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# OUTLINE STUDIES

IN

## The Epistle of JAMES

W. E. Vine, M.A.

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By

W. E. VINE, M.A.

Author of "The Divine Inspiration of the Bible,"  
"The Roman Empire in the Light of History,"  
"The Twelve Mysteries of Scripture," "The  
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## The Epistle of James.

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### The Occasion.

This Epistle, perhaps the earliest of those of the New Testament, and written probably by the James mentioned in Gal. 1. 19 as "The Lord's brother," is addressed to "the twelve tribes which are of the dispersion." Its contents show that by this was intended Hebrew Christians not residing in Palestine. James calls himself "a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ," 1. 1, and assumes that those whom he addresses hold the faith of Christ, 2. 1. They are also said to be under the law of liberty, 1. 25; 2. 12. They lived in the midst of unbelievers and those who blasphemed the Name of Christ and persecuted His followers, 2. 6, 7; consequently they were, on the one hand, liable to spiritual declension, or, on the other hand, were called to suffer many afflictions from their persecutors. Most of these believers were poor; those who were rich were especially subject to the temptations of covetousness, pride, and worldliness, and were guilty of the oppression of the poor, as well as



of other sins, 2. 15, 16, and 4. 1; 5. 6. Generally there was a tendency towards a religion of words without works, of forms without feelings, a lifeless faith, a faith void of that brotherly love which should characterize it. The result was jealousy and strife, evil speaking and unkindness, pleasure seeking and ambition, and other concomitant evils.

### The Objects.

Such a condition required sharp reprimand and admonition for those who were guilty of the sins referred to, and words of cheer and encouragement to those who were suffering and oppressed. The former must be warned that pride would encounter the resistance of God; that He was a God of judgment, and would mete out retribution for oppression, 4. 6, 12; 5. 1-6 and 9. The latter must be encouraged to endure trials joyfully, and be reminded of the end of the Lord and directed to His promised return, 1. 2; 5. 7, 8, 10, 11.

The Epistle was further written to give instructions on matters more or less incidental to the foregoing, such as the character of living faith and the power of the prayer of faith, the source and nature of temptation, and the general character of religion.

### ANALYSIS.

I.	Concerning trials	- - -	1. 1-18
II.	„ obedience to the Word of God	- - -	1. 19-27
III.	„ the royal law	- - -	2. 1-13
IV.	„ a working faith	- - -	2. 14-26
V.	„ the control of the tongue	- - -	3. 1-12
VI.	„ strife and worldly- mindedness	- - -	3. 18-4. 6
VII.	„ patience, prayer and power	- - -	5. 7-20

### GOD—HIS CHARACTER AND ATTRIBUTES.

I.	There is none beside Him	- - -	2. 19
II.	He is the Creator	- - -	1. 18; 3. 9
III.	His will is absolute	- - -	1. 18; 4. 15; cp. 2. 5
IV.	He is Light	- - -	1. 17
V.	„ immutable	- - -	1. 17
VI.	„ righteous	- - -	1. 20
VII.	„ pitiful	- - -	5. 11
VIII.	„ merciful	- - -	5. 11
IX.	„ neither tempter nor tempted	- - -	1. 13
X.	„ the Lawgiver	- - -	4. 12; cp. 2. 11
XI.	„ the Judge	- - -	4. 12, R.V.; 5. 9
XII.	„ the Giver of all good	- - -	1. 5, 17
XIII.	„ the Healer of the sick	- - -	5. 14
XIV.	„ the Forgiver of sins	- - -	5. 15
XV.	„ the Answerer of prayer	- - -	5. 17, 18

**TITLES OF GOD.**

I. God	1. 1, 5, 13; 2. 5, 19, 23; 3. 9; 4. 4, 7, 8
II. The Lord	- - 1. 7; 4. 10, 15; 5. 10, 11
III. The Father of Lights	- - - 1. 17
IV. Our God and Father	- - 1. 27, R.V.
V. The Lord and Father	- - 3. 9, R.V.
VI. The Lord of Sabaoth	- - - 5. 4
VII. The Giving God	- - 1. 5 (literally)

**THE PROMISES OF GOD.**

I. The crown of life to them that love Him	1. 12
II. The kingdom	„ „ „ 2. 5

**THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.**

I. His titles:	
1. The Lord Jesus Christ	- 1. 1; 2. 1
2. The Lord of Glory	2. 1, lit. cp. Zech. 2. 5
3. The Lord	- 2. 1; 4. 15; 5. 7, 8, 14
II. His Deity	- - 1. 1; 2. 1; 4. 15; 5. 10
III. His glory	- - - - 2. 1
IV. His Lordship	- - - (see above)
V. His Second Coming:	
1. Its effects	- - - 5. 7
2. Its nearness	- - - 5. 8
VI. He is the Subject of the faith	- - 2. 1

