

JAMES

¹ James, the servant of God, and of our Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve kindreds, that be in *(the)* scattering abroad, health. *(James, the servant of God, and of our Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes, who be in the scattering abroad, or in the dispersion, or the Diaspora, greetings.)*

² My brethren, deem ye *(it)* all joy, when ye fall into diverse temptations, *(My brothers, judge it to be most joyful, when ye undergo different tests,)*

³ witting that the proving of your faith worketh patience; *(knowing that the proving of your faith produceth patience, or increaseth endurance;)*

⁴ and patience hath a perfect work, that ye be perfect and whole, and fail in nothing.

⁵ And if any of you needeth wisdom, ask he of God, which giveth to all men largely *(or who giveth generously to everyone)*, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given to him.

⁶ But ask he in faith, and doubt nothing; for he that doubteth, is like to a wave of the sea, which is moved and borne about of the wind. *(But ask he with faith, and do not doubt; for he who doubteth, is like a wave of the sea, which is moved and carried about by the wind.)*

⁷ Therefore guess not that man, that he shall take anything of the Lord. *(And so do not let that man think, that he shall receive anything from the Lord.)*

⁸ A man double in soul is unstable in all his ways.

⁹ And a meek brother have glory in his enhancing, (*And a humble man have glory in his exalting,*)

¹⁰ and a rich man in his lowness; for as the flower of grass he shall pass (*away*).

¹¹ The sun rose up with heat, and dried the grass [*or the hay*], and the flower of it felled down, and the fairness of his cheer perished (*or and the beauty of his face perished*); and so a rich man withereth in his ways.

¹² Blessed is the man, that suffereth temptation, (*or Happy is the man, who undergoeth testing*); for when he shall be proved, he shall receive the crown of life, which God promised to men that love him.

¹³ No man when he is tempted, say, that he is tempted of God; for why God is not a tempter of evil things, for he tempteth no man. (*Let no man say, when he is tempted or tested, that he was tempted or tested by God; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and he tempteth no one.*)

¹⁴ But each man is tempted, drawn (*away*) and stirred, of his own coveting. [*Soothly each man is tempted of (or by) his own coveting, drawn (away) from reason, and snared, or deceived.*](*But each person is tempted or tested, drawn away and stirred, by his own lusts and envies.*)

¹⁵ Afterward coveting [*or Then coveting*], when it hath conceived, bringeth forth sin; but sin, when it is [*ful*] filled, (*en*)gendereth death.

16 Therefore, my most dearworthy brethren, do not ye err.

17 Each good gift, and each perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is none other changing, nor overshadowing of reward. [*+Each best thing given, and all perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom is not any changing, neither shadowing of whileness, or (of) time.*]

18 For willfully he begat us by the word of truth, that we be a beginning of his creature(s). (*For willingly, or by free will, he begat us by the Word of Truth, so that we hold the first rank among all his creatures.*)

19 Know ye, my brethren most (*be*)loved, be each man swift to hear, but slow to speak, and slow to wrath;

20 for the wrath of man worketh not the rightwiseness of God.

21 For which thing cast ye away all uncleanness, and plenty of malice, and in mildness (*or and in meekness and humility*), receive ye the word that is planted, that may save your souls (*or that can save your souls*).

22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

23 For if any man is an hearer of the word, and not a doer, this shall be likened to a man that beholdeth the cheer of his birth in a mirror (*or he shall be like a man who seeth his face in a mirror*);

24 for he beheld himself, and went away, and anon he forgot which *[or what]* he was *(or and at once he forgot what he was)*.

25 But he that beholdeth into the law of perfect freedom, and dwelleth in it, and is not made a forgetful hearer, but a doer of work(s), this shall be blessed in his deed(s).

26 And if any man guesseth himself to be religious, and refraineth not his tongue, but deceiveth his heart, the religion of him is vain *(or his religion is empty and useless)*.

27 A clean religion, and unwemmed with God and the Father, is this, to visit fatherless and motherless children, and widows in their tribulation, and to keep himself undefouled from this world. *(A clean religion, and unspotted, or without blemish, with God the Father, is this, to visit fatherless and motherless children, and widows in their distress, and to keep himself undefiled from this world.)*

CHAPTER 2

1 My brethren, do not ye have the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory, in *(the)* acception of persons. *[My brethren, do not in acception, or taking, of persons, have the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory.](My brothers, ye who have faith in our Lord Jesus Christ in glory, do not favour, or have respect for, certain people over others.)*

2 For if a man that hath a golden ring, and in a fair clothing, *(or For if a man who hath a gold ring, and beautiful clothes)*, cometh in your

company, and a poor man entereth in a foul clothing,

³ and if ye behold into him that is clothed with clear clothing, and if ye say to him, Sit thou here well, (*or and if ye see him who is clothed with beautiful clothes, and ye say to him, Sit thou here in this favoured place*); but to the poor man ye say, Stand thou there, either sit under the stool of my feet;

⁴ whether ye deem not with yourselves, and be made doomsmen of wicked thoughts? (*do not ye judge, and make yourselves judges, with your wicked thoughts?*)

⁵ Hear ye, my most dearworthy brethren, whether God chose not poor men in this world, rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom, that God promised to men that love him?

