

“How Yeshua Perfects us”

According to His Words
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Refer to the last page: “How to Interpret Scripture”

James 1:1-18 reading and commentary

¹ James, a bondservant of God and of [YHVH Yeshua HaMashiach] the Lord Jesus Christ,

James, the leader of the Jerusalem Body of Yeshua, was the half-brother of Yeshua. He became a believer after the resurrection of Yeshua and was later martyred for his faith.

verse 1 continued To the twelve [Hebrew] tribes (Israel) [scattered abroad among the Gentiles] in the dispersion: Greetings (rejoice)! Jas 1:1b
Amp

Your notes:

Read Deut 28

Consider it nothing but joy

² Consider it nothing but joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you fall into various trials. Jas 1:2 Amp

“Because you did not serve the LORD [YHVH] your God with a heart full of joy and gladness for the abundance of all things [with which He blessed you]”, Deut 28:47 Amp

Yeshua, through James, told the twelve tribes of Israel to rejoice. Even though the tribes were in the dispersion, they were to consider it nothing but joy when they would fall into trials!

The book of James was written about 55A.D. during the Babylonian dispersion. The Roman destruction of Jerusalem took place at approximately 68 A.D. This destruction could have been avoided if only they had obeyed YHVH's Words.

Today, we must make sure we do not let denominational theology, or what seems to be right, pollute Yeshua's Words. We must obey His Word with a pure heart!

We cannot be our own god, rather the issue is about our obedience to His Word. Notice James is quoting Deut 28:47 when he stated that we are to have “nothing but joy” (Jas 1:2); we are not to slander nor to destroy those with whom we disagree. We are to do good to others. We are to allow those in authority to bring justice!

Note that Deut 28 speaks of the curses that YHVH applies to His covenant people when they disobey. (Yes, there are also curses for those who are unbelievers.)

Deut 28:47 states,

“Because you did not serve the LORD [YHVH] your God with a heart full of joy and gladness for the abundance of all things [with which He blessed you],” Deut 28:47

Do we think that we are exempt from His Standard!?!

³Be assured that the testing of your faith [through experience] produces endurance [leading to spiritual maturity, and inner peace].

⁴And let endurance have its perfect result and do thorough work, so that you may be perfect and completely developed [in your faith], lacking in nothing.

⁵If any of you lacks wisdom [to guide him through a decision or circumstance], he is to ask of [our benevolent] God, who gives to everyone generously and without rebuke *or* blame, and it will be given to him. ⁶But he must ask [for wisdom] in faith, without doubting [God’s willingness to help], for the one who doubts is like a billowing surge of the sea that is blown about and tossed by the wind. ⁷For such a person ought not to think or expect that he will receive anything [at all] from the Lord [Yeshua], ⁸being a double-minded man, unstable and restless in all his ways [in everything he thinks, feels, or decides]. Jas 1:3-5 Amp

Money can slow you up and destroy you

⁹Let the brother in humble circumstances glory in his high position [as a born-again believer, called to the true riches and to be an heir of God]; ¹⁰and the rich man *is to glory* in being humbled [by trials revealing human frailty, knowing true riches are found in the grace of God], for like the flower of the grass he will pass away. ¹¹For the sun rises with a scorching wind and withers the grass; its flower falls off and its beauty fades away; so too will the rich man, in the midst of his pursuits, fade away. Jas 1:9-11 Amp

Perseveres through trials of self

¹²Blessed [happy, spiritually prosperous, favored by God] is the man who is steadfast under trial and perseveres when tempted; for when he has passed the test and been approved, he will receive the [victor’s] crown of life which the Lord [Yeshua] has promised to those who love Him. ¹³Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God” [for temptation does not originate from God, but from

our own flaws]; for God cannot be tempted by [what is] evil, and He Himself tempts no one. ¹⁴But each one is tempted when he is dragged away, enticed *and* baited [to commit sin] by his own [worldly] desire (lust, passion). ¹⁵Then when the illicit desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin has run its course, it gives birth to death. ¹⁶Do not be misled, my beloved brothers and sisters. ¹⁷Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above; it comes down from the Father of lights [the Creator and Sustainer of the heavens], in whom there is no variation [no rising or setting] or shadow cast by His turning [for He is perfect and never changes]. ¹⁸It was of His own will that He gave us birth [as His children] by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits of His creatures [a prime example of what He created to be set apart to Himself--sanctified, made holy for His divine purposes].