VII. His Name named upon believers	- 2. 7
VIII. His Name reproached through their misdeeds	- - - 2. 7
IX. His Name an authority in ministry of the sick	- - - 5. 14
X. His will is law	- - - 4. 15
XI. He is the Healer	- - - 5. 14
XII. He is the Rewarder	- - - 1. 12

**THE WORD OF GOD.****I. Its titles:**

1. The Word of Truth	- - - 1. 18
2. The Perfect Law	- - - 1. 25
3. The Law of Liberty	- - 1. 25
4. The Scripture	- - 2. 8, 23; 4. 5, 6

**II. Its power:**

1. It is the means of regeneration	- 1. 18
2. It is implanted in the heart	1. 21, R.V.
3. It is able to save the soul	- 1. 21
4. It regulates our lives	- - 2. 8
5. It does not speak in vain	- - 4. 5

**III. Its requirements:**

1. We are to look into it	- - 1. 25
2. We are to receive it in meekness	1. 21
3. We are to carry out its precepts	1. 22
4. We are to continue in it	- - 1. 25

**IV. Its illustration:**

The mirror	- - - 1. 23-25
------------	----------------

## THE LAW OF GOD.

## I. Its titles:

- |                       |   |        |       |       |
|-----------------------|---|--------|-------|-------|
| 1. The perfect Law    | - | -      | -     | 1. 25 |
| 2. The Law of Liberty | - | 1. 25; | 2. 12 |       |
| 3. The Royal Law      | - | -      | -     | 2. 8  |

## II. What it does:

- |                    |   |   |   |       |
|--------------------|---|---|---|-------|
| 1. It convicts     | - | - | - | 2. 9  |
| 2. It makes guilty | - | - | - | 2. 11 |

## III. Evil conduct against it:

- |                           |   |   |       |
|---------------------------|---|---|-------|
| 1. Stumbling in one point | - | - | 2. 10 |
| 2. Transgressing it       | - | - | 2. 11 |
| 3. Speaking against it    | - | - | 4. 11 |
| 4. Judging it             | - | - | 4. 11 |

## IV. Right conduct toward it:

- |                     |   |   |       |
|---------------------|---|---|-------|
| 1. Looking into it  | - | - | 1. 25 |
| 2. Doing it         | - | - | 4. 11 |
| 3. Fulfilling it    | - | - | 2. 8  |
| 4. Keeping it       | - | - | 2. 10 |
| 5. Continuing in it | - | - | 1. 25 |

## THE GIFTS OF GOD.

- |                        |   |   |                 |             |
|------------------------|---|---|-----------------|-------------|
| I. Every good gift     | - | - | -               | 1. 17       |
| II. Every perfect boon | - | - | -               | 1. 17, R.V. |
| III. The Holy Spirit   | - | - | 4. 5 (see note) |             |
| IV. Grace              | - | - | -               | 4. 6        |
| V. Wisdom              | - | - | -               | 1. 5        |
| VI. The Crown of Life  | - | - | -               | 1. 12       |
| VII. The Kingdom       | - | - | -               | 2. 5        |

*Note on 4. 5.*—This verse consists of two questions, asked not for information but by way of remonstrance. The first implies that the Scripture does not speak in vain; the second that the indwelling Holy Spirit is not the Agent of evil desires.

## HIS MANNER OF GIVING.

- |                               |   |   |   |      |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|------|
| I. Universally                | - | - | - | 1. 5 |
| II. Liberally                 | - | - | - | 1. 5 |
| III. Without upbraiding       | - | - | - | 1. 5 |
| IV. On the condition of faith | - | - | - | 1. 6 |
| V. Not to satisfy selfishness | - | - | - | 4. 3 |



**FAITH.****A. The way of faith.**

I. The trial of faith	-	-	-	-	1. 3
II. The evidence	-	-	-	-	2. 18
III. The effect	-	-	-	-	2. 22
IV. The perfection	-	-	-	-	2. 22
V. The righteousness	-	-	-	-	2. 23
VI. The negation	-	-	-	2. 14, 17, 20	
VII. The prayer	-	-	-	5. 15, 16	

**B. The power of faith.**

I. Essential in prayer	-	-	-	-	1. 6
II. Effective in prayer	-	-	-	-	5. 15
III. Energized by trial	-	-	-	-	1. 3
IV. Evidential in works	-	-	-	-	2. 18
V. Expressed in works	-	-	-	-	2. 22
VI. Empty apart from works:					
1. Profitless	-	-	-	-	2. 14
2. Unable to save	-	-	-	-	2. 14
3. Dead	-	-	-	-	2. 17
4. Barren	-	-	-	-	2. 20
VII. Especially seen in poor saints	-	-	-	-	2. 5

**PRAYER.****I. Essential for effectual prayer:**

1. Faith	-	-	-	-	1. 6; 5. 15
2. Fervour	-	-	-	-	5. 16
3. Righteousness	-	-	-	-	5. 16
4. Freedom from doubt	-	-	-	1. 6, R.V.	
5. Freedom from selfishness	-	-	-	4. 3	