⁶ But ye have despised the poor man. Whether rich men oppress not you by power, and they draw you to dooms? (*or and do they not drag you to the courts?*)

⁷ Whether they blaspheme not the good name, that is called to help on you? [*Whether they blaspheme not the good name, that is in-called of you?*](*Do they not blaspheme the good name, that you call upon for help?*)

⁸ Nevertheless if ye perform the King's law, by (*the*) scriptures, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well.

⁹ But if ye take persons, ye work sin, and be reprov'd of the law, as trespassers [*or as transgressors*]. (*But if ye favour, or have respect*

for, certain people over others, ye work sin, and be rebuked by the Law, as trespassers or as transgressors.)

¹⁰ And whoever keepeth all the law, but offendeth in one, he is made guilty of all (*of it*).

¹¹ For he that said, Thou shalt do no lechery [*or Thou shalt not do lechery*], said also, Thou shalt not slay; (*so*) that if thou doest no lechery, but thou slayest, thou art made [*a*] trespasser of the law.

¹² Thus speak ye, and thus do ye, as beginning to be deemed (*or to be judged*) by the law of freedom.

¹³ For why doom without mercy *is* to him, that doeth no mercy; but mercy above raiseth doom. (*For judgement without mercy is for him, who doeth no mercy; but mercy riseth above or triumpheth over judgement.*)

¹⁴ My brethren, what shall it profit, if any man say that he hath faith, but he hath not works? whether faith shall be able to save him?

¹⁵ And if a brother or sister be naked, and have need of each day's livelode [*or of each day's lifelode*], (*And if a brother or sister be naked, and have need of each day's livelihood,*)

¹⁶ and if any of you say to them, Go ye in peace, be ye made hot, and be ye [*full-*]filled; but if ye give not to them those things that be necessary to the body, what shall it profit?

¹⁷ So also faith, if it hath not works, is dead in itself.

¹⁸ But some man shall say, Thou hast faith, and I have works; show thou to me thy faith without

works, and I shall show to thee my faith of works, *(or show to me thy faith without works, and I shall show to thee my faith by my works).*

19 Thou believest, that one God is; thou doest well; and *(the)* devils believe, and *[together]* tremble.

20 But wilt thou know, thou vain man *(or O empty and useless man)*, that faith without works is idle?

21 Whether Abraham, our father, was not justified of works, *(or Was not our father Abraham justified by works)*, offering Isaac, his son, on the altar?

22 Therefore thou seest, that faith wrought with his works, and his faith was *[ful]* filled of works. *(And so thou seest, that faith was at work in his works, and his faith was fulfilled, or was brought to fruition, by his works.)*

23 And the scripture was *[ful]* filled, saying, Abraham believed to God, and it was areckoned to him to rightwiseness, and he was called the friend of God.

24 Ye see that a man is justified of works, and not of faith only. *(And so ye see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone.)*

25 In like manner, whether also Rahab, the whore, was not justified of works, *(or In like manner, was not Rahab, the whore, justified by works)*, and received the messengers, and sent them out by another way?

26 For as the body without *(the)* spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

CHAPTER 3

¹ My brethren, do not ye be made (*into*) many masters, witting that ye take the more doom. (*My brothers, do not let many of you become teachers, knowing that if ye do, ye shall receive a sterner judgement, or a greater condemnation.*)

² For all we offend in many things. If any man offendeth not in word, this is a perfect man, (*or If some man offendeth not by speaking unkindly, or harshly, then he is a perfect man*); for also he may lead about all the body with a bridle.

³ For if we put bridles into horses' mouths, for to consent to us, and (*so*) we lead about all the body of them.

⁴ And lo! ships, when they be great, and be driven of strong winds, yet they be borne about of a little rudder, where the moving of the governor will. (*And behold! ships, although they be great, and be driven by strong winds, yet they can be turned about by a little rudder, wherever the captain desireth.*)

⁵ So also the tongue is but a little member, and raiseth great things. Lo! how little fire burneth [*or kindleth*] a full great wood, (*or Behold! how a little fire burneth a very large forest.*)

⁶ And our tongue is (*a*) fire, the university of wickedness. The tongue is ordained in our members, which defouleth all the body; and it is enflamed, [*or set afire*], of hell (*or and it is set on fire from hell*), and enflameth the wheel of our birth.

