



JAMES

THE LETTER

WORD CENTER MINISTRIES
WORDCENTERMINISTRIES.ORG
COPYRIGHT 2009 SHARON JENSEN

JAMES- The LETTER

Chapter One

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **James 1** and mark every reference to God, the Father, with a red triangle.

Read through **James 1** and mark every reference to God, the Son, with a red cross.

Read through **James 1** and mark every reference to the Word of God with a red circle, filled in with yellow.

Read through **James 1** and mark every reference to “my brethren”, including pronouns, by highlighting it in orange.

Read through **James 1** and mark every reference to the Law with a brown set of “tablets” (sort of a large rounded “m” with an underline.)

Read through **James 1** and mark every reference to sin, evil, including pronouns, with an orange “do not” sign (an orange circle with a backslash through it.)

Read through **James 1** and mark every contrast with a pink forward slash.

Read through **James 1** and mark every reference to time with a blue box.

Read through **James 1** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Trials
2. Wisdom
3. Glory in the reality of your position
4. Temptations are not from God
5. The Word
6. Pure and undefiled religion

READ AND ANSWER

James 1:1

Who is James?

1.

2.

To Whom is James a bond-servant?

1.

2.

To whom is James writing?

Who are the twelve tribes?

Where are the twelve tribes?

Why are they dispersed abroad?

POINT OF DEPTH

The twelve tribes are the twelve families of the sons of Israel, Abraham's grandson. They were God's chosen people and were under His Law. They, however, broke His laws and worshiped other gods.

God warned them time and time again to repent and return to Him, but they did not. God punished them for their faithlessness; He broke the kingdom into the Northern and the Southern Kingdoms (Israel and Judah), yet they continued to sin. He took the Northern Kingdom of Israel into captivity under the rule of the Assyrians, yet they continued to sin.

Even with the example of the Northern Kingdom, Judah, the Southern Kingdom did not return to God, but actually sinned even more. God sent them into exile in Babylon; still they did not return to Him.

God brought His people home from Babylon to rebuild His temple; yet they continued to increase their sin before Him.

At the set time, God sent His Own Son to His people to save them from their sins —they rejected their Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, and missed the time of their visitation. Finally, God dispersed them to the far corners of the earth in 70 AD under the reign of Rome.

At that time, God opened a door for the Gentiles to become part of His household, along with any Jew who would believe that Jesus was the Messiah. Many Jews believed and churches were started in the various places of their exile. It is to these twelve tribes that James writes his epistle.

James was head of the church in Jerusalem. He would have known many of the Christian Jews, even the ones dispersed abroad, because they would have come to Jerusalem three times each year to celebrate the Feasts of the Lord. He also would have known of many of the situations going on abroad because news would have been reported to him by those who visited Jerusalem.

James 1:2-4

What does James call the twelve tribes?

Why are they brethren? Is it because of the common ancestry of Abraham? Or is it because of their common Father, God, through His Son, Jesus?

What were the Christian Jews of the twelve tribes abroad encountering?

As what were they told to consider these various trials?

Why were they to consider various trials as joy?

What is synonymous with the various trials?

What does the testing of your faith produce?

What do various trials produce?

What is the perfect result of endurance in the life of a believer?

1.

2.

3.

James 1:5-8

What was the instruction to any of the Christian Jews if he lacked wisdom?

Where does wisdom come from?

Have you ever heard the old adage that wisdom comes with age? Is that true? Why not?

How does God give wisdom?

How does God give to those who ask in faith?

1.

2.

To whom does God give generously and without reproach?

Are there any criteria to ask for wisdom from God?

1.

2.

To what is the one who doubts compared?

What is the point of the comparison?

What should that man who doubts expect to receive from the Lord?

What should the man who has faith expect to receive from the Lord?

How is the man who doubts described?

1.

2.

James 1:9-11

What is the brother of humble circumstances to do?

Could a trial have resulted in the brother being in humble circumstances?

If so, then in what have the humble circumstances resulted(**James 1:2-4**)?

Then, what is his high position?

What is the rich man to glory in?

Why?

What do the sun and the wind do to flowering grass?

1.

2.

How is the illustration of the flowering grass compared to the rich man in the midst of his pursuits?

James 1:12-18

Who is blessed?

What is true of the man who perseveres under trial?

What will be given to the one who perseveres under trial and is approved, or passes the test?

To whom has the Lord promised the crown of life?

Then, to what are those who love Him synonymous with?

What is synonymous with persevering under trial?

When a person is being tempted, what must he *never* say?

What does God *never* do?

Can God *ever* be tempted by evil?

What is the truth about temptation?

What is the source of each person's temptation?

What does he let himself do?

1.

2.

When does lust conceive?

What does lust give birth to when it has conceived?

Once sin is born, what does it do?

Once sin is accomplished, what does it do?

What comes first—lust or temptation?

What comes after lust—temptation or sin?

What comes after temptation—sin or death?

What comes after lust, temptation, and sin?

What warning does James give to his brethren in Christ?

How does James refer to his brethren?

What is true of every good and perfect gift?

1.

2.

From where does every good thing given come?

From where does every perfect gift come?

Who is above?

What is God called?

How is the Father of lights described?

1.

2.

What do shadows do?

Do they stay in one place? Do they stay the same shape?

Why not?

How is God different from this attribute of shadows?

What did God do by exerting His will?

Who did God bring forth?

What did God use to bring us forth when He exercised His will?

