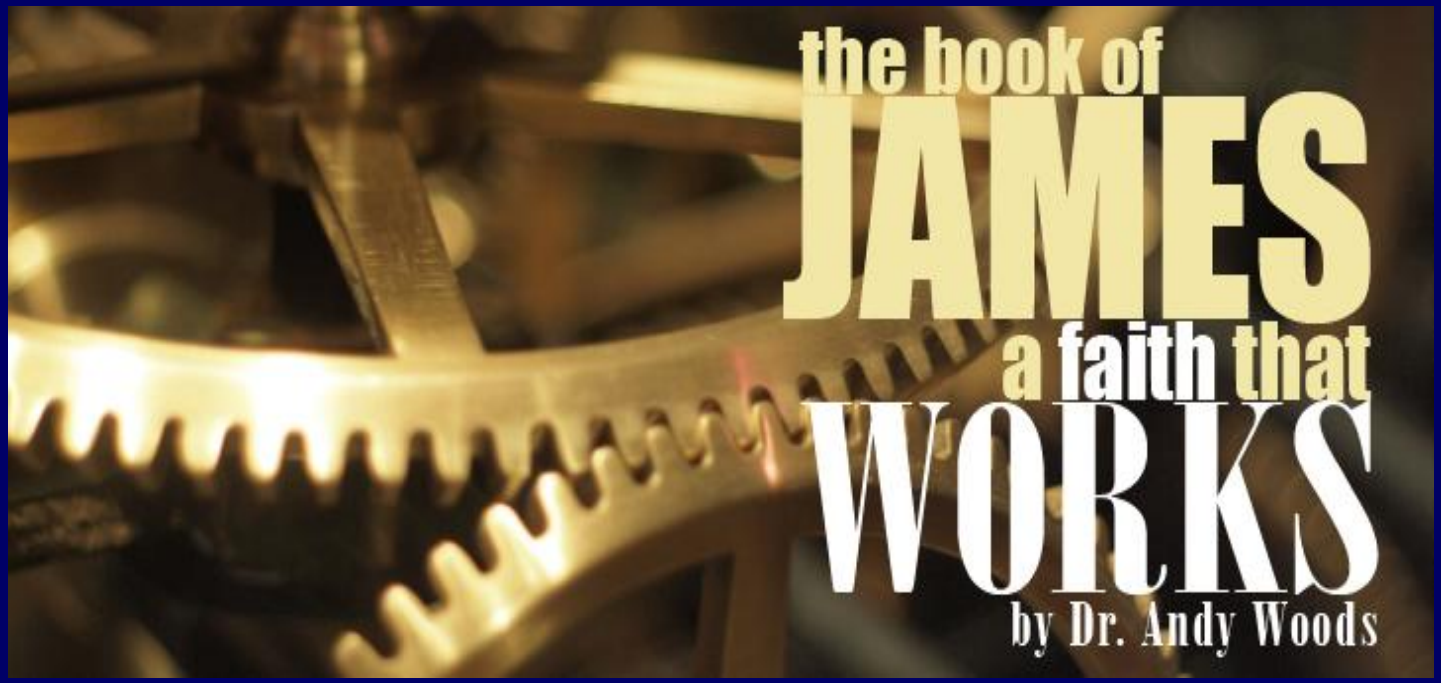
PRACTICAL RIGHTEOUSNESS





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 if 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)



JAMES STRUCTURE

I. **Faith (James 1:1–3:12)**

II. Wisdom (James 3:13–5:20)



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)
  - Restoration of the erring brother (5:19-20)



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  - **<u>Wisdom defined (3:13-18)</u>**
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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

- Wisdom (3:13–5:20)
  - Wisdom defined (3:13-18)
  - **Spirituality (4:1-12)**
  - Commerce (4:13-17)
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  - Waiting for the Lord's return (5:7-12)
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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)



Structure

- **Wisdom (3:13–5:20)**
  - Wisdom defined (3:13-18)
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Commercial Life
(4:13-17)

