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James

The Book of James, also known as the Epistle of James, is a letter in the New Testament of the Christian Bible. It is traditionally attributed to James, the brother of Jesus and leader of the Jerusalem church.

The book of James is structured as a letter, addressed to "the twelve tribes scattered among the nations" (James 1:1), which likely refers to Jewish Christians who had been dispersed from Jerusalem due to persecution. The purpose of the letter is to provide practical guidance for Christian living and to address issues of social justice and economic inequality within the community.

The book of James is often described as a wisdom literature, with many teachings and advice on how to live a faithful life in practical ways. James encourages his readers to persevere in the face of trials and to seek wisdom from God when making decisions. He also emphasizes the importance of faith in action, stating that true faith is demonstrated by good works and that faith without works is dead.

James also addresses issues of social justice and economic inequality, challenging his readers to care for the poor and oppressed and warning against favoritism towards the wealthy. He denounces the misuse of power and calls for honesty, integrity, and humility. Overall, the Book of James provides a powerful message of practical faith, urging Christians to live out their beliefs in tangible ways through acts of kindness, justice, and compassion.

in Christian bible; the book " James "; can you give me a brief description on each chapter

Sure, here's a brief description of each chapter in the Book of James:

Chapter 1: James begins by encouraging his readers to persevere through trials and to seek wisdom from God. He also warns against being deceived by worldly temptations and emphasizes the importance of being doers of the word and not just hearers.

Chapter 2: James addresses the issue of favoritism and warns against showing partiality towards the wealthy while neglecting the poor. He emphasizes the importance of faith in action, stating that true faith is demonstrated by good works.

Chapter 3: James warns against the dangers of the tongue and the power of words. He encourages his readers to use their words for good and to seek wisdom from above.

Chapter 4: James addresses conflicts and quarrels within the community and encourages his readers to submit to God and resist the devil. He warns against worldliness and encourages humility and repentance.

Chapter 5: James denounces the misuse of wealth and power and encourages his readers to care for the poor and oppressed. He also warns against making oaths and emphasizes the importance of prayer, confession, and the power of righteous living.

Overall, the Book of James provides practical guidance for Christian living and addresses issues of social justice and economic inequality within the community.

James 1

New International Version

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations:

Greetings.

Trials and Temptations

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,^[a] whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. 6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

9 Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. 10 But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower. 11 For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.

12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

13 When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, 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 the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. 18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

Listening and Doing

19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20 because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. 21 Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

26 Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. 27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Footnotes

James 1:2 The Greek word for brothers and sisters (adelphoi) refers here to believers, both men and women, as part of God's family; also in verses 16 and 19; and in 2:1, 5, 14; 3:10, 12; 4:11; 5:7, 9, 10, 12, 19.

Chapter 1 of James begins with an introduction from James, who identifies himself as a servant of God and the Lord Jesus Christ. He then addresses his letter to the twelve tribes of Israel, which is a reference to Jewish believers scattered throughout the Roman Empire.

In verses 2-4, James encourages his readers to consider it joy when they face trials, because these trials produce perseverance and lead to maturity. He assures them that if they lack wisdom, they can ask God and He will give it to them generously.

In verses 5-8, James warns against doubting when asking God for wisdom, as doubt is like a wave tossed by the sea and can lead to instability. He encourages believers to ask in faith, without doubting, and to trust in God's provision.

In verses 9-11, James contrasts the wealthy and the poor, reminding his readers that earthly riches are fleeting and that the poor should take pride in their high position in Christ.

In verses 12-15, James discusses the temptation to sin and the consequences that follow. He reminds believers that God does not tempt anyone to sin and that temptation comes from one's own evil desires. He warns that sin, when fully grown, leads to death.

In verses 16-18, James encourages his readers to recognize that every good and perfect gift comes from God, who does not change like shifting shadows. He points out that believers have been given new birth through the word of truth and are a kind of firstfruits of all God's creatures.

In verses 19-21, James encourages believers to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. Instead, he encourages them to get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent, and to humbly accept the word planted in them.

In verses 22-25, James emphasizes the importance of doing what the word says, and not just listening to it. He compares those who hear the word but do not do it to someone who looks at themselves in a mirror and immediately forgets what they look like.

In verses 26-27, James reminds believers that true religion is not just about hearing the word, but also about putting it into practice. He encourages them to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep themselves from being polluted by the world. In summary, James chapter 1 emphasizes the importance of persevering through trials, seeking wisdom from God, and putting faith into action by living according to God's word. It also warns against the dangers of doubting, sin, and worldliness.

