Doer of the Word: Faith in Action

Reader 1

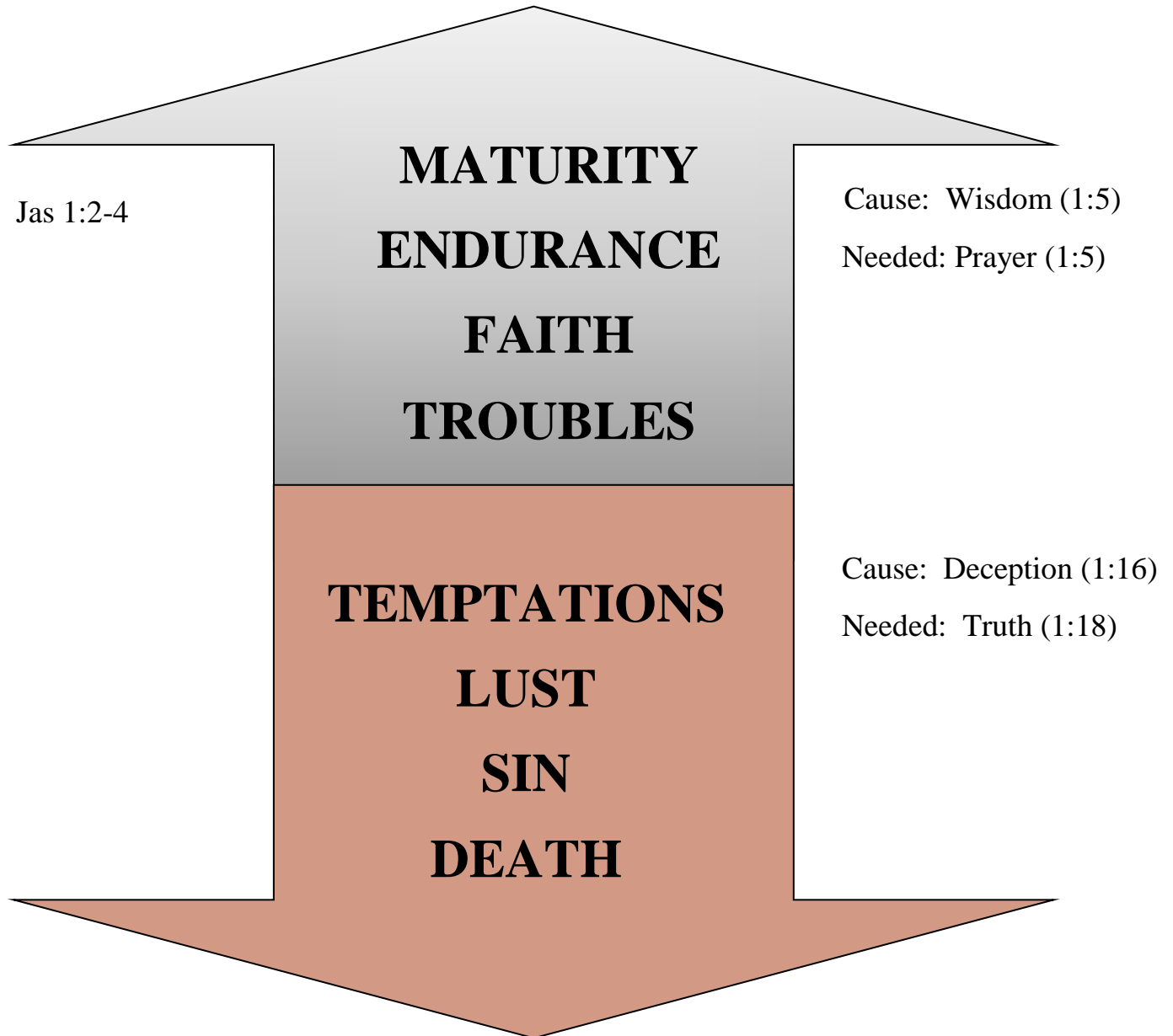# 2021

A N L I
Bridging the gap leadership

Overview of the Book of James

Section	Real Faith Produces Genuine Stability	Real Faith Produces Genuine Love	Real Faith Produces Genuine Humility	Real Faith Produces Genuine Patience
Themes	Joy in Trials Facing Temptations Responding to the Word	Partiality and Prejudice Faith at Work Bridling the Tongue	Expression of the Heart Settling Disputes Expressions of Desire Warning to the Wealthy	Patience in Suffering Sickness and Sin Carnality and Correction
Key Terms	Wisdom (1:5, 3:13, 15, 17) . . . Double-Minded (1:8, 4:8) . . . Faith (1:3, 6; 2:11, 5, 14-26; 5:15)			
	Trials Perseverance Religion	Works Justify Tongue	Jealousy Humble Judge	Persevere Turn
Passages	1:1-1:27	2:1-3:12	3:13-5:6	5:7-20

Two Trajectories in James 1

Jas 1:2-4

MATURITY

ENDURANCE

FAITH

TROUBLES

Cause: Wisdom (1:5)

Needed: Prayer (1:5)

TEMPTATIONS

LUST

SIN

DEATH

Cause: Deception (1:16)

Needed: Truth (1:18)

Book of James Cross References

Growing Through Trials
- Rom 5:3-4:2
