

The Epistle of James

Commentary

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For the edification and spiritual growth of Apollo Beach Fellowship and for every House Assembly which honors Jesus the Son of God and Messiah.

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1:1 James (Ya'akov), a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Messiah; to (sends greeting to) the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad (dispersed tribes among the peoples (goyim): Greetings (Shalom).

✧ James is identifying himself as the writer to the Jewish diaspora.

✧ James is the brother of Jesus, but he did not claim that, because of his humility and also because serving the Lord, is not a matter of family ties or prestige. James identified himself as the "servant" (bond servant - slave) of Jesus. In verse 2:1 James calls Jesus Lord YHWH. "Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave, just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many," (Mat. 20:25-28).

✧ James is sending the Messianic believers in the diaspora his greetings which in Hebrew is Shalom. Shalom means; may you be well, whole, complete, and in peace with no conflict.

✧ Judea (Israel) had the twelve tribes living there, but since the time of Nebuchednezzar, the Greeks, and the Romans, many Jewish families lived in other countries to save their lives. These were called the diaspora. At the time of Jesus, all the twelve tribes were returned back to the land of Judea, except for those families which found better lives in the diaspora. Thus the prophecy of the "Return" had been fulfilled: "Hear the word of YHWH, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd does his flock" (Jeremiah 31:10).

✧ This diaspora was prophesied by Moses: "And YHWH shall scatter you among the nations, and you shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither YHWH shall lead you. And there you shall serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell" (Deuteronomy 4:26-28).

✧ Jesus and His disciples were concerned about bringing the Word of truth and redemption to the diaspora: "These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand,'" (Matthew 10:5-7).

✧ God's purpose in dispersing some Jews among the nations (goyim), was to shine the light of His Word to the nations as He told Abram (Abraham): "I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed," (Genesis 12:2-3). (By the way, this verse is misused by the atheist Jews and Messianic Jews, (who are not well versed in the Bible), to collect hundreds of millions of dollars every year to send to Gog (the Free Masons) Zionists in Israel. This verse is related to (Abraham) and to those who believe in Messiah YHWH as his legitimate children (the children of God)).

1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall (enter) into various trials (temptations),

- ✧ James, in the Council of Jerusalem in AD 50, uses the same expression “rejoice or joy be with you” as the greeting in the Council letter to all the ekklyssias in the diaspora, Acts 15:23.
- ✧ The term “fall” gives us the impression that such sufferings are unexpected.
- ✧ When we suffer hardship, trials, disappointments, mistreatment, prejudice, discrimination, deception, slanders, which are not caused by anything we might have done or might have said, then, we need to know that these are allowed by YHWH the Creator for our good and for the name of YHWH Jesus to be glorified.
- ✧ Because of our myopic vision, we cannot see God’s plan in our lives. When we ask why Lord do you allow these evil people or evil persons to mistreat us, we need to remember; God is in absolute control.
- ✧ There is no Dualism in the universe as Eastern Mysticism and demonic teaching say. They falsely teach that the world is controlled by either God who is good or by Satan who is evil and the two keep fighting each other. This is absurd because there is One God who is the Creator and who is the Sovereign King of the universe. Satan is a creature with no powers unless God allows him for a short time and for a reason. God is in total control.
- ✧ Let us submit to God and understand that our sufferings must lead us to honor God and to represent Him rightly before all the witnesses on earth and in heaven.
- ✧ Remember Job who suffered immensely, yet he held his faith pure and gave all glory to God YHWH. For this he was called “a perfect man;” perfect in the spirit. “There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil,” (Job 1:1). I believe that Uz was in Galilee.
- ✧ Three men and John the Baptist were witnessed to be perfect in their spirits (Hebrew” Tamim) and these are Noah, Job, and Daniel. “Son of man, when a land sins against Me by persistent unfaithfulness, I will stretch out My hand against it; I will cut off its supply of bread, send famine on it, and cut off man and beast from it. Even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness,” says the YHWH GOD,” (Ezekiel 14:13-14, 18).
- ✧ Let us remember this and have the right attitude of submission and humility before YHWH God. Let us honor the name of YHWH Jesus in our lives when we suffer and when we are comforted. Also, we need to remember that this world is short and temporary. Our true home is with YHWH Jesus for eternity.
- ✧ “As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter," (Romans 8:36).

1:3 knowing that the testing (trying) of your faith produces (works - makes you possess - adds) patience.

✧ These trials and difficulties which we go through are not aimed at our destruction, but in essence they are aimed at the testing of our faith, our dependence, our submission to God, and our trust that God will deliver us from all evil. Thus, our spirits will not be polluted by the lack of faith, or falling away, or doubting, or changing alliance to Satan or to people.

✧ We suffer, but we develop patience. People who work hard and do not receive their due rewards, they know that they have to continue working hard until they are able to move to another level and improve the quality of their lives. They survive. If they choose to give up or to turn to criminal behavior to attain more money or more status, then they fail before God.

✧ Patience is a character of YHWH God. Sometimes we want God to be swift in punishing and destroying the evil people who discriminate or use us or abuse us. But, God is patient. Jeremiah was depressed and wondered whether he will survive the persecution or not because God was patient. Let us see what the Bible teaches us: "For many years You had patience with them, and testified against them by Your Spirit in Your prophets. Yet they would not listen; Therefore You gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands," (Nehemiah 9:30). "O LORD YHWH, You know; remember me and visit me, and take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In Your enduring patience, do not take me away. Know that for Your sake I have suffered rebuke," (Jeremiah 15:15).

✧ Patience is an essential character of true believers. If we claim to be true believers and do not manifest the Fruit of the Holy Spirit YHWH, then maybe we need to examine ourselves again to see if we are true or false believers. This does not mean that if I am impatient one day, then I am not a believer. We need to develop patience, but we need to understand that it is essential and serious as a character of our true faith. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering (**patience**), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law," (Galatians 5:22-23).

✧ Paul explains this eloquently saying in 2 Thessalonians 1:3-10: "We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God **for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure**, which is manifest **evidence** of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed." Paul was talking about God's patience for the next two thousand years, until the year 2029 AD (the Second Coming).

1:4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking (wanting) nothing.

✧ The term “perfect” is mentioned by Jesus in Matthew 5:48 "You therefore be perfect (Aramaic: g'miyra) as your Father in heaven who is perfect."

✧ This term “perfect” is in Ezra 7:12; Psalm 138:8; Psalm 57:3.

✧ The term “perfect” (Aramaic: g'miyra and tamiym - Hebrew: gamar and tam) refers to the completion, end, or perfection of the soul according to the one new spiritual man.

✧ Four men were mentioned to be “perfect” in their spirits: Noah, Job, Daniel, and John the Baptist.

✧ Churches teach false doctrine: they say falsely that we are humans and we cannot be righteous. They say deceptively that we must sin and we have to sin as if sin is normal even to the believers. They create habitual sinners among Christians. This is a false gospel. They teach that it is impossible to keep the law, thus giving permission to lawlessness.

✧ God YHWH calls his sons and his daughters to be “perfect” in their spirits. Satanist Hollywood and pagan Churches call the Christian to be perfect physically, sexually, financially and in popularity which are all demonic instruments against the true Gospel of Messiah Jesus.

✧ The Cross of Jesus is a torture stake which is an upright symbol that denotes the righteous sufferings of "an upright man" Jesus the Messiah.

✧ We are called to suffer as Jesus suffered, not because of our sins, but because we have stopped sinning and now we suffer for righteousness sake. It is often the religious people who hate the faithful obedient true believers. The light of obedient faithful believers annoys the majority of Pagano-Christians who live in the world and claim to follow Jesus.

✧ “And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men (religious men and women) loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil,” (John 3:19).

✧ The term “perfect” applies not only in our relationship with YHWH God, but also to our relations with the believers and with the neighbors who may or may not be believers at all.

✧ This term “perfect” does neither mean that we become gods, having divine nature, nor that we become superior to other humans. It simply means that we become faithful, obedient, submissive, righteous true believers in Jesus who is YHWH God and who is perfect.

✧ The term “lacking nothing” is promised by Jesus to the faithful believers: “My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus,” (Philippians 4:19).

1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask (wisdom) of God, who gives to all liberally (freely) and reproaches no one; and it will be given him.

- ✧ Wisdom is the opposite of confusion, ignorance, and lack of realistic expectations.
- ✧ It is normal for little children to lack wisdom.
- ✧ Similarly, when someone is new in the faith, he or she is considered a child in faith. He or she lacks wisdom.
- ✧ The only way to gain spiritual wisdom is through learning the Scriptures from the Scriptures (not from teachers or churches), and also through discipline in applying God's knowledge and faith in every day life situations.
- ✧ We all grow in faith, but the beginning must be to be born from above, from the Holy Spirit YHWH.
- ✧ Many Christians are not born from above, but they adopt the Christian Church teachings and they assume that they are saved believers. These false believers may focus on puritanic discipline or condemnation of people who are sinning openly. But, they did not have the new birth of their spirits which leads them to the true "fruit of the Holy Spirit" and the wisdom from God.
- ✧ Wisdom is not acquired through teachers, churches, seminaries or books. The wisdom which James speaks of is the spiritual maturity; effected by God, protected by God, and preserved by God to the very end.

1:6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting (without hesitation - nothing wavering). He who hesitates (doubts - wavers) is like the waves of the sea driven and tossed by the wind (in every direction where the wind leads).

1:7 For let not that man expect (suppose - think) that he will receive anything from YHWH the Lord;

1:8 he is a double-minded man (hesitating in his mind), unstable in all his ways.

✧ Certain people want to achieve excellence and want to live a righteous life, but their emotions take them up and down, hence their determination wavers. Some days they are committed to serve God, others they want to enjoy worldly life.

✧ True believers should be committed without looking back or deviating from the narrow way.

✧ Sadly, the Churches and most Christians assume that we are humans and we cannot deny ourselves worldly pleasures. They believe that our fleshly desires and wants are essential to be normal. Such teaching brings those who are true believers but young in faith to a life of doubt, to a life of some victories but more defeats, and to a life of confusion stemming from compromise.

✧ As we become truly born again, we must be ready and committed to deny ourselves and focus on God's teaching to follow without explanations or reinterpretations from people or preachers or from Churches dogma.

✧ Only the Bible interpreting the Bible is our compass.

1:9 Let the lowly (lower social status) brother (the depressed brother) glory in his exaltation,
1:10 but the rich in his humiliation (in that he is made low - in his depression), because as a flower of the field (the flower of an herb), so he will pass away.

1:11 For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the herb (grass); its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance (its graceful fashion) perishes. So the rich man also will wither (fade away) in his pursuits (ways).

✧ People divide others according to certain worldly criteria such as: money, physical attractiveness, power in the society, and popularity.

✧ James is reversing the worldly view; he says that if you are evaluated as a lower income or lower social status, lift your head up and be proud because God loves you more than the rich and the arrogant.

✧ James is reminding the rich and the powerful that all their power and riches will pass away. They will render an account for what they did with their money and their privileges: Did they honor God and help the poor? Or, did they despise and persecute the poor?

✧ Wealth brings along with it so many dangerous temptations. Most people who are affluent depend on their money to accomplish everything. In this, they lose the basic trust in God Jesus.

✧ For example, when someone is sick, rich people immediately call doctors and have the best medicine and treatment available. When a poor man is sick, he raises his eyes to heaven and prays for healing. Abba Father YHWH heals the poor man in quiet miraculous ways. God also heals the rich man through natural causes (money). But, the rich man is not walking with God because his heart (trust and faith) is on his own money.

✧ Whom do you trust?

✧ "Those who trust in their wealth and boast in the multitude of their riches," (Psalm 49:6).

✧ "Here is the man who did not make God his strength, but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness," (Psalm 52:7).

✧ "A man with an evil eye hastens after riches, And does not consider that poverty will come upon him," (Proverbs 28:22).

1:12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved (is tried), he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

✧ We all will be confronted with tests, trials and temptations, but we need to hold unto our faith and commitment to the Lord Jesus through everything. Thus, we become approved by Abba Father YHWH.

✧ The Church falsely teaches that we all will commit divers sins. This is absolutely false. Jesus Christ faced many tests, trials and temptations and He remained faithful in His soul (spirit), in His heart, in His faith, in His body, in His words, and in His actions.

✧ True believers persevere in their faith because their perseverance is effected by the sovereign powerful hand of God. When a confessing believer declares that he or she decided to leave the faith in Jesus, they actually evidencing their fake faith. True believers are protected by God and no one can pluck (snatch) them off Jesus' hands.