Why did God bring us forth by the Word of Truth?

POINT OF DEPTH

What are first fruits?

They are the promise of a like-harvest to come!

James 1:19-25

What does James once more call the Christian Jews to whom he is writing?

What are James' beloved brethren to know?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What must they be quick to hear? (Context!)

What must they be slow to speak? (Context!)

What must they be slow to be angry over? (Context!)

Why must they be slow to anger?

When they hear, what are they to put aside?

- 1.

2.

When they hear, what are they to receive?

What is the Word able to do?

What is the context in this section?

From **verse 18** through **verse 25**, what is the most often used word? Look at your markings—what jumps out at you?

Knowing that the context is the Word, can you better answer the question, “What must you be quick to hear?”

Knowing that the context is the Word, can you better answer the question, “What must you be slow to speak?”

Knowing that the context is the Word, can you better answer the question, “What must they be slow to be angry over?”

Even if they take James’ admonition seriously and listen intently to the Word; even if they are slow to speak their own opinions on the Word; even if they are not angry when the Word charges them with filthiness and wickedness; even if they humbly receive the Word implanted, which is able to save their souls—that is not enough. What does James still require of them?

What must they prove to be?

If they are merely hearers of the Word, what are they?

James gives an illustration of someone who is a hearer of the Word, but not a doer of the Word. What is the illustration?

What happens when you look at your natural face in a mirror, and then walk away from the mirror?

What do you immediately forget?

In contrast, what will happen to the man who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it?

What will make that man an effectual doer?

What will make that man a forgetful hearer?

In what will the effectual doer of the Word be blessed?

Are you an effectual doer of the Word?

How can you tell? Are you blessed in what you do?

Are you a forgetful hearer of the Word?

How can you tell? Do you forget the bulk of what the Word says?

POINT OF DEPTH

The following can be a small test.

**Have you read the whole Bible?
What does the whole Bible say?
Have you walked accordingly?**

**Have you read the entire Old Testament?
What does the entire Old Testament say?
Have you walked accordingly?**

**Have you read all of the New Testament?
What does all of the New Testament say?
Have you walked accordingly?**

**Have you passed or failed the test so far?
Whether you have passed or failed so far—keep going.
What about individual books of the Bible?
If I were to ask you about each of the sixty-six books would you be able to tell me
what they say and how you have walked in the light of what they say?**

Let's just try a few.

**What about John?
What is John about? What is the purpose? What is the theme?
Have you walked accordingly?
Are you an effectual doer of the book of John?**

**What about Galatians?
What is Galatians about? What is its purpose? What is its theme?
Have you walked accordingly?
Are you an effectual doer of the book of Galatians?**

**What about II Peter?
What is II Peter about? What is its purpose? What is the theme?
Have you walked accordingly?
Are you an effectual doer of the book of II Peter?**

**What about II Corinthians?
What is II Corinthians about? What is the purpose? What is the theme?
Have you walked accordingly?
Are you an effectual doer of the book of II Corinthians?**

Let's take a spot check on the Old Testament.

**What about Deuteronomy?
What is it about? What is the purpose of the book? What is the theme?
Have you walked accordingly?
Are you an effectual doer of the book of Deuteronomy?
Have you been blessed in what you have done according to Deuteronomy?**

**What about Judges?
What is it about? What is the purpose? What is its theme?
Have you walked accordingly?
Are you an effectual doer of the book of Judges?
Have you been blessed in what you have done according to Judges?**

**What about Jeremiah?
What is it about? What is the purpose? What is the theme?
Have you walked accordingly?
Are you an effectual doer of the book of Jeremiah?
Have you been blessed in what you have done according to Jeremiah?**

**What about Malachi?
What is it about? What is the purpose? What is the theme?
Have you walked accordingly?
Are you an effectual doer of the book of Malachi?
Have you been blessed in what you have done according to Malachi?**

**How are you doing so far?
How do you feel about me asking you these things?
Does it make you uncomfortable? Maybe even a little angry? Why or why not?**

Have you been quick to hear the Word of Truth?

Have you been slow to comment with your own opinions?

**Have you been slow to anger as the Word of Truth exposes any filthiness or
wickedness in you?**

According to the Word of Truth in the first chapter of James, what must you do?

**Be humble.
Receive the Word!
Achieve the righteousness of God.**

James 1:26-27

Whose religion is worthless?

If you think you are religious, and yet do not bridle your tongue, what is true of your heart?

What does it mean to bridle your tongue?

What is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father? (The three answers will come from both **verse 26** and **27**.)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

POINT OF DEPTH

**Visit is not simply to stop in and chat awhile with someone.
It is the Greek word *episkeptomai*,
and it means “to take care of the needs of someone.”**

To visit orphans and widows in their distress means to be responsible for their well being in the middle of their plight. True and undefiled religion is just that.

To quickly say “*Hello!*” to someone who is in need, rather than stop whatever it is you’re doing and take care of that need is *defiled* religion!

READ AND REASON

Read the first chapter of James once again this time having become more familiar with it. As you do, notice how the subjects James talks about have a continuous flow of thought from one to the next. James is not just talking about random ideas, but subjects that connect directly or indirectly to one another for the purpose of holiness!

Write down each subject of Chapter one below, leaving an amount of space between each one. Then between each of the subjects, write down your thoughts on what unites them.

JAMES- The LETTER

Chapter Two

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **James 2** and mark every reference to God, the Father, with a red triangle.

