

Wycliffe Associates

Bible Translation Reviewers' Guide

James

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1:1-18

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ James described himself as a servant of God and the Lord Jesus Christ when he greeted the twelve tribes in the dispersion. [1:1]
- ☐ James told the believers to consider it all joy when they experienced various trials. [1:2-4]
- ☐ James encouraged the believers to ask for wisdom in faith without doubting. [1:5-8]
- ☐ James explained why a rich brother should be humble and why the brother who endured testing was blessed. [1:9-12]
- ☐ James explained how sin developed from evil desires. [1:13-15]
- ☐ James said that God was the giver of every good and perfect gift, including new life through the word of truth. [1:17-18]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. How did James describe himself? [1:1]
He described himself as a servant of God and the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. When experiencing troubles, what attitude did James say his readers should have? [1:2]
James told them to consider it all joy when they experienced troubles.
3. What did the testing of their faith produce? [1:3]
The testing of their faith produced endurance.
4. For what should they ask from God if they needed it? [1:5]
They should ask God for wisdom if they needed it.
5. What should someone who asked with doubt expect to receive? [1:6-7]
Someone who asked with doubt should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.
6. Why should a rich man be humble? [1:10-11]
A rich brother should be humble because he would pass away just like the flowers.
7. What would those who passed the test of faith receive from God? [1:12]
Those who passed the test of faith would receive the crown of life.
8. What did James say should not be said by someone being tempted? [1:13]
No one who was tempted should say that it was from God.
9. What caused a person to be tempted by evil? [1:14]
A person's own evil desires caused him to be tempted by evil.

James 1:1-18 continued

10. What was the result of full-grown sin? [1:15]

The result of full-grown sin was death.

11. What truth did James say they should not be deceived about? [1:16-17]

They should not be deceived that every good and perfect gift was from above, coming down from the Father of lights.

12. Why did God give believers birth by the word of truth? [1:18]

He did it so that believers would be a kind of firstfruits of all his creatures.

Comment Section:

1:19-27

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Believers were to be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger. [1:19-20]
- ☐ If the word of God was received with humility, it was able to save their souls. [1:21]
- ☐ James said that they could deceive themselves by hearing the word but not doing it. [1:22-25]
- ☐ James talked about the importance of controlling the tongue. [1:26]
- ☐ James explained what actions were required to have pure and unspoiled religion. [1:27]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did James tell believers to do about our hearing, speaking, and emotions? [1:19]
James told believers to be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger.
2. What did the anger of man not accomplish? [1:20]
The anger of man did not accomplish the righteousness of God.
3. What did the word of God do if received with humility? [1:21]
It was able to save their souls.
4. How did James say that believers could deceive themselves? [1:22]
James said that they could deceive themselves by hearing the word but not doing it.
5. How did James compare a hearer of the word with a doer of the word? [1:23-24]
A hearer but not a doer of the word was like a man who forgot what he looked like after he looked in a mirror.
6. What would happen to a man who looked into the perfect law of freedom and did what it said? [1:25]
He would be blessed by what he did.
7. What do you think James meant with the words, "control his tongue"? [1:26]
He meant for them to control how they spoke to other people.
8. What did James say that religion that was pure and unspoiled before God was like? [1:27]
Pure and unspoiled religion before God was to visit the fatherless and widows and to protect themselves from the world's corruption.

Comment Section:

2:1-13

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ James warned the church about showing partiality towards anyone on the basis of their outward appearance. [2:1-4]
- ☐ James contrasted the poor who were rich in faith with the rich who oppressed people. [2:5-7]
- ☐ James said that believers did well when they fulfilled the royal law, "Love your neighbor as yourself." [2:8]
- ☐ Any part of the law that a person did not obey made them a transgressor of the whole law. [2:9-11]
- ☐ Believers were to speak and act as those who would be judged by means of the law of freedom. [2:12-13]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did James tell the church about showing partiality toward certain people? [2:1-3]
James told them not to favor certain people because of their appearance.
2. What were people who showed partiality towards others doing? [2:4]
They were acting as a judge, with evil thoughts.
3. Who did James say God chose to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who loved him? [2:5]
James says that God chose the poor to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom.
4. What did James say the rich were doing? [2:6-7]
James said the rich were oppressing the brothers and insulting God's name.
5. What scripture did James say was the royal law? [2:8]
James says the royal law was, "Love your neighbor as yourself."
6. What did James say about people who sinned by favoring certain people? [2:9]
They were convicted by the law as transgressors.
7. What happened when a person sinned by disobeying only one commandment of the law? [2:10-11]
That person was guilty of transgressing the entire law.
8. Why do you think James instructed the believers to speak and act as those who would be judged by means of the law of freedom? [2:12-13]
Judgment would come without mercy to those who have shown no mercy.