**II. Occasions for prayer:**

1. Need	-	-	-	-	1. 5
2. Affliction	-	-	-	-	5. 13
3. Sickness	-	-	-	-	5. 14, 16

**III. Subjects for prayer:**

1. For wisdom	-	-	-	-	1. 5
2. For healing	-	-	-	-	5. 14
3. For one another	-	-	-	-	5. 16

**IV. An illustration of prayer:**

Elijah	-	-	-	-	5. 17
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**WISDOM.****I. Spiritual:**

1. To be asked of God	-	-	-	-	1. 5
2. Comes:					
a, from above	-	-	-	-	3. 17
b, in answer to believing prayer	1. 5, 6				
3. Is associated with understanding	3. 13				

## 4. Is evidenced in:

- a. Good works - - - 3. 13  
 b. Meekness - - - - - „

## 5. Is:

- a. Pure - - - - 3. 17  
 b. Peaceable - - - - „  
 c. Gentle - - - - „  
 d. Easy to be entreated - - - „  
 e. Full of mercy - - - - „  
 f. Full of good fruits - - - „  
 g. Without variance - - - „  
 h. Without hypocrisy - - - „

## 6. Leads to:

1. Fruit of righteousness - 3. 18  
 2. A state of peace - - 3. 18

## II. Unspiritual:

1. Comes not from above - - 3. 15

## 2. Is evidenced in:

1. Jealousy - - - - 3. 14  
 2. Faction - - - - 3. 14

## 3. Is:

1. Earthly - - - - 3. 15  
 2. Sensual - - - - „  
 3. Devilish - - - - „

## 4. Leads to:

1. Confusion - - - 3. 16  
 2. Vile deeds - - 3. 16, R.V.

## THE TONGUE AND ITS POWER.

## I. What it is:

1. A world of iniquity - - - 3. 6  
 2. Untamable - - - - 3. 8  
 3. A restless evil - - - 3. 8  
 4. Full of deadly poison - - 3. 8

## II. What it resembles:

1. A fire - - - - 3. 6  
 2. A bridled horse - 3. 3; cp. 1. 26  
 3. A rudder - - - - 3. 4  
 4. A fountain - - - - 3. 11  
 5. A tree - - - - 3. 12

## III. What it does:

1. Boasteth great things - - 3. 5  
 2. Defileth the whole body - - 3. 6  
 3. Sets on fire the wheel of nature 3. 6, R.V.  
 4. Is set on fire of hell - - - 3. 6

## IV. What it is not to do:

1. Not to bless and curse - - 3. 9, 10  
 2. Not to speak evil - - - 4. 11  
 3. Not to swear - - - - 5. 12

## V. How it is to be used:

1. To be used in view of judgment  
     hereafter - - - 2, 12; 4. 11, 12  
 2. To be used without our stumbling  
     by it - - - - 3. 2  
 3. To be used in restraint - - 1. 26



## THE HEART.

- I. The divided heart - - 1. 8; 4. 8 (lit.)
- II. „ deceived heart - - - 1. 26
- III. „ contentious heart - - - 3. 14
- IV. „ selfish heart - - - 5. 5
- V. „ purified heart - - - 4. 8
- VI. „ established heart - - - 5. 8

## THINGS PERFECT.

- I. Perfect work—wrought by patience - 1. 4
- II. „ Christian—matured by patience 1. 4
- III. „ gifts—given by God - - 1. 17
- IV. „ Law—the Word of God - 1. 25
- V. „ faith—accompanied by works 2. 22
- VI. „ man—not stumbling in words 3. 2

## THE WORLD.

- I. Its influence is detrimental to the Christian - - - 1. 27
- II. His duty is to keep himself unspotted by it - - - 1. 27
- III. To cultivate its fellowship:
  - 1. Is enmity with God - - 4. 4
  - 2. Constitutes unfaithfulness to God - - - 4. 4
  - 3. Is contrary to the testimony of Scripture - - - 4. 5
  - 4. Is contrary to the Spirit of God - 4. 5

## SIN.

- I. Is conceived by lust - - - 1. 15
- II. Grows to maturity - - - 1. 15, R.V.
- III. Brings forth death - - - 1. 15
- IV. Is a transgression of the law - - 2. 9
- V. Is contrary to the Spirit of God - 4. 5

## SINS.

- I. One sin is a breach of the whole law - 2. 10
- II. Sins consist in omission as well as commission - - - 4. 17
- III. All men sin in many things - - 3. 2
- IV. Sin in word is especially to be avoided 3. 2-12
- V. Sinful thoughts and ways are to be abandoned - - - 4. 8
- VI. Sins do not always meet with God's immediate resistance - - 5. 6
- VII. Forgiveness (involving restoration of soul) sometimes accompanies healing of body - - - 5. 15
- VIII. Acknowledgment to one another is enjoined - - - 5. 16, R.V.
- IX. Restoration of a backslider involves the covering of many sins - 5. 20

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