# **James**

Translated by John Cunyus

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# Greeting

James 1:1 Iacobus Dei et Domini nostri Iesu Christi servus duodecim tribubus quae sunt in dispersione salutem

Jacob, slave of God and of our Lord Jesus Christ, to *the* twelve tribes that are in *the* dispersion:<sup>1</sup> health!

# **Consider All Joy**

1:2 omne gaudium existimate fratres mei cum in temptationibus variis incideritis

Consider all *a* joy, my brothers, when you fall into various testings,

1:3 scientes quod probatio fidei vestrae patientiam operatur

knowing that *the* proving of your faith works patience.

1:4 patientia autem opus perfectum habeat ut sitis perfecti et integri in nullo deficientes

Yet patience has *a* complete work, that you may be complete and whole, lacking in nothing.

#### If You Lack

1:5 si quis autem vestrum indiget sapientiam postulet a Deo qui dat omnibus affluenter et non inproperat et dabitur ei

But if someone lacks wisdom, let him ask from God who gives abundantly to all, and does not reproach – and it will be given him.

1:6 postulet autem in fide nihil haesitans qui enim haesitat similis est fluctui maris qui a vento movetur et circumfertur

Yet let him ask in faith, hesitating in nothing, for one who hesitates is like *the* sea's wave, which is moved and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The underlying Greek word,  $\delta$ ιασπορ $\hat{\alpha}$ , refers to members of the people of Israel living outside the Promised Land.

taken around by the wind.

**1:7** non ergo aestimet homo ille quod accipiat aliquid a Domino

Therefore, that man does not consider that he will receive anything from *the* Lord –

1:8 vir duplex animo inconstans in omnibus viis suis

a double-souled man, inconstant in all his ways.

#### Poor and Rich

**1:9** *glorietur autem frater humilis in exaltatione sua* 

Yet let *a* humble brother glory in his exaltation,

**1:10** dives autem in humilitate sua quoniam sicut flos faeni transibit

but *a* rich *man* in his humiliation, because he will pass away like *a* flower of grass.

1:11 exortus est enim sol cum

ardore et arefecit faenum et flos eius decidit et decor vultus eius deperiit ita et dives in itineribus suis marcescet

For *the* sun has risen with heat, and it dried up *the* grass, and its flower fell, and *the* beauty of its appearance was lost. So also *the* rich *man* will dry up in his activities.

# **Testing Yields Blessing**

1:12 beatus vir qui suffert temptationem quia cum probatus fuerit accipiet coronam vitae quam repromisit Deus diligentibus se

A man who suffers testing is blessed, because, when he is proved, he will receive life's crown—which God guarantees to those delighting in Him.

1:13 nemo cum temptatur dicat quoniam a Deo temptor Deus enim intemptator malorum est ipse autem neminem temptat

Let no one say when he is

tempted, "I am tempted by God" – for God is not tempted by harms, and He tempts no one.

**1:14** unusquisque vero temptatur a concupiscentia sua abstractus et inlectus

Indeed, each one is tested by his desires, unreal and unexamined.

1:15 dein concupiscentia cum conceperit parit peccatum peccatum vero cum consummatum fuerit generat mortem

Then desire, when it conceives, births sin. Sin, indeed, when it is consummated, produces death.

#### Don't Wander!

**1:16** *nolite itaque errare fratres mei dilectissimi* 

So don't wander, my most beloved brothers!

1:17 omne datum optimum et omne donum perfectum

desursum est descendens a Patre luminum apud quem non est transmutatio nec vicissitudinis obumbratio

Every prime gift and every perfect present is from above, coming down from light's Father, with Whom is no change or altering shadow.

1:18 voluntarie genuit nos verbo veritatis ut simus initium aliquod creaturae eius

He birthed us freely by truth's word, that we might be some beginning of His creation.

#### **Slow to Anger**

1:19 scitis fratres mei dilecti sit autem omnis homo velox ad audiendum tardus autem ad loquendum et tardus ad iram

You understand, my beloved brothers. But let every man be swift to listen, yet slow to speak, and slow to anger –

**1:20** ira enim viri iustitiam Dei non operatur

for man's anger does not work God's fairness.

