

The Book of James
Chapter 5 Part 2
“The End Intended By The Lord”

Return To
All Commentary

One of the most difficult things for the person who has surrendered their life to Jesus as Lord and Savior, is that of seeing past the present circumstances, to the End that The Lord intends for us.

To believe that even though it might seem that everything is not going well for us, or that we are really struggling in our life, the Lord is Good, Gracious, and Loving towards us...

In part 1 of our study of The Book of James chapter 5, we read:

James 5

8 You also **be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.**

9 Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!

To be patient in present circumstances of our life, to establish our heart firmly that we are going to trust Jesus to make everything turn out for good, and to wait for the coming of Jesus for us at any moment.

- ☞ **Many times, people have asked me** *“What prophecies must be fulfilled before Jesus can return to the earth...”*
- ☞ **The answer is:** There is nothing else that needs to happen, prophetically, before Jesus can return.

Prior to 1948, we were waiting for one major Prophecy to be fulfilled, that had to happen before we knew for sure that we were in the **“Last Days”** and Jesus was about to return.

- ☞ **The return of the Jews** to their own land...

It is interesting that when the Prophet Ezekiel was speaking of Israel, In Chapters 36 and 37, he said that in the last days, just before Jesus returns to the earth, that all of the people of Israel that had been scattered throughout the nations of the earth, would be brought back into their own land again.

- ☞ **One day, the disciples** had taken Jesus in to show Him the Temple. Jesus pointed to the Temple and said that **“Not one stone of the temple would be left upon another...”**

Matthew 24:1-2

1 Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple.

2 And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down

Then the disciples asked Jesus privately *“What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age....”*

☞ **Jesus then described** everything that we see today in our present world.

Matthew 24:5-7

5 For many will come in My name, saying, “I am the Christ,” and will deceive many.

6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.

☞ **People coming in Jesus name** announcing that *“They are the Christ”*.

Sun Myung Moon recently announced to the world again that He is the *“New Messiah and that Korea is Gods chosen nation....”* **Moon has said in the past:** *“Jesus was the most important Adam between the original Adam and Sun Myung Moon, but that he is the reincarnation of Jesus, except he is perfect...”*

☞ **Jesus also predicted** the Wars and rumors of wars, nation rising against nation, famines, pestilences and earthquakes.

☞ **All of these** have not only been occurring more often as the years have passed, but they are also increasing in their severity and intensity.

The worst natural disasters in our history have happened in the last 40 years.

☞ **Earthquakes, floods and incurable disease** has increased by more than 500 percent in just the last 40 years.

Jesus had prayed over Israel and said that because she had rejected Him as here Messiah, her *“House would be left to her desolate...”*

Matthew 23:37-39

37 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!

38 See! Your house is left to you desolate;

39 for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!”

Just 38 years after Jesus predicted that “Not one stone of the temple would be left upon another”, Titus brought his Roman army into Jerusalem and sacked the city, and set fire to the temple.

☞ **Titus fulfilled Jesus prediction** that Jerusalem would be left desolate...

As the Roman army set fire to the Temple, The entire inner portion of the Temple was completely covered in Gold. During the intense fire, all of the gold melted and ran into the cracks of the stones that the temple was constructed of.

☞ **In their greed**, the Roman soldiers, trying to get the melted gold out of the cracks of the rocks of the temple, pried up every stone of the temple, rolled them down the hill of the temple mount, and left “*Not one stone upon another...*”

During this siege of the city of Jerusalem, over 2 million Jews were killed, the rest were scattered all over the rest of the nations of the earth where they remained until, for the last 2,000 years.

☞ **On May 14, 1948**, the final prophecy that was needed to warn us that Jesus was about to return, came to pass, Israel began to return to their own land again, against all odds.

No people that had lost their land, and their national identity, had ever returned to their own land again to become a nation and a people again.

☞ **To the amazement of the entire world**, a miracle happened, Just as The Prophet Ezekiel had predicted, Israel did become a nation again, and her people that had been scattered throughout the entire world for almost 2,000 years, returned to their own land.