Here are some important verses from the Book of James, along with brief explanations and where to find them in Chapter 1:

1. "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance" (James 1:2-3).

In these verses, James encourages his readers to view trials as an opportunity for growth and character development. He explains that when we endure difficult circumstances, our faith is tested and strengthened, and we become more patient and resilient.

2. "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you" (James 1:5).

James teaches that wisdom comes from God and encourages his readers to ask God for it. He emphasizes that God is generous and will give wisdom to anyone who asks without finding fault.

3. "Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless" (James 1:26).

In this verse, James warns against the dangers of careless speech. He explains that true religion involves controlling one's speech and using it to encourage and uplift others.

4. "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says" (James 1:22).

James emphasizes the importance of putting faith into action. He encourages his readers to not just hear the teachings of the Bible, but to actually live them out in their daily lives.

The New Testament book of James, particularly in Chapter 1, addresses several theological thoughts and has had significant theological influence throughout Christian history. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from James 1:

Trials and Testing: James begins Chapter 1 by discussing the concept of trials and testing. He suggests that these trials can produce endurance and mature one's faith. The theological thought here is that suffering and trials are not necessarily negative; they can serve a purpose in a believer's life by refining their faith. This idea has influenced Christian theology on theodicy (the problem of evil and suffering) and the idea that God can work through difficult circumstances.

Faith and Works: James is well-known for his emphasis on the relationship between faith and works. In James 1:22, he famously says, "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." This theological thought emphasizes that true faith should be demonstrated through actions. This concept has been influential in discussions about salvation and the role of works in the Christian life, especially in contrast to Pauline theology in Romans and Galatians.

Listening and Doing the Word: In James 1:22-25, James talks about the importance of not just hearing God's Word but also obeying it. This emphasizes the practical application of biblical teachings in one's life, which has influenced Christian ethics and the emphasis on living out one's faith.

The Nature of God: James also mentions that every good and perfect gift comes from God (James 1:17). This statement reflects a theological understanding of God as the source of all goodness and blessings. It has influenced Christian theology's understanding of God's character as a benevolent and giving God.

Warning Against Partiality: In James 1:9-11, James warns against showing favoritism based on social status or wealth. This teaching emphasizes the importance of treating all people equally, which has had a significant influence on Christian ethics and social justice discussions.

Endurance and Perseverance: James encourages believers to endure trials with patience and steadfastness (James 1:2-4). This theological thought has influenced Christian teachings on perseverance in the face of adversity and the importance of enduring faith.

James is considered a practical and ethical book in the New Testament, and its teachings have had a lasting impact on Christian theology and ethics. The theological thoughts and influences mentioned above continue to be subjects of study and discussion within the Christian tradition.

James 2

New International Version

Favoritism Forbidden

2 My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. 2 Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. 3 If you show special

attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,” 4 have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

5 Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? 7 Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,”[a] you are doing right. 9 But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. 10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. 11 For he who said, “You shall not commit adultery,”[b] also said, “You shall not murder.”[c] If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

12 Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, 13 because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Faith and Deeds

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

18 But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.”

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

20 You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless[d]? 21 Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,”[e] and he was called God’s friend. 24 You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

25 In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? 26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Footnotes

James 2:8 Lev. 19:18
James 2:11 Exodus 20:14; Deut. 5:18
James 2:11 Exodus 20:13; Deut. 5:17
James 2:20 Some early manuscripts read
James 2:23 Gen. 15:6

Chapter 2 of James begins with a warning against showing favoritism or partiality in the church. James points out that if a wealthy person is given preferential treatment over a poor person, it is a sin and goes against the commandment to love one's neighbor as oneself.

In verses 2-4, James illustrates this point by describing a scenario where a rich man is given a place of honor in the church, while a poor man is relegated to a lowly seat. He argues that this type of discrimination is based on evil motives and demonstrates a lack of faith in God's impartiality.

In verses 5-7, James reminds his readers that God has chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom. He warns against dishonoring them and emphasizes the need to love one's neighbor as oneself.

In verses 8-13, James emphasizes the importance of keeping the royal law found in Scripture: "Love your neighbor as yourself." He warns that showing favoritism is a violation of this law and results in sin.

In verses 14-17, James argues that faith without works is dead. He asks, "What good is it if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds?" He illustrates his point by giving an example of someone who sees a brother or sister in need but does nothing to help them.