1:21 propter quod abicientes omnem inmunditiam et abundantiam malitiae in mansuetudine suscipite insitum verbum quod potest salvare animas vestras

For this reason, throwing aside all uncleanness and *the* abundance of harms, receive in gentleness *the* ingrafted word that can secure your souls!

# **Doers, More Than Hearers 1:22** estote autem factores verbi et non auditores tantum fallentes vosmet ipsos

But be *the* word's doers, not merely hearers, fooling yourselves –

1:23 quia si quis auditor est verbi et non factor hic conparabitur viro consideranti vultum nativitatis suae in speculo

for if someone is the word's

hearer and not doer, he is comparable to *a* man looking at his birth's appearance in *a* mirror.

**1:24** consideravit enim se et abiit et statim oblitus est qualis fuerit

For he looked at himself, and went out, and immediately forgotten what sort he was.

1:25 qui autem perspexerit in lege perfecta libertatis et permanserit non auditor obliviosus factus sed factor operis hic beatus in facto suo erit

But one who looks into liberty's complete law, and endures – not *a* hearer made forgetful, but *the* work's doer – he will be blessed in his work.

#### **Right Religion**

1:26 si quis autem putat se religiosum esse non refrenans linguam suam sed seducens cor suum huius vana est religio

Yet if someone considers himself to be religious – not restraining his tongue, yet seducing his heart – this one's religion is vain.

1:27 religio munda et inmaculata apud Deum et Patrem haec est visitare pupillos et viduas in tribulatione eorum inmaculatum se custodire ab hoc saeculo

This is a clean and unstained religion with God and the Father: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself without stain from this age.

# **Don't Play Favorites**

James 2:1 fratres mei nolite in personarum acceptione habere fidem Domini nostri Iesu Christi gloriae

My brothers, don't have *the* faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory in order to play favorites.

2:2 etenim si introierit in conventu vestro vir aureum anulum habens in veste candida introierit autem et pauper in sordido habitu

For if a man in splendid clothing, having a gold ring, enters your gathering, but a poor man in filthy dress also comes,

2:3 et intendatis in eum qui indutus est veste praeclara et dixeritis tu sede hic bene pauperi autem dicatis tu sta illic aut sede sub scabillo pedum meorum

and you exert yourselves over him who is dressed nicely, and say, "You sit in this good place," but you say to the poor man, "You stand here," or, "Sit under my footstool" –

2:4 nonne iudicatis apud vosmet ipsos et facti estis iudices cogitationum iniquarum

haven't you judged among yourselves, and become judges of treacherous thought?

#### **God Has Chosen the Poor**

2:5 audite fratres mei dilectissimi nonne Deus elegit pauperes in hoc mundo divites in fide et heredes regni quod repromisit Deus diligentibus se

Listen, my most beloved brothers! Hasn't God chosen *the* poor in this world *as* rich in faith, and *as* heirs of *the* kingdom that God promised to those delighting in Him?

**2:6** vos autem exhonorastis pauperem nonne divites per potentiam opprimunt vos et ipsi trahunt vos ad iudicia

But you dishonored *the* poor! Aren't *the* rich oppressing you through power, and aren't they dragging you to judgment?

**2:7** nonne ipsi blasphemant bonum nomen quod invocatum est super vos

Aren't they blaspheming *the* good name that is invoked over you?

**2:8** si tamen legem perficitis regalem secundum scripturas diliges proximum tuum sicut te ipsum bene facitis

But if you complete *the* royal law according to *the* scriptures, "You will delight in your neighbor as yourself," you do well.

**2:9** si autem personas accipitis peccatum operamini redarguti a lege quasi transgressores

If, though, you play favorites, you are covered with sin –

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See Leviticus 19:18.

proved from *the* law as transgressors.

#### The Whole Law

**2:10** quicumque autem totam legem servaverit offendat autem in uno factus est omnium reus

Whoever serves *the* whole law, yet offends in one *matter*, has become guilty of all.

2:11 qui enim dixit non moechaberis dixit et non occides quod si non moechaberis occides autem factus es transgressor legis

For *the One* who said, "You will not commit adultery," also *said*, "You will not kill," so that if you don't commit adultery, yet you kill – you have become *the* law's transgressor.