- 2 Cor 4:17; 6:4
- 2 Thess 1:4
- <mark>1 Pet 1:5-7; 4:12-1</mark>

Enduring Temptation
- Matt 6:13; 26:41
- Luke 4:1-2
- Rom 8:5-8
- 1 Cor 10:13
- Gal 6:1
- Eph :11-13
- Heb 4:15-16

Living Proof – Obedient Behavior
- Lev 19:2
- Acts 5:29
- Rom 6
- 2 Cor 7:1; 9:13
- Titus 3:1
- Heb 12:13-14
- 1 Peter 1:14
- 1 John 3:24
- 2 John 1:6

Equality in the Church - Favoritism
- Exod 23:2-3
- Lev 19:15
- Prov 19:6
- 1 Tim 5:21

How Faith Works
- John 14:12
- Phil 2:17
- 2 Thess 1:11
- Heb 6:9-12
- 2 Pet 1:5-7

Taming the Tongue
- Ps 34:13
- Prov 13:3; 21:23
- Titus 3:2
- Jas 1:26
- 1 Pet 3:10

Sowing Seeds of Peace (Wisdom)
- Ps 29:11; 34:14; 119:165
- Prov 2:6; 3:13; 4:7
- Dan 12:3
- John 14:27
- Rom 8:6
- Phil 4:7
- Col 2:2-3

Trusting God
- Ps 62:8; 143:8
- Prov 29:25
- Isa 25:9
- Nag 1:7
- Rom 10:11

The Dangers of Pride
- Prov 11:2; 13:10; 16:5, 18
- Rom 12:16
- 1 Pet 5:5

Warning to the Rich

- Prov 11:28; 23:4
- Matt 19:23-24
- Luke 6:24
- 1 Tim 6:9-10; 17-19

The Rewards of Perseverance

- Rom 2:7; 5:3-4; 8:24-25
- 1 Tim 4:16
- Heb 10:36; 12:1
- Jas 1:2-4, 12
- 2 Pet 1:5-9

