### James

## Chapter 5

1So go on, you who are rich... Cry and bawl over the miseries that you’ll have to endure!  
  
2For your wealth will rot away. Your clothes will be moth-eaten. 3Your gold and silver will corrode. And whatever remains will testify against you and eat your flesh – just like the fire that you’ve treasured away for yourselves in the last days.  
  
4Look! The wages that you refused to pay the workers that harvested your fields are crying out, and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of Jehovah of Armies!  
  
5For you’ve lived on the earth merrily and have been greedy… Yes, you fattened-up your own bodiesFor you’ve lived on the earth merrily and have been greedy… Yes, you fattened-up your own bodies<sup class="difference">[Syr] to be ready for the day of slaughter! 6You’ve condemned and murdered a righteous one, [even though] he didn’t stand against you.  
  
  
7Brothers, let’s be patient until the Lord arrives.  
  
{Look!} For just as the farmer harvests the precious fruitage of the ground after patiently waiting for both the early and late rains, 8we must also be patient… But with determined hearts; because the appearance of the Lord is drawing near.  
  
9Brothers, stop groaning about each other, so you won’t be judged. For look… The judge is now standing at the door!  
  
  
10Brothers, you should learn from the examples of the Prophets who spoke in the Name of Jehovah about how to suffer bad things and how to be patient, 11for we call those who endured, ‘the blest!’  
  
You’ve all heard of the endurance of Job and you saw how Jehovah ended it…  
  
And this proves that Jehovah is very kind and merciful.  
  
12But above all, my brothers... Stop swearing oaths by heaven, or by the earth, or by anything else.  
  
Just let your yes mean yes, and your no mean no, so that you don’t fail when you’re being judged!  
  
  
13Are there any among you who are being persecuted?  
  
Let them keep on praying!  
  
Are there any among you who are cheerful?  
  
Let them sing psalms!  
  
14Are there any among you who are ill?  
  
Let them call the elders and ask them to pray over them, as they rub them with oil in the name of the Lord!  
  
15Then their faithful prayers will rescue the ill and the Lord will lift them and forgive any sins that they’ve committed.  
  
16So, admit your errors to each other and pray that each one of you’ll be healed, because prayer has a lot of power when it’s working through righteous people.  
  
17Remember that EliJah was just a man with passions like ours; but when he prayed and asked for it not to rain, it didn’t rain in the land for 3-1/2 years! 18Then when he prayed again, the skies poured with rain, causing the ground to produce its fruitage!  
  
  
19My brothers,  
  
Whenever someone is led astray from the truth and someone else leads him back... 20Recognize that the one who turns the sinner from the error of his ways will save his own life from death… And it’ll cover many of his own sins as well.

# 1 Peter

A letter, traditionally believed to be written (or dictated) by the Apostle Peter (as stated in the text), and probably sometime before the destruction of Jerusalem.  
  
While the text says that it’s written in ‘Babylon,’ this could mean the region rather than the city – as the city may have been abandoned by this time.  
  
Some believe that ‘Babylon’ is really a reference to Rome, as some sort of early reference to the prophetic ‘Babylon’ later mentioned in Revelation (for those who believe that it represents Ancient Rome). Many who share this viewpoint hold the Roman Catholic belief that Peter was the first pope, and any effort to place him in Rome would bolster the idea. Otherwise, Peter would be thousands of miles away from where he was supposed to be.  
  
Many modern scholars doubt whether Peter was the real author. Why? They say that the quality of the Greek text is too good for a simple fisherman, and that the arguments are too sophisticated for an uneducated person.  
  
However, we maintain that the letter was probably originally written in Aramaic, not Greek, and besides, it was probably penned on Peter’s behalf by a secretary. Also, the wording and sophistication of the arguments show a nice similarity to Peter’s words found in Acts.