I. The Need to Plan while Depending Upon God (4:13-15)

II. The Problem of Planning without Depending Upon God (4:16-17)



Structure

- **Wisdom (3:13–5:20)**
  - Wisdom defined (3:13-18)
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  - Commerce (4:13-17)
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  - Waiting for the Lord's return (5:7-12)
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Use of Wealth
(5:1-6)

I. Predicted judgment coming on rich oppressors (5:1-3)

II. Reasons for coming judgment (5:4-6)



II. Reasons for the Coming Judgment
(5:4-6)

A. Unpaid wages (5:4)

B. Wanton luxury (5:5)

C. Condemnation of the innocent (5:6)



Structure

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Waiting for the Lord's Return
(5:7-12)

I. The Example of the Farmer (5:7)

II. The Impact of Imminency (5:8-9)

III. Old Testament Examples of Patience (5:10-12)



Waiting for the Lord's Return
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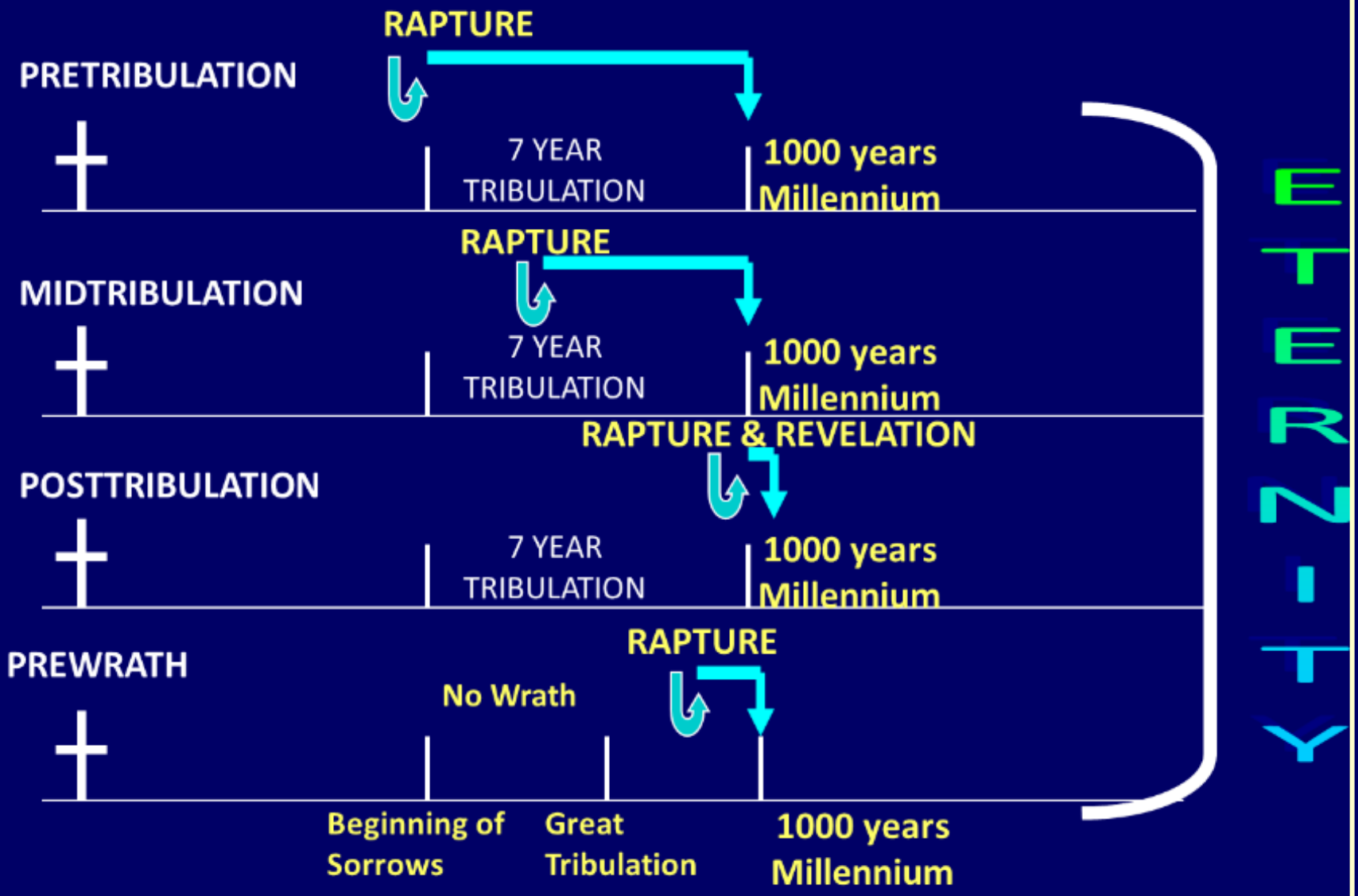
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RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISON



John 14:1–4

1 “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God,
believe also in Me. 2 “In My Father’s house are many
dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told
you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3 “If I go and
prepare a place for you, **I will come again and receive
you to Myself**, that where I am, *there* you may be
also. 4 “And you know the way where I am going.”



1 Thessalonians 4:13-15

13 "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. 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**, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.



1 Corinthians 15:51

"Behold, I tell you a mystery; **we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed**."



Titus 2:13

"Looking for **the blessed hope** and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus."

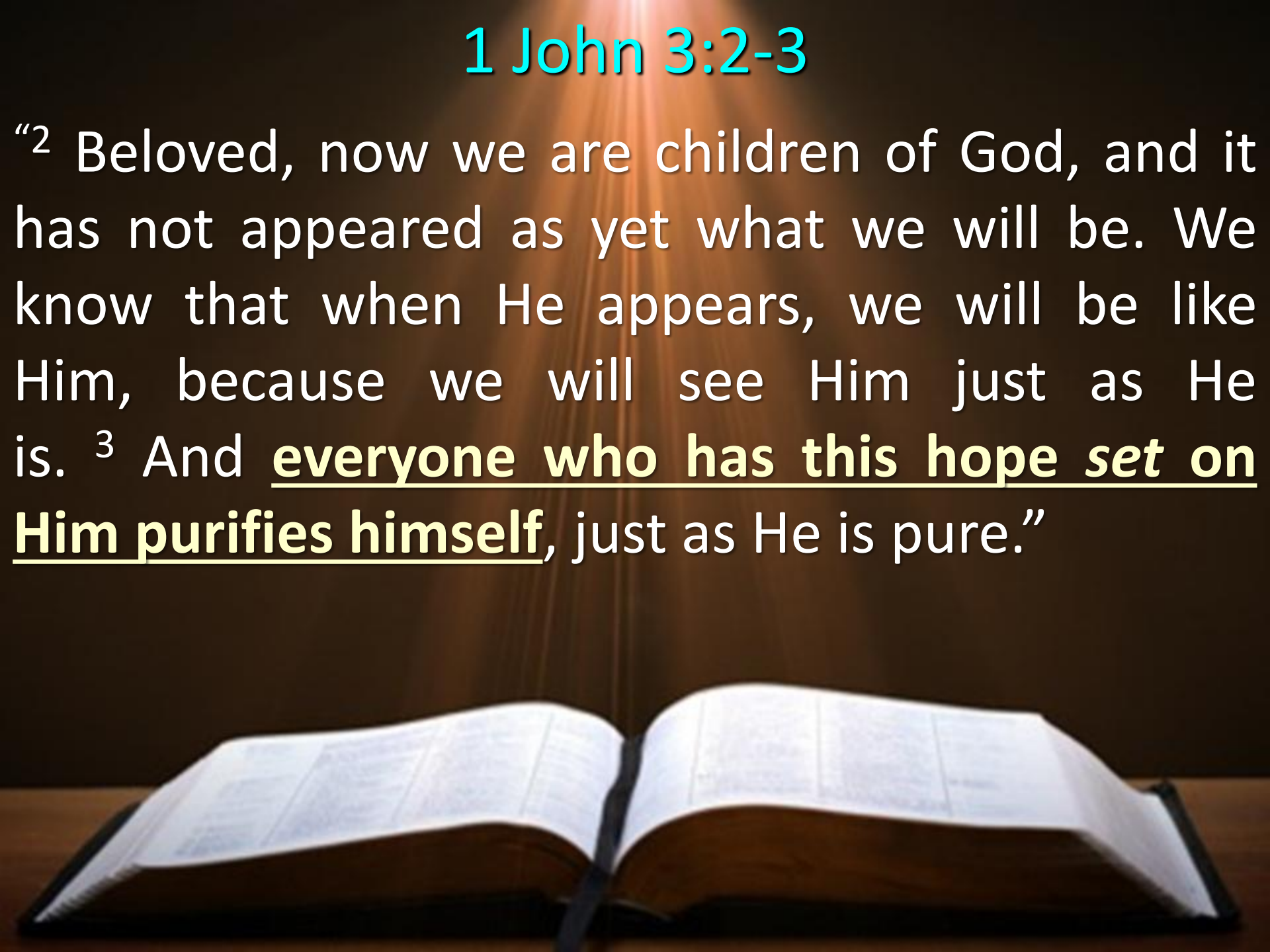
Hope
Hope



Hope
Hope

1 John 3:2-3

“[2] Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. [3] And **everyone who has this hope *set* on Him purifies himself**, just as He is pure.”





J. Dwight Pentecost

Prophecy For Today, Page 20

"A short time ago, I took occasion to go through the New Testament to mark each reference to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and to observe the use made of that teaching about His coming. **I was struck a new with the fact that almost without exception, when the coming of Christ is mentioned in the New Testament, it is followed by an exhortation to godliness and holy living**."

1 John 3:2-3

“2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that **when He appears**, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. 3 And **everyone who has this hope *set* on Him purifies himself**, just as He is pure.”



Matthew 24:46-50

“46 Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. 47 Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions. 48 But if that evil slave says in his heart, ‘**My master is not coming for a long time,’ 49 and he begins to beat his fellow slaves, and he eats and drinks with those habitually drunk**; 50 then the master of that slave will come on a day that he does not expect, and at an hour that he does not know.”



Audience

