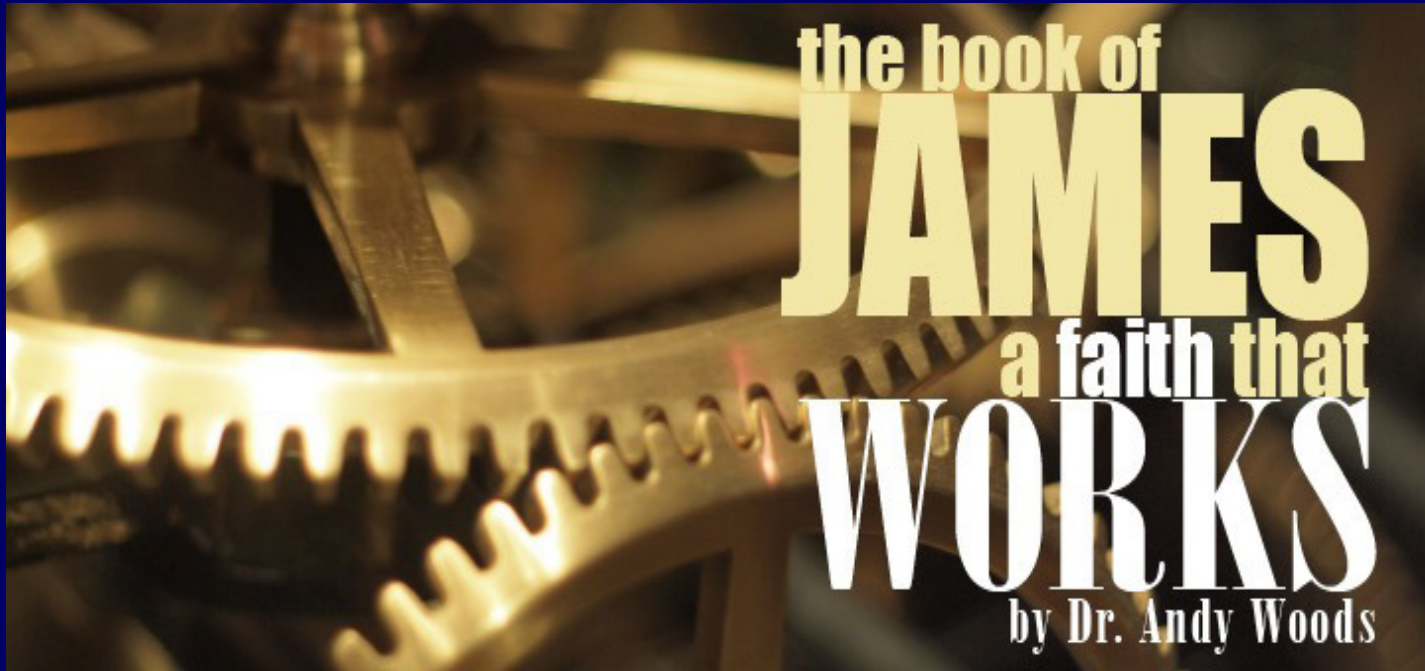


PRACTICAL RIGHTEOUSNESS



Dr. Andy Woods

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church

President – Chafer Theological Seminary

Answering Eleven Questions



- 1) Who wrote it? – James
- 2) What do we know about the author? – Christ's ½ Brother
- 3) Who was the audience? – Believing Jews in the Diaspora
- 4) Where was it written from? – Jerusalem
- 5) When was the book written? – A.D. 44–47
- 6) What was the book's occasion? – Practical righteousness
- 7) What is the book's purpose? – Achieving practical righteousness
- 8) What is the book about? – Practical righteousness
- 9) What is the book's theme? – Daily living
- 10) What makes the book different? – Practicality
- 11) How is the book organized? – Faith and Wisdom

JAMES STRUCTURE

- I. Faith (James 1:1–3:12)
- II. Wisdom (James 3:13–5:20)



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- I. Faith (James 1:1–3:12)
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JAMES STRUCTURE

- Faith (1:1–3:12)
 - ◆ Trials (1:2-18)
 - ◆ Obedience to the Word (1:19-27)
 - ◆ Favoritism (2:1-13)
 - ◆ Faith manifesting works (2:14-26)
 - ◆ Tongue (3:1-12)