✧ Jesus said: "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one," (John 10:27-30).

✧ Revelation 3:8-12 "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie (false believers), indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.

Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name." (The new name represents our new name as adoption into the family of God is completed.)

✧ God who saves us, intervenes like a father to protect us from tests, trials, and temptations.

✧ "Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ," (Philippians 1:6).

1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone (any man).

✧ Suffering, trials, and temptations do not come from God. When the Israelites suffered defeat and captivity, that was discipline to keep them and to bring them back to the fold of faith.

✧ God is sovereign. Satan and humans invent pain on themselves. God permits Satan and humans to sin against themselves and to suffer the consequences of their sins because of the "Free Will" which God endowed humans and angels.

✧ When we commit sins against ourselves and others and cause pain and suffering to others, because God permits us to exercise our free will, then we cannot blame God. Otherwise, non-believers would blame God for their lack of faith.

✧ God examines our hearts and our faith. "Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting," (Psalm 139:23-24). Examination of the heart is not a temptation or trial.

✧ God examined the faith of Abraham in Genesis 22:1-2 "Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

✧ Why did God examine (tested) the faith of Abraham?
Maybe Abraham began to love his son Isaac more than God and God wanted Abraham to affirm his faith and undivided love to God. God did not allow Abraham to be tried or tempted by the loss of his son Isaac.

✧ "God said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me," (Genesis 22:12).

✧ Examining the heart and the faith is not a trials, suffering, or temptation.

✧ God is not tempted or afflicted.

✧ The Bible uses the term "testing God" not in the sense of trials or temptations affecting God, but in the sense of an expression of disbelief, doubt, and suspicion from the people against God, while, at the same time, they claim to believe in God. The following verses demonstrate the lack or poor faith of people in God: Exodus 15:25; 17:2-7; 20:20; Numbers 14:22; Deuteronomy 6:16; 8:2; Judges 6:39; 1 Chronicles 29:17; 2 Chronicles 32:31; Acts 15:10.

1:14. But every man is tempted by his own lust (desires); and his lusts draws him away.

✧ There are two sources of temptations, trials, conflicts, and failures in the life of true believers:

(1) Our own sins which remove us from our close and intimate position with Abba YHWH. Thus, we are exposed to evil. Also, if we compromise our single minded faith, then we allow humanistic or demonic lifestyle and doctrines in our lives.

(2) The violence of others, whether it is by means of domination masked as love or hatred. This is partially our choosing if we choose to frequent men and women who do not know the Lord Jesus and whose god is their own lusts. At work, most of the people do not know God and though they pretend to be decent and polite, yet it is not surprising to find them violent, selfish, lustful and will use you or abuse you when they can.

✧ Jesus said that we are in the world, but we are not from the world. Therefore, it is very dangerous (spiritually) to build intimacy or close friendship with false believers or with non-believers. And, absolutely never marry someone who is false believer or unbeliever.

✧ Satan, though he walks like a roaring lion, yet he has no power and no authority over the true believers, unless they allow Satan in their lives. This goes back to point one above. We allow Satan in our lives through practices with friends such as incantations, spells, rituals, calling Satan (Lucifer) and his demons, attending seances, attending meetings with mediums, consulting psychics, consulting horoscope, having sexual relationship outside the marriage (because it opens a demonic bridge which is called "Flesh Union," or "Soul Tie," participating in killing children (such as abortions), watching demonic horror movies ...etc.

✧ If we allow Satan and his demons in our lives, then we are allowing these demons to lead us into temptations, trials, and conflicts.

✧ Satan attacked the righteous Job without the fault of Job. That was a very unique event which God YHWH allowed and controlled.

✧ You are not Job, therefore do not assume that if you are attacked that you are super righteous, but rather, examine yourself and your life and see if there is any possible interaction with evil which allowed you to fall into demonic temptations. Do not blame yourself for your trials and sufferings, but open your eyes and examine yourself, just in case you are allowing ungodly influence in your life.

✧ Some sufferings comes from the natural consequences of our poisoned environment.

✧ The expression "drawn away" is a metaphor from hunting and fishing. Fish and preys are drawn away from their safe covert environment into a trap and a snare.

1:15 Then, when desire (lust) has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown (completed - finished - matured), brings forth death.

✧ It is important to distinguish between a desire and a lust, especially for teenagers and young people. A desire combines the appreciation of something good or beautiful. A lust is a plan to have something that does not belong to us by any mean.

✧ Let us have two examples illustrating the lust:

(1) If I lust after my neighbor's house, then I can oppress my neighbor day and night, such as I bring dogs to bark at him, and throw trash on his house and many other devilish ways to hasten his departure so I can own his house. This is lust. A proper desire would be simply to ask him if he wishes to sell his house. If he says no, then case is closed and my healthy desire ceases.

(2) If I am single and I lust after an attractive co-worker or neighbor, whether she is single or married. This lust will make me creative in finding ways, day after day and month after month, to get close to her and build intimate trust so that I can have her in my bed. This is lust and Jesus told us, even before the sin is completed, this is adultery: "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart," (Matthew 5:27-28). A proper desire towards that woman, only if she is single and a true believer, is to share with her my intention to build a family (legal marriage) with her. If she says no, then my desire ceases toward that woman. Someone may say, we cannot control our strong emotions of love and desire. In such a case, we are talking about confusion, mental disorder, compulsion, and impulsiveness which do not come from God. "Falling in love" can be either lust, or transference of subconscious confusion, or true sacrificial love.

✧ It is not a sin to desire good things. But to lust after things that do not belong to me is a grave sin and it breaks the Law of Christ: "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's," (Exodus 20:17).

✧ James is using a metaphor of the mother. The mother is the lust who carries a sin in gestation probably for nine months or less or more. Then when the opportunity arrives, the lust conceives the sin. The sin is accomplished. This is not the end of the metaphor. The sin will have major negative consequences in the lives of the professing believers leading them to death, the eternal death.

✧ If we are true believers, then let us never allow lust in our heart.

Let us be content with what we have.

Let us be content with what we do not have.

"A little that a righteous man has is better than the riches of many wicked," (Psalm 37:16).

✧ Abba Father loves me, therefore I do not have everything in life. Actually, on a physical level, I have much less than most people, but my spirit glorifies the YHWH Jesus my Savior. If I have every desire of my heart, I may err and be drawn away from His protective fold.

1:16 Do not err (make no mistake about this), my beloved brethren.

1:17 Every good and every perfect gift comes down from above, from the Father of Heavenly Lights, with whom there is no variation (no changing), not even a shadow of turning (change).

- ✧ James begins by saying “make no mistake” because he along with Jesus and the Apostles knew and prophesied of heresies and false doctrines which equate and consider Lucifer, the light bearer angel and now Satan, as God.
- ✧ The term “heavenly” does not reflect some place up there, but rather all the dimensions of reality. God is the creator of all dimensions, the physical, the spiritual, and the unknown yet. Thus He is the Father of Light in all dimensions, the heavenly.
- ✧ Jewish Kabalism, the Mystic Jews, and the Greek philosophers said that a god (non person) emanated lights which caused accumulation of vibrations and the world is the product of such emanations. Not only this is false, but it presupposes periods between such emanations which are shadows of change and turning. Their religion is contradictory on all level to the Scripture.
- ✧ The term “shadow of turning” could refer also to a source of light outside God which causes a shadow upon movement. God is the source of Light and the source of all Moral Good. There is no moral good or any light outside God.
- ✧ James is saying also that God is Light and He does not provide his sons, the true believers, with spiritual darkness in their lives.
- ✧ God describes the future of the true believers in the New Jerusalem which He builds for us in Revelation 21:22-24: “I saw no temple in it (the New Jerusalem), for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple (our bodies as also the Lamb Jesus are the temple). The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.”
- ✧ Pagano-Christians believe in the evolution demonic hypothesis, which is a Greek mythology, reinvented by Darwin. These false believers claim that the beginning of the Big Bang is a “Boson,” or a “Quark,” or a “Photon” which exploded not to smaller pieces, but to fill up the infinite universe with mass. This is no science and it is nothing but demonic doctrines.

1:18. He saw fit, and gave new birth to us by the Word of Truth, that we might be the first-fruits of His creatures.

- ✧ God is the source of Light. He expressed Himself as the Word (the Logos). He created by Himself the worlds, the heavens and the earth. Jesus is the very person of God YHWH. He came to earth incarnate as a normal human being, the Word of Truth. He died in the flesh and rose from the dead. We, who believe on Him truly, shall be resurrected like Him in new glorified (inter-dimensional) bodies. Thus Jesus is the First-Fruit and we shall follow Him.
- ✧ "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it," (John 1:1-5).
- ✧ After the resurrection of Jesus from the dead (on Saturday, the Sabbath at about 3 PM), many people (Jewish faithful patriarchs) who died in faith, centuries ago, rose also from the dead and we shall follow them also. Thus Jesus is the "First-Fruit" resurrected of the dead.
- ✧ "The graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many," (Matthew 27:52-53).
- ✧ Lazarus and others rose from the dead, but they rose in the flesh to live a few more years. The rising from the dead which corresponds to Jesus the "First-Fruit" is the resurrection in glorified bodies.
- ✧ "For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality," (1 Corinthians 15:53).
- ✧ "So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." (1 Corinthians 15:54).
- ✧ "Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever," (1 Peter 1:18-23).

1:19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be quick (swift) to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger (wrath);

1:20 for the anger (wrath) of man does not produce (does not work) the righteousness of God.

- ✧ While the beginning of sin is lust, the actualization of sin is expressed verbally or physically.
- ✧ James is not asking people to have behavioral training. He is not a fake psychotherapist. He is pointing out to a great wisdom, namely, the tongue can create, spread out, and execute most of the sins.
- ✧ Even sins that involve physical violence or aggression, they are subsequent to the excitement and inflammation caused by the tongue.
- ✧ The more a person is quiet, the more he or she is learning. We have a great model to this in Daniel and in Mary: "This is the end of the account. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly troubled me, and my countenance changed; but I kept the matter in my heart," (Daniel 7:28). "But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart," (Luke 2:19). "Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart," (Luke 2:51).
- ✧ Does this mean that we all should be quiet? The Bible encourages us to speak only with the wisdom that comes from God the Father of all moral good.
"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver," (Proverbs 25:11).
- ✧ Anger can be many types. Most anger will glorify Satan, except for one type of anger.
 - (1) Rage is called anger, but it is a mental disorder marked with blind violence.
 - (2) Passive Resistant anger is when a person appears polite and agreeable, but becomes destructive, slanderer, and holds vengeance.
 - (3) Passive Aggressive anger is when the person transfers his violence unto other friends, his children, or himself / herself and holds vengeance.
 - (4) Passive anger appears to be reconciled and peaceful, but it maintains trauma, self-hatred and vengeance. Because such a person feels weak or helpless, they appear passive.
 - (5) Aggression which is the immediate expression of violence by words or physically.
 - (6) Repressed anger creates PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). The person attempts to forget the events while harboring intense vengeance mixed with fear and hatred.
 - (7) Assertive anger is a positive expression of rejection of abuse while implementing the solution. It is expressive without exaggeration. It is healing of the victims. It resolves the issues. Its goal is not to destroy people but to restore them to the truth. Jesus expressed "Assertive Anger" at the Temple when he saw the priests and merchants violating God's Law. He was focused on removing the instruments of sin, the tables and the caged animals. Some pastors claim falsely that Jesus was very angry or enraged. Actually, Jesus exercised "Assertive Anger." Assertive anger is also called the "Zeal of the Lord."
- ✧ If we cannot exercise assertive anger, then let us not be angry or else we sin.

1:21 And so, throw (lay aside) all that is defiled (impurities - filthiness) and the myriads of evil things (wickedness) far away from yourselves and with meekness, receive the Word that is implanted (engrafted) in our nature which is able to resurrect your souls (save your souls).

✧ James is pointing out that there are myriads (thousands) of defiled and wicked thoughts and acts all around us. We, before knowing Jesus Christ, were part of this world. But now, we must throw away, far away, all such filth.

✧ This wickedness and filth appear attractive, sweet, seductive, normal and popular. But, when we have the Holy Spirit YHWH, we know that this world is corrupt and filthy.

✧ The Churches teach compromise, acceptance and tolerance of the world and its attractive seduction. James inspired by God is saying exactly the opposite.

✧ James is commanding us, the true believers, to reject all evil with no tolerance or acceptance of any of it.