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



James 1:1

"[1] James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the **twelve tribes** who are dispersed abroad: Greetings."



UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

■ Sermon on Mt	■ Concise
■ OT	■ High quality GK
■ **Illustrations from nature & daily living**	■ Proverbs & Amos of the NT
■ Undeveloped Christology	■ Imperatives (54)
■ Practical	■ Oldest book in NT
■ Many literary devices	■ Difficult to outline

Waiting for the Lord's Return
(5:7-12)

I. The Example of the Farmer (5:7)

II. <u>The Impact of Imminency (5:8-9)</u>

III. Old Testament Examples of Patience (5:10-12)



II. The Impact of Imminency
(5:8-9)

A. On strength (5:8)

B. On complaining (5:9)



II. The Impact of Imminency
(5:8-9)

A. **<u>On strength (5:8)</u>**

B. On complaining (5:9)



James 5:8-9

“You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near [*engizō*]. 9 Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.”



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Messengers of the Kingdom In Matthew



- John the Baptist – 3:2
- Jesus Christ – 4:17
- 12 Apostles – 10:5-7
- Seventy – Luke 10:1, 9

Toussaint, *Behold the King*, 18-20

Matthew 3:1-2

"Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, '**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand**."



Matthew 4:17

“From that time Jesus began to preach and say, ‘**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand**.’”



Matthew 10:5-7

“These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: “Do not go in *the* way of *the* Gentiles, and do not enter *any* city of the Samaritans; [6] but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. [7] And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven **is at hand [*engizō*]**.’”



Luke 10:9

“Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come…and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, ‘**The kingdom of God has come near to you**.’”



II. The Impact of Imminency
(5:8-9)

A. On strength (5:8)

B. <u>On complaining (5:9)</u>



James 5:8-9

“[8] You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near [*engizō*]. [9] Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.”