JAMES STRUCTURE

I. Faith (James 1:1–3:12)

II. Wisdom (James 3:13–5:20)



Structure

■ Wisdom (3:13–5:20)

- ◆ Wisdom defined (3:13-18)
- ◆ Spirituality (4:1-12)
- ◆ Commerce (4:13-17)
- ◆ Use of wealth (5:1-6)
- ◆ Waiting for the Lord's return (5:7-12)
- ◆ Prayer (5:13-18)
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Wisdom

(3:13-18)

- Wisdom is demonstrated by her actions (3:13)
- Human or earthly wisdom (3:14-16)
- Heavenly wisdom (3:17-18)



Structure

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Spiritual Life

(4:1-12)

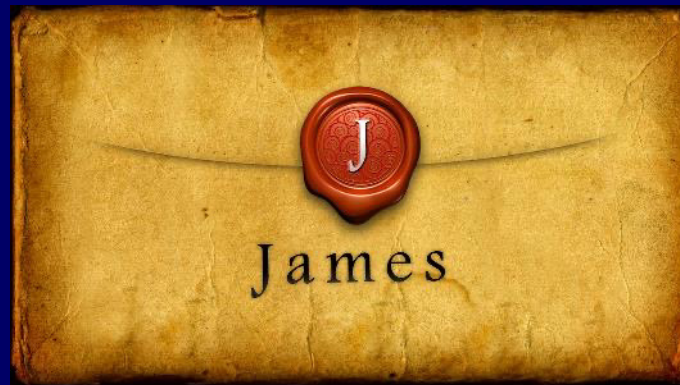
- I. Avoid wrangling (4:1-3)
- II. Avoid worldliness (4:4-6)
- III. Essence of spiritual wisdom (4:7-12)



Spiritual Life

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I. Avoid Wrangling

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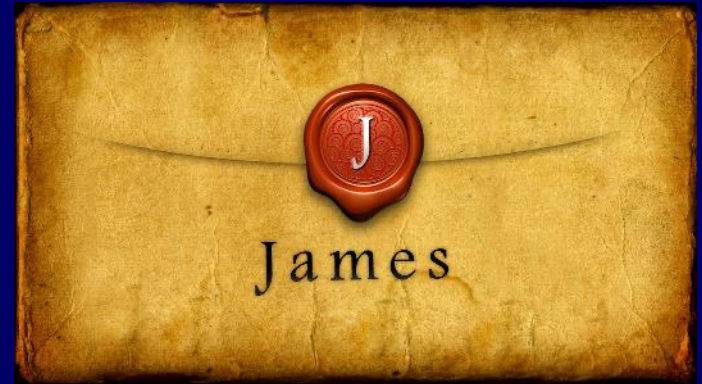
A. The problem (4:1a)

B. The source (4:1b-3)

1. Internal (4:1b-2a)

2. Prayerlessness (4:2b)

3. Misdirected prayer (4:3)



Spiritual Life

(4:1-12)

I. Avoid wrangling (4:1-3)

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III. Essence of spiritual wisdom (4:7-12)



II. Avoid Worldliness

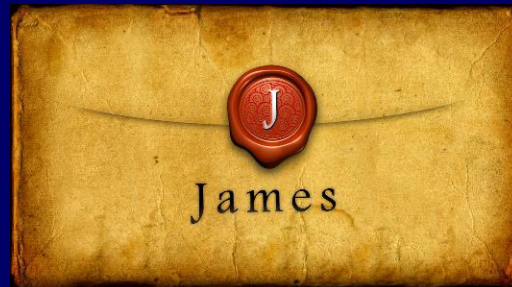
(4:4-6)

A. The Consequences (4:4-5)

1. Enmity against God (4:4)

2. Alienation of the Holy Spirit (4:5)

B. The Cause (4:6)



Spiritual Life

(4:1-12)

I. Avoid wrangling (4:1-3)

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III. Essence of Spiritual Wisdom

(4:7-12)

- A. Submission to God (4:7a)
- B. Resist Satan (4:7b)
- C. Draw near to God (4:8a)
- D. Repent (4:8b-9)
- E. Humility (4:10)
- F. Forego judgment (11-12)