In verses 18-19, James anticipates objections to his argument and emphasizes that faith and works are intertwined. He says that he will show his faith by his works and points out that even demons believe in God, but they do not have works that demonstrate their faith.

In verses 20-26, James gives examples of Abraham and Rahab, who demonstrated their faith through their actions. He argues that faith without works is useless and that faith and works are necessary for salvation.

In summary, James chapter 2 emphasizes the importance of treating all people equally and without favoritism, as well as the necessity of demonstrating faith through good works. It warns against a faith that is only intellectual and not demonstrated in action.

Here are some important verses from the Book of James, along with brief explanations and where to find them in Chapter 2:

1. "My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism" (James 2:1).

In this verse, James warns against showing favoritism or partiality towards certain people based on their social status or appearance. He emphasizes the need for impartiality and treating all people with equal respect and dignity.

2. "Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead" (James 2:17).

James emphasizes the importance of faith being accompanied by action. He argues that a faith that does not produce good works is not true faith at all.

3. "But someone will say, 'You have faith; I have deeds.' Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds" (James 2:18).

James challenges the idea that faith and works are separate, and argues that they are inseparable. He argues that true faith is demonstrated by good deeds, and that deeds are evidence of faith.

4. "For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead" (James 2:26).

James uses the analogy of the body and the spirit to illustrate his point that faith without works is dead. He argues that just as the body needs the spirit to be alive, faith needs works to be alive and real.

In James chapter 2 of the New Testament, there are several theological thoughts and influences that have had a significant impact on Christian theology and ethics. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from James 2:

Faith and Works: James 2 is perhaps most famous for its discussion of the relationship between faith and works. The chapter begins with the assertion that faith without works is dead (James 2:17). This theological thought emphasizes that genuine faith should be accompanied by actions or good works. It has had a profound influence on discussions about salvation, justification, and the role of works in the Christian life.

Partiality and Favoritism: James 2:1-13 addresses the issue of showing partiality or favoritism based on a person's social status or wealth. The theological thought here is that such discrimination is inconsistent with the Christian faith, as it goes against the principle of loving one's neighbor as oneself. This teaching has had an influence on Christian ethics and discussions about social justice.

The Royal Law: In James 2:8, James refers to the "royal law" as found in the command to love your neighbor as yourself. This concept emphasizes the centrality of love and selflessness in Christian ethics, echoing the teachings of Jesus. The idea of the "royal law" has influenced discussions about the core ethical principles in Christianity.

Judgment and Mercy: James 2:12-13 warns against judging others without mercy, emphasizing the importance of showing mercy because judgment without mercy will be shown to the one who has not been merciful. This theological thought underscores the Christian concept of forgiveness and the need to avoid a judgmental attitude, which has influenced Christian ethics and teachings on forgiveness.

Abraham's Faith and Works: In James 2:21-24, James uses the example of Abraham to illustrate his point about faith and works. He highlights that Abraham's faith was demonstrated through his willingness to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice, showing that faith and works are intertwined. This interpretation of the story of Abraham has influenced discussions about the nature of faith and obedience in the Old Testament.

Freedom and Responsibility: James 2:12 emphasizes the idea that believers will be judged by the law of liberty, highlighting the Christian concept of freedom in Christ. This

has influenced discussions about the believer's responsibility to live out their faith with the freedom they have in Christ.

James 2 addresses various theological and ethical issues, particularly the relationship between faith and works, the importance of impartiality and love, and the need for mercy and forgiveness. These teachings have had a lasting influence on Christian theology and ethics, contributing to discussions about the nature of faith, the role of works, and the ethical conduct of believers.

James 3

New International Version

Taming the Tongue

3 Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. 2 We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

3 When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 4 Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. 5 Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. 11 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? 12 My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

Two Kinds of Wisdom

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. 18 Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

Chapter 3 of James begins with a warning about the power of the tongue. James notes that even though it is a small part of the body, it can have great influence and cause great harm if not controlled. He compares the tongue to a small spark that can set a whole forest on fire.

In verses 2-6, James uses several metaphors to describe the power and danger of the tongue. He says that it is like a bit in a horse's mouth that directs the whole animal, a rudder that steers a ship, and a small spark that can ignite a great blaze. He also notes that the tongue can be a source of evil and can corrupt the whole body.