✧ Some false believers, Christians, and some humanitarians will say that this is cruel if we do not accept all people and all their behavior. James is saying we need to reject all filthiness but with meekness. We are not to be arrogant or superior. We need to humble ourselves and at the same time reject and separate ourselves from evil. Love the people and reject the filthy behavior.

✧ The term "meekness" means

(1) We cannot and should not feel superior or arrogant against weak believers, false believers, or non believers.

(2) We are to reject all evil with docility and polite sincere meekness.

(3) We must be determined and have clear solid boundaries. We are to refuse definitely, firmly, and with politeness joining those who practice the worldly lifestyle.

1:22 But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

1:23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who sees (observes -beholds) his face in a glass (mirror);

1:24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind (manner) of man he was.

1:25 But he who looks into the perfect law (Torah) of liberty and lives fully (continues) in it (therein), and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

✧ The two words “hear” and “do” are one word in Hebrew (the original text). It is the word “shema”. James is contrasting the true meaning of “hear and do” which is shema’ with just hearing without doing “asa.”

✧ If we have these moments of self examination and self discovery, but then we do nothing beyond this knowledge, then we are deceiving ourselves.

✧ To know has no value unless we act on this knowledge.

✧ James is affirming obedience to the Perfect Law of Liberty which is the Torah. The Church did not like James’ teaching.

✧ The Church taught grace as contradictory to the Perfect Law of Liberty. The Church attempts to annul the Law (the Torah) renders grace of no value.

✧ We do not need a grace or forgiveness if the law is annulled. The Church does not understand that the Perfect Law of Liberty (the Torah) is good, then grace is established to the true believers.

✧ “Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good,” (Romans 7:12).

✧ The Perfect Law of God (the Torah) is the Law of freedom and liberty: “Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free,” (John 8:31-32).

✧ “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death,” (Romans 8:2).

✧ When one goes to Bible studies or to conferences or seminars and learns so much about the Bible, but returns home without change in his lifestyle, then one is just a hearer and not a doer. We need to seek true biblical knowledge for the purpose of changing our lives to throw away all filth (the old man) and to obey the Perfect Law of Christ (the Torah - The Ten Commandments) which is the way to love God and to love our neighbors.

1:26 If anyone among you thinks he is a believer (religious - worshipping God), and does not subdue (bridle) his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's faith (religion - worship) is useless (vain).

✧ James is showing us one of the signs of false believers. He mentions this for self-examination and for caution and not for condemnation. False believers keep their old lifestyle in part or in full. Their tongues are usually good indicators of their true or false faith in Christ.

✧ This does not negate the fact that most evil people have a sweet and oily tongue with which they flatter people and express great beauty, but behind their backs, you hear of slanders, gossip and mockery of them.

✧ For example, many pastors are racist, but there is no way to catch their racism in public; they know what to say and how to please people. You can only find out when you have personal interaction with them. Their tongue will betray their perfect pious image. These pastors are not true believers even if they are in the pastoral position for twenty or thirty years. The same applies to Christian leaders in the churches.

✧ The term "bridle" signifies place a bridle in the mouth like the horse. It implies willful determination to speak the truth and to speak love.

✧ This brings the topic of criticism. Are we allowed to criticize one another if we find faults or weaknesses?

The answer is: (1) Yes, if the criticism is positive. This means if I see a brother or sister doing something wrong, I need to talk with them about it only if I can direct them to do what is right. In other words, I need to help them have an alternative to stop their folly or sin and build their life. (2) No, if the criticism is negative. This means that I have no right to demolish someone or destroy someone or put down someone even if what they are doing is wrong. If I cannot offer a positive alternative to heal and to build, then I need to bridle my tongue and be quiet. "You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him," (Leviticus 19:17).

✧ This brings also the topic of "gossip." Many Christians believe that gossip (slander) is not a sin and it is common to everyday life. Gossip is nothing but destructive force. Gossip destroys the victims behind their back and the victims cannot defend themselves because they have no idea about the knives are placed in their back. Gossip is always, without exception, a lie even if the gossiper and the hearers think it is true. If it is true, then say it in front of the victim and not behind his or her back to destroy them. The hearers who are present in a gossip session are all gossipers by aiding, encouraging, participating and becoming passive accomplice in such heinous sin. The gossiper cannot be a truly born again believer, but many Christians are gossipers including pastors. That is why many Christians including pastors are not truly born from above. They are deceiving themselves.

1:27 Pure and holy (undefiled - set apart) worship (religion) before God the Father is this: to visit orphans (the fatherless) and widows in their trouble (in their affliction), and to keep oneself unspotted (without blemish) from the world.

✧ This verse needs to be memorized, heard and worked out in the life of every true believer.

✧ True faith is not talking theology, or going to conferences and seminars, or singing with a beautiful voice, or giving your money to the pyramidal business, called churches, or smiling and saying to everyone "praise the Lord brother and sister," or keeping certain regulations, or receiving church sacraments.

✧ True faith is summarized by Jesus as:

"The King (YHWH Jesus) will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father YHWH, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

Then the righteous (true believers) will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me (to the eternal Lake of Fire), you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life,"(Matthew 25:34-46).

✧ It is an eye opener to know that almost all churches give between 2% and 7% of the income they receive to the poor and the needy. All the rest of the money 93% to 98% goes into the pockets of the top of the pyramid, the pastors, the Christian workers, the bankers, the building and overhead expenses. Even the churches which brag that they feed the hungry, they collect special extra donations for that and they do this once a week. Are the Churches followers of Jesus or are they business organizations focused on self-preservation?

✧ Many ministries and missions collect millions of dollars to be spent on their expense which are determined by the top of the pyramidal scheme. Many Christian workers are enriched.

✧ Faithful Christian workers and faithful pastors are poorer and they are despised by the rich Christian leaders and Christian members.

2:1 My Brothers, do not hold to the faith of the glory of our Master Yeshua the Mashiyach with double-minded hypocrisy (hesitation).

- ✧ Faith must be single minded. True believers have one Master (Lord), they do not believe in Jesus and submit to Him on the Sabbath while on other days, they continue their old worldly lifestyle.
- ✧ Hesitancy means that the person is not truly saved (born from above).
- ✧ Our salvation depends solely on our faith in Christ because He had done everything.
- ✧ All we are required to do is to accept Christ's grace and gift of redemption. Yet, if we hesitate or if we adulterate Christ's gift with hopes of prosperity from Satan or from our own intelligence, then we do not have one Master. This is hesitancy and adulteration of faith.
- ✧ The Greek translators of this verse wrote: "Do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ with respect to people." This translation appears to be conform to the next verses. But, the Aramaic version of the verse, mentioned above, suggests a deeper meaning as following: "if you hold your faith in Jesus with hesitancy, i.e., with adulteration, then you will live just like the non-believers who play favoritism and who respect faces."
- ✧ The affluent are treated like humans and the poorer are treated like sub-humans.
- ✧ Thus, the adulterated faith is the cause of the favoritism and mistreatment of certain people based on their physical characteristics or financial status.
- ✧ Such hesitation (adulteration) of faith is a mark of false believers.

2:2 For if there should come into your assembly (house assembly) a man with gold rings, in fine apparel (elegant - expensive - splendid garments), and there should also come in a poor man in ragged and stained (filthy - vile) clothes;

2:3 and you pay attention (respect) to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in an honorable seat (a good place)," and say to the poor man, "You stand way over there (in low prostration)," or, "Sit here at (next to) my footstool,"

2:4 have you not shown partiality (double mindedness) among yourselves, and become lawyers (judges) with evil thoughts?

✧ James is addressing a very important issue, not only of his time, but also throughout the next two thousand years. This issue is discrimination.

✧ The discrimination at that time was not based on skin color because all the Jews then were real Hebrews and not Ashkinazim Khazarian German racists as is the majority today. They all had olive skin. The discrimination was based on social status. The rich were treated as if they were human beings with respect and care, while the poor were treated as if they were sub-human beings with disdain and rejection.

✧ Today, in most churches, discrimination continues. In America, England, Canada, Japan, and Germany skin color discrimination is central to the abomination of discrimination. Skin color discrimination is, according to an expert, a psychotic mental disorder. But, in America and other countries, it is considered a normal behavior.

✧ The faith which true believers have in Jesus Christ is single minded for Jesus Christ alone without hesitation and without mixing it with the demonic lifestyle of this world. Therefore, there is absolutely no room for discrimination.

✧ For example, I was an active member in four churches in the areas of Apollo Beach, Sun City Center, Ruskin, and Brandon for the past 15 years. I volunteered to serve in every area they needed as a volunteer and I paid my tithes and offerings to support all their projects. The people in these four churches had very active social life. But, because of my skin color, during these fifteen years, I was never invited to any activity outside Sunday and Wednesday in church building. The pastors in all the four churches never visited me, not even once. My skin color was different than all the other members. I also noticed that when a Black American or a Latino American comes to one of these churches, they disappear after three weeks. They do not feel welcome. I have a very high tolerance and patience, but after fifteen years, I had to withdraw my membership from the last church. These churches do not represent Jesus Christ at all, but they are businesses with adulterated faith.

✧ Another example, in a church, where I refused to become a member because of racism, I heard the people praising and almost worshiping the pastor. I asked them if they receive pastoral visits from him. The rich said yes, and the poorer said no. they excused the pastor as if he is very busy to waste his time on them. This is also discrimination.

✧ Discrimination based on any criteria is an evidence of satanic powers and false faith.

2:5 Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

2:6 But you have dishonored (despised) the poor man. Do not the rich exalt themselves over you, oppress you and drag you into the courts (tribunals - judgement seats)?

2:7 Do they not blaspheme (hate) that noble Name by which you are called?

✧ False believers and non-believers evaluate others based on what they have.

✧ James is saying that those who are poorer are chosen by God to be the elect to inherit the Kingdom of God. This is similar to God's choice of Israel. God did not choose Israel because they were a powerful nation, but rather He chose Israel because of His loving mercy to them.

✧ In churches today, discrimination, for many reasons, is common because most Christians are not truly born from above (born again).

✧ To illustrate, I worked with many pastors and missionaries mainly in France and America and to a lesser extent in other countries. I discovered that pastors and missionaries work most of their days and nights to collect money, not for the church, but for themselves. They visit, (falsely called pastoral visits), only the rich. They socialize only with the rich. However, to maintain the appearance of good church business, they receive poorer people with a warm handshake, a very sweet smile, and charming hypnotizing words of welcome only on Sunday and on Wednesday. But, in reality, the poorer are not allowed or privy to any of the pastor's visits or friendship or social life. Only the rich who give him cash in white envelopes are cared for. These pastors and missionaries take pictures of the poorer people and send them to their donors and collect hundreds of thousands of dollars every year, pretending that they are working hard from their own expense to further the Gospel of Christ.

This is discrimination based on social status. It is discrimination based on the cash donations. And, as I mentioned before especially among American, British, Canadian, Japanese, and German pastors, it is discrimination based on skin color.

I praise the Lord that I no longer want to work with such racist Canadian (or American or British or German) pastors.

✧ Any discrimination is evidence that the faith of that Christian is deceptive and false.

✧ Many people are desensitized about such horrific discrimination and they always rationalize their discrimination by some logical reasoning. James is saying, wake up make no mistake, you cannot be truly born again if you discriminate.

✧ True believers cannot be racist and cannot discriminate.

✧ John brought this point succinctly in 1 John 4:20-21: "If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also."

2:8 And if in this you fulfill the Torah (the royal law) of God, as it is written, "You will love your neighbor as yourself," you will do well:

2:9. but if you have partiality towards persons, you commit sin; and you are convicted by Law (Torah) as breakers of the Law (Torah).

✧ John explains how we break God's Law when we hate our brothers (discriminate against our brothers for any reason) in 1 John 3:14-15: "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him."

✧ God commanded us, the true believers, to love our neighbors. "You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am YHWH the LORD," (Leviticus 19:17-18).

✧ The Law of God is a law of love. Jesus reminded us that keeping the Ten Commandments is keeping the law of love in Mark 12:29-31 "Jesus said, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God (YHWH Eloheinu), the LORD is one (YHWH Ehad). And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

✧ James continues exposing that partiality (favoritism - discrimination - racism - prejudice) cannot exist in a true believer. It would be an utter lie to pretend to be a believer while one is partial in treatment of people.

2:10 For whoever shall keep the whole law (Torah), and yet stumble (offend - fail) in one point (aspect), he is guilty of all (he is enemy of the whole law of God (Torah)).

