

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings. (2) Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, (3) for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. (4) And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (5) If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. (6) But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. (7) For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; (8) he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. (9) Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, (10) and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. (11) For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

## Count it all Joy: An introduction to James

### An Epistle of Straw?

#### What are we reading?

The Significance of Genre  
Letter?

Wisdom?

- Similarities (Ecc, Prov, Job)

- Proverbial (requires some chewing)

- Connected with the idea of "Perfection"

- Wisdom and Law

#### The Structure of the Letter - a chiasm?

A. Joy in trial, 1:2-8

B. Rich fade, 1:9-11

C. Lustfulness, 1:12-15

D. Perfect Gift, 1:16-25

E. Restraining the tongue, 1:26

F. Religion in deed, 1:27

G. Distinctions of rich and poor, 2:1-13

F'. Faith in works, 2:14-26

E'. Restraining the tongue, 3:1-12

D'. Wisdom as perfect gift, 3:13-18

C'. Lustfulness and sin, 4:1-12

B'. Ways of the rich, 4:13-5:6

A'. Patience in suffering, 5:7-20

### (1:1) Greeting

James

The twelve tribes of the Dispersion

Greetings—not a very Jewish greeting

### (1:2-4) Joy in Trials

Double Joy!

Rejoice in trials → Testing our faith → steadfastness → perfect and complete  
—compare with Romans 5 —

Rejoice in sufferings → endurance → character → Hope (of glory)

Perfection in James: 1:4 testing of our faith makes us *perfect* and complete, 1:17 *perfect* gift; 1:25 *perfect* law; 2:8 *fulfill* the law; 2:22 faith was *completed* .

### (1:5-8) Asking for Wisdom

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God

Wisdom and Faith

The Double Minded Man

### (1:9-11) Wisdom and Wealth

A reversal of fortunes, or a new kind of glory?

A warning to the wise