

As We Know, ~ Working Our Way Through The 4th Major Section Of James, ~ ¶¶

consisting of 3 mini-essays in proverb form, ~ 4:13-5:11.

And Today, ~ Begin to Look At The 3rd And Final Brief Essay Of This Section.

And i.e., ~ counsel for believers in times of oppression/persecution, ~ 5:7-12.

▶▶Reference to the oppressive rich in the previous paragraph, ~ ¶¶

▷▷may have led James to address believers' proper behavior while undergoing oppression.

▶▶In the immediate context, ~ he is referring ~ to how believers should act ~ ¶¶

▷▷while undergoing oppression by wealthy unbelievers.

▶▶But in general, ~ this present paragraph counsels us ~ ¶¶

▷▷on how to behave when undergoing persecution from a broad-spectrum of unbelievers.

Observe here ~ returning ~ to his theme of endurance in trials ~ that he began with.

▶▶James 1:2-4, ~ NIV.

▷▷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. ~~ ¶¶

↳↳Let ~ [i.e., ~ you must let] ~ perseverance finish its work ~ [intended goal = sp. maturity] ~ so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 1/12

▶▶ Recall the progression of events ~ that James wanted us to see ~ in the following pattern.

▷▷ Trials ➤ Testing Of Our Faith ➤ Endurance ➤ Spiritual Maturity.

↪↪ This ~ is the spiritual reality behind trials. ⇨⇨ [View through this grid.](#)

And now, ~ in 5:7-12, ~ James returns to this theme ~ with counsel ~ ¶¶

▶▶ on how we are to behave ~ when undergoing persecution by unbelievers. ⇨⇨ ¶ = 4 parts.

▶▶ In [Vv. 7-8](#), ~ James advises believers to exercise patience in view of Christ's return.

▶▶ In [Vs 9](#), ~ James counsels us ~ to avoid the natural tendency of the afflicted ~ to unjustly blame those around us.

▶▶ In [Vv. 10-11](#), ~ James advises us ~ to look at 2 godly examples ~ of suffering and endurance in the past.

▷▷ And i.e., ~ with the purpose of ~ gaining strength in present circumstances.

▶▶ And finally in [vs. 12](#), ~ counsels us ~ to refrain from deceptive oaths and to maintain integrity in speech ~ while undergoing hostility.

[In Vv. 7-8, ~ Today, ~ James Advises Believers To Exercise Patience In View Of Christ's Return.](#)

In [vs 7a](#), ~ James calls us to be patient.

▶▶ This marks the believers' distinction from the oppressive world.

▷▷ Retaliation is quite common in our day. [2/12](#)

▶▶ But we are to be distinct from the world.

▷▷ Rom. 12:2a, ~ Do not be conformed to this world.

↳↳ I.e., ~ Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world.

▷▷ And 1 Pet. 1:14 ~ NIV.

↳↳ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.

▷▷ Counter-cultural.

▷▷ We are citizens of heaven.

▷▷ And we are to live the way citizens of heaven are to live.

▷▷ No matter how weird it looks to the world.

▶▶ Patience is a virtue that does not readily flourish in the heart of the natural person, ~ does it?

▷▷ In our human nature, ~ I think impatience ~ is our default position.

▶▶ The vb for ~ Be patient ~ used 3x in vv 7-8, ~ 77

▷▷ stresses the needed attitude as we confront hostile unbelievers.

↳↳ IOW, ~ not something optional for us. 3/12

▶▶ The verb, ~ used quite literally here, ~ means being ~ "long-tempered" ~ 77

▷▷ as contrasted to being ~ "short-tempered."

▷▷ It does not call ~ for a passive resignation to one's fate.

▷▷ It calls ~ for an attitude of self-restraint ~ that enables one ~ 77

↳↳ to refrain from hasty retaliation in the face of provocation.

▷▷ It is the opposite of an easily kindled wrath that readily lashes out in punishment.

▷▷ And it denotes ~ the thought of being long-tempered or patient ~ 77

↳↳ in relation to people who cause personal distress or suffering.