Read through **James 2** and mark every reference to God, the Son, with a red cross.

Read through **James 2** and mark every reference to the Word of God with a red circle, filled in with yellow.

Read through **James 2** and mark every reference to “my brethren”, including pronouns, by highlighting it in orange.

Read through **James 2** and mark every reference to faith or belief, including pronouns, with a blue capital “F”.

Read through **James 2** and mark every reference to judgment, including pronouns, with a brown capital “J”.

Read through **James 2** and mark every reference to the Law with a brown set of “tablets”. If it is referring to the royal law mark it with a purple set of “tablets”. (sort of a large rounded “m” with an underline)

Read through **James 2** and mark every reference to sin, evil, including pronouns, with an orange “do not” sign (an orange circle with a backslash through it.)

Read through **James 2** and mark every reference to time with a blue box.

Read through **James 2** and mark every term of conclusion with a pink capital “T”.

Read through **James 2** and mark every contrast with a pink forward slash.

Read through **James 2** and mark every comparison with a pink “equal” sign.

Read through **James 2** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. No favoritism between rich and poor
2. Speak and act as those who are to be judged by the Law of Liberty
3. Faith with no works is no use

READ AND ANSWER

*In the original autographs, there are no chapter divisions. Chapter divisions, verses and punctuation were put into the text in an effort to help us. However, sometimes these efforts create other difficulties. **James** is an excellent example. As James continues his flow of thought, a chapter division, such as **Chapter two**, interrupts and causes the reader to think there will be a new subject in a new chapter. No so. **Chapter two** is simply a carry-over of the same idea started in **Chapter one**. Pay special attention to the connection between chapters.*

James 2:1-7

What does James once again call his readers?

In Whom is the faith of the readers?

What attributes are listed as belonging to Jesus?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What does glorious mean as it refers to Jesus? (Look it up in a concordance.)

What does Lord mean as it refers to Jesus? (Look it up in a concordance.)

What does Christ mean as it refers to Jesus? (Look it up in a concordance.)

Now put them all together in one phrase, substituting the meanings for the words glorious, Lord, and Christ.

What attitude are believers *not* to have?

What illustration does James use to make his point?

How is the first man described?

How is the second man described?

If you were holding your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism, how might you treat the man wearing the fine clothes?

If you were holding your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism, how might you treat the man wearing the dirty clothes?

1.

2.

If you did this, what would James call it?

1.

2.

Why can there not be distinctions among Christians? How many “bodies” of Christ are there? Only one body or more than one body? Can you make a distinction between “one body”?

What would you have made yourself if you paid special attention to one and not the other?

What sort of a judge would you be?

Why?

Again James addresses his beloved brethren. What does he ask them?

Who did God choose to be rich in faith?

Who did God choose to be heirs of the kingdom?

What kingdom is referred to?

Go back to **James 1:12** and note what else God has promised to those who love Him.

What do a crown and a kingdom have in common?

Do you suppose the crown and the kingdom will be given to those who love Him at the same time?

If you made distinctions among yourselves by paying special attention to a rich man, but treated a poor man badly, what does God say you have done to the poor man?

Who did God choose to be rich in faith?

Then, if you have dishonored the poor man, you have dishonored the one whom God chose! Therefore, you would be dishonoring, not just God's choice, but God Himself!

In general, what have rich persons done?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What are the rich doing when they oppress you and drag you into a public court?

What is the fair Name by which Christians have been called?

How is the Name of Jesus Christ the Lord blasphemed by the wicked rich?

Then, inside the church, can Christians treat the poor differently without blaspheming the fair Name?

James 2:8-13

What is the royal law?

If you love your neighbor as yourself, how are you doing?

What is true, on the contrary, if you show partiality?

- 1.
- 2.

What is true if you keep the whole law, but stumble in one point of the law?

Who said, "Do not commit adultery."?

Who said, “Do not commit murder.”?

If you commit adultery, are you a transgressor of the Law?

Even if you have not committed murder?

If you commit murder, are you a transgressor of the Law?

Even if you have not committed adultery?

What will Christians be judged by?

In the light of future judgment by the law of liberty, how are Christians to speak?

In the light of future judgment by the law of liberty, how are Christians to act?

What triumphs over judgment?

What sort of judgment will the one receive who has not shown mercy?

James 2:14-17

James asks three rhetorical questions to make his next point. What three questions does he ask?

1.

2.

3.

Although a rhetorical question is one that does not need an answer, because it is so obvious, let’s answer the three questions anyway.

If someone says he has faith, but he has no works, what use is that faith?

If someone says he has faith, but he has no works, can that faith save him?

What use is it if a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food and you only say to him, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," yet you do not give him what is necessary for their body?

Even so, James states, if faith has no works, it is dead. Faith is by itself, in that case. What does faith need in order to be alive?

James 2:18-26

James gives an example of a statement that can be made to prove his point. What is it?

Can a person show his faith if he doesn't have works to go with it?

Can a person show his faith through his works?

James is not finished. He wants to make sure his readers are very clear on this. In fact, this is James' theme in his letter. What does James state that his readers believe?

Is it a good thing that they believe God is One? How do you know?

However, is that belief all you need? How do you know?

What do the demons believe?

Why do they shudder?

Are demons saved from the wrath of God by their belief that He is One?

Then can a person be saved from the wrath of God by their belief that He is One?

What needs to be alongside the belief that God is One?

James is addressing his brethren, his beloved brethren. What does he call them at this point?

Why does he call them foolish?