III. Essence of Spiritual Wisdom

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Three Tenses of Salvation

Phase	Justification	<u>Sanctification</u>	Glorification
Tense	Past	<u>Present</u>	Future
Saved from sin's:	Penalty	<u>Power</u>	Presence
Scripture	Eph 2:8-9; Titus 3:5	<u>Philip 2:12</u>	Rom 5:10
Nature	Single	<u>Dual</u>	Single



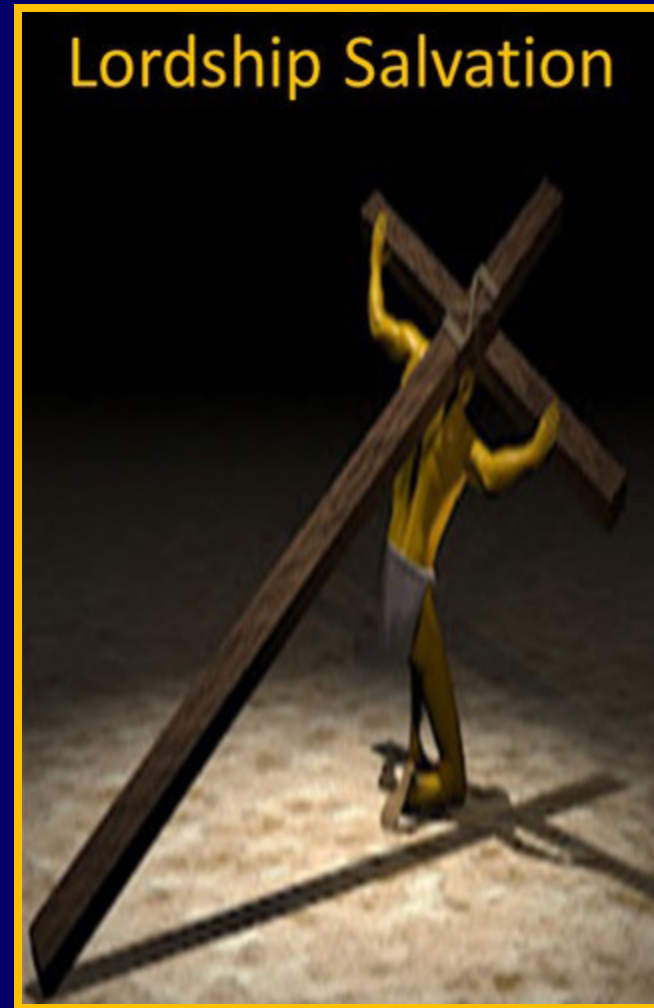
A BRIEF CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF CHRIST

chronology |krə'nɒlədʒi| *noun*

the arrangement of events or dates in the order of their occurrence

Lordship Sanctification

- Rom. 6:12-13
- Rom. 12:1-2
- Eph. 6:10-20
- 1 Pet. 3:15



Lordship Sanctification



JUSTIFICATION – SALVATION	DISCIPLESHIP
FREE GIFT	COSTLY
RECEIVED THROUGH FAITH	ENTERED INTO THROUGH COMMITMENT AND OBEDIENCE THROUGH THE SPIRIT’S ENABLEMENT
NOT BY WORKS	INVOLVES OUR COOPERATION
INSTANT	LIFE-LONG PROCESS
JUSTIFICATION	SANCTIFICATION
JESUS PAID THE PRICE	BELIEVER PAYS THE PRICE
TRUSTING JESUS AS SAVIOR	FOLLOWING JESUS AS LORD
BELIEVE THE GOSPEL	OBEY THE COMMANDS
ONE CONDITION	MULTIPLE CONDITIONS
EXPERIENCED BY ALL CHRISTIANS	EXPERIENCED BY SOME CHRISTIANS
RESULTS IN ETERNAL LIFE	RESULTS IN REWARDS & AUTHORITY

Adapted from <http://www.gracelife.org/resources/gracenotes.asp?id=23>

III. Essence of Spiritual Wisdom

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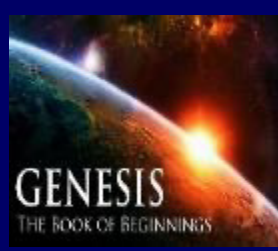
E. Humility (4:10)