Ezekiel also said that when the people of Israel returned to their own land again, He would make the land “*Fruitful and like the Garden of Eden, green, growing and fruitful once again...*”

Ezekiel 36

8 But you, O mountains of Israel, you **shall shoot forth your branches and yield your fruit** to My people Israel, for they are about to come.

9 For indeed I am for you, and I will turn to you, and **you shall be tilled and sown.**

10 I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, all of it; and the cities shall be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt.

11 I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bear young; **I will make you inhabited as in former times**, and do better for you than at your beginnings. Then you shall know that I am the LORD.

19 So **I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed throughout the countries**; I judged them according to their ways and their deeds.

24 For **I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.**

30 And **I will multiply the fruit of your trees and the increase of your fields,** so that you need never again bear the reproach of famine among the nations.

34 **The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate** in the sight of all who pass by.

35 So they will say, "**This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden;** and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.'

36 **Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate.** I, the LORD, have spoken it, and I will do it."

As we shared with you in part one of James chapter 5, Israel used to have two times a year when the rains came that assisted the farmer in planting, growing and harvesting their crops.

- ⊕ **The "Early Rains"**, came in **November**, that softened up the ground and made tilling it possible so that the seed could be planted.
- ⊕ **Then the "Latter Rains"** came in **April** that filled the crops with moisture and made them ripe and juicy just before they harvested them.

When Titus destroyed Jerusalem, one of the things he did was to cut down and destroy all of the trees in Israel, He salted the fields so that no crops would grow.

- ⊕ **For nearly 2,000 years,** Israel had become like a desert. That was until 1948, when the people once again returned to Israel.

They began to plant millions of trees, plants, crops, fruits , vegetables and flowers...

- ⊕ **Because of all the new trees and vegetation in Israel,** the clouds began to form again over Israel, bringing back the "*Early and Later rains,*" and has today made Israel literally Like "*The Garden of Eden*", once again...just as the Lord had said, as He spoke through Ezekiel.

Israel today, has become the fourth largest exporter of fruit and vegetables and one of the largest producers of flowers, of any nation in the world.

- ⊕ **In the year 2000,** Israel produced 800 Million dollars worth of agricultural products.
- ⊕ **442,000 tons** of fruits and vegetables.
- ⊕ **1.5 Billion** flowers.

This is truly amazing when you consider that Israel is not any bigger than New Jersey. For Israel to produce so much fruit and other types of produce that fills the markets of Europe, especially in the wintertime with the products from Israel, is quite an amazing thing.

- ☞ **So, as we continue this morning** in this final portion of the book of James, a parallel is drawn for us between Jesus soon return and the farmer that must be patient and wait for the fruit of His crops.

In the midst of the struggles of your life, there is a reminder for all of us this morning that “The Lord is like a Good Farmer..”

- ☞ **He waits for the Early and the Later Rains**, those times when He prepares us, by tilling up the hard ground of our heart, then plants the seed of His Word in our hearts.
- ☞ **He waits patiently for the fruit to come from our life** with a longing for your to experience the shear Joy of totally selling out in your life and totally committing your life to Him.
- ☞ **Jesus is waiting patiently** for those who will come to know Him through your life and your witness for Him.

If you wonder why the Lord has not returned yet. **He is waiting patiently, working in your life and your circumstance, waiting for your to completely surrender to Him,** waiting for you to so live your life that you have effected everyone around you for Jesus.

- ☞ **And Jesus is waiting** for those final persons who will believe and follow Him and be saved.
- ☞ **This is the one final harvest** of the earth just before the Lord of the Harvest returns.
- ☞ **You and I are the Laborer’s** that are supposed to be out there in the fields, brining in those who are ready to receive Jesus into their life.

Luke 10:2

Then Jesus said to them, “The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

Many times, we believe that we have to have enough knowledge of the bible or some special gifting as an evangelist to lead people to Jesus.