#### So Speak and So Act

**2:12** sic loquimini et sic facite sicut per legem libertatis incipientes iudicari

So speak and so work as those

beginning to be judged by liberty's law –

2:13 iudicium enim sine misericordia illi qui non fecit misericordiam superexultat autem misericordia iudicio

for judgment without mercy is to one who has not worked mercy. But mercy exults above judgment.

#### **Faith and Deeds**

**2:14** quid proderit fratres mei si fidem quis dicat se habere opera autem non habeat numquid poterit fides salvare eum

What is it worth, my brothers, if someone claims to have faith, but has no actions? Faith can't save him, can it?

2:15 si autem frater aut soror nudi sunt et indigent victu cotidiano

But if brother or sister are naked and lack daily food,

**2:16** *dicat autem aliquis de* 

vobis illis ite in pace calefacimini et saturamini non dederitis autem eis quae necessaria sunt corporis quid proderit

yet someone among you says to them, "Go in peace! Be warmed and filled!" – yet does not give them what *things* are necessary to *the* body, what is it worth?

**2:17** sic et fides si non habeat opera mortua est in semet ipsam

So also faith, if it has no actions, is dead in itself.

2:18 sed dicet quis tu fidem habes et ego opera habeo ostende mihi fidem tuam sine operibus et ego ostendam tibi ex operibus fidem meam

Yet someone will say, "You have faith, and I have actions." Show me your faith without actions, and I will show you my faith by my actions.

2:19 tu credis quoniam unus

est Deus bene facis et daemones credunt et contremescunt

Do you believe that God is one? You do well. *The* demons believe, too, and tremble.

**2:20** vis autem scire o homo inanis quoniam fides sine operibus otiosa est

But don't you know, O foolish man, that faith without actions is useless?

#### Abraham's Example

**2:21** Abraham pater noster nonne ex operibus iustificatus est offerens Isaac filium suum super altare

Wasn't Abraham our father made right through actions, offering his son Isaac on *an* altar?

2:22 vides quoniam fides cooperabatur operibus illius et ex operibus fides consummata est

You see that faith worked together by its actions, and faith was consummated by actions.

2:23 et suppleta est scriptura dicens credidit Abraham Deo et reputatum est illi ad iustitiam et amicus Dei appellatus est

And scripture is supplied, saying, "Abraham believed God, and it was reputed to him as fairness." And he was called God's friend.<sup>4</sup>

**2:24** *videtis quoniam ex operibus iustificatur homo et non ex fide tantum* 

You see that man is made right by actions, and not from faith only.

# Rahab's Example

**2:25** similiter autem et Raab meretrix nonne ex operibus iustificata est suscipiens

nuntios et alia via eiciens

Yet Rahab *the* whore *is* likewise *an example*. Wasn't she made right by actions, receiving *the* messengers and sending *them* out by another road?

**2:26** sicut enim corpus sine spiritu emortuum est ita et fides sine operibus mortua est

For as *a* body without breath is dead, so also faith without actions is dead.

2:1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See Genesis 15:6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See Isaiah 41:8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> This story begins at Joshua

# Take Care Before Presuming to Teach

James 3:1 nolite plures magistri fieri fratres mei scientes quoniam maius iudicium sumitis

Don't many of you be teachers, my brothers, knowing that you take up great judgment,

3:2 in multis enim offendimus omnes si quis in verbo non offendit hic perfectus est vir potens etiam freno circumducere totum corpus

for we all offend in many ways. If one does not offend in word, he is *a* complete man, *able* even to guide *the* whole body by *a* bit.

3:3 si autem equorum frenos in ora mittimus ad consentiendum nobis et omne corpus illorum circumferimus

Yet if we put bits in horses' mouths to *make them* consent to us, we guide also their whole body.

# **Taming the Tongue**

3:4 ecce et naves cum magnae sint et a ventis validis minentur circumferuntur a modico gubernaculo ubi impetus dirigentis voluerit

Look, ships also, when they are large and are driven by mighty winds, are guided by *a* small rudder where *the* force of *the one* guiding wishes.

