

James: Overview (Davids p. 33)

James is what is called a Diaspora letter, sent from Jewish leaders in Jerusalem (in our case a Jewish-Christian leader) to synagogues in the Jewish Diaspora (in our case these are Jewish-Christian synagogues). The purpose of James is to strengthen the internal unity of the churches outside of Palestine belonging to his circle (i.e. Jewish-Christian congregations) by encouraging (1) the sharing of wealth and (2) proper use of speech.

The reason for this need is the external pressure the churches are under through low-grade economic persecution. As for the readers, the book mostly reflects the Jerusalem church it is being written from, but it is intended to help Jewish-Christian churches scattered throughout the Jewish Diaspora.

James: Short Outline (Davids p. 33-34)

- I. **Introduction** (chapter 1)
 - A. Salutation (1:1)
 - B. Opening part one (1:2-11)
 - C. Opening part two (1:12-27)

- II. **Wealth** (chapter 2)
 - A. Wealth and discrimination (2:1-13).
Don't discriminate between rich and poor believers.

 - B. Wealth and sharing (2:14-26)
Demonstrate your faith through generosity.

- III. **Wisdom and the Tongue** (3:1-4:12)
 - A. Danger of the tongue (3:1-12)
 - B. Wisdom and the tongue (3:13-18)
 - C. Repentance and the tongue (4:1-10)
 - D. Conclusion on the tongue (4:11-12)

- IV. **Testing** (4:13-5:6)
 - A. Test of wealth (4:13-17)
 - B. Testing by the wealthy (5:1-6)

- V. **Conclusion**
 - A. Summary of the teaching (5:7-11)
 - B. Oath substitute (5:12) [Replaced the tradition oath by the gods]
 - C. Health prayer (5:13-18) [Replaced the traditional health wish]
 - D. Purpose statement (5:19-20)

James 1

¹James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.

Trials and Temptations

Testing

²Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face **trials** of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith develops **perseverance**. ⁴**Perseverance** must finish its work so that you may

be **mature and complete, not lacking anything**. ⁵If any of you lacks **wisdom**, he should **ask** God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. ⁶But when he **asks**, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the

Wisdom

wind. ⁷**That man** should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸he is a double-minded man, **unstable in all he does**.

Wealth

⁹The **brother in humble circumstances** ought to take pride in his high position. ¹⁰But the one who is **rich** should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower. ¹¹For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the **rich** man will fade away even while he goes about his business.

NIV	NLT	RSV
<p>James 1 ¹James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.</p> <p><i>Trials and Temptations</i></p> <p>²Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.</p> <p>⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. ⁶But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.</p> <p>⁹The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. ¹⁰But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower. ¹¹For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich man will fade away even while he goes about his business.</p>	<p><i>Greetings from James</i> ¹This letter is from James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is written to Jewish Christians scattered among the nations. ^[1] Greetings!</p> <p><i>Faith and Endurance</i></p> <p>²Dear brothers and sisters, ^[2] whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy. ³For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. ⁴So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything.</p> <p>⁵If you need wisdom--if you want to know what God wants you to do--ask him, and he will gladly tell you. He will not resent your asking. ⁶But when you ask him, be sure that you really expect him to answer, for a doubtful mind is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷People like that should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸They can't make up their minds. They waver back and forth in everything they do.</p> <p>⁹Christians who are ^[3] poor should be glad, for God has honored them. ¹⁰And those who are rich should be glad, for God has humbled them. They will fade away like a flower in the field. ¹¹The hot sun rises and dries up the grass; the flower withers, and its beauty fades away. So also, wealthy people will fade away with all of their achievements.</p>	<p>James 1 1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greeting.</p> <p>2 Count it all joy, my brethren, when you meet various trials, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.</p> <p>5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all men generously and without reproaching, and it will be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that person must not suppose that a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways, will receive anything from the Lord.</p> <p>8,9 Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, 10 and the rich in his humiliation, because like the flower of the grass he will pass away. 11 For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.</p>