- ☞ **In reality**, Jesus said: *“Just lift up your eyes and look around you, they are already ready to be harvested...”*

John 4:35-36

35 Do you not say, “There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, **lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!**

36 And **he who reaps receives wages**, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together

If you have been to Phoenix during the harvest period of the Cotton, you know that when the Cotton is ready to be harvested, it’s pod begins to bust open and you can see the white cotton inside.



As you look out into the field it is just this solid mass of white, because the cotton is “Ready to be harvested...:

- ⊕ **Jesus is saying** that it doesn’t take any special abilities, or knowledge, the fields of the earth are already prepared and ready for harvesting.
- ⊕ **All you have to do** is go out and get it!
- ⊕ **Just start telling people** about what Jesus has done for you and ask them if they would like to know Him too.

You might just say “*Jesus has come into my life and forgiven me and given to me a love I have never known before, would you like to know His love too?*”

James 5:7

Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain

- ⊕ **The Lord is the Farmer** that has prepared you to go out and harvest His crop of human souls.
- ⊕ **Jesus is waiting patiently for you** to bring in His harvest.
- ⊕ **So, whatever else you have to do or are doing in your life**, nothing is as important as bringing in this harvest...because Jesus is about to return...

And Check out what Jesus said will happen if you take this call to harvest these fields that are just waiting for someone to pick:

John 4:35-36

35 ...lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!

36 And **he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together**

On the day that Jesus returns for us at the Rapture, gathered around you will be those people that you tried to harvest in these fields.

- ⊕ **Every person you tell** what Jesus has done for you...
- ⊕ **Every person that you ask** if they want Jesus too...
- ⊕ **Every person that comes to and receives Jesus**, whether you led them or you just witnessed to them...

“...he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps **may rejoice together**

1 Corinthians 3:7-8

7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but **God who gives the increase.**

8 Now **he who plants and he who waters are one**, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor

This is what Jesus is waiting for right now. It is why He hasn't already come for us in the Rapture...There are still some out there who haven't heard or had the chance to receive Him...He is waiting...

2 Peter 3:3-9

3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, “Where is the promise of Jesus coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.”

9 **The Lord is not slack concerning His promise**, as some count slackness, but is **longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish** but that all should come to repentance.

Some where out there is that last soul who will come in, perhaps you will be the one that will speak to them about Jesus, they will believe, and then we will all be out of here!

So, just an encouragement to get focused on what is really important in our life

- ☞ **It is not our problems** and struggles.
- ☞ **Not that thing** we want to buy
- ☞ **Not worried** about what is going to happen in the future.

Our thoughts and total focus is on the fact that Jesus is about to come, so get busy living for Him, all this other stuff isn't going to matter...

James 5

10 My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience.

11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

As we shared with you last Sunday. Job didn't know the reasons why he lost everything that he had in his life.

- ☞ **His friends told him** that it was because he was some kind of a big sinner, it was because of the things he had done wrong in his life...**WRONG!**

- ☞ **Job himself questioned why God** could let this all happen to him...
- ☞ **It all happened** because satan made a claim that Job only served the Lord for what he could get out of him.

So the Lord allowed satan to take all Job had.

- ☞ **It wasn't** because Job had sinned.
- ☞ **It wasn't because** He was such a bad person.
- ☞ **It was so that through the testing** and the loss of everything, The Lord could show that His servant Job served the Lord just because He really loved Him.

Will that be the results of all your trials, disappointments, setbacks and failures...

Job 1:21

And he said: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD.”

Will you stop following Jesus if He doesn't rescue you right now?

- ☞ **Will you stop following Jesus** if times get hard?
- ☞ **Will you not serve Him** if He doesn't bless your life as much as you have seen Him bless other people.
- ☞ **If he doesn't heal you** or someone you love, will you stop believing in Jesus and trusting in Him?
- ☞ **If the Lord doesn't meet any of your expectations**, what will happen to your serving Him or following Him...”