F. Forego judgment (11-12)





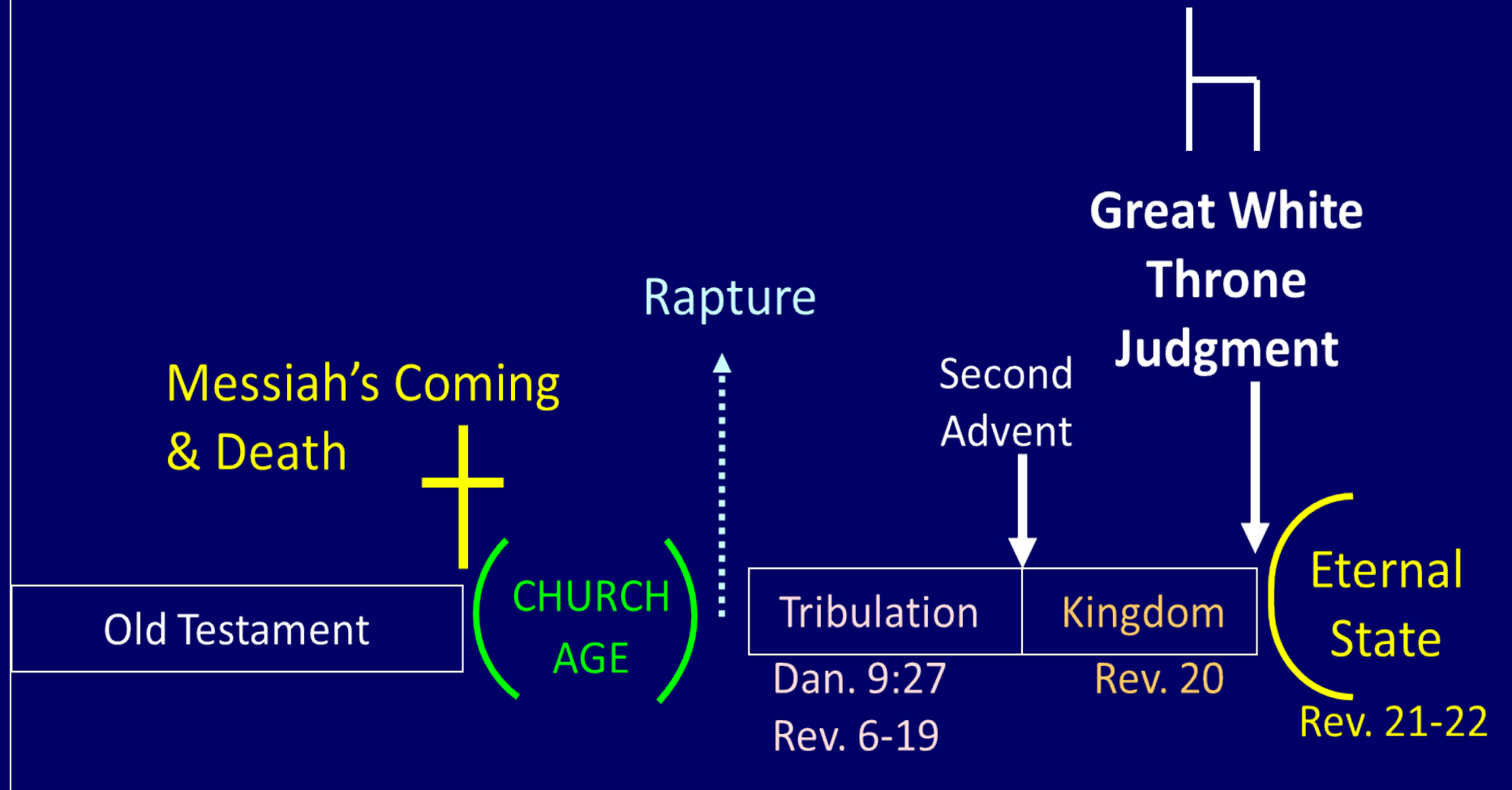
Satan's Progressive Defeat



1. Initial eviction from heaven (Isa 14:12-15; Ezek 28:12-17)
2. Eden (Gen 3:15)
3. Pre-diluvian world (1 Pet 3:19-20)
4. Cross (John 12:31; 16:11; Col 2:15; Heb 2:14; 1 John 3:8)
5. Mid point of the Tribulation (Rev 12:9)
6. Beginning of millennium (Rev 20:2-3)
7. End of millennium (Rev 20:10)