2:11 For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not kill." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do kill, you have become a transgressor (defiling) of the law (Torah - Ten Commandments).

2:12. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the Law of Liberty (the Torah of perfect freedom).

✧ Christians teach that the Law of God is harsh, evil, cannot be obeyed, old, and obsolete. This is simply a demonic teaching which began in the first centuries by the New World Order Roman Church. The Law of God is love. It is liberty. It is harsh only on the non-believers. Jesus said in Matthew 11:28-30: "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

✧ Jesus is reminding us that His law is easy and light. The Law of Jesus Christ is the Ten Commandments and Clean Food. Jesus summary of the Law as Love Commandment is not a novelty or new invention by Jesus, for God said that obedience to the Ten Commandment is expressed in loving God and loving our neighbors. Jesus is affirming the Law of God.

✧ If I claim to be a true believer and if I obey all nine commandments out of the Ten Commandments, then I am breaking all the Law. Most Christians today, men and women including pastors, break regularly the First, the Seventh, the Ninth and the Tenth Commandments as if it is "normal" in the society to break them.

✧ How can I claim to be a true believer in Christ if I keep breaking His Law?

✧ "If you love Me, keep My commandments," (John 14:15).

✧ "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love," (John 15:10).

✧ Satan inspires many pastors who teach that Christ has one commandment only, namely, to love one another. They ignore the very words of Jesus when he described "His Commandments" and when He affirms all the Ten Commandments, not as "old" but as His Commandments. John explains in John 15:9-14: "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you."

✧ These false believers pastors teach also that obedience to a law makes us slaves. I, personally, am greatly honored to be a slave of Jesus along with the Apostles and all true believers. Jesus in the verses above says that when we obey His Law we become friends like Adam and Abraham. I cannot claim to be a child of God if I refuse to obey all His Law. Obedience to the Law does not save, but it is an evidence of my true redemption in Messiah.

2:13. For judgment without mercy will be on him who has practiced (has shown) no mercy: by mercy, you will be raised above judgment.

✧ James is contrasting Judgement which is justice and mercy which is pardon by grace.

✧ Justice cannot be cancelled because it is part of the nature of God.

✧ If God is not Just, then nothing in this world would have any objective value.

✧ The justice of God is the Justice of the Law of God. Justice demands the payment of the wages of sin which is death. The only way for God to pardon us is to offer Himself, Jesus incarnate in a true and complete human being, as the Lamb of God. He died for our sins. Since He is God YHWH, then His sacrifice is efficient and sufficient for every human being who repents to Him and for every sin committed by the true believers, the repentants.

✧ “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation, (2 Corinthians 5:17-19).

✧ God YHWH declared to Adam how He will effect His mercy and pardon; He killed the first lamb in Paradise and offered the blood to Himself and the skin to cover Adam and Eve. From that day, He ordained a yearly blood sacrifice on Yom Kippur (The Day of Atonement - the Day of Covering) which was symbolic of the Messiah who is to come.

✧ God YHWH revealed His mercy to Moses in the Ark of the Covenant. He had two Cherubim facing each other on top of the Ark where the blood is sprinkled by the High Priest once a year on Yom Kippur. Then God explained the meaning of these two Cherubim in Exodus 25:18-22 “And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat. Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one piece with the mercy seat. And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat. You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.”

✧ James is also saying that as we have received such a great mercy and pardon from Jesus YHWH by grace, we must carry the same image of Christ by pardoning everyone who sins against us. Let us not confuse forgiveness (pardon) of sin with accepting victimization which false. Young Bible teachers confuse forgiveness and victimization together. “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses,” (Matthew 6:14-15).

2:14. What is the use (profit), my Brothers, if a man say, "I have faith," and his faith (he has) no works? Can his "faith" resurrect (save) him?

2:15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food,

2:16 and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what is the use?

2:17 Thus also faith alone (by itself), if it does not have works, is dead.

✧ The translation from Greek says: "Can his faith save him?" But, the original Aramaic says: "Can his faith resurrect him?" Both could be similar as salvation means regeneration.

✧ James is not saying that works saves. He is affirming that true faith is evidenced by works. Therefore, if someone says that he is saved but does not have the works which are evidence of his faith, then his faith is deceptive or fake.

✧ James gives us a clear concrete example to make us understand that faith must be proven by works. If you bless someone with words, like all pastors do, but you do not provide the person with his necessary needs, then your words are sweet brass clanging cymbal. Pastors and missionaries do this to collect money from donors. A true believer, however, must show his faith by caring for the necessities of the poor and the needy.

✧ Throughout my last fifty five years of ministry, I discovered an egregious doctrine and belief: Some pastors and missionaries and many Christian women believe that sex is one of the ways women can serve and comfort these pastors and missionaries. They assume that it is one of the bodily necessities which sometimes their wives cannot provide to them. This is demonic. Sexual relationship is not one of the bodily necessities and anyone who claims to be a servant of God cannot violate his marriage or the Seventh Commandment if he is single.

✧ Let us remember that when Jesus comes to us now, He will come in the form of a poor man or woman, a poor widow (who is not dating - not having a monogamous prostitute), a helpless or victimized child, a hungry child, a prisoner (due to inability to pay debt), and a sick weak and helpless man or woman. We are obligated to love them and help them in their necessities, not only by words.

✧ Paul says in: 1 Timothy 5:3-6 "Honor widows who are really widows. But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God. Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day. But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives."

✧ Jesus says in Matthew 25:34-36: "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

2:18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

2:19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons (the devils) also believe and tremble!

2:20 But do you want to know, O foolish (weak) man, that faith without works is dead?

✧ Certain Churches and Sects believe that we can attain God and salvation through works. This is utterly false because man's works are like filthy rags. Isaiah tells us: "We are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away," (Isaiah 64:6).

✧ James is saying that it is vital to have the true faith which is not hesitating or wavering, and, at the same time, this true faith must prove itself in the works of Jesus in us. The Holy Spirit YHWH dwells in the bodies of the true believers, therefore every true believer must manifest the Fruit of the Spirit. Without the evidence of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit YHWH, then maybe that person is not born from above and his faith is deceptive or fake.

✧ Young people in faith may have difficulty in demonstrating the Fruit of the Spirit because they lived all their previous years in filthy sin and in selfishness. But, the task is easy when we submit to God YHWH and ask Him to give us wisdom.

✧ False believers and non-believers may want to improve on themselves by certain mental or psychological techniques. For example, some false believers think that prayers allows them to relax with less medication. This is a misuse of prayers. Prayers are personal communication directly with God through Jesus Messiah who is YHWH.

✧ James brings a very vital question: Is our faith in God different from the demonic faith in God?

✧ Every Christian and every religious person believes in God or in god including the atheists. The atheists believe that there is no god, but false science is their god. This is also what the demons believe in.

✧ For us to be redeemed by the blood of the Messiah Jesus, we must have true committed faith which is single minded and which is proven by good works after our Lord Jesus Christ.

✧ If we do not obey the Law of Christ (the Royal Law of Liberty - the Ten Commandment, then what difference do we have from the demons? They know that Christ is YHWH the Son of God, but they believe that Satan (Lucifer) is equally a god.

✧ What do you believe? Is your faith true and redemptive?

2:21 Abraham our father was not justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?

2:22 Do you see (realize) that (Abraham's) faith aided his works, and that by the works Abraham's faith was made (rendered - proved) complete (perfect)?

2:23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed in God, and it was accounted to him (credited - imputed unto him) for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.

✧ The English translation from the Greek translation gives us a confusing meaning; it says "Was not Abraham justified by works when he offered Isaac?" But the original Aramaic is clearer; it says "Abraham was not justified by works when he offered Isaac."

✧ True saving faith leads us to obedience. Obedience is work and it is evidence of true faith.

✧ James is using the example of Abraham not only as an example or model, but also because all the twelve tribes and the Jewish Diaspora are descendant of Father Abraham. Therefore, James is explaining that Abraham's faith was true and obedient.

✧ James is saying that we all must have this true and obedient faith, otherwise our faith will be similar to that of the demons.

✧ Paul explains the validity of the Law as evidence of our redemption in Messiah, but our faith is the only criterion by which Jesus grants us redemption and regeneration of our spirits.

✧ Paul says in Romans 3:27-31:

- "Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith.
- Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.
- Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, since there is one God who will justify the circumcised through faith and the uncircumcised (previously gentiles or pagans) through faith.
- Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law."

2:24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only (alone).

✧ A soul without righteousness can never be “justified.”

✧ The original root word for justified relates to righteous action.

✧ Justification is an important theological topic.

The justification is achieved through the works of righteousness. But the justification is not the regeneration. Justification is one of the steps of the Ordo Salutis (the Order of Salvation) which includes the following: (1) God's Effectual Call of God, (2) Regeneration, (3) Faith, (4) Repentance, (5) Justification, (6) Sanctification, (7) Adoption by God, (8) Perseverance, (9) Union in the Family of God, (10) Glorification of our fleshly body.

✧ Furthermore, we are not righteous, but after our regeneration and the manifestation of the Fruit of the Holy Spirit in us, then we begin the works of righteousness. Yet, this is still feeble and weak. Therefore Christ imputes His own righteousness on us and thus we are found righteous and reconciled with Abba Father YHWH. See Romans 4:16-25.

✧ Many Evangelical and Presbyterian Churches teach that a person is “justified” solely on the merits of belief in Jesus without the necessity of proving the true faith of the works of righteousness. The Gnostics, for example, rejected all works of obedience (righteousness) and focused on some spiritual illumination by faith.

✧ The point God is making here is: theological, or cerebral, or emotional “belief” without obedience and righteous works, is a dead religion

✧ Jesus stated that religiosity by faith or words only without obedience is fake: “Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness (disobey the Ten Commandments and discriminate against the poor)!'” (Matthew 7:22-23)

✧ Jesus also stated that in the Last Day our righteous works or lack of righteous work will be an evidence that we are truly faithful believers or not. True faith is exhibited by works of righteousness. Jesus said in John 5:28-29: “Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”

✧ We are not saved by works of righteousness apart from true faith.

✧ We are not saved by faith only without obedience and the works of righteousness which are evidence of such true faith. Righteousness leads us to justification.

2:25. So also Rahab the harlot, was she not justified by works when she received (entertained) the spies (messengers) and sent them forth by another way?

✧ James is giving us the example of Rahab the harlot. She was justified by the works of her faith. She was not justified (redeemed as a daughter of God) as a reward for her good deed (saving the lives of the spies), but rather she was justified because her good deed proved that she feared God YHWH the Lord of the Jews. Her faith led her to act rightly and her works justified her because its foundation is her true faith in YHWH.

✧ Here is the “**Confession of Faith of Rahab**”: “Rahab said to the men (Jewish spies): “I know that YHWH has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. For we have heard how YHWH the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for YHWH your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath,” (Joshua 2:8-11).

✧ This is a beautiful confession of faith in YHWH. Thus her good works were founded on and evidenced her true faith.

✧ Works without faith avails nothing. Some atheists and those who hate God may do some good work every now and then. They are not redeemed by works alone.

✧ Rahab was a believer and she proved her faith by exposing her life to danger in order to save the children of God, the spies to come to Jericho.

✧ God in His sovereign governance of every event gave Rahab the true faith.

✧ God chose Rahab, not because she was a good woman, but because she was a lowly prostitute.

✧ God gave her an apartment attached to the walls of Jericho which enabled her to release the spies secretly while the city doors were locked.

✧ God chooses us based on our faith and not because we are worth it.

2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

✧ It is interesting in this comparison between spirit and body, and faith and works that James (inspired by God) equated faith to the body and works to the spirit.

✧ This verse shows the absolute necessity of works to faith, as also faith to works. Without one of them, the other is false and avails nothing.

✧ The kind of work that manifests the true faith is the work of:

(1) Obedience to the Ten Commandments.

(2) Obedience to the Clean Food Law.

(3) Obedience to all applicable Torah Laws.

(4) Acts of righteousness.

(5) Separation from the world and its filthy Hollywood lifestyle.

(6) Forgiveness of those who sin against us without accepting to be their victims.

(7) Fulfilling the Great Commission which is to go and to disciple all nations. To disciple means to teach and to lead the people to the truth of Christ.

(8) Observing the Love Commandments:

(A) To God,

(B) To all the neighbors, and especially

(C) To the family of believers.

(9) Acts of care, mercy, support and love especially to those who are needy and poor.

✧ There is a confusion in the mind of most Christians and many Jews also regarding the Law of God.