Are we only serving Jesus for what we can get from Him? Or Are we serving Jesus because He is so wonderful, His love is amazing, and what for the reason that Peter gave to Jesus after Jesus asked the disciples if they were going to leave Him...

In John chapter 6, Jesus had just fed the multitude of 5,000, they were all filled up and full, laying around the fields with full bellies...

John 6:26-68

26 Jesus answered them and said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but **because you ate of the loaves and were filled.**

27 Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him

28 Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?”

29 Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.

51 **I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever;** and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

52 The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, “**How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?**”

53 Then Jesus said to them, **“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.”**

54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

55 For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed.

56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood **abides in Me**, and I in him.

60 Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, **“This is a hard saying; who can understand it?”**

61 When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, **“Does this offend you?”**

66 From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.

67 Then **Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?”**

68 But Simon Peter answered Him, **“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”**

Jesus told them after He had met their needs, that what they really needed to do was to “Eat of Him...”

- ⊕ **They had just eaten the bread that Jesus had given them...**this bread went into them, and their lives and became a part of them.
- ⊕ **Jesus said** that He was the “*Real Bread from Heaven*”, that They needed to take Jesus into their life and let Him become a part of everything in their life.
- ⊕ **They were not willing** to let Jesus become a part of everything in their life, so the walked away from Him...

John 6:37

All that the Father gives Me will come to Me

Do you know what Jesus meant by that?

- ⊕ **Everything that the Father intended** for Jesus to have...will come to Him.
- ⊕ **Everything that the Father intends for you** to have in your life...will also come to you...and no one can prevent that from happening.

Your God is Holy, that means that everything He does is always Good, Right, Fair, Full of His love, and designed to the maximum potential to bless your life...

- ⊕ **He cannot but always seek to love you** and bless your life, because that is all that He knows how to do.
- ⊕ **It is impossible that your God** could ever do anything that is not Good, that is what Holiness is, perfectly free from ever doing anything that is not Good and Righteous and Loving.
- ⊕ **So you can rest in that fact,** that **Your God will Bless you, Because that is all that He does!**

James 5

12 But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your “Yes” be “Yes,” and your “No,” “No,” lest you fall into judgment.

So now, an instruction for you to also be Holy in your conduct: When you tell someone something, let it be the truth always....

- ☞ **We don't have** to “*Swear to God*”
- ☞ **Or Swear on the Bible** or someone else's name.

Just let your “Yes” be a Yes”, I said it, I will do it!

- ☞ **Let your “No” be a No,** I will not waiver from doing the right thing, the Righteous thing, the fair thing, the Good thing, I will not compromise in my life because I belong to a Might God who Loves me...”

James 5

13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.

Here is the answer from the Lord to your times of suffering:

- ☞ **Pray!**, just tell the Lord about what is happening, He already knows, He is there, but you need to confess to Him that you know He will help you and take care of you, because He is a Good God, full of compassion.
- ☞ **We pray when we suffer, not to beg God to stop the suffering,** but to confirm to Him that we are going to keep loving Him and trusting Him even though we are suffering.
- ☞ **Praying in times of suffering,** brings our heart and mind into alignment with The Lords purposes for us.
- ☞ **It confirms to our heart,** that we do believe the Lord is Good and will rescue us, and make everything turn out for good.

James 5

14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

Are you sick, suffering, struggling? Call for the Elders, the men who are the spiritual leaders in Jesus Church and ask them to pray for you.

- ☞ **We are not to isolate ourselves** at home when we are struggling.
- ☞ **We are to bring our struggles here** into this place, where people that love us can pray with us and support and love us.

The anointing with oil is designed to be a “**Point of contact for our faith...**”

- ☞ **We anoint with oil** as a sign that we believe the Lord wants to heal and help us, so we place the oil on the persons head, and when they receive it, they also receive the help they need from the Lord.
- ☞ **The oil doesn't heal**, the persons praying don't do the healing, the Lord does the healing, according to His plan and purpose.
- ☞ **The oil is just a point of contact** where your faith can be released to believe in the Goodness and Mercy of the Lord.

