



Faith in Action

The Lord of Hosts



James the Prophet

- I. Judgment Oracle, 5:1-6
 - Woe to the rich.
- II. Salvation Oracle, 5:7-9
 - Salvation to the faithful.

I. Woe to the Rich

- ^{NAS} **James 5:1** Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you. ² Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten. ³ Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure! ⁴ Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out against you; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. ⁵ You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned and put to death the righteous man; he does not resist you.

OT Parallels

- ^{NAS} **Micah 2:1** Woe to those who scheme iniquity, Who work out evil on their beds! When morning comes, they do it, For it is in the power of their hands. ² They covet fields and then seize them, And houses, and take them away. They rob a man and his house, A man and his inheritance. ³ Therefore, thus says the LORD, "Behold, I am planning against this family a calamity From which you cannot remove your necks; And you will not walk haughtily, For it will be an evil time. ⁴ "On that day they will take up against you a taunt And utter a bitter lamentation and say, 'We are completely destroyed! He exchanges the portion of my people; How He removes it from me! To the apostate He apports our fields.'

- ^{NAS} **Habakkuk 2:5** "Furthermore, wine betrays the haughty man, So that he does not stay at home. He enlarges his appetite like Sheol, And he is like death, never satisfied. He also gathers to himself all nations And collects to himself all peoples. ⁶ "Will not all of these take up a taunt-song against him, Even mockery *and* insinuations against him, And say, 'Woe to him who increases what is not his-- For how long-- And makes himself rich with loans?' ⁷ "Will not your creditors rise up suddenly, And those who collect from you awaken? Indeed, you will become plunder for them. ⁸ "Because you have looted many nations, All the remainder of the peoples will loot you ...
- ^{NAS} **Isaiah 13:6** Wail, for the day of the LORD is near! It will come as destruction from the Almighty.
- ^{NIV} **Amos 8:3** "In that day," declares the Sovereign LORD, "the songs in the temple will turn to wailing. Many, many bodies-- flung everywhere! Silence!"

The Problem

- Misuse of riches
 - Squandering resources
 - Oppressing the vulnerable
- ^{NAS} **Deuteronomy 24:14** "You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your countrymen or one of your aliens who is in your land in your towns. ¹⁵ "You shall give him his wages on his day before the sun sets, for he is poor and sets his heart on it; so that he may not cry against you to the LORD and it become sin in you."

Nevertheless

- ^{NAS} **Matthew 19:23** And Jesus said to His disciples, "Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.
- ^{NIV} **Luke 12:33** Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

II. Salvation to the Faithful

- ^{NAS} **James 5:7** Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. ⁸ You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹ Do not complain, brethren, against one another, that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

The Lord Will Come Again

- ^{NAS} **James 5:7** Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord... ⁸ You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹ ... behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.
- ^{NAS} **Matthew 24:27** "For just as the lightning comes from the east, and flashes even to the west, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be.
- ^{ESV} **Matthew 24:44** Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.
- ^{NAS} **Luke 21:27** "And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

His Coming Will Usher in Paradise

- ^{NAS} **1 Thessalonians 4:15** For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.
- ^{NAS} **1 Corinthians 15:51** Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

- ^{NAS} **Revelation 21:1** And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them, ⁴ and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be *any* death; there shall no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."
- ^{NAS} **Revelation 22:20** He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

The Coming Lord is the Lord of Hosts

- ^{NAS} **James 5:4** Behold ... the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth ...
⁷ Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord... ⁸ ... for the coming of the Lord is at hand
- ^{NAS} **Psalms 24:7** Lift up your heads, O gates, And be lifted up, O ancient doors, That the King of glory may come in! ⁸ Who is the King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle. ⁹ Lift up your heads, O gates, And lift them up, O ancient doors, That the King of glory may come in! ¹⁰ Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory.
- ^{NAS} **Revelation 17:14** "These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful."

- ^{NAS} **Isaiah 44:6** "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me. ⁷ 'And who is like Me? Let him proclaim and declare it; Yes, let him recount it to Me in order, From the time that I established the ancient nation. And let them declare to them the things that are coming And the events that are going to take place. ⁸ 'Do not tremble and do not be afraid; Have I not long since announced it to you and declared it? And you are My witnesses. Is there any God besides Me, Or is there any other Rock? I know of none.'"

In the Meantime He Will Empower Us

- ^{NAS} **James 5:7** Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains.
- ^{NAS} **Isaiah 44:1** "But now listen, O Jacob, My servant; And Israel, whom I have chosen: ² Thus says the LORD who made you And formed you from the womb, who will help you, 'Do not fear, O Jacob My servant; And you Jeshurun whom I have chosen. ³ 'For I will pour out water on the thirsty land And streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring, And My blessing on your descendants; ⁴ And they will spring up among the grass Like poplars by streams of water.'

Conclusion

The Lord of Hosts is Coming

- ^{NAS} **James 5:4** Behold ... the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Hosts ...
⁷ Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord... ⁸ ... for the coming of the Lord is at hand
- ^{NAS} **Romans 8:18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.
- ^{NAS} **Isaiah 44:8** 'Do not tremble and do not be afraid; Have I not long since announced it to you and declared it? And you are My witnesses. Is there any God besides Me, Or is there any other Rock? I know of none.'

Whom Shall I Fear

You hear me when I call
You are my morning song
Though darkness fills the night
It cannot hide the light
You are my sword and shield
Though troubles linger still

Whom shall I fear

I know who goes before me
I know who stands behind
The God of angel armies
Is always by my side

The one who reigns forever
He is a friend of mine
The God of angel armies
Is always by my side