

*The Letter to the
12 Tribes*

James

Jas. 5:1-6



Jas. 5:1 Go to now, *ye* rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon *you*.

2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten.

3 Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.

4 Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.

5 Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.

6 Ye have condemned *and* killed the just; *and* he doth not resist you.



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James begins the chapter with warnings regarding riches:

- Verse 1 = the consternation
- Verse 2 = the corruption
- Verse 3 = the cankering
- Verse 4 = the cries
- Verses 5-6 = the condemnation



B. Boasting about our prosperity, 5:1-6

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1. The rich men's woes described, 5:1-4

a. The prophetic declaration, 5:1

Jas. 5:1 Go to now, *ye* rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon *you*.

Original Word: κλαίω

Transliteration: klaió

Definition: I weep, weep for, mourn, lament.

klaiō – properly, weep *aloud*, expressing *uncontainable, audible* grief ("audible weeping," *WP*, 2, 88).

<http://biblehub.com/greek/2799.htm>



Original Word: ὀλολύζω

Transliteration: ololuzó

Definition: I howl, lament loudly, cry aloud, bewail.

ololýzō – an onomatopoetic term, resembling the sound of an ecstatic (exuberant) cry or shriek; meaning *howl, cry out audibly*, expressing feelings *too intense for words* (used only in Js 5:1).

<http://biblehub.com/greek/3649.htm>

Original Word: ταλαιπωρία

Transliteration: talaipória

Definition: hardship, misery, distress, toil.

talaipōría – literally, a *calloused* (miserable) condition; *wretchedness* resulting from ongoing, intense affliction.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/5004.htm>



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1 Tim. 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

7 For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out.

8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

9 But **they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare**, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

10 For **the love of money** is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Mt. 13:22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and **the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.**

b. The prophetic details, 5:2-4

(1) The depreciated value of their wealth, 5:2

Jas. 5:2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten.

Mt. 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

21 For where your treasure is, **there will your heart be** also.

Original Word: σήπω

Transliteration: sépó

Definition: I cause to rot, make corrupt.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/4595.htm>



(2) The damning voice of their wealth, 5:3a “Your gold and silver is cankered...”

Original Word: κατιόω

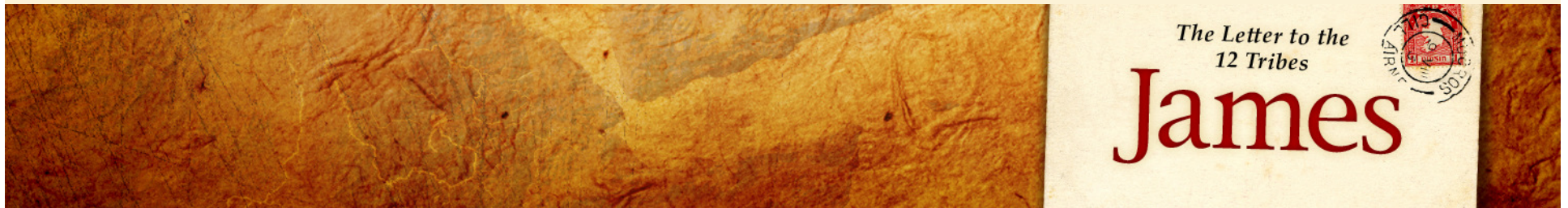
Transliteration: katioó

Definition: I rust; pass: I am rusted, tarnished.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/2728.htm>

(3) The detailed vision of their wealth, 5:3b-4

(a) As to the day of reckoning, 5:3b “...and the rust of them **shall be a witness against you**, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together **for the last days**.”



Mark 6:11 And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for **a testimony against them**. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.

Lu. 12:16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, *and* be merry.

20 But God said unto him, *Thou* fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

21 So **is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.**

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Prov. 11:24 There is that **scattereth, and yet increaseth**; and *there is* that **withholdeth more than is meet, but *it tendeth to poverty***.

(b) As to the details of reckoning, 5:4

i. Their fraud described, 5:4a “Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, **which is of you kept back by fraud**, crieth...”

Original Word: ἀποστερέω

Transliteration: apostereó

Short Definition: I deprive one of something, rob

Definition: I defraud, deprive of, despoil; mid: I endure deprivation; pass: I am bereft of.

Aposteréō, properly, keep *away* from someone, i.e. by *defrauding* (depriving); to cheat, taking away what rightfully belongs to someone else. <http://biblehub.com/greek/650.htm>

Deut. 24:15 At his day thou shalt **give him his hire**, neither shall the sun go down upon it; for he *is* poor, and setteth his heart upon it: lest he cry against thee unto the LORD, and it be sin unto thee.

ii. Their fraud discerned, 5:4b "...and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.

Original Word: σαβαώθ

Part of Speech: Hebrew Form (Indeclinable)

Transliteration: sabaóth

Short Definition: hosts, armies

sabaóth (the Greek transliteration of the Hebrew term, *bā'āh*,) – host(s), an innumerable throng (limitless company). *sabaóth* ("the Lord of *hosts*") only occurs in Ro 9:29 and Js 4:5, and correlates to the familiar phrase, "the Lord of *hosts*" in the OT.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/4519.htm>

Isa. 5:9 In mine ears *said* **the LORD of hosts**, Of a truth many houses shall be desolate, *even* great and fair, without inhabitant.

Rom. 9:29 And as Esaias said before, Except **the Lord of Sabaoth** had left us a seed, we had been as Sodoma, and been made like unto Gomorrha.

2. The rich men's wickedness disclosed, 5:5-6

a. Their pleasure, 5:5a "Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton..."



Amos 6:1 **Woe to them that are at ease in Zion**, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, *which are* named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came!

2 Pass ye unto Calneh, and see; and from thence go ye to Hamath the great: then go down to Gath of the Philistines: *be they* better than these kingdoms? or their border greater than your border?

3 Ye that put far away the evil day, and cause the seat of violence to come near;

4 That **lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat the lambs out of the flock, and the calves out of the midst of the stall;**

5 That chant to the sound of the viol, *and* invent to themselves instruments of musick, like David;

6 That drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the chief ointments: **but they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.**



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b. Their plunder, 5:5b "...ye have nourished **your hearts**, as in a day of slaughter."

2 Tim. 3:4 Traitors, heady, highminded, **lovers of pleasures than lovers of God**;

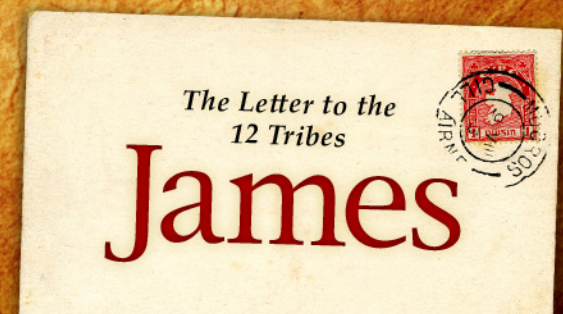
c. Their power, 5:6

(1) Its abuse seemingly unprevented, 5:6a "Ye have condemned *and* killed the just..."



2. Its abuse seemingly unprotested, 5:6b
“...*and* he doth not resist you.”

Isa. 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: **he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter**, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so **he openeth not his mouth.**



Conclusion

The name of this book, *James*, is the equivalent of *Jacob*.

Jer. 30:7 **Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it:** it is even **the time of Jacob's trouble**; but he shall be saved out of it.

2 Tim. 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2 For men shall be **lovers of their own selves**, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 **Without natural affection**, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, **despisers of those that are good**,

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, **lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God**;

5 **Having a form of godliness**, but denying the power thereof: **from such turn away**.