✧ As a way to open your eyes toward clearer understanding, let us divide the Law (Torah) into categories:

(I) The Moral Laws (the Ten Commandments).

(II) The active Ceremonial Laws (the baptism, the Lord's Supper, and the Korban).

(III) The completed Ceremonial Laws, such as the blood sacrifices, and the rituals.

(IV) The Social and Interpersonal Laws.

(V) The Clean Food Law which are active as long as we need to eat to live.

(VI) The Civil Laws.

✧ Therefore, whenever one speaks of the Law of Moses, always find out which category of Laws does he or she mean or understand. Most Christians and Jews mix all these categories as one Laws of Moses which will lead to some confusion.

3:1 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers (masters - lords), knowing that such we will receive a more severe judgment.

✧ James is reminding all the true believers of the nature of the Kingdom of God. While the worldly and demonic kingdoms have pyramidal hierarchies, the Kingdom of God does not have hierarchy. Jesus said in Mark 9:35 "And Jesus sat down, called the twelve Apostles, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all." And, John 13:14-15 "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you." Those who claim to be "teachers" or "rabbis" assume to be masters over the people.

✧ By serving others, the poor and the needy and not the rich donors, Jesus elevates us to be His friends: "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you," (John 15:15).

✧ The Jews were waiting for a Messiah who is a powerful military figure to free them from the Romans. When Jesus came, they rejected Him. Even John the Baptist was confused when he asked Jesus: "Are you the Messiah? Or, shall we wait for another?" "Then the disciples of John reported to him concerning all these things. And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to Jesus, saying, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?" When the men had come to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, 'Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another (Messiah)?' " And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight. Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended (not mistaken - not stumbled - not confused) because of Me," (Matthew 3:11-6). Jesus the Messiah gave us the example which we are to follow, i.e., we are to be servants of God and of each other.

✧ Pastors and rabbis who are false believers enjoy and demand that the people in their congregations serve them and honor them as their lords. They demand their money (falsely in the name of God), they demand their worship, and they demand their obedience to themselves. Any man or woman who differs from these pastors in opinion, find themselves subjected to slander and eventually to isolation and seclusion from the congregation. This is because these pastors believe that they are lords.

✧ God wants us to disciple each other, but this does not mean to become "teachers" lording over each other as if all biblical knowledge cannot be known except through us. We all can and should share thoughts, opinions and feelings about the Scriptures, but never to believe that our teaching is the plumb line standard to which everyone must submit and obey.

✧ Bible teachers who are not living according to the Bible will receive more severe condemnation whether they are true believers or false believers.

3:2 For we all offend (stumble) in many things. If anyone does not stumble (offend) in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle (discipline) the whole body.

3:3 Indeed, we put bits (bridles) in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body.

3:4 Look also at the huge ships: although they are so large (so great) and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned (piloted) by a small rudder wherever the pilot (governor) desires.

✧ James is saying that we all offend or stumble or make mistakes, thus we all may break the Social Laws or the social norms.

✧ This verse does not contradict James 1:4 where God is saying that as we learn and grow in patience we become more perfect in our lives and our faith. This is the process of "sanctification and perseverance" which are mentioned in the commentary of James 2:24 and 5:11.

✧ While we are being sanctified and persevere against any testing, we may fall into offenses towards others. Such offenses can be sins or can be trespasses against others' social boundaries.

✧ James is not saying that we need to be polite and hypocrite, but rather we need to bridle our tongues and our whole body and be respectful of everyone.

✧ The tongue is small but it directs our emotions, our thoughts, our energy whether to do good to people or to do them harm.

✧ The tongue is similar to the bits (bridles) in the mouth of strong horses and it is similar to the rudder which turns a big ship in any direction.

✧ Watching our tongue is of essential importance. Some people believe that words are just air, but actually the beginning of every action whether good or bad, begins with the tongue. This is also associated with Neuro-Linguistic Programming which is an effective psychological technique which shows that language can access the deepest parts of our subconscious and it is a reflection of our inner being.

✧ James is not talking psychology, but rather God inspired him to let us know that the tongue begins many actions in life.

3:5 Even so the tongue is a little member and uplifts itself (boasts great things). Also a little fire inflames large forests.

3:6 Now the tongue is a fire, and the world of sin (iniquity) is like a forest. The tongue is one among our members that it defiles (corrupts) the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by itself.

3:7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea or land, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind.

3:8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

✧ James used the Aramaic word “nohra” which means fire in verse 3:5. The second word he used for fire is the Aramaic word “yaqad” which means a holocaust or an ardent burning or baking. This second word can also mean to “boast.” In Aramaic, you could say if you boast “yaqad,” then you will burn.

✧ The simile of the tongue to fire give us a clear impression of the tongue as:

- (1) Dangerous,
- (2) Uncontrollable,
- (3) Powerful,
- (4) Small, and
- (5) Requires utmost attention.

✧ The animals can be tamed and can be domesticated, but the tongue cannot. The tongue acts from the “free will of man.” We cannot tame the free will of man, but each one of us is responsible to bridle his tongue in order to bridle his whole body: his thoughts, his feelings, and his actions.

✧ “Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks,” (Matthew 12:34).

✧ “Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man,” ... “But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man,” (Matthew 15:11,18).

3:9 With it we bless our Lord YHWH and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the image of God.

3:10 Out of the same mouth proceed (issue forth) blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

3:11 Can a spring of water send forth fresh water (sweet water) and bitter from the same fountain?

3:12 Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? So also no spring can yield both salt water and fresh water together.

✧ The same mouth cannot say blessings and curses. The righteous mouth blesses and heals, while the false believers and the non-believers bring curses. When I hear pastors slandering people behind their back while they bless them to their face to continue receiving their donations and their loyalty, then it is clear to me according to the Scriptures that these pastors are not born again. Their faith is deceiving and false.

“A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks,” (Luke 6:45). “The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, But the perverse tongue will be cut out,” (Proverbs 10:31).

✧ Jeremiah and David describe evil communities: “Their tongue is an arrow shot out; It speaks deceit; One speaks peaceably to his neighbor with his mouth, but in his heart he lies in wait,” (Jeremiah 9:8). “In my distress I cried to the LORD, And He heard me. Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips And from a deceitful tongue. What shall be given to you, Or what shall be done to you, You false tongue?” (Psalm 120:1-3).

✧ James uses trees to describe the fruit of the mouth is the best indicator of the heart. And Jesus taught us the same principle: “Out of the fruit of the heart (the mouth), the nature of the heart is revealed.” Jesus spoke of the pastors, the missionaries, the religious (Christian) leaders who are not truly born again, but who claim to have faith in Christ and who claim to be anointed by Christ and who talk all day about Christ. You know them from their mouth and from how much money they accumulate. Jesus said in Matthew 7:15-20: “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”

✧ It is difficult to catch an eloquent pastor slandering poor members or discriminating against members because they, like politicians and car salesmen, have an always ready sweet flattering speech. But, if you know them personally, then you discover what kind of speech and fruit they have in their lives. For this reason, many pastors of long pastoral career will prove in the end that they were wolves and sweet cuddly foxes.

✧ The tongue is like a mirror of the heart. Proverbs 10:31 tells us: “The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, But the perverse tongue will be cut out.” “Will be cut out” means will face eternal judgement in the Last Day.

3:13 Who is wise and instructed (understanding) among you? Let him show his works in praiseworthy conduct in the meekness of wisdom.

- ✧ James is emphasizing the necessity of showing the good work of righteousness as evidence of the true faith.
- ✧ James is encouraging every believer to instruction in the Word of God to know that faith must be true and unadulterated and works must be righteous proving the true nature of the faith.
- ✧ Seeking knowledge and wisdom should not lead the young men and women to arrogance.
- ✧ We need to seek God's wisdom and He will give us the wisdom without reproach.
- ✧ It is observed that young seminarian feel a little proud because they learn the Bible while the members of their congregations have less knowledge. In reality, the more we learn the wisdom of God, the humbler we become because we discover that all our knowledge is like a small drop in a huge ocean.
- ✧ James is reminding us to learn and study and also to be humble. Our knowledge should be a tool to serve others and not a tool to be lord over others.

3:14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking (strife - contention) in your hearts, do not boast (exalt yourself) and lie against the truth.

3:15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic (from human imagination and from demons).

3:16 For where envy and self-seeking (strife - disputation) exist, confusion and every evil thing (every evil work) are there.

✧ Envy can be defined as frustrated covet. But, “bitter envy” is profound evil emotion towards someone who has something more that we have. It is based on selfishness or narcissism and a sense of entitlement or superiority. And, it overwhelms the person day and night with violence against the other who attains something we do not have. This is a demonic behavior and cannot exist in a true believer.

✧ Why such a person, blinded by bitter desires, boasts?

We have a natural fleshly tendency to project our weakness and our evil thoughts and actions onto other. Boasting here means that while we are offending God, we are blaming the others and not ourselves. We are lying to ourselves to justify our feelings and actions. We pretend to ourselves that we are wiser and we want the “greater good” or the “common good” for everyone by demanding that a brother or sister who have received a blessing we do not have to submit to us.

✧ We pretend to be wise. We pretend to be righteous, but James is telling us clearly that such wisdom is humanistic or demonic, it does not descend from above.

✧ “Brothers, I was not able to speak to you as spiritual people but as people of the flesh, as babies in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food, because you were not yet ready for it. In fact, you are still not ready, because you are still fleshly. For since there is envy and strife among you, are you not fleshly and living like unbelievers?” (1 Corinthians 3:1-3). They could be either: non-believers, or false believers, or babies in faith, or believers who are following false teachers who give them vanilla milk instructions without true commitment to the faith.

✧ Godly wisdom is: We need to be thankful for what we have and rejoice when others receive special blessings more than us. We need to thankful for what we do not have.

✧ The term “confusion” in the Bible refers usually to mental disorders. Mental disorders are not physiologically based as Psychology teaches in the “medical model”, but rather mental disorders are grounded in the spirit, and the mind of man.

✧ The healing part begins in contentment. If we are content with what we have, then we abide by the Tenth Commandment and we will rejoice and be truly happy when a brother or sister gains greater things than us.

3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is perfect, pure, then peaceable, gentle, submissive (willing to yield), full of compassion (mercy) and good fruits, without partiality (respect of person - discrimination) and without hypocrisy.

✧ Isaiah describes this wisdom from above in Isaiah 26:3-4 "YHWH, You will keep the mind dependent on You in perfect peace, for it is trusting in You. Trust in YHWH the LORD forever, because in Yah, the LORD, is an everlasting rock!"

✧ When our faith is true and without wavering, then we experience the perfect peace that passes our understanding and we will not be looking at what are our benefits versus others' benefits. We will not have violence in our hearts or have evil eyes.

✧ The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus," (Philippians 4:7).

✧ Proverbs 11 teaches us the same message: when we submit to God, we are at peace, internal peace and external peace though our adversaries are trying to destroy us. But, if we are living a selfish, fleshly, humanistic or demonic life, then we are living in constant bitter envy against our neighbors though we may be hypocritically polite to them.

✧ "He who is devoid of wisdom (wisdom from above) despises his neighbor, But a man of understanding holds his peace, (Proverbs 11:12).

3:18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace (in fertile arable land) by those who make peace.

✧ While the Greek translators used the word peace twice, the original Aramaic text uses two different words for peace in this verse. Thus, the first sentence “sown in peace” actually reads “sown peacefully, or in stillness, or in fertile cultivated land.” The second word “peace” in the original Aramaic is the word “Shlama” which gives the full meaning of peace.

✧ Thus, James is using the imagery of sowing in the field peaceably and cultivating peace, health.

✧ This is not “prosperity gospel” teaching, but rather James is saying: depend on God, do not covet your neighbor, work in the field, care for each other without prejudice and without hypocrisy and God of all peace will give you wholesome peace.

✧ Your neighbor may be richer than you and has more attractive spouse and children, but you have the approval and the peace of God that passes human understanding.

✧ Isaiah was speaking of the same peace although it appeared then that he described concrete material peace. But in reality, Isaiah spoke of both the peace in the spirit and the mind and also the land.

✧ “Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, And the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, And the fruitful field is counted as a forest. Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, And righteousness remain in the fruitful field. The work of righteousness will be peace, And the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever. My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation, In secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places,” (Isaiah 32:15-18).

4:1 Where do wars and fights (arguments and conflicts) come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure (lusts) that war in your members?