If they won't recognize that faith without works is useless, what are they?

If you won't recognize that faith without works is useless, what are you?

James now takes an example from the life of Abraham, the father of the Jews. What happened to Abraham when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar?

What can you see in the example of Abraham?

What was working with Abraham's works?

What was true of Abraham's faith as a result of his works?

POINT OF DEPTH

The word for perfected is *teleioo*.

**It means to make perfect, complete;
to carry through completely,
to accomplish, finish, bring to an end.**

**It means to complete;
add what is yet wanting in order to render a thing full;
to be found perfect.**

It means to bring to the end (goal) proposed.

**It means to accomplish;
to bring to a close or fulfillment by event.¹**

When Abraham's faith was perfected, what else was fulfilled?

What Scripture was fulfilled?

When Scripture was fulfilled, what was Abraham called?

When was Abraham called the friend of God?

When was the Scripture fulfilled which says, "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness."?

What has James clearly shown through the example of Abraham?

Is man justified by faith alone?

Is man justified by works? (Context! Scripture never contradicts Scripture!)

By what is a man justified?

James has one more example to give his readers. He is so committed to making them understand this very powerful truth! Who does he give as an example?

Who was Rahab?

How was Rahab justified?

¹Strong, James: *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible : Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.* electronic ed. Ontario : Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996, S. G5048

Again, be careful! He makes it clear Rahab was justified in the same way as Abraham. How was Abraham justified?

When was Rahab's faith perfected?

What did Rahab's works show? (**James 2:18**)

James makes one last comparison. What is it?

What is true of the body without the spirit?

What is true of faith without works?

READ AND REASON

Read the second chapter of James once again this time having become more familiar with it. As you do, notice how the subjects James talks about have a continuous flow of thought from one to the next. James is not just talking about random ideas, but subjects that connect directly or indirectly to one another for the purpose of holiness!

Write down each subject of Chapter two below, leaving an amount of space between each one. Then between each of the subjects, write down your thoughts on what unites them.

READ AND REASON

Read through the first two chapters of James and put an orange “X” by every exhortation he gives. Then continue through the next three chapters of James doing the same thing.

As you mark the exhortations, list them below. Or better yet, list them in your Bible somewhere in the book of James. Usually there is a blank space or page in a Bible at the beginning or the end of each book.

I’ll help you get started.

Is there an exhortation in verse 1 of chapter 1? *No.*
Is there an exhortation in verse 2 of chapter 1? *Yes.*
What is it?

List it below (I’ve done the first one for you.)

Read through each verse and determine if it is an exhortation or not. If it is, record it below.

James 1:2

Consider it all joy when you encounter various trials.

JAMES- The LETTER

Chapter Three

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **James 3** and mark every reference to God, the Father, with a red triangle.

Read through **James 3** and mark any reference to God, the Son, with a red cross.

Read through **James 3** and mark any reference to God, the Spirit, with a red cloud.

Read through **James 3** and mark every reference to the Word of God with a red circle, filled in with yellow.

Read through **James 3** and mark every reference to tongue, or speaking, including synonyms and pronouns, with red quotations marks.

Read through **James 3** and mark every reference to wisdom with a purple box filled in with blue.

Read through **James 3** and mark every reference to “my brethren”, including pronouns, by highlighting it in orange.

Read through **James 3** and mark every reference to judgment, including pronouns, with a brown capital “J”.

Read through **James 3** and mark every reference to sin, evil, including pronouns, with an orange “do not” sign (an orange circle with a backslash through it.)

Read through **James 3** and number each list i.e. 1...2...3...

Read through **James 3** and mark every reference to time with a blue box.

Read through **James 3** and mark every term of conclusion with a pink capital “T”.

Read through **James 3** and mark every contrast with a pink forward slash.

If you notice any exhortations that you may have missed when you were doing the Read and Reason from **chapter 2**, mark those now and list them with the rest of the exhortations.

Read through **James 3** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. The tongue is a restless evil and full of deadly poison—bridle it!
2. Are you wise and understanding? Show by your good behavior your deeds in the gentleness of wisdom!

READ AND ANSWER

James 3:1-12

What warning does James give?

Does James consider himself a teacher?

How do you know?

What do teachers of God's Word incur?

What is true of all Christians?

What is true of someone if he does not stumble in what he says?

If you do not stumble in what you say, you are a perfect man; you have bridled your tongue and you can bridle the whole body as well. What illustration does James give to show this?

Why do people put bits into horses' mouths?

What do you control when you put a bit into a horse's mouth?

- 1.

2.

Why are rudders put on ships?

What directs the ship?

How large is the rudder?

How large is the ship in comparison to the rudder?

What powerful contrary force is the rudder able to overwhelm?

Who is in control of the rudder?

To what does James compare the illustration of a ship and its rudder?

To what does James compare the rudder?

In what one way is the rudder like the human tongue?

To what does James compare the ship?

In what one way is the ship like the human body?

Of what great things does the tongue boast?

Why can it boast of great things even though it is a small part of the body?

What comparison does James make?

To what small thing does James compare the tongue?

To what great thing does James compare what the tongue can do?

If the tongue is controlled, it can do good things. However, left uncontrolled, what is the outcome?

What does James call the fire of the tongue?

The tongue is part of the body; it is one member of the body; yet what does it do to the very body it is set among?

What does it do to our life?

What sets the tongue on fire?

What has been tamed by the human race?

1.

2.

3.

4.