⁷ And all the kind(s) of beasts, and of fowls, and of serpents, and of others is chastised, and

those be made tame of man's kind (*or and they all can be tamed by mankind*); [*Soothly all kind(s) of beasts, and fowls, and serpents, and of others, be overcome, or under-yoked, and be made tame, of mankind, (or and can be made tame by mankind);*]

⁸ but no man may chastise the tongue (*or but no one can discipline the tongue*), for it is an unpeaceable evil, and full of deadly venom.

⁹ In it we bless God, the Father, and in it we curse men, that be made to the likeness of God. (*With it we bless God the Father, and with it we curse men, who be made in the likeness of God.*)

¹⁰ (*Out*) Of the same mouth passeth forth [*or cometh forth*] blessing and cursing. My brethren (*or My brothers*), it behooveth not that these things be done so.

¹¹ Whether a well of the same hole bringeth forth sweet (*water*), and salt water?

¹² My brethren (*or My brothers*), whether a fig tree may make grapes, either a vine figs? So neither salt water may make sweet water.

¹³ Who is wise, and taught among you? show he of good living his working [*or show he of good living his work*], in mildness of his wisdom. (*Who is wise, and learned among you? show he by good living his work, along with the humility and the meekness of his wisdom.*)

¹⁴ (*So*) That if ye have bitter envy, and strivings [*or strives*] be in your hearts, do not ye have glory (*or do not boast*), and be liars against the truth.

¹⁵ For this wisdom is not from above coming down, but earthly, and beastly, and fiendly (*or and devilish*).

¹⁶ For where (*there*) is envy and strife, there is unsteadfastness and all shrewd work (*or and every depraved work*).

¹⁷ But wisdom that is from above, first it is chaste, afterward peaceable, mild (*or meek and humble*), able to be counselled [*or persuadable*], consenting to good things, full of mercy and of good fruits, deeming without feigning (*or judging with sincerity*).

¹⁸ And the fruit of rightwiseness is sown in peace, to men that make peace. (*And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace, by men who make peace.*)

CHAPTER 4

¹ Whereof *be* battles and chidings among you? Whether not (*out*) of your covetings, that fight in your members? (*Where do battles and arguments among you come from? Whether not from your lusts and your envies, that fight among your members?*)

² Ye covet, and ye have not; ye slay, and ye have envy, and ye may not get (*or and ye cannot get*). Ye chide, and make battle; and ye have not, for that ye ask not.

³ Ye ask, and ye receive not; for that ye ask (*with*) evil (*intent*), as ye show openly in your covetings.

⁴ Adulterers, know not ye, that the friendship of this world is enemy to God? [*+or that the*

friendship of this world is enmity to God?](or that friendship with this world, or love of or for this world, is enmity to God?) Therefore whoever will be the friend of this world, is made the enemy of God.

⁵ Whether ye guess, that the scripture saith vainly, (*or Do ye think, that the Scripture saith emptily, or for no purpose*), The spirit that dwelleth in you, coveteth to envy?

⁶ But he giveth the more grace; for which thing he saith, God withstandeth proud men, but to meek men he giveth grace, (*or God opposeth the proud, but he giveth grace to the humble*).

⁷ Therefore be ye subject to God; but withstand ye the devil, and he shall flee from you.

⁸ Nigh ye to God, and he shall nigh to you. Ye sinners, cleanse ye the hands, and ye double in soul [*or and ye double of will*], purge ye the hearts. (*Come near to God, and he shall come near to you. Ye sinners, cleanse your hands, and ye of two minds, purge your hearts.*)

⁹ Be ye wretches, and wail ye [*or and weep ye*]; your laughing be turned into weeping, and [*your*] joy into (*the*) sorrow of heart.

¹⁰ Be ye meeked in the sight of the Lord, and he shall enhance you. (*Be ye humble before the Lord, and he shall raise you up.*)

¹¹ My brethren, do not ye backbite each other. He that backbiteth his brother, either that deemeth his brother, backbiteth the law, and deemeth the law. And if thou deemest the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a doomsman. (*My brothers, do not slander each other. He who*

slandereth his brother; or who judgeth his brother; slandereth the Law, and judgeth the Law. And if thou judgest the Law, thou art not a doer of the Law, but a judge.)

¹² But one is maker of the law, and judge, that may lose and deliver. And who art thou, that deemest thy neighbour? *(But there is One who is the Maker of the Law, and the Judge, who can destroy and save. And so who art thou, who judgest thy neighbour?)*

¹³ Lo! now ye, that say, Today either tomorrow we shall go into that city, and there we shall dwell a year, and we shall make merchandise, and we shall make winning(s), *(or and we shall have great success, and make great profits);*

¹⁴ which know not, what is to you in the morrow. For what is your life? A smoke [*or A vapour*] appearing at a little time, and afterward it shall be wasted.

