

## James on the Law of Moses

### Acts 15:13-22a

<sup>13</sup> After they finished speaking, James replied, "Brothers, listen to me. <sup>14</sup> Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, to take from them a people for his name. <sup>15</sup> And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written, <sup>16</sup> "After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, <sup>17</sup> that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord, who makes these things <sup>18</sup> known from of old.' <sup>19</sup> Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God, <sup>20</sup> but should write to them to abstain from the things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood. <sup>21</sup> For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues." <sup>22</sup> Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. ...

## James on the Law of Moses

### Acts 15:22a-29

<sup>22</sup> ... They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brothers, <sup>23</sup> with the following letter: "The brothers, both the apostles and the elders, to the brothers who are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greetings. <sup>24</sup> Since we have heard that some persons have gone out from us and troubled you with words, unsettling your minds, although we gave them no instructions, <sup>25</sup> it has seemed good to us, having come to one accord, to choose men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, <sup>26</sup> men who have risked their lives for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>27</sup> We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth. <sup>28</sup> For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: <sup>29</sup> that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell."

## Understanding the Holiness Code Observations from the Book of James (Johnson)

### Leviticus 19:12-18

<sup>12</sup> You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.

<sup>13</sup> "You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning.

<sup>14</sup> You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

<sup>15</sup> "You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor.

<sup>16</sup> You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

<sup>17</sup> "You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him.

<sup>18</sup> You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

### James

<sup>5:12</sup> ... do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

<sup>5:4</sup> Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.

None

<sup>2:1</sup> ... show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.

<sup>4:1</sup> Do not speak evil against one another, brothers.

<sup>5:20</sup> ... whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins

<sup>5:9</sup> Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

<sup>2:8</sup> If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.

## Epistle of James

### James 1:1-12

<sup>1</sup> James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings. <sup>2</sup> Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, <sup>3</sup> for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. <sup>4</sup> And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. <sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. <sup>9</sup> Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, <sup>10</sup> and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

## Epistle of James

### James 1:13-21

<sup>13</sup> Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. <sup>14</sup> But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. <sup>15</sup> Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. <sup>16</sup> Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. <sup>17</sup> Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup> Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creation. <sup>19</sup> Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup> for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness that God requires. <sup>21</sup> Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

# Epistle of James

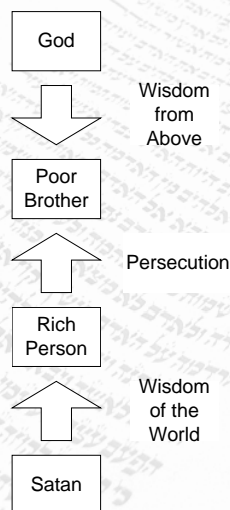
## James 1:22-27

<sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

<sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. <sup>25</sup> But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. <sup>26</sup> If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup> Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

# The Call to Holiness

## James' Argument/Thesis



- I. Holiness is also about being filled with the Holy Spirit - Only God makes people holy
- II. Holy living is very much about making Godly decisions
- III. The Holy Spirit will help you overcome various trials by giving you the spiritual gifts you need
- IV. The Holy Spirit will give you the wisdom from above to make the Godly choice
- V. Through the Holy Spirit these trials conform you more and more into the Image of God (Christ)

## The Holiness Code Summary

- I. The Holiness Code found in Leviticus 17-26 gives instructions for Holy Living for Israel
  - A. In general, the laws that have a moral foundation, especially those found in Lev 17-19 have meaningful relevance to the Christian life
  - B. James and the other Apostles touch on many of the laws found in Lev 17-19 as a guide towards Christian living
  - C. Laws found in Lev 20-26 are relevant towards understanding biblical theology, but are not designed to be lived outside of Theocratic Israel
    - A. Christians are not commended to stone adulterers, burn witches, etc.
    - B. Christianity does not maintain the Levitical priesthood
    - C. No need to follow the observe the various feasts found in Lev 23
- II. How then should we live in holiness? Through the Power of the Holy Spirit!