What cannot be tamed by the human race?

How does James describe the tongue?

1.

2.

If the tongue is full of deadly poison, what does it do?

If the tongue is a restless evil, how eager is it to inflict death?

What two things do we do with our tongue?

1.

2.

What is true of men?

What comes from the same mouth?

1.

2.

James addresses his brethren. What does he tell them is out of order; contrary to itself?

James now asks three rhetorical questions to drive home his point. What are they?

1.

2.

3.

Once again, I realize rhetorical questions do not need to be answered because of their obviousness, but let's answer them anyway. Sometimes we need to look closely even when something seems clear.

Does a fountain send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water?

Why not?

What is the nature of a fresh water fountain?

What is contrary to the nature of a fresh water fountain?

Can a fig tree produce olives?

Why not?

What is the nature of a fig tree?

What is contrary to the nature of a fig tree?

Can a vine produce figs?

Why not?

What is the nature of a vine?

What is contrary to the nature of a vine?

Can salt water produce fresh water?

Why not?

Then, according to James' reasoning based on the nature of created things, if God is our Father, what is our new nature?

If God is our Father, what is contrary to our new nature?

James 3:13-18

James asks who among his readers is wise and understanding. For those who claim to be wise and understanding, what does he urge them to do?

If however, a person has bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in his heart, what does James say is true of that person?

1.

2.

What would be the truth?

What does wisdom from above cause in your actions?

What does wisdom that is earthly, natural and demonic cause in your actions?

What is true of where jealousy and selfish ambition exist?

1.

2.

POINT OF DEPTH

Do you see anything in James 1:2-8 that compares with the section you are now studying? If so, what can be compared?

Daniel 2:21

***It is He who changes the times and the epochs;
He removes kings and establishes kings;
He gives wisdom to wise men
And knowledge to men of understanding.***

Proverbs 2:6
***For the Lord gives wisdom;
From His mouth come knowledge and understanding.***

I Corinthians 1:30-31
***But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus,
Who became to us wisdom from God,
and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,
so that, just as it is written,
“Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.”***

What is true about the wisdom from above?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

What does the fruit of righteousness look like?

- 1.
- 2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

How do you know?

Who sows the seed whose fruit is righteousness?

How is the seed, whose fruit is righteousness, sown?

READ AND REASON

Read the third chapter of James once again this time having become more familiar with it. As you do, notice how the subjects James talks about have a continuous flow of thought from one to the next. James is not just talking about random ideas, but subjects that connect directly or indirectly to one another for the purpose of holiness!

Write down each subject of chapter 3 below, leaving an amount of space between each one. Then, between each of the subjects, write down your thoughts on what unites them.

JAMES- The LETTER

Chapter Four

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **James 4** and mark every reference to God, the Father, with a red triangle.

Read through **James 4** and mark every reference to God, the Son, with a red cross.

Read through **James 4** and mark every reference to God, the Spirit, with a red cloud.

Read through **James 4** and mark every reference to “my brethren”, including pronouns, by highlighting it in orange.

Read through **James 4** and mark every reference to judgment, including pronouns, with a brown capital “J”.

Read through **James 4** and mark every reference to the Law with a brown set of “tablets”. (sort of a large rounded “m” with an underline)

Read through **James 4** and mark every reference to humble with a brown underline.

Read through **James 4** and mark every reference to sin, evil, including pronouns, with an orange “do not” sign (an orange circle with a backslash through it.)

Read through **James 4** and mark every reference to time with a blue box.

Read through **James 4** and mark every reference to boasting about the future with a blue box filled in with orange.

Read through **James 4** and mark every term of conclusion with a pink capital “T”.

Read through **James 4** and mark every contrast with a pink forward slash.

If you notice any exhortations that you may have missed when you were doing the Read and Reason from **chapter 3**, mark those now and list them with the rest of the exhortations.

Read through **James 4** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Quarrels and conflicts—source and remedy
2. Friendship with world is hostility toward God
3. Do not speak against brother
4. Do not boast in future

READ AND ANSWER

James 4:1-10

James states categorically that there are quarrels and conflicts among his Christian readers. He asks them if they know what the source of their quarrels and conflicts are. In rapid fire response he answers his own question. What does James say is the source of their quarrels and conflicts?

Whose pleasures are waging war?

Where do the pleasures of a man wage war?

What are a man's members?

What three examples does James list?

What do they lust after?

What do they do when they do not have what they lust after?

Why do they commit murder?

Of what are they envious?

Of whom are they envious?

What do they do when they cannot obtain what they are envious of?

Why do they fight and quarrel?

Why do they not have what they want?

When they do ask for what they want; do they receive it?

Why not?

What are their wrong motives for wanting something?

POINT OF DEPTH

What is the right motive to want something?

Romans 11:36

**For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.
To Him be the glory forever.
Amen.**

What does James call his readers?

What does he incredulously ask if they do not know?

What is friendship with the world?

Because friendship with the world is hostility toward God, what does the person who wishes to be a friend of the world make himself?

POINT OF DEPTH

James does not call his readers adulterers;

he calls them adulteresses.
Why feminine instead of masculine?

Because he is writing to the body of Christ,
Christian Jews of the twelve tribes.
Christ is the bridegroom of the church at large.
These are the *bride of Christ!*

Jesus, the Lamb, is the church's bridegroom.
We will be united, one with Him, for all of eternity.
How it speaks of the greatness of God
That He would choose even me...
to be the bride of His Son.

