

JAMES 1 NLET

THE WRITER OF THIS LETTER

1 *From:*

- Jacob¹, a slave
 - of God and
 - of YaHWeH² – *namely*, Jesus *the* Anointed

THE ADDRESSEES

To:

- The Twelve Tribes – *namely*, the *ones* in the Diaspora³.

GREETING

Hail!

JACOB DISCUSSES HOW TO THINK ABOUT TRIALS

2 Consider it all joy, brothers *that are* mine, whenever you might encounter variegated trials, being ones who keep on knowing that the means of testing the Faith *that is* yours keeps on achieving endurance.

4 Now, let the Endurance have an accomplishment – *that is*, a perfect *accomplishment*, in order that you might be perfected *ones* and complete *ones*, being ones who are left behind in connection with nothing.

JACOB DISCUSS HOW TO OBTAIN WISDOM

5 Now, if anyone among you has been left without wisdom, let him ask from the One Who absolutely keeps on giving – *namely*, God – to all, not being one who keeps on reproaching. And, it shall be given to him.

JACOB DISCUSSES DOUBTING

6 Now, let him ask with faith, being one who keeps on doubting nothing. For, the one who keeps on doubting has been lastingly like

- a wave of a sea,
- one who keeps on being driven by wind, and
- one who keeps on being hurled about.

7 For, let the person – *that is*, that *one* – NOT expect that he shall receive for himself anything from the Lord, 8 *since he is* a double-minded man, unstable in

all of the ways *that are* his.

JACOB GIVES THE RICH AND THE POOR PERSPECTIVE ABOUT THEIR STATUS

9 Now, let the Brother – *that is*, the poor *brother* – boast in connection with the height *that is* his. 10 Now, let the rich *brother boast* in connection with lowliness *that is* his; because, as a blossom of a field he shall pass away.

11 For, the sun appeared above the horizon together with scorching heat. And, it dried out the pasturage. And, the flower *that was* its fell off. And, the goodness of the appearance *that was* its was utterly destroyed. In this way also the wealthy *one* shall waste away.

JACOB WARNS THE DIASPORA

ABOUT THE DANGER OF SEDUCTION

12 Blessed *is* a man who keeps on being patient under a seduction; because, having come to be proven, he shall receive the Crown of the Life which the Lord⁴ has promised to the ones who keep on loving Him.

13 Let no one who is being seduced say, “From God I am being seduced!” For, the God is incapable of being seduced by evil *ones*. Now, He, *for His part*, seduces no one.

14 Now, each keeps on being seduced by the Coveting *that is* his own, being one who keeps on being drawn away and one who keeps on being enticed *with a bait*.

15 Then, the Coveting, having conceived, keeps on giving birth to moral failure.

Now, the Moral Failure, having completed *its* work, keeps on bringing forth death.

16 Stop being led astray, brothers of mine, beloved *ones*!

JACOB INDICATES WHAT SHOULD RESULT

FROM THE FATHER’S GIFT OF REGENERATION

17 Every gift – *that is*, good *one* – and every present – that is, perfected *one* – is from above, coming down from the Father of the Lights, alongside Whom *there is* not one variation or shifting shadow.

¹ ‘Jacob’ – The Greek name is Ἰάκωβος. Although the book is commonly called ‘James’, clearly ‘Jacob’ is a better transliteration of the name.

² ‘YaHWeH’ – The Greek has the word ‘Lord’ (Κυρίου) without a definite article here. Jacob and many other New Testament writers often use this unarticulated word to indicate a reference to YaHWeH, the eternally existing God of the Old Testament. This is especially clear in New Testament quotations from the Old

Testament where the name YaHWeH appears.

³ In the Old Testament era, because of their unfaithfulness, the Twelve Tribes of Israel were scattered among the nations. These scattered people were identified as ‘the Diaspora’. Similarly, the Christians, God’s people, are also scattered among the nations.

⁴ 89% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the words ‘the Lord’ here instead of *μὴ*. On the basis of 2% the NU omits them.

18 Having been so willed, He brought us forth by a word of truth, so that we are a primal sacrifice among the creatures *that are* His, 19 with the result⁵, beloved brothers *that are* mine, let every man be

- quick to hear,
- slow to speak,
- slow in regard to wrath.

20 For, wrath from a man does not achieve⁶ a righteousness from God.

21 On which account, being ones who put away all

- filth, and
- excessiveness,
- moral badness,

in connection with gentleness accept the implanted Word, the one which is able to save the psyche *that is* yours.

*JACOB DISCUSSES THE IMPORTANCE
OF BEING AN ACTUAL DOER OF THE WORD*

22 Now, come to be doers of a word and not only hearers who are misleading themselves by fallacious reasoning. 23 Because, if anyone is a hearer of a word and not a doer, this *one* is like a man who observes well the face of the originator – *namely*, him - in a mirror. 24 For, he observes himself well. And, he lastingly goes away. And, immediately he has forgotten what sort of person he is.

25 Now, the one who stoops for the purpose of looking at a law – *that is*, a perfect *law* – the *Law* of the Freedom, and being one who abides by *it*, this *one*⁷, not having become a hearer characterized by forgetfulness but rather a doer characterized by work, this *one* shall be a blessed one in connection with the deeds *that are* his.

JACOB DESCRIBES THE PERSON WITH AN EMPTY RELIGION

26 If anyone pretends to be religious amongst you⁸, being one who is not guiding his tongue as with bit and bridle, rather being one who is deceiving his heart, the religion of *THIS one* is empty.

JACOB DESCRIBES THE PERSON

WITH A PURE AND UNDEFILED RELIGION

27 A pure and undefiled religion before⁹ God and Father is this:

- to visit orphans and widows in the tribulations *that are* theirs,
- to keep oneself unstained by the *Created* Order.

⁵ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'with the result that' (a conjunction) here instead of 'Lastingly know' (a perfect, active, imperative verb).

⁶ 82.9% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'does not achieve' here instead of 'does not work'.

⁷ 87.6% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the demonstrative pronoun 'this one'

here. 8.6% have 'in this way'. On the basis of 5.2% the NU omits it.

⁸ 80.3% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'to be ... amongst you' here. 8.2% have 'amongst you to be'. On the basis of 9.4% the NU has 'to be' only.

⁹ 80% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include the definite article 'the' here.