

Repeated Words, Themes, and Ideas

1. Sin, the wealthy should weep and howl because God is going to visit miseries on them for their sin: their wealth is corrupted, corroded, will testify against them, and eat their flesh like fire. They have hoarded wealth, including the wages of their laborers, whom they defrauded. The cries of the laborers and their wages have reached the Lord of Sabaoth. They thought that they were luxuriously gorging themselves, but were actually fattening themselves for the day God would slaughter them. They condemned and murdered the just, who did not resist them, 5:1-6. James' audience must not grumble against each other lest the Judge, who's standing at the door, condemn them, 5:9. If your illness is due to sin, you're to call for the elders so they can pray over you and anoint you with oil in the Lord's name, then the Lord will hear their prayer of faith, forgive you, and heal you, 5:14-15. We're to confess our sins to one another and pray for one another so that we may be healed, 5:16. If anyone of them wanders from God's truth and someone turns them back, they should realize that he who turns a sinner from his sinful ways, will save a life from death and cover a multitude of sins, 5:19-20 (other places this appears: 1:6-8, 11, 13-15, 19, 20, 21, 22-24, 26, 27; 2:1-13, 14-17; 3:5-6, 8-12, 14-16, 17-18; 4:1-4, 6, 7-10, 11-12, 13-17).
2. Doer-of-God's-Word vs. Hearer-Only-of-God's-Word, the wealthy **Hearer-Only-of-God's-Word** will hoard their wealth, even accumulate it by fraud. They will spend it on their own pleasure and luxury, fattening themselves. But their corrupted and corroded wealth will testify against them when the Lord of Sabaoth rains misery on them and slaughters them as a fatted calf for condemning and murdering the just who do not resist them. But the **Doer-of-God's-Word** are patient until the coming of the Lord (as a farmer is regarding his crop during the long growth season which requires early and latter rain). They are resolute knowing that the coming of the Lord is near. They won't show discontent regarding their brethren, knowing that the Judge is listening. They will emulate the Lord's prophets who suffered with patience. They will see those who endure suffering as blessed, as Job, who persevered and was blessed by the Lord's mercy and compassion. They won't swear by heaven, earth, or anything else. Instead, they'll be true to their word. When they're suffering, they'll ask God for help; when they're glad, they'll sing psalms. When they're sick, they'll call for the elders to pray for them and anoint them with oil in the Lord's name, knowing that the Lord answers prayers of faith and thus heals the sick and forgives sinners. They'll confess their sins to and pray for one another, knowing that the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much, as Elijah's availed much (and he had a nature just like ours). They will turn their sinning brethren back when they see them wander from God's truth and thus save their life and cover a multitude of sins, 5:1-6 vs. 5:7-20 (other places this appears: 1:2-5 vs. 1:6-8; 1:9-10, 12 vs. 1:11, 13-15; 1:19, 21-22 vs. 1:20, 22; 1:23-24 vs. 1:25; 1:26 vs. 1:27; 2:1-13, 14-26; 3:13-18; 4:1-17).
3. Following Satan/World (Pride) vs. Following God (Humility), the wealthy have followed Satan's prideful ways: they've hoarded their wealth, defrauded their laborers, lived in pleasure and luxury, fattened their hearts, and condemned and murdered the just who do not resist them. Therefore, the Lord will rain miseries on them, which will eat their flesh like fire, as their corrupted and corroded wealth testifies against them, 5:1-6. Instead of emulating Satan, they should follow the Lord's humility and be patient and resolute (as a farmer waits for his crop), knowing that the coming of the Lord is near. They shouldn't complain about their brethren knowing that the Judge is standing at the door listening. They should look to the Lord's prophets and emulate their patient suffering, like Job who persevered and was blessed by the Lord's mercy and compassion.

They shouldn't take oaths of any kind, but simply keep their word. When they're suffering, they should pray. When they're glad, they should sing psalms. When they're sick, they should call for the elders to pray for and anoint them with oil in the Lord's name knowing that the Lord hears prayers of faith and then heals and forgives. They should confess their sins to each other so that they'll be healed knowing that effective, fervent prayers like Elijah's avail much. Finally, they should turn a brother back who wanders away from God's truth thereby saving their life and covering a myriad of sins, 5:7-20 (other places this appears: 1:2-8, 9-11, 12-18, 19-25, 26-27; 2:1-7, 8-13, 14-17, 18-26; 3:1-12, 13-18; 4:1-6, 7-10, 11-12, 13-17).

4. We are the source of a failed (foolish, faithless, ungodly, selfish) life, those who are wealthy and hoard their wealth, defraud their laborers, live in pleasure and luxury, fatten their hearts, and condemn and murder will weep and howl when the Lord visits miseries on them. Their corrupted and corroded wealth will testify against them and eat their flesh like fire, as the Lord slaughters them as a fatted calf, 5:1-6 (other places this appears: 1:6-8, 11, 13-15, 22-24, 26; 2:1-13, 14-17, 18-19; 3:6, 9-10, 14-16; 4:1-6, 7-10, 11-12, 13-14, 16-17).
5. God is the source of a victorious (wise, faithful, godly, selfless) life, those who patiently endure their suffering (as a farmer waits for his crop), who stand resolute because they know the Lord's coming is near, who refuse to complain about their brethren because the Judge is listening, who emulate the patient suffering of the Lord's prophets (who were blessed as Job's perseverance was), who don't take oaths but simply keep their word lest they fall into judgment, who pray when they're suffering, sing psalms when they're glad, and call for the elders when they're sick to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the Lord's name knowing that the Lord hears prayers of faith and then heals and forgives, who confess their sins to each other so that they'll be healed, who pray like Elijah effective, fervent prayers which avail much, and who turn their brother back from wandering away from God's truth in order to save their physical life and cover their myriad of sins will be blessed by the Lord's mercy, compassion, advice, joy, healing, forgiveness, and response to prayer, 5:7-20 (other places this appears: 1:2-5, 9, 10 [1:4, 11, 12], 12, 19-20, 21, 25, 27; 2:5, 21-23, 25; 3:13, 17-18; 4:1-6, 7-10, 13-17).