Jewish weddings and marriage customs in Biblical times
can give us a stunning picture
of what is going to happen to us,
as the church.

Read the following excerpt from HISTORY: A Timeline of Biblical Events.

In today's marriages, who usually chooses the bride? The groom does. In Biblical times that was not the case. The father of the groom chose the bride. Jesus is the church's bridegroom, and God is His Father. If you are a believer, God chose you in Christ before the foundation of the world. Ephesians 1:4 God the Father chose those that would come into the church. God the Father chose the bride for His Son, Jesus Christ. Think about the gravity of this. You have been chosen to be the bride of the Son of the Creator. WOW!

When the father chose the bride, a binding wedding agreement took place. Two cups of wine were sipped while the bride and bridegroom's arms were intertwined with one another. The obvious picture was two becoming one!

The closest thing we have to this agreement would be an engagement. The groom gives the bride an engagement ring after she accepts his proposal. Our engagements, however, are not entirely binding. Either party of the engagement can break it. In biblical times, however, to be betrothed, or engaged, was almost as serious as the covenant agreement of marriage. To be released from it would require a bill of divorcement. One had to be divorced legally from a betrothal.

Paul betrothed the church at Corinth to Christ as a pure virgin. In the context of a wedding, Paul is saying that the marriage has not been consummated yet, and in the meantime, they need to be completely devoted to Christ. He was afraid they might slip away and have an affair with the world. II Corinthians 11:2-15

You, as a Christian, are betrothed to Christ right now! But you have a time period in which you are waiting for your bridegroom to come and get you. It is during this time period that false teachers, false apostles and dark angels disguised as angels of light will come in and teach and preach false doctrine and a false gospel to get you to turn away from your devotion to Christ.

As Christians, the world and its ways are “under the ban” to us. We belong to Christ! There is a lot of temptation during our wait. If we are friends of the world, we are adulteresses. James 4:4 The word points to the feminine gender. That is because, in God’s eyes, whether we are male or female, we are the bride (feminine gender) of Christ, our bridegroom (masculine gender). If a believer becomes a friend with the world he or she is an adulteress, whether a man or a woman!

Paul said in II Corinthians 11:2-15 that it was he who betrothed the Corinthians to Christ. This made complete sense to the Jews of that day. Many times, after the father would choose the bride for his son, he would send a trusted servant to go and offer his agreement of marriage. That was Paul’s job. Paul was the master’s servant! He came and offered those in Corinth an agreement and they accepted!

Usually there were witnesses present to make the agreement binding. We follow this practice in present day wedding ceremonies. States require witnesses to sign marriage certificates. But, do you realize what the invited guests are at a wedding? They are witnesses of the binding agreement that the couple enters into. Do you realize that every time you go to a wedding it makes you a witness before God?

That means that when you hear that the couple is having marital problems, possibly one is thinking of leaving, you don’t have the option to hide your head in the sand! You are a witness and you are obligated to hold that couple accountable to the vows they took before God in your presence! It doesn’t even matter if they are believers or not. Marriage is an institution for believers and unbelievers. It is a sign of what God’s family relationship is like. It is a picture of what God offers us. When you go to a wedding, remember, you are a witness before the Lord and you have a responsibility!

Promises were made at the betrothal. We make promises at the wedding ceremony itself. Perhaps we don’t think our commitment becomes serious until the wedding. Just like many so-called Christians don’t think their time here on earth is all that serious. They don’t consider their actions as being adultery against Jesus. The Jews realized their commitment was serious beginning with the betrothal!

There was a token given at the betrothal. We still do that today by giving a ring as a token of our intention to eventually wed. These tokens weren’t always given to the bride. Sometimes they were from family to family.

Usually there was at least one year between the betrothal and the wedding. The reason was that both the bride and the bridegroom had preparations to make.

- The bride had to prepare herself for her bridegroom. She worked on her hair, her skin, her nails and her skills. She accumulated her dowry from her relatives. And she worked on her wedding garment with her family. She would sew it and prepare it so that when the bridegroom came to get her, she would be ready! And guess what? She didn't know when he would come! Do we know when our bridegroom will come to get us?

So how do we prepare our wedding garment? How can we, as the bride, ready ourselves for His coming? Revelation 19:7-8 He has told us what to do. It has been given to us to clothe ourselves in righteous acts. As saints, holy ones, those set apart unto Christ, we are to do the will of the Father, which will result in our being clothed in fine linen, bright and clean. The fine linen is woven of righteous deeds.

When we consider that our wedding garment will be made out of our righteous deeds and that all of our worthless deeds will be burned, we gain insight into what God means when He warns us to not be found naked!

- The bridegroom prepared a place for his bride in his father's house. John 14:2-3 Since he would be adding to the family that would dwell in the home, he would build an addition on to his father's existing home. There he and his bride would dwell as part of the father's family. The son was the one who would construct the addition, not the father. Yet, the father would oversee the work, and it was he who would determine when it was time for the son to go get his bride. When the bride came home to be part of the father's house, she was his child, as well.

Even Jesus doesn't know the time or hour when He will return to get us. Matthew 24:36; Mark 13:32 Only His Father does. God will tell Jesus when to come and get us. In the meantime, Jesus is preparing a mansion for us in His Father's house!

At the father's appointed time, he would send his son to the home of the bride. The bridegroom and his attendants or friends would go to the house of the bride where she and her attendants were waiting. We still have attendants in present day wedding ceremonies. The bride and her wedding garment needed to be ready because she didn't know when he was coming. It usually took place near midnight. This is why the virgins in the parable needed lamps! The virgins in the parable were the attendants of the bride.