4:2 You lust (covet) and do not have. You murder (kill) and envy (covet - desire) and effect nothing (cannot obtain). You fight and wars. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wickedly (amiss), that you may satisfy your lust (spend it on your pleasures).

✧ God is revealing to us why we get angry at each other and why we feel superior or better than others. The real cause is "selfishness" which makes us feel entitled to have what does not belong to us and lust for it, then to act in guile and violence to obtain it.

✧ The culture around us, Hollywood, and many preachers tell us since a young age that:

(1) To be blessed by God is to have material wealth and popularity.

(2) To be normal, you must have a monogamous prostitute, i.e., a boy-girl friend.

(3) You are entitled to fulfill all your dreams, whatever you feel is right.

(4) Your sensual feelings are essential needs and you have the right to sensual gratification.

Since middle school age, we become programmed with this demonic culture. When we accept the Lord Jesus as our Redeemer, oftentimes we assume that we do not need to change our worldly lifestyle, we just need to be nicer. This is adulteration of faith.

✧ James is addressing this issue of lust and selfishness as the cause of wars and conflicts. He is saying that sometimes these emotions are enraged to the point of killing one another. This could be metaphoric or concrete. Let us not forget that slander (gossip) is a kind of murder as the victim is destroyed in his family or job or future by backstabbing.

✧ James believes that God hears our prayers and answers them positively for our good.

✧ But, he also mentioned that selfish and lustful people also pray, but their prayers are to make them richer and more powerful which are wicked prayers and God will not answer them positively. Satan on the other hand may make these people richer and powerful because Satan wants to destroy and to keep them away from Christ.

✧ Are we submissive to Jesus YHWH?

✧ Are we content with His gifts and blessings to us, or do we want more and more?

✧ Is our faith mixed with the world (adulterated)?

✧ Do we treat God as a vending machine; we will be nice, but He must give us all we want?

✧ The wars in our members could refer to dystonic inner conflict within the person, which the culture may call love-hate relationship which is referred to in Romans 7. This would be due to sin in the heart. Or, it could also refer to conflict between people as they are members of each ekklyssia (house assembly).

4:4 you Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship (the love) with the world is hatred towards God (enmity with God)? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend (lover) of the world is an enemy of God.

✧ James, similar to Jesus, is frank and honest. He calls the believers who are living partly in piety and partly in the world: "Adulterers and Adulteresses." Today, we have worse lifestyle, yet the pastors and preachers are in agreement that we need to make peace with the world and live according to the lifestyle of this world.

✧ This is completely opposite to the pure teaching of the Lord Jesus who is YHWH God.

✧ Christianity today can be properly called adulterated religion.

✧ James is not advocating that true believers should leave their homes and live in caves or in the desert. But, throughout the Scriptures and the Epistle of James, he is making it clear that our faith in Jesus should be pure and never be mixed with the world lifestyle or selfish lusts.

✧ We need to stand apart (not aloof and not arrogantly) from this world. Our dress, our desires, our friendships, our speech and our actions must be different from this world lifestyle.

✧ The world (our colleagues at work, our friends in churches, our friends, and our families) may mock us and despise us and call us "losers," "crazy," "fanatic," "unbalanced," and many other painful name.

✧ Shall we bow down to Satan and to the people to feel good and accepted?

✧ Are we ready to be different and shine as sons and daughters of God YHWH?

✧ Jesus is giving us the same message: "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another." "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me," (John 15:16-21).

✧ Do Christians today avoid persecution and rejection at any price including adulterating their faith in Christ and living partly in the lifestyle of the world? Is not this "lukewarm" faith?

4:5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?

- ✧ This verse appears difficult because one may ask how can God the Holy Spirit be jealous?
- ✧ The first time the word "jealous" is mentioned is when Moses wrote the Ten Commandments. God mentioned that He is a jealous God especially if we break the First or the Second Commandments, both of which speak of forbidden adulterated faith.
- ✧ God YHWH is our God, if we take other gods, whether demons or humans, and also if we make images or representations to worship, then God's jealousy is kindled. God want us pure and righteous as sons and daughters of God. God's jealousy is a protective measure to keep us from evil.
- ✧ "For you shall worship no other god, for YHWH the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God." "You shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me," ((Exodus 34:14; Exodus 20:5).
- ✧ "For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God," (Deuteronomy 4:24).
- ✧ "Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins," (Joshua 24:19).
- ✧ Paul, the Apostle said: "For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ," (2 Corinthians 11:2).
- ✧ The jealousy of God is good. It is the jealousy of a husband whose wife is endangering herself and her marriage because of other men.

4:6 But Jesus our Lord has given us more grace. Therefore Jesus says: "God resists (brings low) the proud (the arrogant), and gives grace to the humble."

4:7 Therefore submit to God. Resist (stand firm against) the devil (Accuser) and he will flee from you.

✧ James is contrasting the Old Covenant where adulterers (covenant breakers) are cut off the people, or stoned, to the New Covenant of Jesus the Lord where He, although the same jealous God, is showing us patience and gave us more grace which we do not deserve.

✧ This should never be a pretext to misunderstand that God YHWH is One. God was not cruel and now became nice. God was not evil and Jesus is good to us. Such doctrines are taught by some preachers in Churches. God YHWH is the same, He is Abba Father, He is Jesus Son of God, and He is the Holy Spirit, One God and One Person.

✧ James is showing us that God YHWH in His immense love, came in person incarnate as Jesus Son of God and died for our sins. Jesus is waiting patiently for our pure and unadulterated repentance. Jesus said, He will wait patiently and he will not pluck the weeds until the time is ripe. Jesus said in Matthew 13:24-30: "Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' He said to them, 'An enemy (Satan and Hollywood) has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.""

✧ "Gives us more grace" means Jesus is patient even with weak believers who live in adulterated faith: they love Jesus partly and they love the world (Hollywood demonic) lifestyle partly. They may be true believers who are following false preachers and pastors.

✧ God loves the poor and the humble who are despised by the world. The world and most preachers teach that one must live in confidence, in riches, in luxury, in worldly wisdom, in sexual freedom, and in popularity. They call this the normal Christian life. They encourage this arrogance of life. God hates what they teach, but He is patient and He is waiting for them to repent and for their followers to repent and reject their teachings.

✧ Some preachers, especially in the Vineyard Church, teach that Satan is more powerful than men. Jesus made it clear that Satan has no power over the true believers. The only access Satan may have is if we allow him in our lives. Therefore, James is reminding us to refuse Satan's seductions and suggestions. We must resist the devil, then he will run away in fear when we pronounce the name that is above every name, the name of Jesus YHWH the Lord. James is also reminding us that to win we must be obedience and submissive to God.

4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and sanctify your hearts (purify your hearts), you double-minded (indecisive).

✧ How can I draw near to God? There are two ways:

(1) Read the Bible. If you feel that you do not understand it perfectly, then continue reading it with pleasure. The more you read, the more you hear what God says to you.

(2) Pray as you talk with you father. Do not make prayers a ritual and a specific routine with specific words. Talk with your father frequently and always. If you did not have a good earthly father, it does not matter. Your heavenly father is true and He cares for you.

✧ Then, James is saying stop your sins, your lusts, and your violence against others. If you continue living in your lusts, then you approach God with unclean hands. Your offerings of prayer will not be pure.

✧ Then, James says "sanctify your hearts." Sanctification means separation from the world. People assume wrongly that sanctification always means a higher level of righteousness, but actually it is related to separation from evil.

✧ James is saying, not only "cleanse your hands" but also "cleanse your hearts." Reject all evil thoughts of others, reject all seduction from people or from demons, and reject all lust and coveting.

✧ The Ekklyssias in the first century were not churches or a Church.

✧ They were about 2000 regular house assemblies in the region of Jerusalem. They had at least 60,000 believers. Among them there were some false believers, just like today, and also babies who do not want to know God in depth. They call themselves "we are simple Messianic believers." These were susceptible to all kind of persuasion from false preachers.

✧ James is addressing those babes in Christ to let them know that they have to make a clear decision, either to grow in the faith and become strong men and women or risk being tossed back and forth by the waves of the ocean of false doctrines.

4:9 Humble yourself (lament - be afflicted) and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy into grief (gloom - heaviness).

4:10 Humble yourselves before (in the sight of) YHWH the Lord, and He will lift you up.

✧ Humility, in faith and in life, is opposite to the contemporary Christian message. Churches and most preachers teach that God does not accept humble Christians. They insist that you must be a go-getter, popular and loveable (with opposite gender), powerful, rich, and cheerful giver to the Church business, which they call falsely God's business.

✧ On the other hand, the Roman Catholic Church created some Orders such as that of Francis Assisi and the Monastics which advocate individual poverty and personal humility, while demanding money to the "mother Church" to promote its wealth and business.

✧ Here is the true message of Jesus through James:

"Do not seek riches, power, sex, luxury, and comfort in this world, but rather seek God and his spiritual riches. You may be poor, or alone, or despised, or rejected, or mistreated. But, remember who you are. You are a son or a daughter of YHWH God. You are not in this world to enjoy its pleasures, but to be a burning light in this darkness."

✧ "By humility and the fear of the LORD Are riches and honor and life," (Proverbs 22:4).

✧ "Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, And before honor is humility," (Proverbs 18:12).

Paul explained the same message in Ephesus in Acts 20:18-19 "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia (Macedonia and Turkey), in what manner I always lived among you, serving the Lord (Jesus) with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; how I kept back nothing (I did not keep riches but served you)."

✧ "Speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men," (Titus 3:2).

✧ "Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble," (1 Peter 5:5).

✧ Many evangelists promise people happiness, health and wealth when they accept Jesus. We need to invite people to the salvation of Jesus Messiah with the right perspectives. It is a committed unadulterated faith and life, separated from the world and its pleasures.

✧ True believers have pure joy which comes from the Lord's presence in their spirits. "You became followers of us (the Apostles and of the Lord Jesus YHWH, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit," (1 Thessalonians 1:6).

4:11 Do not speak evil of one another (gossip - slander), my brothers; for he who speaks evil against a brother, or judges his brother, speaks evil against the Law (Torah - The Word of God) and judges the Law (Torah). And, if you judge the Law (Torah), you are not obedient (a doer) of the law but its judge.

✧ Gossip (slander) is a form of murder wherein one judges another person (who is absent) and executes the judgement that the victim deserves despise, rejection, mistrust, and pain.

✧ The reality is the slanderer (the gossiper) is the criminal. Speaking evil against someone absent (a brother or a sister in Christ) is taking the position of God who is the only Judge.

✧ All gossip (all slander) are lies. What if the criminal gossiper is telling the ugly truth about someone absent? As a matter of fact, whatever is said about an absent victim is a lie because the victim is not present to defend himself or herself. Therefore, it is a lie to say anything of negative nature about someone absent.

✧ Gossip (slander) similar to sexual (romantic erotic) passions are very powerful tools in the hand of Satan. With gossip, Satan can destroy families, congregations, people, cause loss of jobs and loss of promotions and separations of good people.

✧ If I believe that a brother or sister had sinned, I must go to him or her. I may ask a brother or sister in Christ to come with me if I am shy or embarrassed. But, I should absolutely never slander them. Slandering is backstabbing. Gossiping is a murder.

✧ "Judging the Law of God" means having an opinion about the Law of God. Christians claim that the Ten Commandments are not really necessary, therefore they are judging the Law of God by rejecting it. Some Christians and many Churches modified the meaning of the Ten Commandments, thus they judged the Law of God. The rabbis categorized the Law of God and added their teaching and their customs (Tekonot ve Ma'asim), thus they judged the Law of God (the Torah).

✧ Pastors and Preachers who tell the people what God wants and what God does not want are blaspheming God's Law. If they are faithful and if they are true obedient believers, then they need to read the Law of God and remind the people to obey God and not their teaching.

✧ As obedient children of God, we are not to have opinions about what God said, but we are to obey what God said.

✧ Some Christians say that they do not understand the Bible and they need teachers to explain it to them. This is grievous because they ordain these eloquent teachers to be their gods and lords. They give them their money. They obey whatever they say. Basically, they want to be babies in faith feeding and nursing on breast milk all their lives.

4:12 There is one Lawgiver (Torah-giver) and Judge, who is able make alive (to save) and to destroy. Who are you to judge another (your neighbor)?