▶▶ In the LXX, ~ it is used quite commonly.

▷▷ It is mentioned as a commended virtue among people.

↳↳ E.g., ~ Prov. 19:11 (NIV), ~ A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an offense.

→→ I.e., ~ they earn respect by overlooking wrongs.

▶▶ Also in the LXX, ~ it is used of God's attitude of forbearance toward the sins and faults of people.

▷▷ E.g., ~ Ps. 86:15, ~ But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. 4/12

▶▶ The NT presents ~ long-tempered ~ as an attribute of God Himself.

▷▷ E.g., ~ Rom. 2:4, ~ Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

▶▶ And the NT urges its practice upon believers.

▷▷ E.g., ~ 1 Thess. 5:14 (NIV), ~ in the context of relationships between believers.

↪↪ And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

▶▶ And here ~ in the context of oppressive unbelievers, ~ James stresses ~ ¶¶

▷▷ that being long-tempered ~ is a necessary virtue.

In vs 7b, ~ James says such patience will be necessary ~ until the Lord's coming.

▶▶ The Lord here clearly refers to the Lord Jesus Christ in His second advent.

▶▶ Jesus is returning.

▷▷ He promised us this.

↪↪ Jn. 14:2-3 ~ CSB, ~ In my Father's house are many rooms; if not, I would have told you. I am going away to prepare a place for you. ~ ~ ¶¶

→→ If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also. 5/12

▶▶ So Jesus will return.

▷▷ And James holds this out for us ~ as a motive for patience.

▷▷ All injustice and oppression against us will cease ~ when Jesus returns.

▷▷ Of course we should mention that ~ death will do the same for us ~ ¶¶

↳↳ if Jesus does not return in our lifetime.

▶▶ "The coming" ~ denotes a specific event, ~ a hope well known to James' original readers.

▷▷ And ~ to us.

▷▷ It is ~ our blessed hope, ~ the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

▷▷ Not wishful thinking.

▷▷ Rather, ~ it's biblical hope.

↳↳ Biblical hope ~ is the totality ~ ¶¶

→→ of what God has promised the believer at the end of this age ~ and ~ in the life to come.

↳↳ It of course includes ~ the promise of Jesus' second coming.

↳↳ And every part of this hope that we have ~ is 100% absolutely guaranteed ~ to be fulfilled. 6/12

▶▶ In the NT epistles, ~ Grk wd for coming, ~ παρουσίας ~ ¶¶

▷▷ is one of the most frequently used terms for the return of Christ.

▶▶ The term may have the sense of "coming" ~ as denoting His arrival.

▷▷ But ~ its fuller significance ~ centers attention ~ ¶¶

↳↳ on His presence with His people ~ as the result of His coming.

▷▷ Remember Jesus' high-priestly prayer?

↳↳ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

▷▷ And of the new earth John writes, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them (NLT).

▷▷ So when we read about Jesus' second coming, ~ don't just think about his arrival.

↳↳ It is the first stage of his presence with us for eternity.

Aware of how hard it is to be patient, ~ James undergirds his counsel with an illustration.

▶▶ And ~ repeats his exhortation.

▷▷ 7c-8a, ~ ^{7c} See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ^{8a} You also, be patient. 7/12

▶▶ Christians need to exhibit the patience of the farmer ~ as we wait for the Lord's coming.

▷▷ We must be ~ like the wise and knowledgeable farmers ~ who must wait for the life-giving rains for their crops.

▷▷ I.e., ~ we must live in anticipation of our Lord's coming ~ ¶¶

↳↳ and not become upset at adverse circumstances during the waiting.

▶▶ However, ~ farmers hardly remain idle between the planting and the harvesting.

▷▷ But rather, ~ they worked hard ~ ¶¶

↳↳ in weeding, hoeing, fertilizing, and doing whatever they can ~ to bring their crops to full fruition.

▷▷ Likewise, ~ we are not to remain idle while we wait for Jesus to return.

↳↳ We must engage in kingdom work, ~ ¶¶

→→ contributing all that we can ~ to the outworking of God's purposes in this world.