The bridegroom would not knock on the door. He would stand outside of the bride's yard. Guess how she would know he was out there? He announced with a trumpet that he was there! He was calling her to come and be with him! When

she heard the trumpet, she and her attendants ran out to meet him outside of her home. Are you beginning to see the wonderful ceremony that you and I will be a part of? Jesus is going to come in the clouds with the voice of the archangel and the sound of the trumpet and call us to meet Him in the air! And we will be raised up and meet Him there! I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Once the groom had called his bride to be with him, the ceremonies would continue with the wedding procession. Then the groom would take all the guests to his home through the streets of the city. On the way home, people joined in the celebration and there was jubilation and instruments and shouts and dancing in the streets. The procession literally became a parade.

The bride and groom would be placed under a canopy where that most important part of the ceremony, the joining of the couple, would take place. When does that take place for the church? Where will our “canopy” be? Jesus will take us with Him in the cloud back to heaven to the Father’s mansion. Most likely, our actual wedding to Jesus will take place there!

After the wedding ceremony, guests were invited to the marriage supper, or feast. It usually lasted three to seven days, becoming more jubilant and vibrant as the days went on. The marriage supper was the bringing home of an already accredited bride to her husband with whom she had entered into covenant. Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb! Revelation 19:9

In **James 4:5**, what does James quote the Scripture as saying?

What does James infer regarding the lightness with which it seems his readers have taken this truth?

What does God give?

What else does the Scripture say?

What is God’s position against the proud?

What is God’s position toward the humble?

Since God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble, what should you (at all costs) do?

If you have desired friendship with the world, but have repented and submitted to God, what should be your next step?

What will happen if you are submitted to God and you resist the devil?

What will happen if you are submitted to God and you draw near to Him?

Why does James call his readers sinners?

Why does James call his readers double-minded?

What have they wanted?

What are the sinners to do?

What are the double-minded to do?

Cleanse their hands from what?

Purify their hearts (minds) from what?

Remember the context!

What are they to do?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Over what are they to be miserable and mourn and weep?

In context, what has their laughter been about?

Why is their laughter to be turned into mourning?

In context, from where has their joy come?

Why is their joy to be turned into gloom?

Why are they to humble themselves?

Over what have they been proud?

What will God do when they humble themselves?

James 4:11-12

What does James order them not to do?

What is true of the one who speaks against his brother?

1.

2.

What is true of the one who judges his brother?

1.

2.

What is true if you judge the law?

1.

2.

How many Lawgivers are there?

How many Judges are there?

Who is the One Lawgiver and Judge?

What is He able to do?

1.

2.

In contrast, what does the one who judges his neighbor have the ability or power to do?

Do you have the ability to save?

Do you have the ability to destroy?

Then, is it even possible for you to judge?

James 4:13-17

James says, "Come now!" to those who are pretentious in their business dealings. This is a phrase that should excite his listeners, calling them to attention. What example does James give concerning those who are boasting in their own abilities?

What, in his example, do the men decide?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

James says, "How can you say things like this? You do not even know what your life will be like tomorrow!" Why don't they know what their life will be like tomorrow?

What is true about them?

How long do they, who are just a vapor, last?

What happens to a vapor?

- 1.
- 2.

Instead of arrogantly deciding their own future, which they have absolutely no control over, what should they be saying?

What is in control?

Who is in control?

In what are they actually boasting?

What is true about such boasting?

POINT OF DEPTH

Why is all such boasting evil?

**Because, according to Strong's concordance,
it is an insolent assurance
which trusts in its own power and resources
and shamefully despises and violates divine laws.
It is an impious and empty presumption
which trusts in the stability of earthly things.¹**

Therefore, what is the person to do who knows the right thing to do?

What is true if he doesn't do the thing he knows is right?

READ AND REASON

Read the fourth chapter of James once again this time having become much more familiar with it! As you do, notice how the subjects James talks about have a continuous flow of thought from one to the next. James is not just talking about random ideas, but subjects that connect directly or indirectly to one another for the purpose of holiness!

Write down each subject of Chapter four below, leaving an amount of space between each one. Then between each of the subjects, write down your thoughts on what unites them.

¹Strong, James: *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible : Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.* electronic ed. Ontario : Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996, S. G212

Go back and write down your thoughts on what unites the subject at the beginning of Chapter four with the subject at the end of Chapter three. Do this for Chapters three and two, and two and one, if you haven't already.

JAMES- The LETTER

Chapter Five

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **James 5** and mark every reference to God, the Father, with a red triangle.

Read through **James 5** and mark every reference to God, the Son, with a red cross.

Read through **James 5** and mark every reference to “my brethren”, including pronouns, by highlighting it in orange.

Read through **James 5** and mark every reference to faith or belief, including pronouns, with a blue capital “F”.

Read through **James 5** and mark every reference to judgment, including pronouns, with a brown capital “J”.

Read through **James 5** and mark every reference to sin, evil, including pronouns, with an orange “do not” sign (an orange circle with a backslash through it.)

Read through **James 5** and mark every reference to time with a blue box.

Read through **James 5** and mark every term of conclusion with a pink capital “T”.

Read through **James 5** and mark every contrast with a pink forward slash.

Read through **James 5** and mark every comparison with a pink “equal” sign.