Prayers of Faith

- Ps 6:9
- Prov 15:8, 29
- Matt 21:22; Phil 4:6-7
- Col 4:2
- 1 Pet 3:12

Appendix 4
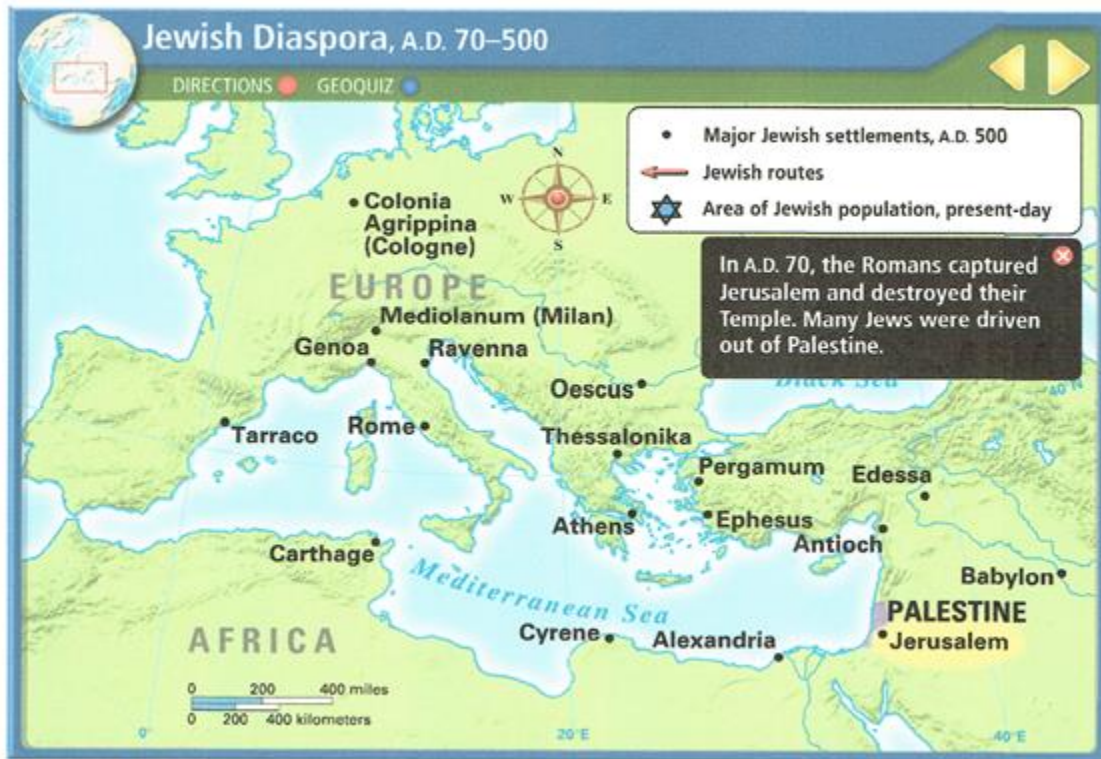
James Background Information

Author

- James, natural son of Mary and Joseph after the birth of Jesus (Gal 1:19) and eldest of four brothers (Mark 6:3)
- Did not believe in his brother, Jesus, during His earthly ministry (John 7:5), rather after the risen Lord made a special appearance to him
- Eventually led the Jewish Christian church in Jerusalem from AD 49 to 62 (Acts 15, 21)
- One of the most influential leaders of the early church in addition to Peter and Paul
- Servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ (Jas 1:1) in this context distinguished his authority to address readers as one called to serve God and His people in a leadership role (Bauckham, p. 17)
- Martyred around AD 62 (Acts 8)

Audience (See Diagram 1)

- The twelve tribes scattered abroad (Jas 1:1) following Stephen's martyrdom (Acts 8:1, Jas 2:2), either deported or emigrated outside of Israel (Term diaspora associates with God scattering Israel resulting from their sins. Except in 1 Pet 1:1, it did not apply to the early church.)
- Jews who professed Jesus as their Messiah, yet considered themselves Jews. The term Christian did not exist during this period of the early church.
- The Diaspora lived in the Mediterranean area subject to the Roman Empire and Euphrates, east of the Roman Empire. The term evoked, the hope of God regathering all tribes in the Messianic age.
- Might be a specific congregation (2:1; 3:1; 4:1; 5:7-11)
- Knew the Word, but neglected to obey it, which made their profession of faith meaningless

Diagram 1

Jewish Diaspora

Jewish Diaspora, A.D. 70–500

Style

- Official letter or paraenetic encyclical, in which James as the head of the Jerusalem church wrote to a community of his compatriots and fellow believers in the Jewish Diaspora offering exhortations or advice on the conduct of life (Baukham, *James*, p. 12-13)
- Contains wisdom characterized by moral sayings
- Some call it the New Testament proverbs
- Includes over 59 commands of the 108 verses followed by a purpose (Doriani, *James*, p. 6)
- Featured warnings and reproofs resembling the writings of OT prophets
- Discusses practical issues like trials, poverty, riches, materialism, favoritism, social justice, the tongue, worldliness, boasting, praying, making plans, and more
- Refers to faith 14 different times
- Strong emphasis on obedience, genuine faith acts and works
- Incorporates Jewish terminology giving it a Hebrew flavor (first fruits, assembly, Abraham our father, hell, etc)

