

JAMES 3 NLET

JACOB CAUTIONS THOSE MIGHT ASPIRE TO BE TEACHERS

1 Brothers, let there not be many teachers, brothers *that are* mine, having lastingly known that we shall receive a greater judgment. 2 For, we all keep on stumbling in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in connection with a word, this is a perfect man, able to bridle even the whole body!

JACOB EMPHASIZES

THE GREAT INFLUENCE OF ONE'S TONGUE

3 Look!¹ Having put the bits into the mouths of the horses so that they are persuaded by us; also we divert the whole of the body *that is* theirs.

4 Also, look *at* the ships! Although being so large and being driven along by winds – *that is*, strong winds, they are diverted *from one place to another* by a very small rudder wherever² the impulse of the one who is steering prefers.

5 In this way also, the tongue is a little member; and, it talks big³.

Look! How great a fire ignites how great a forest!

6 And, the tongue *is* a fire – *that is*, a Created Order of the Unrighteousness. In the same way⁴ the tongue is set in the members *that are* ours,

- the *thing* which stains the body in all its parts, and
- which sets the course of the formation on fire,
- and is that which is set on fire by the Gehenna⁵.

JACOB HIGHLIGHTS

THE UNTAMEABLE NATURE OF ONE'S TONGUE

7 For, every temperament of wild animals – both of birds, reptiles, and *creatures* of the sea are being lastingly tamed and have been lastingly tamed by the kind – *that is*, by the mankind.

8 Now, no one is able to tame the tongue of people –

- an uncheckable *thing*⁶,
- a bad *thing*, and
- full of poison – *that is*, deadly *poison*.

9 With it we keep on praising the God⁷ and Father; and, with it we keep on cursing the people – *that is*, the ones who have lastingly come to be in a likeness of God. 10 From the same mouth praising and cursing come out. It is not necessary, my brothers, that these things come to be in this way.

JAMES URGES DISCIPLE TO PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT THEY ARE PRODUCING

11 The spring does not burst forth from the same opening both the sweet-tasting *water* and the bitter-tasting *water*, *does it?*

12 My brothers, a fig tree is not able to produce olives, or a grape-vine figs, *are they?*

In the same way⁸ no spring *is able* to produce salt water and⁹ sweet-tasting water.

13 Who *is* wise and prudent amongst you? Let him show the works *that are* his by the fine behavior in connection with gentleness *and* wisdom.

JACOB WARNS HIS READERS CONCERNING JEALOUSY

14 Now, if you have jealousy – *that is*, bitter *jealousy* – and selfish ambition in the heart *that is* yours, do not boast against *others* and speak falsely against the Truth.

15 This – *that is*, “the Wisdom” IS NOT a *wisdom* which is coming down from above. Rather, *it is*

- of the earth,
- psychical,
- demonic.

16 For, where *there is* jealousy and selfish ambition, *there is* instability and every mean practice.

¹ 60% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘Look’ here instead of ‘Now, if’.

² 99.5% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the particle translated as ‘ever’ here.

³ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘talks big’ (in Greek one verb) here instead of ‘boasts big things’ (in Greek a verb and a direct object).

⁴ 83% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the adverb translated as ‘in the same way’ here. 8% add the conjunction ‘and’. On the basis of 9% the NU omits the adverb.

⁵ ‘Gehenna’ – the transliteration of the Hebrew word גֵּהֶנְנוֹם which means ‘Valley (of the Sons) of Hinnom’. It refers to a valley south of Jerusalem where Israelites at one time sacrificed their children

to the pagan god Moloch. Later it as turned into a garbage dump where dead bodies were dumped and refuse from the city was thrown, featuring constant fires and maggots – a place despicable for several reasons. It came to be used as reference to ‘hell’.

⁶ 97.4% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘uncheckable’ here instead of ‘unstable’.

⁷ 96% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘God’ here instead of ‘Lord’.

⁸ 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the adverb translated as ‘in the same way’ here.

⁹ 96% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘no spring is able to produce salt water and’ here. On the basis of 1.8% the NU has ‘neither salt water’.

JAMES DESCRIBES

THE NATURE AND FRUIT OF WISDOM FROM ABOVE

17 Now, the Wisdom is

- first holy, then
- full of peace,
- fair,
- persuasive,
- full
 - of mercy and
 - of fruits – *that is*,
 - ✦ *morally* good ones,
 - ✦ mixed ones, and¹⁰
 - ✦ without the ability to make dissimilarities.

18 Now, a fruit of ¹¹ righteousness is being sown in connection with the outward state of peace by the ones who keep on making peace.

¹⁰ 90% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the conjunction 'and' here.

¹¹ 56.6% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of

transmission (f35) and the NU, do not include the definite article 'the' here.