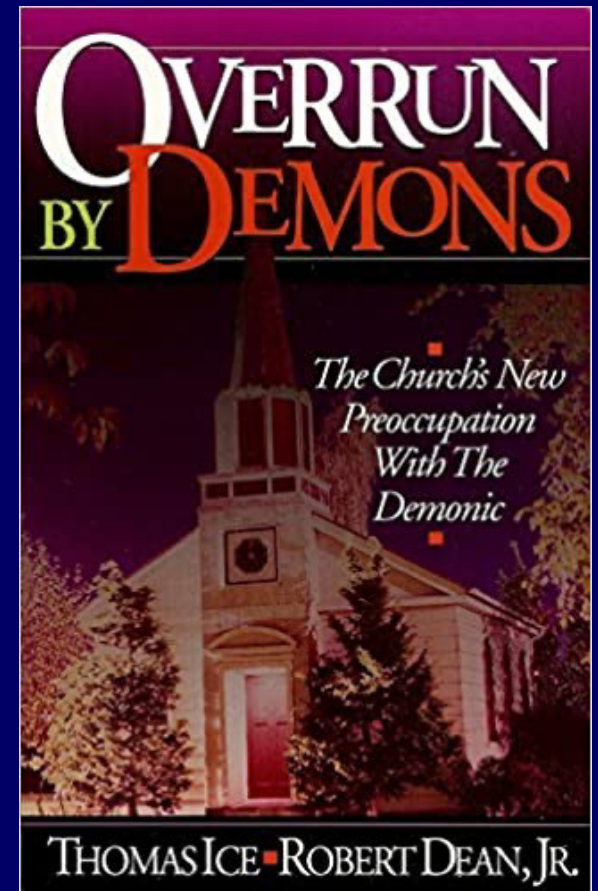
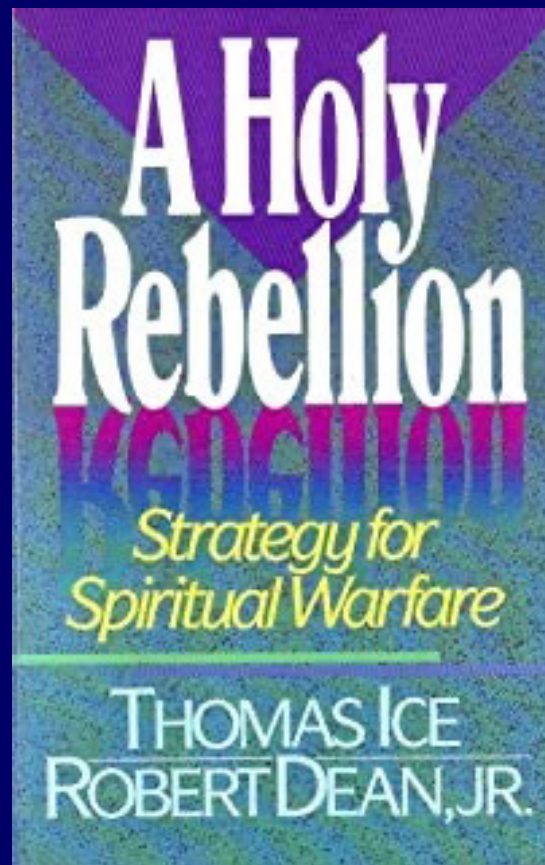
Prophecy Panorama



Revelation 20:1-3

“¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. ² And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.”





III. Essence of Spiritual Wisdom

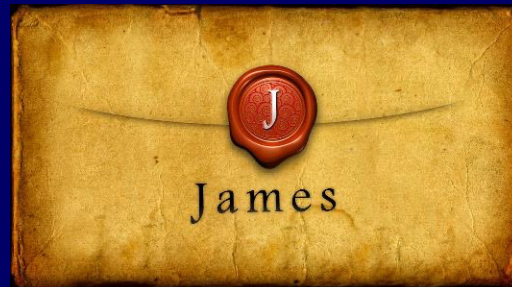
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Audience

