

HHBC



# James

## 4: 5-10

PART I:

*God's Desire & Plan in Conflicts*



# James 4: 1-10

1 What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. 4 **You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.**

5 **Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "*He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us*"?**

6 **But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."**

7 **Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.**

8 **Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.**

9 **Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom.**

10 **Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.**

# By Way of Review & Introduction to James 4:4:

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## Wisdom from Above:

- Heavenly
- God given: His wisdom is understanding, knowledge, discernment, soundness, uprightness, integrity, righteousness, divine equity, justice, security, life to your soul, courage
- First: pure, from purity, it is peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering and without hypocrisy (Jas. 3.17)
- More precious than gold, silver, jewels
- Healing to the body & refreshing to the bones (Pro 3:8)... Pleasant to the soul... Leads to sweet sleep (3:24)
- She calls out to the naïve from the tops of the heights of the city, “Forsake your folly and live!”
- Her paths lead to life
- The wisdom from above is Christ:  
“The Queen of the South will rise up with this generation at the judgment and will condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.” Mat.12:42





**WHEREAS:** the Wisdom that does not come from above is:

## Earthly Wisdom is:

- Earthy, natural and demonic (Jas. 3:15)
- An adulteress with flattering words, calling out to the naïve from her street corner (Pro. 7:7-8)
- Her lips drip honey and smoother than oil is her speech
- A harlot, cunning of heart, boisterous, rebellious, a seductress
- Her path is the way to death





You adulteresses!, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Those who make friends with the world and fall into its wisdom's honey-dripping honey trap are at enmity / opposed to God

KJV; adds: adulterers... Cross that out as its not true to the original.

What is 'the world'? It's the whole kosmos system:

*James 4:4*

L.S. Chafer's definition of the cosmos:

"The cosmos is a vast order or system that Satan has promoted, Which conforms to his ideals, aims, and methods. It is a civilization now functioning apart from God.

This system embraces its godless governments, **conflicts, armaments, jealousies (!)**, its education, culture, religions of morality, and pride.

It is the sphere in which man lives. It is what he sees, what he employs. To the uncounted multitude it is all they ever know so long as they live on this earth.

It is properly styled **the satanic system**, which phrase is in many instances a justified interpretation of the so-meaningful word, *cosmos*."

- (!): Compare to quarrels, conflicts, fighting, warring, lusting in James 4: 1-3
- These Jewish believers recognized well what 'adulteresses!' from Israel's straying history with God



Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"?

*James 4:5*

**Verse 5 is a toughie— a tough nut to crack!**

First, after fruitless searching: The quotation is not a quotation from anywhere in scripture. Better to put it with single quotation mark like this: *'He jealously desires the Sprit which He has made to dwell in us...'*

James is saying in effect 'you all know the scripture is replete with this saying... **Right? You with me here...?**'

And: 'you all know that scripture doesn't speak emptily and without reason', 'scripture speaks for a reason'.... All paraphrasing here, as James himself is paraphrasing.

Here is the support of this position:

"In this verse James gave scriptural support for what he just asserted (v. 4: *'you are spiritually unfaithful being a friend of the world'*). However, he did not quote a particular verse but evidently summarized the scriptural teaching on God's jealousy (cf. Exod. 20:5; 34:14; Ps. 42:1; 84:2; Zech. 8:2) in a new statement." [fr: Constable's Notes: quoting *Sophie S. Laws, "Does Scripture Speak in Vain? A Reconsideration of James IV. 5," New Testament Studies 20 (1973-74):210-15; Stulac, pp. 146-47.*]



Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"?

*James 4:5*

### Let's Do the Comparison of the O.T. sources for James' paraphrase:

.... 'you shall have no other gods before me, nor make for yourself an idol .... *"You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,"* Exod. 20:5

—*for you shall not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God—* Exod. 34:14

*My soul longed and even yearned for the courts of the LORD; My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.* Psa 84:2

*As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, O God.* Psa. 42:1

*"Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'I AM EXCEEDINGLY JEALOUS FOR ZION, YES, WITH GREAT WRATH I AM JEALOUS FOR HER.'* Zec 8:2

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### Other ways to render vs. 5:

- *To long for— 'to envy yearns the spirit'* [Gr. Interln.] – the Spirit *'jealously desires us'*— *'longs enviously'* for us
- "the Spirit which he made to dwell in us jealously yearns for the entire devotion of the heart"



Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose\*: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"?