- Used the Old Testament to reach Jewish readers
- Quoted Leviticus pointing to Jesus, Old Testament prophets to pushing believers to lives of faithfulness, the Law regarding personal holiness, and wisdom literature living out a Christ-like life

<p align="center" style="color:red">Appendix 5</p>
<p align="center" style="color:red">How to Define a Word Contextually</p>

"Learning to read the books of the Bible in context is not something to avoid, but it may be a somewhat different way of reading the Bible than how we have been reading it. We have a tendency to bring the words of the Bible into our world without realizing it (the world in front of the text), rather than us getting into its world (the worlds within and behind the text)" (Schenck, 2012).

1. Pray for understanding and meditate on the Word.
2. Take your time. A quality study takes more than ten minutes.
3. A context study should make you ask questions and think further about the text.
4. Go within the text and determine its literary features.

- Look for context clues to help you define a word. Read and reread the passage. Take notes on what you see.
- Notice the surrounding words in the sentence and paragraph. The words and clauses of a verse that come before or after a word affect its meaning. The verses, chapters, and book additionally influence meaning.
- Parse it; find the word's part of speech. For example, James often writes in the second person plural to address a collective body of people and the individual within it.
  - Does the word appear as a noun, adjective, verb, adverb, conjunction, etc? A word's part of speech makes a difference in meaning.
    - *An adjective gives fuller meaning to the accompanying noun it modifies*. Looking at divers temptations. The plural adjective divers describes the plural noun temptations. In other words, it gives a fuller explanation for temptations. When you define temptations, incorporate divers, but first define divers.
    - *Find the verb, especially commands*. Unique to the book of his namesake, James ordered 59 commands, called imperative verbs, out of 108 verses,

followed with a purpose statement. Imperative verbs in James 1:2-4 include count (Jas 1:2) and let (1:4).

- ☐ **Look for clauses**.
  - *For instance, a conditional clause presents an if, then situation—If a, then b*. A conditional clause begins with if, when, whenever, since, because, in order to, etc. English has three types of conditional clauses, Greek has four. In both cases, the word *that* follows and signals a purpose statement, called a hina clause in Greek.

5. Find out what occurs behind the text for its historical, social, cultural, and situational contexts.

6. Look up the word in a Bible expository dictionary, either online or hard copy.
   - **Determine the gloss meaning**, a rough, initial definition for the basic meaning of that word. Write only a few words. Note, it must match the context of the verse. In the Blue Letter Bible.org, you find it in the outline of biblical usage.
   - **Find the full definition**. Read it in more than one expository dictionary (BLB.org, BibleHub.com, and Vine's Online). Make sure the full definition matches the intent and context of the sentence containing the word. Two words back-to-back can mean something entirely different. Usually, BLB.org will cite the verse in parentheses after the correct meaning. Do not assume the same definition applies to two identical words in a sentence or paragraph. Context changes meaning.

7. Find the cross reference verses to unwrap a word. Don't just cite it, explain how it describes the word and adds to meaning. Scripture interprets Scripture, precept upon precept, and line by line.

8. Combine the within and behind text information into a context definition. Bullet what you learn. But, thoroughly check what you find out. Incorrect assumptions or deductions create word fallacies. Some definitions may run longer than others, but you want to break out critical key words with more detail. Look at the exemplar below. While lengthy, I took the time to unwrap it since the word temptations affect the meaning of the chapter and book.

- Vine's Dictionary defined temptations as, "trials divinely permitted or sent (Luke 22:28; Acts 20:19 ; Jas 1:2 ; 1 Pet 1:6 ; 4:12; *StudyLight*, https://www.studylight.org/dictionaries/ ved/t/temptation.html). Last, *The Key Word Dictionary* (2008, p. 2215) defined it as "a state of trial in which God brings His people through adversity and affliction in order to encourage and prove their faith and confidence in Him" (cf. 1 Cor 10:13; 1 Pet 1:6-7; 2 Pet 2:9).

