

HHBC



James

1:9-12

*The Value in the Testing of
Your Faith*



James 1: 1-8: REVIEW so Far

1 James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.

2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, 8 being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.



REVIEW:

- James commands that diverse trials (Merryman: stressors of life) are to be thought of as joyous.
- For the reason that God is using these stresses (external) as tests (stress tests- dokimos) of our faith
- They are specifically designed by Him to bring about a GOAL (Telios) of completeness in Christ, maturity; the ability to all view all the incoming the pierasmos/trials from DIVINE VIEWPOINT
- The testing brings us along in being able to endure the trials. Merryman: positive steadfastness in holding up under the trial
- If we lack wisdom, the ability to apply what we know about God's purposes, we simply pray for it in the trial
- He promises to give it; SIMPLY, without reservation, without reproach/ reviling. Simply: asking and we receive instead of being given a fine-print litany of conditions/ restrictions.
- But: ask in simple faith, not vascillating between human & Divine viewpoint (Old Man v. New Man) like swells of the ocean, or He will withhold it. McCalley: double-minded – two-souled (dipsychos)



James 1: 9-12

9 But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position;

10 and the rich man *is to glory* in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away.

11 For the sun rises with a scorching wind and withers the grass; and its flower falls off and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away.

12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.



James 1:9-11

⁹ But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position; ¹⁰ and the rich man *is to glory* in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away. ¹¹ For the sun rises with a scorching wind and withers the grass; and its flower falls off and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away.

Verse 9: but brother of humble circumstances **is to glory** in his high position: this is an imperative command; in the present tense, you are to glory in your high position. Middle voice: you are to take the action of glorying, you are the agent and to take an interest in the glorying.

What is the 'high position'? this word is ***hypsos***: same word as:

*... 'that you' ... **may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.** Eph 3:18,19*

There you have the answer: the high position is that of the brother of meager means glorying in his surpassing position in Christ Jesus:

*so that in the ages to come He might show the **surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus** ... and **To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,** Eph 2:7, 3:8*



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The Two Trials of Verses 9 & 10: 1) The life trials that amass from being poor and wanting, and 2) the trial of handling riches.

Verse 10:

- The rich man is to glory in his humiliation, because just as being poor or lacking resources is a TRIAL, so is having riches:

But those who want to get rich fall into temptation (*peirasmos*) and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. | TIM 6: 9-10

Observation: the rich man *is pursuing* riches in Verse 10, and in the Timothy passage he *is wanting* to get rich. That is the same lure in the temptation



James 1:9 -11

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“Speaking of his friend, a poor Christian, a wealthy unbeliever remarked, 'When I die, I shall leave my riches. When he dies he will go to his.'”

James B. Adamson, The Epistle of James,

The use of O.T. imagery: James uses proverbial language in these verses

Why does he go proverbial language here?

Thoughts as to why:

1. He is exhorting new Jewish believers scattered from Jerusalem (where James the leader of the assembly there). *(They were so fresh from Judaism that they knew what Tribe they were of)*
2. They would instantly identify with this poetic language, and specifically recognize it as Isaiah 40
3. This way of exhorting them sinks down into their soul, as they are different hearers than the Greek minds that Paul addressed.



JAMES: quotes from
Isaiah 40:

BEHOLD YOUR GOD!

Note: Our resource in
Trials is His greatness
and transcendence over
all the earth & heavens

This is God's Portfolio,
His Resume

If he has 'calculated the
dust of the earth by
measure'; He most
certainly has our smallest
trial in His view

"Comfort, O comfort My people," says your God.

² "Speak kindly to Jerusalem;

And call out to her, that her warfare has ended,

That her iniquity has been removed,

That she has received of the LORD'S hand

Double for all her sins."

³ A voice is calling,

"Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness;

Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ "Let every valley be lifted up,

And every mountain and hill be made low;

And let the rough ground become a plain,

And the rugged terrain a broad valley;

⁵ **Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed,**

And all flesh will see it together;

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶ A voice says, "Call out."

Then he answered, "What shall I call out?"

All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades,

When the breath of the LORD blows upon it;

Surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades,

But the word of our God stands forever.

HE IS A COMFORTER

HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS

HIS MAJESTY

GLORY: revealed

HE IS ETERNAL



⁹ Get yourself up on a high mountain,
 O Zion, bearer of good news,
 Lift up your voice mightily,
 O Jerusalem, bearer of good news;
 Lift *it* up, do not fear.
 Say to the cities of Judah,

“Behold your God!”

¹⁰ Behold, the Lord [Ⓜ]GOD will come with might,
 With His arm ruling for Him.
 Behold, His reward is with Him
 And His recompense before Him.

**HE HAS ALL POWER
 HIS SOVEREIGNTY
 HE IS A REWARDER**

¹¹ **Like a shepherd He | will tend His flock,
 In His arm He will gather the lambs (CAREGIVER- TENDER-HEARTED SHEPHERD)
 And carry *them* in His bosom;
 He will gently lead the nursing ewes.**

¹² Who has measured the [Ⓜ]waters in the hollow of His hand,
 And marked off the heavens by the [Ⓜ]span,

HE IS CREATOR

**And [Ⓜ]calculated the dust of the earth by the measure,
 BUILDER; ENGINEERS all things)**

(HE IS A PLANNER; a

**And weighed the mountains in a balance
 And the hills in a pair of scales?**

¹³ Who has [Ⓜ]directed the Spirit of the LORD,

HE ALONE HAS WISDOM



James 1:12

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