*James 4:5*

### **New Testament examples of the jealous desiring:**

*Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? I Cor. 6:19*

*Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE." II Cor 6:16*

*Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Gal. 4:6*

*Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption Eph. 4:30*

### **THE EXAMPLE OF THE SPIRIT'S 'JEALOUS DESIRING' OVER ISRAEL IN NUMBERS 22-25:**

There is a small footnote to 4:5 in the NASB to compare to Numbers 23:19: "GOD IS NOT A MAN, THAT HE SHOULD LIE, NOR A SON OF MAN, THAT HE SHOULD REPENT; **HAS HE SAID, AND WILL HE NOT DO IT? OR HAS HE SPOKEN, AND WILL HE NOT MAKE IT GOOD? (\*)**





Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"?

*James 4:5*

## The Example of the Holy Spirit acting on Balaam towards Israel:

- Balaam, a freelance, for-profit prophet, was hired by the King of Moab to curse Israel (Num. 22)
- Balaam is told by God not to go because Israel is blessed, but after a 2<sup>nd</sup> larger sum, God tells him to go, but only speak His words. God was angry though, and the Angel of the Lord stood and blocked his path to King Balak, just about to kill Balaam for his greed and his joining with Balak (compare to Jas. 4:4: friendship with the world brings hostility from God)
- Balaam hopes that he will be able to give a cursing, but the Spirit of God instead makes him utter a blessing (*Num. 23:8: 'How shall I curse, whom God has not cursed? And how can I denounce whom the Lord has not denounced?'*)
- **Jas. 3:9:** with (the tongue) we can bless the Lord and Father, and with it, we can curse men: compares well to Balaam can offer a blessing to Israel or a curse
- Three times: Balaam hopes to have a curse come out, but 3 large blessings proceed from his mouth
- Point: the Spirit of God jealously defends Israel here, even though in Num. chap. 25 soon thereafter— 24,000 of them are put to death for worshipping Baal.
- The Spirit is envious for their singular devotion, and His wrath is fanned when they embrace another god and embrace the world instead of Him. These believers James writes to know well the moral story of Balaam.
- Note the ZEAL of the Spirit here, His ability to fight for you in spiritual warfare: ***'to envy, yearns the Spirit'***



But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

*James 4:6*

### Grace to the Humble, a Straight-arm to the proud:

- In contrast to: quarrels, conflicts, lusts, fightings with others, warring with groups, (slavery to our Sin Nature; command & control from our fleshly self) God gives ***megas charis***
- The supply out-paces the demand for grace (and for wisdom as Jas.1:5 states); it is given generously and without reproach
- ***charis***: two good definitions: (1) The undeserved, unmerited favor towards man that God is free to bestow based on the totally adequate Work of Christ; and/or/with: (2) very similar to how the Greek non-saved understood it hundreds of years before its use in the gospels & epistles: **is something (e.g. a favor) conferred freely, with no expectation of return, and finds in its source in the bounty and the free-heartedness of the giver.** [ Aristotle quoted by L.S. Chafer, McCalley ]
- Source of O.T. quote: Psa. 138:6: *"For though the LORD is exalted, Yet He regards the lowly, But the haughty He knows from afar."* and Prov. 3:34: *"Though He scoffs at the scoffers, Yet He gives grace to the afflicted."*
- Grace is sourced from God's very essence; His character, it would be against His nature to not give it generously, when asked, with correct motives.



But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

*James 4:6*

HAMILTON SMITH, THE EPISTLE OF JAMES:

The Apostle proceeds to show that behind the friendship of the world there lies the pride of the flesh. Desirous of being *something*, (*sic*) the flesh naturally turns to the world, seeking to find in its riches, social position and honours that which will gratify its craving for distinction.

It is not in vain (Jas. 1:5) that Scripture warns us against the world; and the Spirit that dwells in Christians will not lead us to lust after (Jas. 1:13) the things of the world.

On the contrary, the Spirit gives grace to resist the world and the flesh, as it is written, "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." If we are content to be little and nothing in this world, there is power and grace to resist the flesh and the world.

*"Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted."* Mat. 23:12