

Please be Patient

- I. Wait On Him
 - a. Wait on Him-
 - i. Patience- to remain tranquil while waiting, *have patience, wait* exhibit internal and external control in difficult circumstance
 - 1. it comes to suggest a triumphant steadfastness which does not come from the heroic depths of one's own heart but from certainty of the proximity of the *Parousia*,
 - 2. quenches all angry feelings
 - 3. the long-suffering attitude we are to adopt toward other people (1 Cor. 13:4; Eph. 4:2; 1 Thess. 5:14),
 - ii. Until the coming of the Lord
 - 1. of Christ, and nearly always of his Messianic Advent in glory to judge the world at the end of this age:
 - 2. coming of Christ (1 Cor. 15:23; 1 Thes. 2:19; 4:15; 5:23; 2 Thes. 2:1; 2 Pet. 1:16; 3:4; 1 Jn. 2:28; Mt. 24:3, 27, 37, 39)
 - iii. The Farmer –
 - 1. This patience must last “until he receives the early and late rain
 - a. Depends on the rain
 - 2. He must exercise patience no matter how hungry he is (μακροθυμῶν), for he waits with a view toward the coming harvest
 - b. Strengthen Your Hearts
 - i. Strengthen - to cause to be inwardly firm or committed, *confirm, establish, strengthen*
 - 1. *It may be accomplished, besought, or commanded*
 - 2. “*establish your hearts,*” meaning to stand firmly in the faith, not to give way to doubt (Jdg. 15:5–8; Pss. 57:7; 90:17; Sir. 6:37; 22:16–17; 1Q¹H 2:7; 7:6; Rom. 1:11; 1 Thes. 3:13; 2 Thes. 2:17; Heb. 13:9;
 - ii. The Lord's Coming is Near
- II. Wait Together v.9
 - a. Do Not Complain
 - i. Complain- **to express discontent, complain- sigh groan**
 - 1. Jm. 5:9 charges Christians so to order their mutual relations that they have no cause for sighing against one another. The reference is to inner sighing not to open complaints
 - 2. So it would be quite natural if James's readers, under the pressure of poverty and persecution (cf. 5:1–6), would turn their frustrations on one another. Moreover, the exhortation to be

patient with the circumstances of suffering that the readers face could easily evoke the need for patience with fellow community members as well. Paul links patience with the need to “bear with one another in love” (Eph. 4:2) and with a refusal to “pay back wrong for wrong” in 1 Thess. 5:14–15. [Mark 7:34; Rom. 8:23; 2 Cor. 5:2, 4; Heb. 13:17

ii. That you may not be Judged

1. Christ in the context of the parousia of 5:7, 8 (*contra* Laws, 213), who alone has the right to criticize the Christians (4:11–12) and who will judge the complaining Christian (e.g. 1 Cor. 3:10–17; 2 Cor. 5:10

b. The Judge is Standing at the Door

- i. **to engage in a judicial process, judge, decide, hale before a court, condemn, also hand over for judicial punishment**
- ii. It means to do what God also is doing: enduring human evil for a season. James’s authoritative counsel is not revolution or a taking of justice into one’s own hand. This judgment is not within their rights but God’s, who will judge oppression in his time

III. While You Wait v.10-11; James 1:2-4

a. Prophets

i. Patient and Suffering

1. Suffering- a person endures, *a strenuous effort* that one makes, or *perseverance* that one practices
2. Reference to the fortitude of martyrs as a model for others to imitate became very popular in the wake of the Maccabean Revolt in the early to middle second century B.C.

ii. Spoke in the name of the Lord

1. James is indicating that their suffering came from their service to God
2. But we naturally think of Jeremiah, who suffered so much at the hands of both pagan kings and, especially, his own people, in faithfulness to the message that God had given him to deliver. Intertestamental tradition, reflected in Heb. 11:37, asserted that the prophet Isaiah died a martyr by being sawed in two.
3. They endured their suffering patiently as they waited for God to accomplish his purposes for Israel. Consequently, the prophets—especially Jeremiah and Ezekiel—became known for their suffering at the hands of the people of God.

b. Job

- i. Endured- **the capacity to hold out or bear up in the face of difficulty, patience, endurance, fortitude, steadfastness, perseverance**
- ii. Blessed- **to call or consider someone especially favored, call/consider blessed, happy, fortunate**

1. The implication is clear: you will also be blessed if you remain firm. The concept of blessedness has already been mentioned in 1:12; here again and even more clearly sayings such as Mt. 5:11–12 are
2. Seen the outcome of the Lord

c. The Lord

- i. Full of Compassion God is not vicious; he does not love watching people suffer. Rather he is compassionate
- ii. Merciful
 1. This is the teaching of the Psalms (Pss. 103[102]:8; 112[111]:4 [in LXX ἐλ ἐ ἡμω ν καὶ οὐ κ τ ῖ ρ μω ν ὁ κύ ρ ι ο ς]; cf. Sir. 2:11) and of the general tone of scripture. God cares for those who suffer; he will bring a good end out of it all (Rom. 8:28ff.)