¹⁵ Therefore that ye say, If the Lord will, and if we live, we shall do this thing, either that thing. *(And so ye should say, If the Lord desireth it, and if we live, we shall do this, or that.)*

¹⁶ And now ye make full out joy in your prides; every such joying is wicked.

¹⁷ Therefore it is sin to him, that knoweth to do good, and doeth not.

CHAPTER 5

¹ Do now, ye rich men, weep ye, yelling in your wretchednesses that shall come to you.

² Your riches be rotten, and your clothes be eaten of moths. *(Your riches have rotted, and your clothes have been eaten by moths.)*

³ Your gold and silver hath rusted, and the rust of them shall be to you into witnessing, and shall eat your flesh, as fire. Ye have treasured to you wrath in the last days. *(Your gold and silver have rusted, and their rust shall be the testimony against you, and shall eat your flesh, like fire. Ye have piled up wealth for yourselves in the Last Days.)*

⁴ Lo! the hire of your workmen, that reaped your fields, which is defrauded of you, crieth; and the cry of them hath entered into the ears of the Lord of hosts. *(Behold! the wages of your workers, who harvested your fields, and who were defrauded by you, crieth out; and their cry hath entered into the ears of the Lord of hosts.)*

⁵ Ye have eaten on the earth, and in your lecheries ye have nourished your hearts. In the day of slaying

⁶ ye brought, and slew the just Man, and he against-stood not you. *[ye led to, and slew the just man, and he withstood you not (or and he did not withstand you).](ye condemned, and killed the Just Man, and he did not oppose you, or and he did not stand against you.)*

⁷ Therefore, brethren, be ye patient, till to the coming of the Lord. Lo! an earth-tiller abideth *[the]* precious fruit of the earth, patiently suffering, till he receive timeful and lateful fruit. *(And so brothers, endure, until the coming of the Lord. Behold! a farmer waiteth for the precious*

fruit from the earth, yea, patiently waiting, until he receive (the fruit) in its time, and then even a later harvest.)

⁸ And be ye patient, and confirm ye your hearts, for the coming of the Lord shall nigh. *(And so be patient, and make your hearts firm, for the coming of the Lord shall approach, or it is near.)*

⁹ Brethren, do not ye be sorrowful [*or do not ye be scornful*] each to *(the)* other, that ye be not deemed *(or so that ye be not judged)*. Lo! the judge standeth nigh before the gate.

¹⁰ Brethren, take ye *(an)* ensample of evil going out, and of long abiding, and travail, [*or and of (the) long abiding of travail*], and of patience, the prophets, that spake to you in the name of the Lord, *(or the prophets, who spoke to you in the name of the Lord)*.

¹¹ Lo! we bless them that suffered. Ye have heard *(of)* the patience of Job, and ye saw the end of the Lord *(or and ye saw his end with the Lord)*, for the Lord is merciful, and doing mercy.

¹² Before all things, my brethren, do not ye swear, neither by heaven, neither by earth, neither by whatever other oath. But be your word Yea, yea, Nay, nay, that ye fall not under doom *(or so that ye do not fall under judgement)*.

¹³ And if any of you is sorrowful, [*or (is) heavy*], pray he with *(a)* patient soul, and say he a psalm.

¹⁴ If any of you is sick, lead he in *(some)* priests of the church *(or send he for some priests from the church)*, and pray they for him, and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord;

¹⁵ and the prayer of faith shall save the sick man[*or and the prayer of faith shall save the sick*], and the Lord shall make him light (*or and the Lord shall put him at ease*); and if he be in sins, they shall be forgiven to him.

¹⁶ Therefore acknowledge ye each to (*the*) other your sins, and pray ye each for (*the*) other, (*so*) that ye be saved. For the continual prayer of a just man is (*of*) much worth.

¹⁷ Elias was a deadly man like us (*or Elijah was a mortal man like us*), and in prayer he prayed, that it should not rain on the earth, and it rained not (*for*) three years and six months.

¹⁸ And again he prayed, and heaven gave rain, and the earth gave his fruit (*or and the land brought forth its fruit*).

¹⁹ And, brethren, if any of you erreth from (*the*) truth, and any converteth him,

²⁰ he oweth to know, that he that maketh a sinner to be turned from the error of his way(s), shall save the soul of him from death, and covereth the multitude of sins. [*Amen.*](*he ought to know, that he who maketh a sinner to turn from the error of his ways, shall save his soul from death, and covereth a multitude of sins. Amen.*)

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Wycliffe's Bible with Modern Spelling (Enhanced)

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