- Jewish (1:1)
- Persecution (Acts 8:1-4; 11:19)
- In Babylon-Mesopotamia or North-Central Turkey?
- Believers (Jas 1:2-4)



III. Essence of Spiritual Wisdom

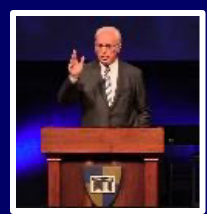
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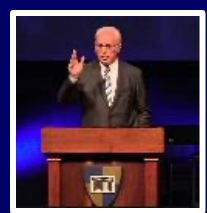
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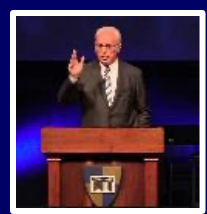
John F. MacArthur

“One of the most comprehensive invitations to salvation in all the Epistles comes in James 4:7 – 10. While James directs most of his epistle to genuine believers, it is also evident that he is concerned about those who are not genuine. He wants no one to be deceived regarding true salvation, so he calls for a real, living, saving faith that is distinct from the dead faith of chapter 2. He states his objective in 5:20. It is to see ‘the sinner converted from the error of his way and his soul saved from death.’”



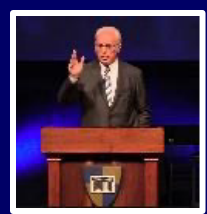
John F. MacArthur

“The invitation in 4:7 – 10 is directed at those who are not saved — guilty, wicked hearers of the Word who are not doers (cf. 1:21 – 22); who are still captive to dead faith (cf. 2:14 – 20); who are bitter, selfish, arrogant liars whose ‘wisdom is not what comes from above but is earthy, natural, demonic’ (3:15); who are loving the world and thus are the enemies of God (4:4); whose inner spirit is still dominated by lusts (cf. 4:5); and who are proud and self-sufficient (cf. 4:6). They are in desperate need of God’s grace.”



John F. MacArthur

“But since God only ‘gives grace to the humble’ (v. 6), James calls these ‘sinners’ (a term used in Scripture only of the unregenerate) to turn from their pride and humble themselves. Ten imperatives delineate the commands in James’s call to sinners: submit yourself to God (salvation); resist the devil (transferring allegiance); draw near to God (intimacy of relationship); cleanse your hands (repentance); purify your hearts (confession); be miserable, mourn, weep, and let your laughter and joy be turned to gloom (sorrow).”



John F. MacArthur

“The final imperative summarizes the mentality of those who are converted: ‘Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord.’ All this is a work of God, who gives His more abundant grace (4:6).”

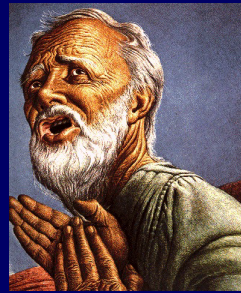
Belief – God's One Condition for Justification

Gen 15:6

Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.



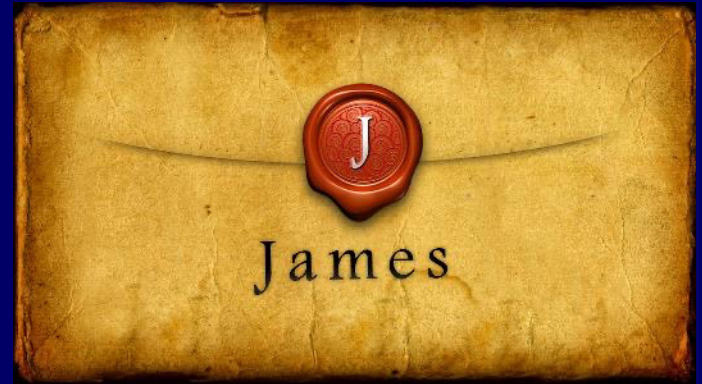
Acts 16:30-31

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..."

III. Essence of Spiritual Wisdom

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Hall of the Humbled

(Prov. 16:18; 1 Peter 5:5)

- Satan (Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:12-17; 1 Tim. 3:6)
- Uzziah (2 Chron 26:16)
- Herod (Acts 12:20-23)
- Paul (2 Cor 12:1-10)



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1 Corinthians 4:5

“Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of *men’s* hearts; and then each man’s praise will come to him from God.”



CONCLUSION

Spiritual Life

(4:1-12)

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