Comment Section:

2:14-26

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Those who claimed to have faith but did not help those in need had a faith that could not save them. [2:14-16]
- ☐ Faith by itself, if it had no works, was dead and useless. [2:17-20,24,26]
- ☐ Abraham demonstrated his faith by his works when he offered up Isaac upon the altar. [2:21-22]
- ☐ The scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." [2:23]
- ☐ Rahab also demonstrated her faith by her works. [2:25]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. How were believers to think about faith and works? [2:14]
Those who claimed to have faith but did not help those in need had a faith that could not save them.
2. James gave an example of just talking to someone who lacked clothes and food without giving them what they needed. How do you think that example was related to what James taught about faith and works? [2:15-17]
Perhaps just as saying words without helping a needy person did no good, just saying you believed in God by itself did no good either.
3. How did James say that he would show that he had faith? [2:18]
He said he would show that he had faith by what he did.
4. Who besides people could believe there was one God? [2:19]
Demons also believed there was one God.
5. In 2:20 what did James say about faith without works?
Faith without works was useless.
6. What did James say about Abraham's faith? [2:21-22]
Abraham demonstrated his faith by his works when he offered up Isaac upon the altar.
7. How was the scripture fulfilled concerning Abraham? [2:23]
When Abraham believed God, it was counted to him as righteousness.
8. What do you think James meant when he said that people were justified by works and not only by faith? [2:24]
Perhaps he meant that people did not really have a justifying faith unless it was the kind of faith that showed itself to be true by what they actually did.
9. How did Rahab demonstrate her faith by her works? [2:25]
She welcomed the messengers and sent them away by another road.

James 2:14-26 continued

10. What was a body apart from the spirit? [2:26]
A body apart from the spirit was dead.

Comment Section:

3:1-12

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ James warned that those who were teachers would be judged more strictly. [3:1]
- ☐ James gave examples to support the problem of controlling the tongue, which even though small in relation to the body, no human could tame. It was used to praise the Lord and then to curse men who had been made in God's likeness. [3:2-12]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Why did James say that not many should become teachers? [3:1]
Those who were teachers would be judged more strictly.
2. What do you think James meant when he wrote about not stumbling in words? [3:2]
Perhaps he meant that teachers were to be very careful not to say wrong things when they teach.
3. What examples did James give about small things having a large effect? [3:3-6]
A bit in the mouth of a horse directed the whole horse; a rudder steered a large boat; the tongue boasted of great things and defiled the whole body; and a small fire burned a large forest.
4. What was the sinful tongue able to do to the whole body? [3:6]
The sinful tongue was able to defile the whole body.
5. What did James say about the power of the tongue? [3:7-8]
It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.
6. Why do you think James used examples from nature to show that blessings and curses should not come from the same mouth? [3:9-12]
Perhaps James meant that if nature did not go against its created functions, then man's tongue should praise the name of man's creator and redeemer.

Comment Section:

3:13-18

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ A person demonstrated wisdom and understanding by their works done in humility. [3:13]
- ☐ A person with bitter jealousy and selfish ambition had wisdom that was earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. [3:14-16]
- ☐ A person that was peace-loving, gentle, warm-hearted, full of mercy and good fruit, without favoritism, and sincere had wisdom from above. [3:17-18]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. How did a person demonstrate wisdom and understanding? [3:13]
A person demonstrated wisdom and understanding by their works in the humility of wisdom.
2. What attitudes reflected a wisdom that was earthly, unspiritual, and demonic? [3:14-15]
A person with bitter jealousy and selfish ambition had wisdom that was earthly, unspiritual, and demonic.
3. What did James say is found when there was jealousy and ambition? [3:16]
There was confusion and every evil practice.
4. What attitudes reflected wisdom from above? [3:17]
A person that was peace-loving, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial, and sincere had wisdom from above.
5. What do you think James meant by saying that the fruit of righteousness was sown in peace among those who made peace? [3:18]
Perhaps he meant that right living thrived among those who promoted peace.

Comment Section:

4:1-12

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ James explained to the believers where their quarrels and disputes came from. [4:1-3]
- ☐ A person who decided to be a friend of the world made himself an enemy of God. [4:4-5]
- ☐ God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. [4:6]
- ☐ God would draw near to and exalt those who drew near and humbly submitted to him. [4:7-10]
- ☐ James told the believers not to speak evil against a brother or judge one another. [4:11-12]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Where did James say the quarrels and disputes among the brethren came from? [4:1]
They came from the desires that fought among their own members.
2. Why did the believers not receive their requests to God? [4:2-3]
They asked wrongly, in order to satisfy their own desires.
3. If a person decided to be a friend of the world, what was that person's relationship with God? [4:4]
A person who decided to be a friend of the world made himself an enemy of God.
4. Why do you think James said the Spirit that God caused to live in believers was deeply envious? [4:5]
Perhaps because God had given believers the Holy Spirit to control their lives, and he wanted no rivals, such as the spirit of worldliness, to turn them away from him.
5. Who did God resist, and to whom did he give grace? [4:6]
God resisted the proud but gave grace to the humble.
6. What did James say the devil did when a believer subjected himself to God and resisted the devil? [4:7]
The devil would flee.
7. What will God do for those who come close to him? [4:8]
God will come close to those who draw near to him.
8. Why do you think James told the believers to let their laughter turn into mourning? [4:9]
Perhaps it was because believers were to feel shame and sadness over their sins and be driven to repentance.
9. What did James say happened to believers who humbled themselves before the Lord? [4:10]
The Lord would exalt them.
10. What did James tell the believers not to do? [4:11]
James told the believers not to speak evil about one another.