If you notice any exhortations that you may have missed when you were doing the Read and Reason from **chapter 4**, mark those now and list them with the rest of the exhortations.

Read through **James 5** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Warning to the wicked rich
2. Righteous man waiting for the Coming of the Lord
3. Swearing
4. Suffering
5. Cheerful
6. Sick
7. Prayer
8. Turn sinners from error of their ways

READ AND ANSWER

James epistle is coming to a close, but he is going to get in as many relevant subjects as he can. He wants to turn sinners from the errors of their ways; he wants to save their souls from death; he wants to cover a multitude of sins! And he wants us to do the same!

James 5:1-6

James uses the same phrase of exclamation he used with those who thought they could ensure their own wealth, "Come now!". Now he is going to give a warning to those who are rich, as well as wicked. What does he tell them to do?

1.

2.

What are they to weep and howl over?

What has happened to their riches? (He speaks about the future as if it has already happened because in the economy of God, it has!)

What has happened to their garments?

What has happened to their gold and their silver?

What will the rust of their gold and silver be against them?

1.

2.

When will the rust of their gold and silver witness against them?

When will the rust of their gold and silver consume their flesh like fire consumes?

For when is their treasure stored?

Will their treasure be “treasure” in the last days?

What cries out against the wicked rich?

1.

2.

The hire of the laborers and the laborers hired both cry out against the unjust wealthy landowner. Who hears their cries?

POINT OF DEPTH

Who is the Lord of Sabaoth?

**God is Commander over all the hosts and armies in His universe—
ALL His creatures—
The good angels, the bad angels, believers, unbelievers, and Satan—
EVERYONE!**

What have the rich done?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Who was slaughtered in their day of slaughter?

The rich are said to have condemned and put to death the righteous man (their day of slaughter). What did the righteous man do?

Although the righteous man did not resist the wicked rich man, to Whom did he cry out?

James 5:7-11

Why are the brethren to be patient?

For how long are they to be patient?

What example does James interject?

For what does the farmer wait?

How long is the farmer patient?

- 1.
- 2.

So too was the righteous man to be patient. What were they to do?

The farmer could wait patiently because he knew the precious produce of the soil would come. The righteous man can wait patiently because of what he knows. What does he know?

How could they strengthen their hearts (minds)?

While they waited, what must they *not* do?

Why not?

Who is standing, even now, right at the door?

Are you righteous?

Are you patient?

Do you strengthen your heart with the knowledge that the Coming of the Lord is near?

Do you complain against your brothers and sisters in the Lord?

What example of suffering and patience does James give his brethren?

In Whose Name did the prophets of the Lord speak?

Who do we count blessed?

Who were those who endured?

What did they endure?

1.

2.

James knows his readers have heard of the endurance of Job. He knows that his readers have seen in the Scripture outcome of the Lord's dealings with him. (If you do not know, read **Job 1, 2, 42.**) How are the Lord's dealings described here in James?

1.

2.

James 5:12

Above all, what are James' brethren not to do?

1.

2.

What is their yes to be?

What is their no to be?

Why is their yes to be yes and their no to be no?

If their yes is no or their no is yes, what does God call that?
For what deed would they fall under judgment?

Why are they not to swear that what they are saying is true (either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath)?

When a Christian speaks, should anyone need wonder whether he is speaking the truth?

Why not?

Who does a Christian represent?

James 5:13-18

If any Christian is suffering, what is he to do?

Why?

If any Christian is cheerful, what is he to do?

Why?

If any Christian is sick, what is he to do?

What are the elders of the church to do?

1.

2.

Why?

If the prayer is offered in faith, what will happen to the one who is sick?

1.

2.

3.

Who will raise the sick man up?

If the man is sick because he has committed sins, and the prayer offered is in faith, what will God do for the man?

Therefore, what are we to do with one another?

1.

2.

What can the effective prayer of a righteous man accomplish?

What example does James give a righteous man accomplishing much with an effective prayer?

How was Elijah similar to us?

What does that mean that he had a nature like ours?

What did Elijah pray?

What did his prayer accomplish?

What did Elijah pray the second time?

What did his prayer accomplish?

1.

2.

POINT OF DEPTH

Read the account of Elijah in I Kings 17:1-7; 18:1-46.

**Elijah was a man of faith; he believed what God had said.
Read what Elijah knew God had said in Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 12, 23-24.**

James 5:19-20

James addresses his beloved brethren one more time. Perhaps this is why he wrote his entire epistle; perhaps the whole letter boils down to this one thing; the thing James did and the thing James wanted his brethren to do.

If someone turns back a Christian who strays from the truth, what is true?

1.

2.

READ AND REASON

Why should you turn a sinner from the error of his way?

1.

2.

Read the fifth chapter of James once again this time having become very much more familiar with it! As you do, notice how the subjects James talks about have a continuous flow of thought from one to the next. James is not just talking about random ideas, but subjects that connect directly or indirectly to one another for the purpose of holiness!

Write down each subject of Chapter five below, leaving an amount of space between each one. Then between each of the subjects, write down your thoughts on what unites them.

Go back and write down your thoughts on what unites the subject at the beginning of Chapter five with the subject at the end of Chapter four. Do this for all the subjects at the beginning and end of chapters if you haven't already.

Now read through James one more time, this time with a full awareness of what James is doing. Let his words, the Word of God, convict, encourage, exhort, and humble you. Strengthen your hearts and be patient until the Coming of the Lord for the time is near!