- ✧ We, humans, believe that we are smart, even smarter than God. We read the Bible, then we decide which part is “Old” obsolete and which part is “New” applicable today. We act and we think that we are to judge God’s Word.
- ✧ One of the powerful demonic tactics towards rejection of God’s Word is what is called “interpreting the Bible in Context.” This technique can negate any value of the Scriptures; instead of taking the Words of God at the simplest, most direct, and face value, we study their cultural context, their historical context, their geographical context, their doctrinal context, their intent context, their linguistic context, and their purpose context. Such tactic is appealing to Christians who love to study the Bible. It is taught in seminaries that you must interpret in context. The problem is that all the above mentioned contexts are ways to invalidate, deviate, and dilute the meaning of the Word of God.
- ✧ The only correct context which will lead us to the true meaning is read the verses before and the verses after the mentioned text. And also, find out if the exact wording (in Hebrew or Aramaic) is mentioned elsewhere in the Bible. This is the only way to guarantee correct understanding and respect to God’s Word.
- ✧ The rabbis thought that they must write down what they call the “Oral Tradition,” pretending that Moses did not write it, but he gave it orally to the rabbis. They say that the “Oral Tradition” (now written as the Talmud, Midrash and Halakha) is superior to the Word of God given to Moses. The Oral Tradition often speaks against both the Written Word, the Torah and against Jesus the Messiah.
- ✧ On the other hand, Christian theologians have made up their own “New Testament” based on their own non-Torah cultural value systems which makes void the Law of God (Torah) and diminishes the true goal of Messiah Jesus.
- ✧ I hear pastors and preachers who claim that they do not believe the “Replacement Theology” and at the same time, they claim that they are teachers anointed and appointed by God and they demand submission of the Christians to them. Thus they are practically replacing Moses, Aaron and David at the same time. This is hypocrisy and fallacy. James is saying that the Torah (the Law of God - the Ten Commandments) are given by God and no one has the right to interpret them or modify them.
- ✧ God is the only Judge, who are you to replace God and judge your neighbor?
- ✧ Racism, prejudice and discrimination is practiced by the majority of Christians and most pastors, missionaries and Christian leaders in America, Canada, England, and Germany. This is a vile sin and also a judgement against our neighbors who may have different skin color or different facial features or different physical features or different age or different health status or different financial status. It is all a demonic practice and the true believers should never become judges another.

4:13. But what will we say of those who say: "Today or tomorrow we will go to such or such a city and will abide there a year; and we will buy and sell, and make a profit?"

4:14. And we do not know what will be (will happen) tomorrow: for what is our life but an exhalation (a breath - a vapor) that is seen a little time and then vanishes and is gone away?

4:15 Instead you ought to say, "If YHWH the Lord wills it, and we live, then we will (may) do this or that."

4:16 But now you boast (glory) in your arrogance (rejoice in your boasting). All such boasting (glorying - rejoicing) is evil.

✧ God ordained the head of the family to work and plan to provide for his family. Such planning does not contradict James' teaching. James is saying when you have long term planning you need to be humble and submissive to God's will.

✧ When we assume that we control our lives and our future, we err. If we have such arrogance we may feel powerful and in control. The truth is God is in control and the true key to success in life is to submit to God.

✧ What is the role of our intelligence in planning for long term profit making projects? The answer must be in the only correct perspective, namely, God is the Creator and the Sovereign Governor of everything. When I use my intelligence to plan for a commercial trip, or a degree at the university, or buying or selling companies, I need to be ready to accept what God in His good will had planned for me.

For example, if I take a degree in the university and then I discover that even with that degree, I can only find a minimum wages job at Winndixie stores, then I need to be thankful and act responsibly. God may give me a better job or career later.

✧ In submissive faith to God, I thank the Lord for what I have and what I do not have. I should never be arrogant to claim that I have the right to be rich and achieve all my goals.

✧ Many Christians believe that they love God, but only as a "vending machine" which provide them always with good things. They pay the machine some cash in the pockets of the pastors and missionaries or in the offering plates of churches and expect all blessings from heaven to them. God is not a vending machine. God is not a servant of man.

✧ Big business companies will not hire people who are not aggressive. The art of the interview requires aggressiveness, confidence, charm, and eloquence. Should I become less of a believer to get a good job? Top executives know that there is much wheeling and dealing than actual production. Business becomes a worldly manipulation games and even, at times, it becomes a cut-throat competition. Is this what God Jesus called me to be?

✧ "Better is a little with the fear of the LORD, Than great treasure with trouble," (Proverbs 15:16).

✧ "Better is a little with righteousness, Than vast revenues without justice," (Proverbs 16:8).

4:17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

✧ The definition of good varies according to people's understanding depending on their selfish or humanistic views. Therefore, we must adhere to the definition of good according to the Scriptures only and not according to a democratic process for the good of the majority or the common good.

✧ David teaches us the same message as James in Psalm 34:12-16 "Who is the man who desires life, and loves many days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of YHWH the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry. The face of YHWH the LORD is against those who do evil, To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth." The last verse refers to the eternal judgement, including their life in the flesh.

✧ In the history of Israel, when the Israelites entered into the Promised Land (Israel - Judea) a thief by the name of Micah robbed his mother of eleven hundred shekels of silver which was a big fortune. His mother cursed the thief, until her son gave her back her money, then she blessed her son Micah and consecrated the money to make a demonic representation, an idol, to worship instead of YHWH the Lord. Micah made the shrine and anointed one of his sons to be the priest of the demon (idol). Many Israelis, at that time followed suit. They rejected the God of Israel YHWH who redeemed them. They made their own gods according to what they thought good.

✧ The Bible describes them as: "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes," (Judges 17:6).

✧ At that time, they thought or felt that what they are doing is good.

✧ There was no king in Israel means they did not acknowledge YHWH God as their king. Today, when we rely on ourselves and our intelligence, then we are replacing Jesus YHWH God and we begin adopting what we think to be good and conducive for us.

✧ The source of all good is God YHWH. Any good outside God is a reflection or communicable attribute from the source, God YHWH.

✧ Any thing else away from God is evil.

5:1 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you!

5:2 Your riches are corrupted (your wealth is destroyed, spoiled and rotten), and your garments are moth-eaten.

5:3 Your gold and silver are corroded (rusted through), and their corrosion (rust) will be a witness against you and will eat (devour) your flesh like fire. You have heaped up a fire (not a treasure) to you in the last days.

✧ The rich will face a more severe judgement:

- (1) If they gathered their money through injustice and abuse of their employees,
- (2) If they stole their money by changing contracts and taking properties of others, and
- (3) If they refuse to support the poor, the needy, the helpless children, the virtuous widows, the poor in prison, the poor sick people, and the homeless.

✧ James 4:17 says, it is a sin for rich people to ignore their poor and homeless neighbors. He says, most rich men are abusive and unjust, therefore their riches will burn them like fire in the Last Day when Jesus comes for judgement.

✧ Can one be rich and righteous? The answer is definitely yes. A righteous man or woman is not defined by how much money he (she) has or how much money he (she) does not have. A righteous man (or woman) has his (her) faith in Christ unadulterated, his (her) mouth speaks what is good, noble and truthful, he (she) never gossips or allows gossip in his (her) presence, he (she) does not covet what does not belong to him (her), he (she) is faithful to his (her) spouse and if he (she) is single he (she) remains celibate without intimate sexual pleasures with anyone, he (she) is just and treats his (her) employees and friends with honor and justice, he (she) cares for the children, and supports the poor. Such rich righteous person will be in heaven without blemish.

✧ James wants to save these rich abusive men by inviting them to repent and submit themselves and their riches to God. They may say that we love God, but they have a second god, namely, their money or Manon.

✧ Jesus pointed out the same fact in Luke 18:18-23 "Now a certain ruler (Jewish officer) asked Jesus, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments (the Ten Commandments): 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.' " And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when he heard this, the rich ruler became very sorrowful (angry and disappointed), for he was very rich." This man is a good example of most rich people who appear to be godly, yet their money is their second god. This is adulterated faith.

✧ "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also," (Matthew 6:19-21).

5:4 Indeed the wages of the laborers who reaped your fields, which you kept back (withheld) by fraud (criminally), cry out (shout out); and the cries (shouts) of the reapers have reached the ears of YHWH Sabaoth the Lord.

5:5 You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have reveled and feasted your bodies (fattened your hearts) as in a day of slaughter.

5:6 You have condemned, you have murdered (killed) the just; he does not resist you.

- ✧ James is enumerating some of the crimes and injustices committed by the rich;
 - (1) You hired people who worked for you, then did not pay them their full wages.
 - (2) You lived in luxury, while the poor were suffering out in the streets.
 - (3) You destroyed people by false accusations, by slanders and by legal (immoral) means.
 - (4) You murdered those who opposed you and threatened reduction of your income.

- ✧ A personal testimony, I worked in many churches and gave back my salary and more. Yet, in one particular church, the pastor who was a millionaire thought that I do not need the money since I am American and American pastors in France receive hundreds of thousands of dollars every year from private donors. He even expected me to give him donations and the names of my friends in America for him to get their money, while he is a millionaire. Well, I did not receive any donations because I believe that this "American - Canadian - British system" of collecting donations pretending it is for God's work is pure theft. This pastor kept my salaries for two months until today, he is enjoying his luxurious life. I resigned from that church with my dignity. He did this with other workers in the church and he believes that he is a good manager in God's business. I disagree, I think he is running the devil's business which he calls a church. The people in that congregation are not aware of anything except of the beautiful facade and the sweet pious words he puts on every Sunday. Also, I noticed that this church has no offering plate, but the people give their donations in white envelopes directly to the pastor which is a habit of many Christians in most churches.

- ✧ Jesus said, do not call yourselves teachers, rabbis, pastors, leaders, lords, or rulers for he who is first is the servant of others. Jesus did not establish the Church and its pyramidal hierarchy and powers. Jesus established the Ekklyssia which is the congregation (house assemblies) of the elect believers. They are servants of each other, they are not lords over each other. They do not collect money to pay themselves, they transmit all donations (tithes and offerings to God) to: (1) The poor, (2) The orphans, widows and widowers who are not dating, (3) The helpless poor children, (4) The prisoners due to their poverty, (5) The homeless, (6) The sick who is impoverished, (7) The poor handicapped or disabled.

- ✧ Giving money to pastors, churches, animal societies, or tree society is not giving it to God.

- ✧ Notice also that James is making reference to the fact that the poor cannot resist the the robbery (theft), the abuse, the lies, the slanders, the condemnations, and the murders of these rich people. Rich people are smart, they take over and wipe out the weak, but they make alliances with the strong until they figure out how to take them over.

5:7. But, my Brothers, be patient until the coming of the Lord YHWH (Jesus); like the farmer who waits for the precious fruits of his ground and is patient as to them until he receives the early and the latter rain.

5:8 You also be patient. Build up (establish) your hearts, for the coming of the Lord Jesus is at hand (draws nigh).

✧ God promised and He is faithful and true to His Word in Deuteronomy 11:13-14 "And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil."

✧ Hosea 6:1-3 tells us: "Come, and let us return to YHWH the LORD; for He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight. Let us know, let us pursue the knowledge of YHWH the LORD. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, like the latter and former rain to the earth."

✧ False believers and non-believers do not depend on or trust in God. They are impatient.

✧ False believers and non-believers want to get their desires by force. "But this people has a defiant and rebellious heart; They have revolted and departed. They do not say in their heart, "Let us now fear the LORD our God, Who gives rain, both the former and the latter, in its season. He reserves for us the appointed weeks of the harvest," (Jeremiah 5:23-24).

✧ The true believers trust in the Lord and wait for Him, in His Second Coming as it was in His First Coming.

✧ The Latter Rain is assured because the Former Rain had come. The rain can refer to the Word of God or to the Lord Jesus the savior and redeemer of Israel (the true believers).

✧ "Be glad then, you children of Zion, And rejoice in the LORD your God; For He has given you the former rain faithfully, And He will cause the rain to come down for you-- The former rain, And the latter rain in the first month," (Joel 2:23).

5:9 Do not grumble (quarrel - grudge - murmur - gossip - groan) against one another, my brothers, lest you be condemned (judged). Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!

5:10 My brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of YHWH the Lord, as an example of suffering affliction and patience.

5:11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance (patience) of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord YHWH for him; because the Lord YHWH is very compassionate and merciful (of tender mercy).

✧ James is fixing his eyes and our eyes on the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus. He is saying that we will suffer much, not because of our sins or trespasses, but because of our separation from the world and because of the Name of YHWH Jesus on us.

✧ We need to focus on loving, caring for, and supporting one another in the Family of God. We should never become passive aggressive against each other.

✧ James is repeating a prophecy by Jesus in Matthew 24:9-13 "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then **many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.** Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved."

