 cubit or 3 handbreadths	9 inches	23 centimeters	span
Cubit/Pechys	Hebrew/Greek	2 spans	18 inches	.5 meter	cubit/cubits; yard; half a yard; foot
Fathom	Greco-Roman	4 cubits	2 yards	2 meters	fathom; six feet
Kalamos	Greco-Roman	6 cubits	3 yards	3 meters	rod; reed; measuring rod
Stadion	Greco-Roman	1/8 milion or 400 cubits	1/8 mile	185 meters	miles; furlongs; race
Milion	Greco-Roman	8 stadia	1,620 yards	1.5 kilometers	mile

## Dry Measure

Xestes	Greco-Roman	1/2 cab	1 1/6 pints	.5 liter	pots; pitchers; kettles; copper pots; copper bowls; vessels of bronze
Cab	Hebrew	1/18 ephah	1 quart	1 liter	cab; kab
Choinix	Greco-Roman	1/18 ephah	1 quart	1 liter	measure; quart
Omer	Hebrew	1/10 ephah	2 quarts	2 liters	omer; tenth of a deal; tenth of an ephah; six pints

**Dry Measure**

Biblical Unit	Language	Biblical Measure	U.S. Equivalent	Metric Equivalent	Various Translations
Seah/Saton	Hebrew/ Greek	1/3 ephah	7 quarts	7.3 liters	measures; pecks; large amounts
Modios	Greco-Roman	4 omers	1 peck or 1/4 bushel	9 liters	bushel; bowl; peck
Ephah [Bath]	Hebrew	10 omers	3/8 bushel	22 liters	bushel; peck; deal; part; measure; six pints; seven pints
Lethek	Hebrew	5 ephahs	3 bushels	110 liters	half homer; half sack
Kor [Homer]/ Koros	Hebrew/ Greek	10 ephahs	6 bushels or 200 quarts	220 liters/ 525 liters	cor; homer; sack; measures; bushels

**Liquid Measure**

Log	Hebrew	1/2 bath	1/3 quart	.3 liter	log; pint; cotulus
Xestes	Greco-Roman	1/8 hin	1 1/6 pints	.5 liter	pots; pitchers; kettles; copper bowls; vessels of bronze
Hin	Hebrew	1/6 bath	1 gallon or 4 quarts	4 liters	hin; pints
Bath/Batos	Hebrew/ Greek	1 ephah	6 gallons	22 liters	gallon(s); barrels; liquid measures
Metretes	Greco-Roman	10 hins	10 gallons	39 liters	firkins; gallons