James 5

16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Here, an indication that if we have committed some kind of sin in our life, and we have been unwilling to just confess it to the Lord so He could forgive the sin and restore our fellowship with Him, He may send sickness to us to humble us and cause us to call upon Him.

- ☞ **Your fellowship with the Lord** and your relationship with Him is more important than your physical life.
- ☞ **Sometimes, if we are stubborn and proud**, and will not admit our need for forgiveness and cleansing, the Lord may use sickness to bring us to Him.
- ☞ **Here, we see** that when we confess the sin and ask for prayer, are anointed with oil, the Lord will forgive the sin and heal the sickness.

We should never think that all sickness is caused by some sin.

- ☞ **That wasn't true** of Job.
- ☞ **It wasn't true** of the man born blind in the new Testament.

John 9:1-3

1 Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth.

2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.

- ☞ **It is not true** that sin causes all sickness most of the time for us.
- ☞ **But if we are here, and we are sick**, we can search our heart to see if we have been willful in some sin and unwilling to confess it to the Lord, that it may be the reason we are sick.

If you pray, confess your sin to the Lord, are anointed with oil, but remain sick, then it wasn't because of the sin, you are just sick in a body that is subject to sickness...

- ☞ **The Lord does heal everyone who asks Him**, some immediately, some later, some by taking them home to be with Him.

“...*The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much...*” **and here is an example:**

James 5

17 Elijah was a man **with a nature like ours**, and **he prayed earnestly** that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.

18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

Elijah was a man like us, with a sin nature like us, he had all of the same weaknesses and struggles we have, yet He Prayed...

- ☞ **His prayer**, as directed by the Lord, was to pray and ask that it would not rain in Israel for 3 years.
- ☞ **The Lord sent Elijah** to the Brook Cherith to get his water.
- ☞ **Elijah's food** was flown in everyday by the Lord...through crows.

Because of Elijah's obedience to the Lord, even his own source of provision was dried up.

- ☞ **The Brook Cherith**, because of the drought dried up, it was the source the Lord had provided.
- ☞ **Sometimes, when the Lord calls us to do something**, we may suffer ourselves as a result of doing what the Lord told us to do.
- ☞ **The very prayer** that Elijah prayed to not rain for 3 years, eventually dried up the very spring that Elijah depended on for his own water.

Elijah could have cried: “*Lord, I just did what you told me, but look now what has happened, I prayed and asked it not to rain like you told me to Lord, but now My Spring that I depended on has also dried up...Lord what am I going to do now...Lord why did you let this happen to me...I was just trying to serve you...!*”

- ☞ **Then, again, from a totally unexpected source**, a widow in Zarephath, the Lord would provide for Elijah.
- ☞ **When we suffer** for doing what the Lord told us to do, we should not think that the Lord will not continue to take care of us...
- ☞ **He will provide all that we need**, from sources that we know nothing about, or do not expect help to come from.

Today, perhaps you are suffering, not necessarily because you are totally at fault, but maybe it is as a result of a sin that someone else had done that has effected your life right now, and you are suffering.

- ☞ **As a result of doing what the Lord told you** to do, Just follow Him, trust Him, you are suffering.
- ☞ **It might seem like** you are not going to have the needs that you and your family need, met, but like Elijah, he suffered just because he was doing what the Lord told him to do...

- ☞ **But when Elijah's source of help dried up**, the Lord provided another source that Elijah did not know existed.

Romans 10:11

As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who believes in Jesus will not be disappointed."

James 5

19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back,
20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

In the last 2 verses of James, there are 2 things here:

1. **The fact that we all have the capacity to wander away from Jesus**, because we have a will of our own, that the Lord does not violate.
2. **The fact that** it is all of our responsibility to try and bring someone who has fallen away, back.
3. **The fact that when we do this** we save and help someone eternally.

Is there any work that you are going to do next week that has an Eternal Value, a value that will be talked about what you did 100 million years from now?