

# James 5:10-12

## God's Patience and Endurance, Part II

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## James 5:10-12 (NASB)

*10 As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lords dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful. 12 But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment.*

# Getting context


- Some relevant teachings of Jesus
  - Matthew 5:10-12 – *Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*
  - John 16:33 – *These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.*
- What (if anything) is different in James' teaching?
  - Where do we see Grace in James' words?

## Take my wife ... please!

*10 As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.*

- *Example* – an example or pattern to be imitated<sup>1</sup>
  - Combined with *take* – lit. *take [these people as an] example*
  - See John 13:15, Hebrews 4:11
  - What roll do “roll models” play in the Christian’s life?
- *Suffering* – a suffering of evil
  - Word used only here
  - The primary cause of all our suffering is sin
  - Where have we seen this suffering previously in James?

<sup>1</sup>

Unless noted otherwise, Greek information comes from [Zodhiates](#) 

# Heroes

*10 As an example, brethren, of suffering and **patience**, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.*

- *Patience* – The quality of a person who is able to avenge himself yet refrains from doing so
  - Hebrews 6:11-12<sup>2</sup>
  - “self-restraint which does not hastily retaliate a wrong”<sup>3</sup>
  - What is true justice?
    - James 1:19-20
    - Romans 12:18-21
- *Prophets* – the writers of the Old Testament
  - What types of suffering did these prophets encounter?
  - Jeremiah 20:2, 32:2, and 38:6
- *Brethren* – What is promised to the unbeliever?

<sup>2</sup> Vern should be covering these companion verses soon in the main service

<sup>3</sup> Lightfoot, by way of Constable

## Count your blessings

*11 We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lords dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.*

- *We count those blessed* – to pronounce as blessed, fully satisfied
  - This is one word in the Greek
  - See Luke 1:48
- *Endured/endurance* – to remain under; to persevere, endure, sustain, bear up under, suffer, as a load of miseries, adversities, persecutions or provocations with faith
  - Same word as in James 1:3,4
  - Endurance with faith is a key theme of James
  - Two types of patience/endurance – natural disaster and human evil

## Stop. Look. Listen.

*11 We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.*

- *Heard* – to understand, comprehend
  - See also James 1:19 and 2:5
  - Hebrews 3:5-12
- *The endurance of Job*
  - Job 1:21-22, 2:10, and 13:15
  - Particularly see 19:25-27 and 23:10
- *Seen* – to perceive with the mind or senses
  - Used also in James 2:24
  - Hebrews 11:5, 13, 23, 27
- *The outcome of the Lord's dealings* – always been faithful

## The glass is infinitely full

*11 We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lords dealings, **that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.***

- *Full of compassion* – abounding in bowels [or in compassion]
  - “Bowels” were the seat of emotion
  - Used in the LXX for mercy – Isaiah 47:6
  - Compassion is “abounding”
- *Merciful* – to pity, have compassion upon
  - See Luke 6:26
  - Used in the LXX – Nehemiah 9:17
- Why is James repeating himself here?
  - Why is he emphasizing the mercy of God?



## I swear not to swear

*12 But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment.*

- *But above all* – Moreover, before all these things<sup>4</sup>
  - See 1 Peter 4:8
  - James is stressing the first in procession, not the first in prominence
- *Swear* – to take or make an oath
  - A direct paraphrase of Matthew 5:33-37
  - “*Our mere word should be as utterly trustworthy as a signed document, legally correct and complete.*”<sup>5</sup>
- What does our word have to do with our patience?

4

My translation

5

Mitton, by way of Constable

# I told you so

*12 But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, **so that you may not fall under judgment.***

- *Judgment* – opinion or decision given concerning anything<sup>6</sup>
  - Same word used in James 2:13
- Who is doing the judging?
  - God – as in James 4:12
  - Circumstances – i.e. you are proven wrong by the circumstances
    - This would be reiterating James 4:13-17
    - Immediate context is more about the evil of men
  - Other men – as in “justification before men” of Ch.2
    - Immediate context is our behavior before other men

6

## Wuest – James 5:10-12

*Take the prophets who spoke in the Name of the Lord, brethren, as an example of suffering and of patience under the mistreatment of others.*

*Put your thought upon this. We consider those who patiently remain under their trials spiritually prosperous and fortunate. You heard of the patience of Job, how he patiently remained under the trials to which he was subjected, and you saw the consummation brought about by the Lord, that the Lord is compassionate and merciful.*

*But especially, my brethren, stop the practice of putting yourselves under oath, neither by the heaven, nor by the earth, nor by any other oath, but be letting your Yes be Yes and your No be No in order that you may not fall under judgment.*