▶▶ Furthermore, ~ waiting for Jesus' 2nd coming ~ is to have a practical impact ~ on how we live.

▷▷ In his 2nd epistle, ~ Peter notes ~ that while we wait for the Day of the Lord and the new heaven and earth, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ we must make every effort ~ to be found living peaceful lives ~ ¶¶

→→ that are pure and blameless in Jesus' sight (2 Pet. 3). 8/12

And while we wait for our Savior to return, ~ we must establish our hearts, ~ vs 8b.

▶▶ Translated: ~ Stand firm. ⇔⇔ Strengthen your hearts.

▷▷ To strengthen or establish one's heart is ~ to stand firm in the faith ~ ¶¶

↳↳ and not to give in to doubt.

▶▶ Asaph.

▷▷ Wavered and began to doubt.

▶▶ In the context of affliction, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ James is calling us not to waver in the faith and not be overcome by doubt.

▶▶ Suffering persecution, ~ whether major or minor, ~ is a given for Christians.

▷▷ Jesus did not sugar coat it for us.

↳↳ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.

▷▷ Luke tells us in Acts ~ that Paul & Barnabas were ~ ¶¶

↳↳ strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

▷▷ And Peter tells us ~ Dear friends, don't be surprised when the fiery ordeal comes among you to test you as if something unusual were happening to you (CSB). 9/12

▶▶ And in the midst of persecution, ~ James calls us to ~ stand firm in the faith, ~ 77

▷▷ take courage, ~ don't doubt, ~ don't quit following Jesus.

In vs 8c, ~ James points ~ to what can help us stand firm in the faith and not give in to doubt.

▶▶ For the coming of the Lord is at hand.

▶▶ When the NT speaks of the nearness of the Lord's return, ~ it does not mean ~ 77

▷▷ that it has to take place within a short period of time.

▷▷ What is meant ~ is twofold.

↳↳ 1st, ~ that Christ's 2nd coming ~ is the very next event in God's timetable of redemption.

↳↳ And 2nd, ~ that it could take place ~ within a short period of time.

→→ Every generation of believers lives ~ in the eager expectancy of that return.

▶▶ The confident expectation of Jesus' return ~ will undergird the faint heart ~ and make it strong.

▷▷ In order ~ not to waver and doubt while undergoing adverse circumstances, ~ 77

↳↳ we must raise our gaze heavenward.

▶▶ Psalmists reflected this attitude. 10/12

▷▷Ps. 25:15, My eyes are ever toward the Lord, for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

▷▷And Ps. 123:1, To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

▶▶Also, ~ the author of Heb. tells us, ~ Heb. 1b-2a, ~ ¶¶

▷▷Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.

▶▶For Christians, ~~ persecution, trouble, and affliction ~ are not the end.

▶▶Beyond these, ~ there lies eternal glory.

▷▷And in the sure, ~ certain, ~ and real hope of that glory, ~ ¶¶

↪↪Christians can endure anything that this world throws at us.

▶▶Jesus provides an example for us.

▷▷Heb. 12:2b tells us that ~ for the joy that was set before him, ~ ¶¶

↪↪Jesus endured the cross, ~ despising the shame, ~ and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

▷▷Continuing & expanding on Steve's theme from children's msg & C. S. msg.

▷▷Jesus endured a cross, ~ the most cruel and disgraceful of deaths, ~ having despised the shame of it.

↪↪I.e., ~ not allowing its shame to dissuade Him or cause Him to waver. 11/12

▷▷ He did it ~ for the joy that was set before him.

↳↳ He looked past the cross ~ to His victory over sin and death, ~ ¶¶

→→ to providing salvation for us, ~ and ~ to his glorification, inheritance, and reign.

▷▷ And still speaking of Jesus, ~ the author of Hebrews exhorts us in vs. 3 to ~ ¶¶

↳↳ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, ~ so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

▶▶ It seems to be one of the basic facts of life ~ ¶¶

▷▷ that a person can endure anything so long as they have something to look forward to.

↳↳ And we, ~ my . . . , ~ have more to look forward to than anybody. 12/12