✧ James and Jesus are telling us to remain faithful, to love one another, to forgive one another, and to trust in the Lord. If there is a trespass or sin, then we exercise the assertive expression to bring such brother or sister back to the pure faith in love and not in judgement. If the person refuses to repent, then he or she may not be true believers.

✧ Jesus established the manner to love and restore a brother or sister who sins or commits a trespass against us in Matthew 18:15-17: "Moreover if your brother (or sister) sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' And if he (or she) refuses to hear them, tell it to the ekklyssia assembly. But if he refuses even to hear the ekklyssia assembly, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector (non-believer)."

✧ The reason why many will attack others in the family of God is the demonic seduction in the hearts of the believers who allow adulterated faith and accept false teachings

✧ James is pointing out that the great sufferings and pain of the prophets led them to be more blessed by the heavenly father.

✧ If we use the world as a standard, then we can say that these prophets are "losers."

✧ But, God YHWH is reminding us that His standard is the truth and we are blessed to persevere in suffering. This is why James says, count it all joy when you suffer trials.

5:12 But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes," be "Yes," and your "No," be "No," lest you fall into judgment (condemnation).

✧ Some people assume that words are just words with no consequences. But, throughout history of mankind, words are binding.

✧ James is warning us that vows, oaths and swearing have major consequences. Therefore, it is only right to be truthful and say yes or no without having to swear.

✧ People who swear presume that they are not trustworthy, therefore they add a swearing. We as true believers and family of God, need to trust the words of each other.

✧ The world does not trust its own. People lie constantly. They consider those who are imaginative in lying to be wiser and smarter. They think that true believers are simple minded. The wisdom of the world is corrupt.

✧ With regard to oath and vows, God, in His loving kindness, allowed the women to be under the protection of their fathers and their husbands. For this reason, if a man makes a vow, then he is bound by it. But, if a woman makes a vow, then she is bound by it unless her father or her husband voids such a vow. And, if a woman does not have a father and she is single or widow, then she is bound by her vows. This actually, is the reason why women cover their head when they pray or prophesy because they acknowledge the authority of their fathers or husbands.

5:13 Is anyone among you suffering (afflicted)? Let him pray.
Is anyone cheerful (joyous - happy - merry)? Let him sing psalms.
5:14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the Ekklyssia (house congregation), and let them pray for him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.
5:15 And the prayer of faith will heal (save) the sick, and the Lord Jesus will raise him up.
And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

- ✧ Prayer is not a psychological technique for comfort as some pastors teach. Prayer is an actual communication with YHWH the Most High. None of our prayers are wasted, they all go before YHWH God.
- ✧ “Another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand,” (Revelation 8:3-4).
- ✧ Prayer brings the healing of the Lord Jesus YHWH. We, oftentimes, are impatient and we want to see the healing happen in an instant. God heals us through many processes, and definitely, He listens to our prayers of healing.
- ✧ Singing, if it is done without the loud percussion noises, is a prayer to God. When you are happy, pray by singing. When I am sad, I pray also by singing sad and assuring hymns to remind myself that God is sovereign and He loves me even when I am alone.
- ✧ The sentence “And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven” does not mean that when we pray for someone they are saved because of our prayers. The forgiveness comes from repentance.
- ✧ We pray for and with the person who commits a sin to lead him or her to repentance. The Roman Catholic took this sentence beyond the limit saying that we can pray for the dead to be transported to heaven from hell. If we pay enough money to the priests and the bishops, then they will pray for the dead. This is absolutely false. The forgiveness of sin comes only by the blood of Christ who calls each one of us to repent of our sins.
- ✧ The anointing with oil is a ritual and a type. ✧ The oil itself does not have a healing power.
- ✧ In this ritual, the elders of the ekklyssia pray and touch (anoint) the sick. God answers their prayers and effect the healing.
- ✧ This is similar to the water baptism, it is not the water, but the ritual and its significance in obedience to being buried and coming out of the water as symbol of resurrection. So also, the anointing of the oil represents the anointing of the hand of God, or of the Holy Spirit who brings the healing.

5:16 Confess your trespasses (faults) to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed; for great is the power of the prayer which a righteous man prays. ((The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.))

✧ The sentence within the double brackets is the English translation of the Greek translations of the original Hebrew and Aramaic. But, the actual original Aramaic says: "for great is the power of the prayer of a righteous man." The Greek translators confused the meaning making it sound like if you pray loud enough and effective enough, then your prayer will have more results, which is not the right meaning; it is not a matter of fervor, or passion, or effectiveness on the part of the man. God hears all prayers, even the silent prayers.

✧ Confess your trespasses. The word "trespasses" in the original Aramaic is "sakhlowthkhon" which is translated in the Greek Textus Receptus, Scrivener, and the Byzantine Majority text as (παραπτωμα). The Greek Alexandrian text has (αμαρτια). These two Greek words give us many meanings such as: side-slip, lapse, deviation, unintentional error, willful transgression, sin, be outside of, miss the mark, err, mistake, miss, wander, do wrong, violate God's law, or offend. In conclusion, the Aramaic gives the sense of a fault rather than a grave sin. But, a fault can be a sin. Hence, there need to be confession and prayer to help such a person who deviated from the truth to repent and to be restored to fellowship with the family of God and to be healed from his sin. The Aramaic meaning of the word trespass is also repeated in verse 5:19 as wandering or erring from the truth.

✧ **Here is a guideline for Confession in a biblical manner:**

- (1) It is never prescribed to be before a pastor or a priest or a bishop or a psychotherapist.
- (2) Confession does not give absolution. No priest, no man whatever he is has the authority or any power to absolve another from his or her sins.
- (3) Confession is only a revelation of secret sins. Secret sins are one of the "Seven Spiritual Bondage," otherwise the sins remain secret sins and it can open a way to demonic attacks.
- (4) Confession is to be before a truly born again believer, a brother or a sister (of the same gender as the confessor).
- (5) The confession is also to be made to the victim to ask their forgiveness, in the presence of witness or witnesses to prevent misunderstanding and evil passions from flaring up.
- (6) Confession should never be made to the victim if it involves sexual fancies, desires, or past intimate sexual relationships with the victim, otherwise a band of demons will inflame the sexual sins again. Sexual sins create a demonic bridge call "Flesh Union," or "Soul Ties." This is also another one of the "Seven Spiritual Bondage."
- (7) Confession of sexual sins should be made to the spouse and to true believers of same gender as the confessor. Hiding sexual sins from the spouse keeps them as current Secret Sins.
- (8) Confession is not to obtain salvation but to reveal sins in order to repent truly.
- (9) Mutual confession is encouraged if both committed trespasses towards others.
- (10) Confession deals with "faults" or "trespasses" or "sins," to reveal and to heal them.
- (11) "Auricular Confession" is "evil. It is not a sacred office or a sacrament. This is a demonic teaching which gives power to the lords of the church. Protestants do similar auricular confessions without advertising it. This is arrogance and against the Scripture.

5:17 Elijah was a man with a nature (passion - feelings) like us, and he prayed ((earnestly)) that it would not rain upon the land; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.

5:18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced forth its fruit.

✧ In his teaching about prayer, James is giving us the example of Elijah. Elijah was not a superman. He was a man just like all of us. He simply prayed and his prayer was not for selfish ambition or coveting or personal gain. Elijah has a zeal to honor the name of YHWH against the demonic gods, the idols.

✧ Elijah simply prayed and God showed the effect of his prayers in a supernatural way.

✧ Initially, when Elijah prayed, the people mocked him because sometimes the rain is scarce naturally for a month or two. Probably in the fourth or fifth month, the people began to wonder. Finally, someone reminded them of the prayer of Jeremiah. They still did not believe, but after few more month, the fields dried up and the food became scarce and a famine spread in the land. Then people began to acknowledge that Jeremiah, may be is a good man and prophet of the only true God YHWH.

✧ The Greek translation of the original Hebrew and Aramaic text added a word which gives a meaning that Jeremiah's prayers were earnest. Thus, the Greek translations give the nuance that prayers depend on the manner of praying, the fervor, the loudness, the earnestness, and the righteousness of the man who pray. But the original Aramaic does not have this nuance of "earnest." God hears all prayers even the silent prayers. God answers all prayers. God may effect an immediate supernatural answer or may effect a start of positive answer and healing.

✧ "And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word." Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there," (1 Kings 17:1-4).

✧ The prayer of a child or a man or a woman is effective because God hears all prayers of the heart and the mouth.

✧ If the prayer is according to God's will, God will positively answer it, either immediately supernaturally or begins the process thereof.

✧ If the prayer is coming out of an unclean heart or from a believer who wants personal gain and glory. God will not answer such prayer.

5:19 Brethren, if anyone among you wander (err - stray) from the path of truth, and someone turns him back (convert him) from his error;

5:20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save (restore) his soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

- ✧ James is speaking of the believers who are sinning or living in adulterated faith. He calls them "sinners." He is describing their walk as "errant," possibly because of false teaching or adulterated (worldly + demonic + Bible) faith. There is no possibility that adulterated faith is true faith, though the person may be a true believer similar to Lot who lived among and according to demonic worldly culture.
- ✧ True believers may err and stray away from the path of truth if they follow false teachers who teach them sweet doctrines which are a mix of humanism, demonism, and the Bible.
- ✧ What should be our attitude towards believers who are living in sin?
- ✧ Christians err when they say that we need to accept the sinners, the adulteration and the perverse lifestyles of the members because thus we manifest the patience and the love of God. This is a demonic teaching. We need to accept the believers who are pure in faith without becoming their judges. At the same time, we refuse to accept their lifestyle and their sin. We need to keep them apart (out of fellowship). We talk with them and pray for them to lead them to true repentance, and thus we can assist in saving their souls (spirits).
- ✧ The term "Cover his sin" in Hebrew is "kippur" which is atonement.
- ✧ Certain believers break away, they are either true believers who are deceived, or false believers who pretended or who deceived themselves.
- ✧ True believers will repent because the Holy Spirit YHWH is living in them and He will convict them of sin and guide them to repentance.
- ✧ False believers think they are not sinning and at best they may make a fake superficial repentance. They take pleasure in sinning. They do not understand why true believers are so determined to live a separated life against the world and its pleasures. They have a spirit (demonic) of deception as Paul tells us in 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12: "And with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness."
- ✧ "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened (false believers), and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame," (Hebrews 6:4-6).

This Epistle of James was written by James the brother of Jesus in Jerusalem or in the region of Jerusalem around the year AD 46.

Flavius Josephus, first-century historian, records that James was martyred in AD 62, so the epistle must have been written prior to that date. Since no mention is made of the Jerusalem Council (AD 50), therefore, it is likely that the letter was written around AD 46.

At the time of James, the Roman procurator (Prefect - Governor) was Festus. Festus died from natural causes. The Roman emperor when informed of the death of Festus, sent Albinus to be Prefect of Judea. Ananus, a Sadducee, was made high priest by the Romans, was arrogant and very ambitious.

The Sadducees felt that they are superior to all the Jews. They were super rich class. They were severe in their judicial sentences.

Ananus took advantage of the period of time (a couple of months) when there was no Roman procurator (governor) in Israel as they were waiting for Albinus to arrive to replace Festus.

Ananus and the Sadducees and some Pharisees and Scribes pretended that they honored James and invited him to the Temple to talk.

Then discussion heated up and they accused James of blasphemy. Then they threw him from the top of the Temple Mount to the ground below.

James fell and had broken bones. He was suffering in pain. These Pharisees, Sadducees and Scribes ran down and with sticks and stones and beat him up to death.

Ananus violated the Roman law which stipulates that a death sentence cannot be issued except by the Roman Procurator or the king if they had a king.

When Albinus arrived, he immediately solved the situation: he removed Ananus from the high priesthood and gave him a stern slap on the wrist.

This is not the end of the history.

James wrote many books and Bible studies. The Ebionites who were a powerful sect for about eight centuries were similar to the Messianic Jews who believe in the rabbinic teaching and tradition and also believe in salvation by works. They testified that they used many of the writings of James in their teaching. They skewed his writing to their interest.

Today, we find only one book (five chapters) left of James in the Greek translation.

What happened to the volumes of material which James wrote?

Apparently the Roman Church did not like James' teaching and managed to have all his works in Hebrew and Aramaic disappear, except for the five chapters of this Epistle.

We need to clarify that all these studies and books that disappeared were not inspired by God as Scripture, otherwise, God would have never allowed their destruction or disappearance.

(FIN)