In verses 7-12, James argues that the tongue can be both a blessing and a curse. He asks, "Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?" He notes that blessings and curses should not come from the same mouth and encourages believers to use their tongues to speak words of wisdom and righteousness.

In verses 13-18, James contrasts earthly wisdom with heavenly wisdom. He notes that earthly wisdom is characterized by envy, selfishness, and disorder, while heavenly wisdom is characterized by purity, peace, and gentleness. He encourages his readers to seek wisdom from above and to demonstrate it through their actions.

In summary, James chapter 3 emphasizes the power and danger of the tongue and encourages believers to use their words wisely. It warns against using the tongue to harm others and calls for the pursuit of heavenly wisdom rather than earthly wisdom.

Here are some important verses from the Book of James, along with brief explanations and where to find them in Chapter 3:

1. "Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly" (James 3:1).

In this verse, James warns against the dangers of becoming a teacher without understanding the responsibilities that come with the role. He emphasizes that teachers will be held to a higher standard and will be judged more strictly.

2. "With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness" (James 3:9).

James emphasizes the power of the tongue and the need for careful speech. He warns against using our words to both praise God and curse others, emphasizing that all people are made in God's image and deserve respect.

3. "Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness" (James 3:18).

James emphasizes the importance of pursuing peace and being a peacemaker. He argues that those who sow in peace will reap a harvest of righteousness, which means that peace-making leads to positive results and blessings.

In James chapter 3 of the New Testament, several theological thoughts and influences can be identified. This chapter primarily focuses on the power and significance of the tongue (speech) and wisdom. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from James 3:

Taming the Tongue: James 3 begins by addressing the power and potential harm of the tongue (speech). James compares the tongue to a small but powerful part of the body, like a bit in a horse's mouth or a rudder on a ship. The theological thought here is that speech

can have a profound impact on one's life and the lives of others. This teaching has influenced Christian ethics and discussions about the importance of controlling one's words and practicing responsible speech.

Blessing and Cursing: James 3:9-12 discusses the inconsistency of blessing God and cursing people with the same tongue. Theological thought here emphasizes the importance of using one's words for blessing and edification rather than for harm. This teaching has had an influence on Christian ethics and the call to speak with love and kindness.

Wisdom from Above: James 3:13-18 contrasts earthly wisdom with heavenly wisdom. Earthly wisdom is characterized by jealousy, selfish ambition, and disorder, while heavenly wisdom is characterized by purity, peace, and gentleness. The theological thought is that true wisdom comes from God and leads to a life of righteousness. This teaching has influenced discussions about the nature of wisdom and the pursuit of godly wisdom.

Peacemakers and Righteousness: In James 3:18, James states that the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. This theological thought underscores the importance of pursuing peace and righteousness in the Christian life. It has influenced discussions about the role of believers in promoting peace and justice in the world.

Warning Against Worldly Wisdom: The warning against worldly wisdom and its destructive effects (James 3:14-16) has influenced Christian teachings on the dangers of secular or self-centered wisdom. It emphasizes the need for believers to seek and embrace God's wisdom.

Accountability for Words and Wisdom: James 3:1-2 highlights the accountability of teachers and leaders for their words and teachings. This thought has influenced discussions about the responsibility of Christian leaders and the impact of their words and teachings on the faith community.

James 3 offers valuable insights into the power of speech, the importance of wisdom, and the need for responsible and godly communication. These teachings have had a lasting influence on Christian ethics, emphasizing the significance of words, wisdom, and the pursuit of godly virtues in the Christian life.

James 3

New International Version

Taming the Tongue

3 Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. 2 We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

3 When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 4 Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. 5 Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. 11 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? 12 My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

Two Kinds of Wisdom

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. 18 Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

Chapter 4 of James begins with a rebuke against quarrels and conflicts among believers. James argues that these disputes arise from selfish desires and urges his readers to ask God for what they need rather than relying on their own devices.

In verses 2-3, James points out that when believers do ask God for things, they often do so with wrong motives, seeking to satisfy their own pleasures rather than doing God's will.

In verses 4-6, James warns against friendship with the world, saying that anyone who makes themselves a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. He urges believers to submit to God and resist the devil.

In verses 7-10, James encourages believers to draw near to God and to repent of their sins. He notes that God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

In verses 11-12, James warns against speaking evil of one another and judging one another, reminding his readers that there is only one Lawgiver and Judge.

In verses 13-17, James warns against presuming upon the future and making plans without considering God's will. He argues that life is like a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away, and encourages his readers to live in accordance with God's will and to do good to others.