- Since God uses temptations, it serves as a holy trial. God has control over trials in His sovereignty. A holy temptation leads to God perfecting the believer in growth for godliness. However, the believer must depend on God to endure the temptation (1 Cor 10:13).

- In Acts 5:41, worthy means deserving as if to do a favor for them (Strongs). They rejoiced because God considered them worthy to go through a trial for His name "And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name" (Acts 5:41).

- Genesis 22 tells the reader that God tested Abraham to give his only son as a burnt offering. "And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. 2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of."

- In 1 Pet 1:6, it says, "you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials." The phrase "You may have had to" translates as "it may have become necessary" for you to suffer trials. The verse discloses that God has design and purpose behind a trial. God intends to perfect not punish the believer through a trial to share in His holiness. Consider it loving discipline (Heb 12:6, 10). James explains an unholy temptation (1:13-17) as the opposite of the divers temptation (1:2-4). An unholy temptation comes from within through lust and leads to sin. God will not tempt the believer to sin (1:13). God tests to build up, not tempts to lure to sin.

- God has sovereignty over temptations. "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good" (Rom 8:28). As James stated temptation in the plural form, a person may encounter one or multiple trials. For the community in James, they experienced hurt and poverty at an extreme level.

Sample Exegesis Chart

Exegesis Chart Sample: James 1:1		
"James, a <mark>servant of</mark> <mark>God and of the Lord Jesus Christ</mark>, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting" (KJV). "James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad:" (NKJV).		
Key Words/ **Transliteration**	**Gloss Definition** **Strong's Number**	**Context Definitions**
Jas 1:1 servant of *doulos*	Slave; bondservant of (BLB.org) (G1401)	Servant of • Jewish Law forbade anyone from confessing slave status to serve anyone other than the true God (cf. Deut 5:9; 6:13; 10:20; Matt 4:10). To do so signified idolatry. It also showed heresy by exalting the name of a man to divine status (Segraves, ch. 1, para. 4). • A servant of God and the Lord Jesus Christ indicated Jesus' divinity. One could not serve both God and man. • A bondservant of God gives up one's self-interests and will to advance God's mission as a slave for the sake of Christ, approaching enslavement with joy, devotion, obedience, yielding, and sacrifice.

Key Words/ Transliteration	Gloss Definition Strong's Number	Context Definitions
		• In the context of this verse, servant of the Lord Jesus Christ also signifies James' authority to address the readers of the letter in a leadership role (Segraves, 1995).
God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, • God —*theos* • Lord —*kyrios* (or *kurios)* • Jesus—*Iēsous* • Christ—*Christos*	• God (G2316)—The Godhead (BLB.org) • Lord (G2962)—God, the Messiah (BLB.org) • Jesus (G2424)—the Son of God, the Savior of mankind, God incarnate (BLB.org) • Christ (G5547)—Christ was [and is] the Messiah, the Son of God (1BLB.org)	God and of the Lord Jesus Christ • The Lord Jesus Christ denotes the deity of Christ as God and His full description of Messiah as the Lord (Segraves, 1995) • Jesus (*Iēsous*) means YHWH or Jehovah in Hebrew. • Lord (*kyrios*) serves as the equivalent to *YHWH* or Jehovah Savior in Hebrew. • Christ (*Christos*) means *Messiach* (Messiah) in Hebrew or anointed one.
to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.	• Scattered (G1290)— of the Christians scattered abroad among the Gentiles (BLB.org)	• James wrote to the scattered, which generally means the Jews. However, this letter addressed the Jewish Christians (dispersed from the twelve tribes of Israel).

diaspora		• Specifically, many Jewish Christians left Jerusalem due to persecution at the time James wrote his letter (Acts 8:1). A large majority lived outside Palestine (Bauckham, 1999, p. 13). The • Since James wrote in the Greek language, it gives evidence that the scattered lived north in areas populated with Greek-speaking people (*Key-Word Study Bible*, 2008, p. 1529). • In sum, the scattered comprises the Jewish Christians living abroad.