3:5 ita et lingua modicum quidem membrum est et magna exultat ecce quantus ignis quam magnam silvam incendit

So also *the* tongue, indeed, is *a* small member, and exults in great *things*. Look, how much fire ignites a great forest!

3:6 et lingua ignis est universitas iniquitatis lingua constituitur in membris nostris quae maculat totum corpus et inflammat rotam nativitatis nostrae inflammata a gehenna

And *the* tongue is *a* fire, *a* universe of treachery. *The* 

tongue is set up in our members, which stains *the* whole body and inflames *the* wheel of our birth, inflamed from Gehenna.<sup>6</sup>

3:7 omnis enim natura bestiarum et volucrum et serpentium etiam ceterorum domantur et domita sunt a natura humana

For every nature of beasts, and birds, and snakes, even others, are subdued and tamed by human nature,

3:8 linguam autem nullus hominum domare potest inquietum malum plena veneno mortifero

yet *the* human tongue no one can tame -a restless harm, full of death-dealing poison.

3:9 in ipsa benedicimus Dominum et Patrem et in ipsa maledicimus homines qui ad similitudinem Dei facti sunt

With it we bless *the* Lord and Father, and with it we curse men who are made in God's likeness.

**3:10** ex ipso ore procedit benedictio et maledictio non oportet fratres mei haec ita fieri

From *the* same mouth, blessing comes forth, and cursing. This ought not be so, my brothers.

**3:11** numquid fons de eodem foramine emanat dulcem et amaram aquam

A spring can't send out sweet and bitter water from *the* same opening, can it?

**3:12** numquid potest fratres mei ficus olivas facere aut vitis ficus sic neque salsa dulcem potest facere aquam

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> AV reads "hell." The Greek word,  $\gamma \dot{\epsilon} \dot{\epsilon} \nu \nu \alpha$ , refers to the Valley of Hinnon, south of Jerusalem, where animal carcasses and the city's garbage was burned. In time, Gehenna came to symbolize final destruction. See also Matthew 23:15, 33.

Can *a* fig *tree* make olives, my brothers, or *a* vine figs? So neither can saltwater make sweet water.

# Wise and Disciplined

3:13 quis sapiens et disciplinatus inter vos ostendat ex bona conversatione operationem suam in mansuetudine sapientiae

Who is wise and disciplined among you? Let him show his good works by good conversation, in wisdom's gentleness.

**3:14** quod si zelum amarum habetis et contentiones in cordibus vestris nolite gloriari et mendaces esse adversus veritatem

Yet if you have bitter jealousy and contentions in your hearts, don't boast and be liars against truth.

**3:15** non est ista sapientia desursum descendens sed terrena animalis diabolica

That wisdom is not descending from above, but of earth, of animal *nature*, diabolical.

**3:16** ubi enim zelus et contentio ibi inconstantia et omne opus pravum

For where jealousy and contention *are*, there also *are* inconstancy and every twisted work.

**3:17** quae autem desursum est sapientia primum quidem pudica est deinde pacifica modesta suadibilis plena misericordia et fructibus bonis non iudicans sine simulatione

But *the* wisdom that is from above indeed is first pure, then peaceful, modest, persuadable, full of mercy and good works, not judging, without pretense.

**3:18** fructus autem iustitiae in pace seminatur facientibus pacem

Yet fairness's fruit is sown in peace to those working peace.

#### Wars and Conflicts

James 4:1 unde bella et lites in vobis nonne hinc ex concupiscentiis vestris quae militant in membris vestris

Where do wars and conflicts come from among you? Aren't they from this – from your lusts, that campaign among your members?

**4:2** concupiscitis et non habetis occiditis et zelatis et non potestis adipisci litigatis et belligeratis non habetis propter quod non postulatis

You lust and do not have. You kill, and are jealous, and can't obtain. You litigate and make war. You don't have because you don't ask.

**4:3** petitis et non accipitis eo quod male petatis ut in concupiscentiis vestris insumatis

You ask and don't receive because you ask harmfully, so you can consume in your lusts.

# Friendship with Whom?

**4:4** adulteri nescitis quia amicitia huius mundi inimica est Dei quicumque ergo voluerit amicus esse saeculi huius inimicus Dei constituitur

Adulterers, don't you know that friendship with this world is hostility with God? Therefore, whoever wants to be *a* friend of this age is set up as God's enemy.

**4:5** aut putatis quia inaniter scriptura dicat ad invidiam concupiscit Spiritus qui inhabitat in nobis

Or do you consider that scripture says pointlessly, "*The* Spirit who lives among us lusts to envy"?<sup>7</sup>

**4:6** maiorem autem dat gratiam propter quod dicit Deus superbis resistit humilibus autem dat gratiam

But He gives greater grace,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> It is not clear what scripture is being cited.

because it says, "God resists *the* proud, but gives grace to *the* humble."

#### **Be Subject!**

**4:7** subditi igitur estote Deo resistite autem diabolo et fugiet a vobis

Be subject, therefore, to God! But resist *the* devil, and he will run away from you!

**4:8** adpropiate Domino et adpropinquabit vobis emundate manus peccatores et purificate corda duplices animo

Come near *the* Lord, and He will come near you! Clean hands, sinners, and purify hearts, *you* double-souled!

**4:9** miseri estote et lugete et plorate risus vester in luctum convertatur et gaudium in maerorem

Be merciful, and mourn, and

weep! Let your laughter be changed into mourning, and joy into grieving!

**4:10** humiliamini in conspectu Domini et exaltabit vos

Be humbled in *the* Lord's sight, and He will lift you up!

# Don't Tear Your Brother Down!

4:11 nolite detrahere de alterutrum fratres qui detrahit fratri aut qui iudicat fratrem suum detrahit legi et iudicat legem si autem iudicas legem non es factor legis sed iudex

Don't tear down another, brothers! Who tears down *a* brother or who judges his brother, tears down *the* law and judges *the* law. But if you judge *the* law, you are not *the* law's doer but *a* judge.

**4:12** unus est legislator et iudex qui potest perdere et liberare tu autem quis es qui iudicas proximum

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> The closest similarity to this text is Proverbs 3:34.

*The* Lawgiver and Judge is one, who can destroy and free. But you, who are you who judges *a* neighbor?<sup>9</sup>

#### Don't Presume!

4:13 ecce nunc qui dicitis hodie aut crastino ibimus in illam civitatem et faciemus quidem ibi annum et mercabimur et lucrum faciemus

Look now, *you* who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to that city, and we will work there indeed, and trade, and make money" –

**4:14** qui ignoratis quid erit in crastinum quae enim est vita vestra vapor est ad modicum parens deinceps exterminatur

you who ignore what will be

Edition.)

tomorrow!<sup>10</sup> For what is your life? It is *a* vapor appearing for *a* little while. Afterwards, it is exterminated.

**4:15** pro eo ut dicatis si Dominus voluerit et vixerimus faciemus hoc aut illud

It is for this reason that you should say, "If the Lord wills and we live, we will do this or that."

**4:16** nunc autem exultatis in superbiis vestris omnis exultatio talis maligna est

But now you exult in your arrogance! All such exultation is malignant.

**4:17** scienti igitur bonum facere et non facienti peccatum est illi

Therefore, it is sin to one knowing how to do *the* good and not doing it.

<sup>9</sup> The second sentence in 4:12 appears as the first sentence of 4:13 in <u>Douay-Rheims</u>. (DRA - The Douay-Rheims 1899 American

Nerse 4:14 in <u>Douay-Rheims</u> ends here. The rest of the verse is included in 4:15.

# Warning to the Rich

**James 5:1** age nunc divites plorate ululantes in miseriis quae advenient vobis

Go now, *you* rich! Weep! Wail in *the* miseries that will come to you!

**5:2** divitiae vestrae putrefactae sunt et vestimenta vestra a tineis comesta sunt

Your riches have rotted, and your clothes are eaten up by moths.

5:3 aurum et argentum vestrum eruginavit et erugo eorum in testimonium vobis erit et manducabit carnes vestras sicut ignis thesaurizastis in novissimis diebus

Your gold and silver have rusted, and their rust will be as testimony against you, and will eat up your flesh like fire you have stored up in *the* last days.

**5:4** *ecce merces operariorum* 

qui messuerunt regiones vestras qui fraudatus est a vobis clamat et clamor ipsorum in aures Domini Sabaoth introiit

Look, *the* pay of *the* workers who harvested your lands – which was defrauded by you – cries out, and their cry has entered into Lord Sabaoth's ears.

**5:5** epulati estis super terram et in luxuriis enutristis corda vestra in die occisionis

You've feasted on *the* land, and nourished your hearts in luxuries for *the* day of slaughter.

**5:6** addixistis occidistis iustum non resistit vobis

You have enslaved. You've killed *the* fair. He doesn't resist you.

# **Be Patient Until the Day**

**5:7** patientes igitur estote fratres usque ad adventum Domini ecce agricola expectat

pretiosum fructum terrae patienter ferens donec accipiat temporivum et serotinum

Therefore, be patient, brothers, until *the* Lord's coming! Look, *a* farmer waits for *the* land's precious fruit, patiently considering until it can receive early and late rain.

**5:8** patientes estote et vos confirmate corda vestra quoniam adventus Domini adpropinquavit

You also be patient! Strengthen your hearts, because *the* Lord's coming has come near!

**5:9** nolite ingemescere fratres in alterutrum ut non iudicemini ecce iudex ante ianuam adsistit

Don't groan, brothers, against each other, so you won't be judged! Look, *the* judge stands before *the* door.

# The Prophets' Example

5:10 exemplum accipite fratres laboris et patientiae prophetas qui locuti sunt in nomine Domini

Receive, brothers, *the* example of *the* labor and patience of *the* prophets who spoke in *the* Lord's name!

**5:11** ecce beatificamus qui sustinuerunt sufferentiam Iob audistis et finem Domini vidistis quoniam misericors est Dominus et miserator

Look, we bless those who endured. You have heard of Job's suffering, and seen *the* Lord's end – that *the* Lord is both merciful and compassionate.

5:12 ante omnia autem fratres mei nolite iurare neque per caelum neque per terram neque aliud quodcumque iuramentum sit autem vestrum est est non non uti non sub iudicio decidatis

But before all, my brothers,

don't swear – neither by *the* sky, nor by *the* land, nor by whatever other oath! But let your Yes be Yes, *your* No *be* No, that you may not fall under judgment.

# **Recourse to Prayer**

**5:13** tristatur aliquis vestrum oret aequo animo est psallat

Is anyone of yours sad? Let him pray. Is *someone* calmed in soul? Let him sing psalms.

**5:14** infirmatur quis in vobis inducat presbyteros ecclesiae et orent super eum unguentes eum oleo in nomine Domini

Let one who is sick bring in *the* gathering's elders, 11 and they will pray over him, anointing him with oil in *the* Lord's name.

**5:15** et oratio fidei salvabit infirmum et adlevabit eum Dominus et si in peccatis sit

dimittentur ei

And faith's prayer will secure *the* sick *one*, and *the* Lord will lift him up – and if he be in sins, they will be forgiven him.

**5:16** confitemini ergo alterutrum peccata vestra et orate pro invicem ut salvemini multum enim valet deprecatio iusti adsidua

Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for each other that you may be secured – for *a* fair man's unceasing prayer prevails!

**5:17** Helias homo erat similis nobis passibilis et oratione oravit ut non plueret super terram et non pluit annos tres et menses sex

Elijah was *a* man walking like us, and he prayed by petition that it not rain on *the* land – and it did not rain for three years and six months.

5:18 et rursum oravit et

<sup>11 &</sup>lt;u>Douay-Rheims</u> reads "Let him bring in the priests of the church ..."

caelum dedit pluviam et terra dedit fructum suum

And he prayed again, and *the* sky gave rain, and *the* land gave its fruit.

# **If Someone Wanders**

**5:19** fratres mei si quis ex vobis erraverit a veritate et converterit quis eum

My brothers, if one among you wanders from truth, and someone turns him back,

**5:20** scire debet quoniam qui converti fecerit peccatorem ab errore viae suae salvabit animam eius a morte et operit multitudinem peccatorum

he must know that someone who makes *a* sinner turn from his error's way will secure his soul from death, and cover *a* multitude of sins.