In verses 18-20, James emphasizes the importance of repentance and humility, saying that God will exalt the humble and bring them to Himself.

In summary, James chapter 4 emphasizes the dangers of selfish desires, warns against friendship with the world, and encourages believers to draw near to God in humility and repentance. It warns against speaking evil of others and presuming upon the future, and calls for a life lived in accordance with God's will.

Here are some important verses from the Book of James, along with brief explanations and where to find them in Chapter 4:

1. "What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?" (James 4:1).

In this verse, James addresses the problem of conflict and quarrels among believers. He argues that these problems arise from inner desires and conflicts within individuals, rather than external circumstances.

2. "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

James emphasizes the importance of submitting to God and resisting the devil. He argues that when we submit to God and resist the devil, we will be able to overcome temptation and spiritual attacks.

3. "Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded" (James 4:8).

James encourages his readers to draw close to God and to purify their hearts and minds. He emphasizes the need for repentance and turning away from sin in order to draw near to God.

4. "You do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes" (James 4:14).

James reminds his readers of the fleeting nature of life and the importance of living in light of eternity. He argues that we should not boast or make plans as if we have control over our lives, but instead trust in God's sovereignty and wisdom.

In James chapter 4 of the New Testament, there are several theological thoughts and influences that have had a significant impact on Christian theology and ethics. This chapter primarily addresses issues related to worldly desires, conflicts, and humility. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from James 4:

Worldly Desires and Conflict: James 4:1-3 begins by addressing the source of conflicts and quarrels among believers. James attributes these conflicts to worldly desires, including covetousness and selfishness. The theological thought here is that worldly desires can lead to division and strife within the Christian community. This teaching has influenced Christian discussions about the importance of addressing the root causes of conflict and promoting unity.

Friendship with the World: In James 4:4, James warns against friendship with the world, emphasizing that friendship with the world makes one an enemy of God. This theological thought underscores the need for believers to prioritize their relationship with God over

worldly pursuits. It has influenced discussions about the Christian's stance toward the values and priorities of the secular world.

Humility and Submission: James 4:6-10 emphasizes the importance of humility and submission to God. James encourages believers to humble themselves before the Lord and resist the devil. The theological thought here is that humility is central to the Christian life, and submission to God leads to exaltation. This teaching has had a profound influence on Christian spirituality and the importance of surrendering to God's will.

Judgment and Mercy: James 4:11-12 warns against judging and speaking evil of one another. Theological thought here emphasizes the importance of showing mercy and not playing the role of judge. This teaching has influenced Christian ethics and discussions about the importance of forgiveness and nonjudgmental attitudes.

Boasting About the Future: James 4:13-17 addresses the arrogance of making plans without considering God's will. The theological thought here is that believers should acknowledge their dependence on God and seek His guidance in their plans and actions. This teaching has influenced Christian discussions about the importance of seeking God's will and acknowledging His sovereignty.

Repentance and Drawing Near to God: James 4:7-10 calls for repentance, cleansing of hands, and drawing near to God. This theological thought emphasizes the need for a genuine turning away from sin and a sincere pursuit of intimacy with God. It has influenced Christian teachings on repentance and the process of returning to God.

James 4 offers valuable insights into the dangers of worldly desires, the importance of humility and submission, and the need for repentance and dependence on God. These teachings have had a lasting influence on Christian theology and ethics, contributing to discussions about living a godly life, pursuing holiness, and maintaining a right relationship with God and fellow believers.

James 5

New International Version

Warning to Rich Oppressors

5 Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. 2 Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. 3 Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. 4 Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. 5 You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.[a] 6 You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.

Patience in Suffering

7 Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. 8 You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. 9 Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

10 Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

12 Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple "Yes" or "No." Otherwise you will be condemned.

The Prayer of Faith

13 Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. 16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

17 Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. 18 Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

19 My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, 20 remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

Footnotes

James 5:5 Or yourselves as in a day of feasting

Chapter 5 of James begins with a warning to the rich, who have hoarded wealth and oppressed the poor. James warns that their wealth will ultimately be of no use to them and that they will face judgment for their actions.

In verses 2-6, James describes the lavish lifestyles of the rich, and their oppression of the poor. He notes that their wealth has corrupted them and that their riches will ultimately rot away.

In verses 7-12, James encourages his readers to be patient and to stand firm in their faith, just as the prophets of old did. He warns against swearing oaths, saying that believers should let their "yes" be yes and their "no" be no.