James 4:1-12 continued

11. Why do you think James said not to speak evil about or judge another brother? [4:12]
He said this because only God is the lawgiver and judge.

Comment Section:

4:13-17

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ James warned his readers against boasting about their plans. [4:13-16]
- ☐ It was sin if someone knew to do good but did not do it. [4:17]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Who did James tell to listen to his words? [4:13]
He spoke to those who planned what they would do in the future.
2. What do you think James wanted his readers to realize when he asked, “Who knows what will happen tomorrow, and what is your life?” [4:14]
He wanted them to know that they did not even know what would happen tomorrow.
3. What did James say about people’s lives? [4:14]
People’s lives were a mist that appeared for a little while and then disappeared.
4. What did James tell the believers to say about what would happen in the future? [4:15]
James told the believers to say that if the Lord allowed, they would live and do this or that.
5. What did James say about those who boasted about their plans? [4:16]
James said that those who boasted about their plans were doing evil.
6. What was it if someone knew to do good but did not do it? [4:17]
It was sin if someone knew to do good but did not do it.

Comment Section:

5:1-12

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ James spoke of the miseries that were coming upon rich people. [5:1-3]
- ☐ James warned the rich who had hoarded their riches, not paid their workers, and murdered the righteous person. [5:3-6]
- ☐ The believers were to wait patiently for the coming of the Lord and not complain against one another. [5:7-9]
- ☐ The Old Testament prophets demonstrated patience and perseverance in suffering. [5:10-11]
- ☐ A believer's "Yes" must mean "Yes" and his "No" must mean "No". [5:12]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did James tell the rich people to do? [5:1]
He told them to weep and wail because of the miseries coming on them.
2. What did James say to those who had stored up treasure for the last days? [5:2-3]
He said their riches would rot, and moths would eat their clothes. Their gold and silver would become tarnished and their rust would be a witness against them.
3. Why do you think James spoke so harshly against the rich? [5:3]
The rich had stored up their treasure.
4. How did James say they treated their workers? [5:4]
The rich did not pay their workers what they were owed.
5. How did James say the rich had lived? [5:5]
They had lived in luxury and indulged themselves.
6. What did the rich do to the righteous person? [5:6]
They condemned and murdered the righteous person.
7. How did James instruct the believers to live until the Lord's coming? [5:7-8]
The believers were to wait patiently for the coming of the Lord.
8. Why did James tell the believers not to complain against one another? [5:9]
They should not complain against each other so they would not be condemned.
9. What do you think James meant when he said, "The judge is standing at the door?" [5:9]
James was referring to God who is the judge of all things.

James 5:1-12 continued

10. What character traits did James say the Old Testament prophets demonstrated to us? [5:10-11]

The Old Testament prophets demonstrated patience and endurance in suffering.

11. How was Job blessed as he endured suffering? [5:11]

Job was blessed by the compassion and mercy of God.

12. What did James say about the reliability of a believer's "Yes" and "No?" [5:12]

Their "Yes" should mean "Yes" and their "No" should mean "No".

Comment Section:

5:13-20

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ James instructed his Christian brothers on how to pray for one another in the church. [5:13-16]
- ☐ He gave them the example of Elijah, the prophet who was a man just like them, who prayed. [5:17-18]
- ☐ James told his brothers how to treat a brother who strayed from the truth, saving him from death and sins. [5:19-20]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. How did James instruct believers to respond when suffering hardship? [5:13]
He told them to pray.
2. When a brother was sick, what was he to do? [5:14]
The sick person was to call for the elders so they could pray over him and anoint him with oil.
3. What did James tell them about the prayer of faith? [5:15]
It would heal the sick person. The Lord would raise him up and, if he had committed sins, God would forgive him.
4. What two things did James say believers were to do with each other in order to be healed? [5:16]
Believers were to confess their sins to one another and pray for one another.
5. What did James say the example of Elijah showed people about prayer? [5:17-18]
The example of Elijah showed people that the prayer of a righteous man produced great effects.
6. What did someone accomplish who led a sinner out of the error of his way? [5:19-20]
The person who led a sinner out of the error of his way saved a soul from death and covered a multitude of sins.

Comment Section: