

Homework LDC Workshop: Session 1 Sample

Contextual Study: Exegesis (Temptations)

Jas 1:2

| Word Strong # Transliteration | Gloss | Context Definition |
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| <p>James 1:2</p> <p>My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; (KJV).</p> <p>My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, (NKJV).</p> | | |
| <p>Temptations</p> <p>G3986</p> <p><i>peirasmos</i></p> | <p>Trials</p> | <p>Behind the Text</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James addressed the Jewish Christian diaspora scattered upon Stephen’s death. In Jas 1:2a, he opens the verse to “My brethren” (1:2a) Inclusive to male and female. He speaks to men and women individually and in the brotherhood community (Matt 25:40, Jas 1:9, 16; 2:2). • He asks the assembly of believers to evaluate how they look at trials in response to God’s testing. • What temptations (or trials) did the scattered experience? The faced persecution, marginalization, oppression, and deprivation in exilic life outside Palestine James notes them in the letter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispersed to a land not their own (1:1) • Marginalized widows and orphans (1:26-27) |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oppression (2:5-7) • Poverty (2:16) • Trials of severe oppression by the rich (5:1-6), • Opposition and persecution (v. 10), • Bad or distressing experiences (v. 13), • Suffering (vv. 10, 13), • Serious illness nearing death (vv. 14-16), • Eschatological suffering (vv. 19-20; cf. 1-6). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power and Privilege Social groups: the rich (1:10-11; 2:5-7; 5:1-6), widows and orphans (1:27) - that is, those who are unable to provide for or protect themselves, and the poor (1:9; 2:2, 3, 5, 6). • Socio-Economic Orientation The law of the Roman Empire during the first century determined who could belong to the upper classes, approximately one percent of the population, based on birth, family, and wealth. <p>Within the Text</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vine’s Dictionary defines temptations as, “trials divinely permitted or sent (Luke 22:28; Acts 20:19 ; Jas 1:2 ; 1 Pet 1:6 ; 4:12; <i>StudyLight</i>). Last, <i>The Key Word Dictionary</i> (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 of the trials |
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| | | <p>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).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The word ‘divers’ (Jas 1:2) describes temptations. As part of a triple alliteration (<i>peripesēte, poikilos, peirasmos</i>), the author perhaps sought to emphasize divers temptations to the listeners when read orally and highlight every kind of trying (or testing). • Further, the ‘when’ before divers temptations gives a clue that a person does not invite the temptations. • The first commandment James announced to the audience, joy extends beyond gladness, happiness, or pleasure, rather an occasion of joy as it results from divine temptations (Key Word Study Bible, p.2275.) Believers should face divers temptations with all joy. All modifies joy influencing the degree and expanse of its meaning. One may rephrase “all joy” as entirely as joy, nothing but joy, or a pure joy (1:2a). It runs opposite of no joy, a little joy, some joy, or pretend joy. • The text does not exhort the believer experiencing trials to rebel against God, become defiant, work on your own power, grumble, pity yourself, solicit sympathy from others in response to it (Heb 12:1; 1 Cor 10:10; <i>Believer’s Bible, E-Sword</i>). <p>Cross References</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acts 5:41: Worthy means deserving as if to do a favor for them (Strongs). “And |
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they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.”

- Genesis 22: 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.”
- 1 Peter 1:6: “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.
- Rom 8:28: 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.

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| | | <p>Four-Sentence Summary</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Temptation entails a trial of man’s fidelity, a divinely inspired trial of adversity and affliction that God divinely sends or allows to prove one’s faith and confidence in Him.”2. Considered a holy trial over which God has sovereignty (Rom 8:28), it perfects the believer through strengthening by enduring afflictions in Christ (Jas 1:1; 1 Cor 10:13).3. Rather than viewing the temptation (trial) as punishment, one rejoices from being counted as worthy to suffer for His name (Acts 5:41).4. God will not tempt the believer to sin during temptation (1:13); instead, He tests to build up and perfect (1 Per 1:6; Heb 1:13), ultimately providing an eschatological reward of the crown of life to those who endure temptation (Jas 1:12). <p>What is your takeaway of temptations from the study? (3-4 sentences)</p> <p>According to the study, how does God work in the lives of His people today? (3-4 sentences)</p> |
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