In verses 13-18, James encourages his readers to pray in times of trouble and sickness, and to confess their sins to one another. He notes that the prayers of the righteous are powerful and effective, and can bring healing and forgiveness.

In verses 19-20, James concludes his letter by urging his readers to turn those who have strayed from the truth back to God. He notes that this is a great act of love, and that it can save the soul of the one who has wandered from the truth.

In summary, James chapter 5 warns against the oppression of the poor by the rich, and encourages believers to be patient and stand firm in their faith. It emphasizes the power of prayer and confession of sins, and calls believers to turn others back to the truth in love.

Here are some important verses from the Book of James, along with brief explanations and where to find them in Chapter 5:

1. "Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you" (James 5:1).

In this verse, James addresses the problem of wealth and warns the rich of the judgment that is coming on them. He emphasizes the need for humility and warns against the dangers of pride and greed.

2. "Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains" (James 5:7).

James encourages his readers to be patient and to wait for the Lord's coming. He uses the analogy of a farmer waiting for his crop to illustrate the need for patient endurance in the Christian life.

3. "Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise" (James 5:13).

James emphasizes the importance of prayer and praise in the life of a believer. He encourages his readers to turn to God in times of trouble and to offer praise and thanksgiving when things are going well.

4. "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective" (James 5:16).

James emphasizes the importance of confession and prayer in the Christian community. He argues that confession and prayer lead to healing and emphasizes the power of prayer in the hands of a righteous person.

In James chapter 5 of the New Testament, there are several theological thoughts and influences that focus on issues such as wealth, patience in suffering, prayer, and the importance of truth and confession. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from James 5:

Wealth and Social Justice: James 5:1-6 begins with a strong condemnation of the rich who have exploited the poor. Theological thought here emphasizes the ethical responsibility of believers to care for the marginalized and the poor. This teaching has

influenced discussions about social justice and the Christian's role in addressing economic inequality.

Patience in Suffering: James 5:7-11 encourages believers to be patient in the face of suffering and to look to the example of the prophets and Job. Theological thought here emphasizes the idea that suffering is a part of the Christian experience, and patience and endurance are virtuous qualities. This teaching has influenced Christian discussions on perseverance and enduring trials with faith.

Prayer for Healing: James 5:13-18 discusses the practice of prayer, both in times of suffering and for healing. Theological thought here underscores the importance of prayer as a means of seeking God's intervention and healing. This teaching has influenced Christian practices related to prayer for physical and spiritual healing.

The Power of Prayer: James 5:16b-18 highlights the power of fervent prayer and the example of Elijah's prayer. Theological thought here emphasizes the effectiveness of earnest and righteous prayer. This teaching has influenced Christian beliefs in the power of prayer and the importance of seeking God's guidance and intervention through prayer.

Confession of Sins: James 5:16a instructs believers to confess their sins to one another and pray for one another. Theological thought here emphasizes the importance of humility and accountability within the Christian community. This teaching has influenced Christian practices related to confession, accountability, and mutual support among believers.

The Coming of the Lord: James 5:7-9 and 5:19-20 refer to the coming of the Lord and the need for believers to be watchful and to turn back those who have wandered from the truth. Theological thought here reminds believers of the eschatological aspect of their faith, emphasizing the return of Christ and the need for vigilance in maintaining the truth of the Gospel. This teaching has influenced Christian eschatology and discussions about the Second Coming of Christ.

James 5 offers a range of theological thoughts that address issues of wealth, suffering, prayer, confession of sins, and the anticipation of Christ's return. These teachings have had a lasting influence on Christian theology and ethics, contributing to discussions about social justice, patient endurance, prayer, and the Christian's responsibility to care for one another in the faith community.

Notes:

There are several difficult questions in the book of James that do not have clear answers. Here are some examples:

1. In James 2:14-26, James discusses the relationship between faith and works, and poses the question, "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds?" While he argues that faith without works is dead, he does not provide a clear explanation of how faith and works are supposed to be related.
2. In James 4:1-4, James asks why there are conflicts and quarrels among people, and suggests that it is because of their desires. However, he does not offer a clear solution to the problem of human conflict.
3. In James 5:13-18, James encourages his readers to pray for one another, and suggests that the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. However, he does not explain why some prayers seem to be answered while others are not.

It is important to note that while these questions may not have clear answers, they are still valuable for reflecting on and discussing, and can help us deepen our understanding of the text and our faith.