James 1:12-18 Amp

“How to Interpret Scripture”

Three things to always apply when studying Scripture:

1. *Contextually* – study Scripture within the context of the entire Bible.
 2. *Literally* – read Scripture literally – what do the words actually mean.
 3. *Historically* – understand Scripture within its historical/chronological context.
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The character of Yeshua according to His Word:

1. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, & forever,” [Heb 13:8; Malachi 3:6]
 2. “God is not a man that He should lie,” [Num 23:19; Heb 6:18]
 3. Do not add or subtract from the Scriptures, [Deut 4:2; Rev 22:18-19]
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Key Scriptures to Interpret the Bible

Matt 28:18-20 – *this is after His resurrection.*

¹⁸And Jesus [Yeshua] came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Acts 1:6-8 – *after Yeshua’s resurrection, He spoke to His disciples about the restoration of Israel.*

⁶So when they ^{had} come together, they asked him, “Lord [YHVH], will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has

come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

John 4:22-24 Amplified Bible

²²You [Samaritans] do not know what you worship; we [Jews] do know what we worship, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But a time is coming and is already here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit [from the heart, the inner self] and in truth; for the Father seeks such people to be His worshipers. ²⁴God is spirit [the Source of life, yet invisible to mankind], and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

John 3:36 – the book of John stated that obedience is key to eternal life:

³⁶Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

James 1:25

²⁵But he who looks carefully into the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and faithfully abides by it, not having become a [careless] listener who forgets but an active doer [who obeys], he will be blessed *and* favored by God in what he does [in his life of obedience].

James 2:12

¹²Speak and act [consistently] as people who are going to be judged by the law of liberty [that moral law that frees obedient Christians from the bondage of sin].

1John 2:3-6 - the Apostle John asked, “Do you really know God?”:

³And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. [Note: Yeshua perfectly kept the Torah; likewise, we also need to &, thereby, stop sinning.]

James 2:19-24

¹⁹You believe that God is one; you do well [to believe that]. The demons also believe [that], and shudder *and* bristle [in awe-filled terror--they have seen His wrath]! ²⁰But are you willing to recognize, you foolish [spiritually shallow] person, that faith without [good] works is useless? ²¹Was our father Abraham not [shown to be] justified by works [of obedience which expressed his faith] when he offered Isaac his son on the altar [as a sacrifice to God]? ²²You see that [his] faith was working together with his works, and as a result of the works, his faith was completed [reaching its maturity when he expressed his faith through obedience]. ²³And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND THIS [faith] WAS CREDITED TO HIM [by God] AS RIGHTEOUSNESS *and* AS CONFORMITY TO HIS WILL,” and he was called the friend of God. ²⁴You see that a man (believer) is justified by works and not by faith alone [that is, by acts of obedience a born-again believer reveals his faith].

John 12:47-50

⁴⁷If anyone hears My words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge *and* condemn the world [that is, to initiate the final judgment of the world], but to save the world. ⁴⁸Whoever rejects Me and refuses to accept My teachings, has one who judges him; the *very* word that I spoke will judge *and* condemn him on the last day. ⁴⁹For I have never spoken on My own initiative *or* authority, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment *regarding* what to say and what to speak. ⁵⁰I know that His commandment is eternal life. So the things I speak, I speak [in accordance with His exact instruction,] just as the Father has told Me.”

Timeline

Pre-30AD - <i>Rabbinic tradition</i>	30AD – <i>Resurrection / Pentecost</i>	40AD – <i>Peter’s vision & Cornelius (Acts 10)</i>	50AD – <i>Jerusalem Council (Acts 15)</i>	325AD – <i>Council of Nicaea</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Oral Law ○ Customs of Moses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outpouring of the Holy Spirit to <u>Jews</u> <i>only</i> who came up to Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 10 years after Pentecost ○ Outpouring of Holy Spirit on <u>Gentiles</u> <i>only</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 10 years after Acts 10 ○ Jerusalem Council – discussion about Gentiles’ salvation & circumcision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Under the auspices of Constantine ○ Only Gentile bishops were allowed – Jews could not attend