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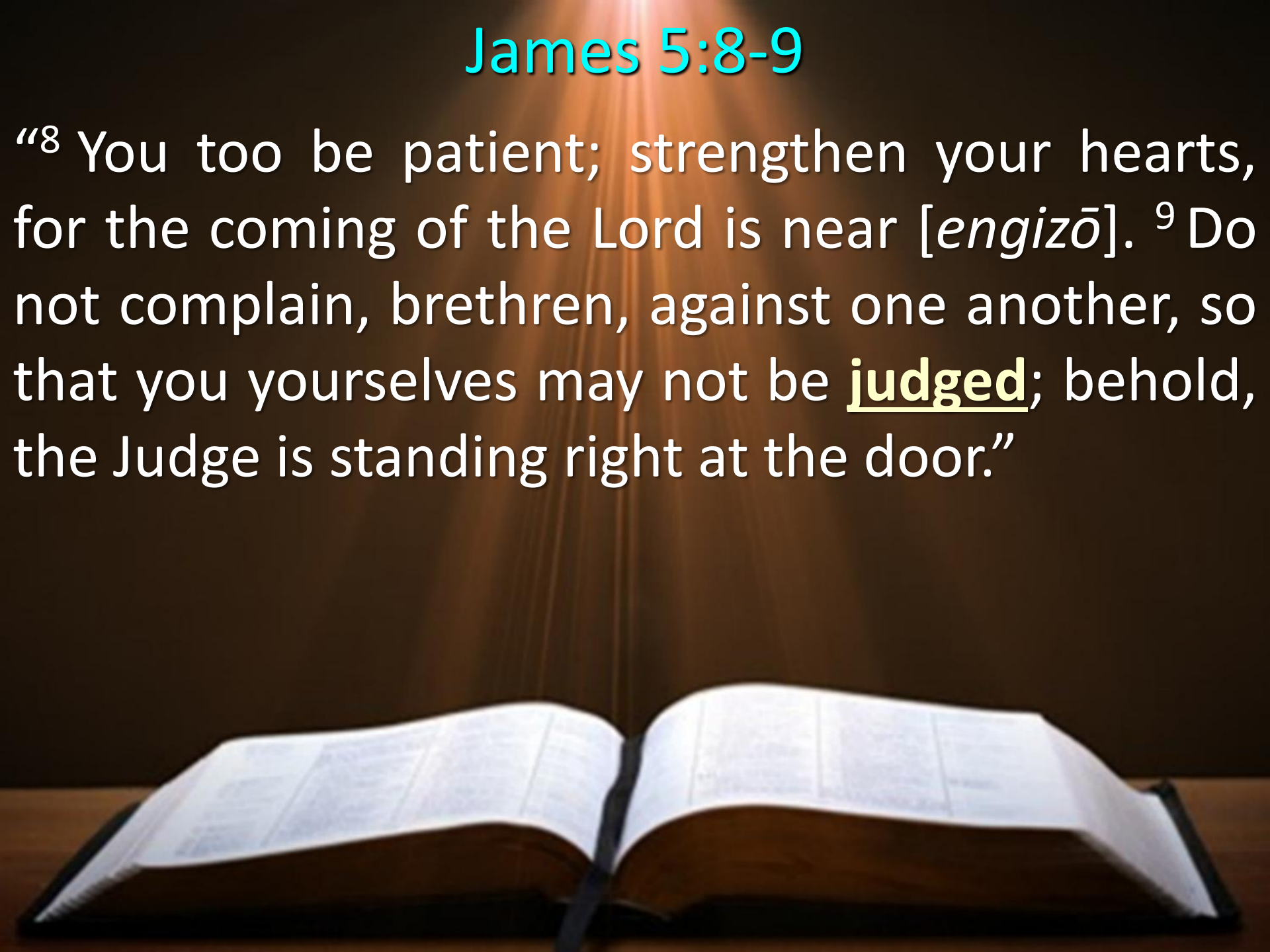
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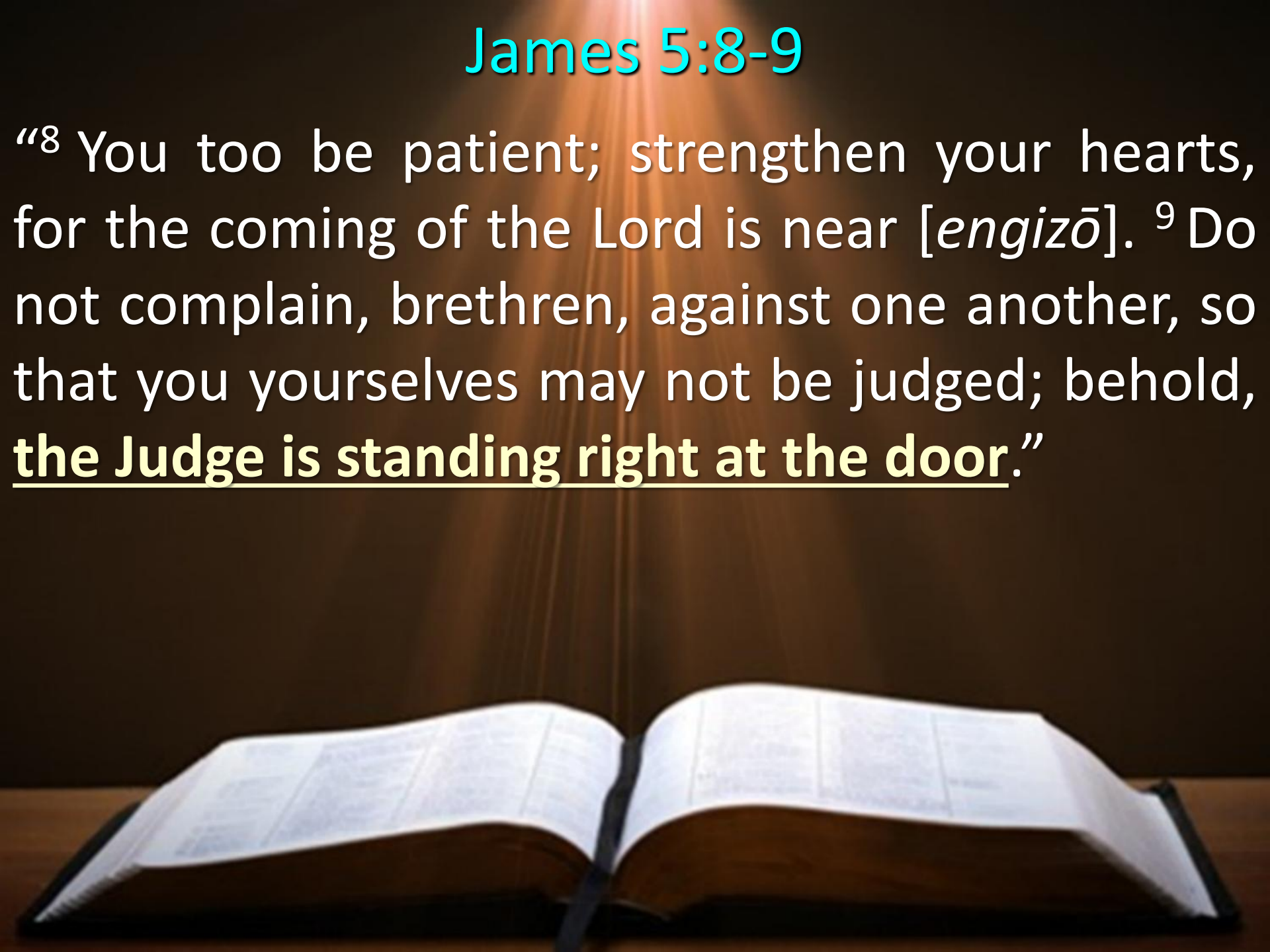
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Mediterranean Sea
CANAAN
Gaza
Beersheba
Arad
Dead Sea
Way to the Land of the Philistines
Migdol
Rameses
EGYPT
Tahpanhes
WILDERNESS OF ZIN
Pithom?
GOSHEN
Succoth?
WILDERNESS OF SHUR
Kadesh-barnea
Punon
WILDERNESS OF PARAN
On
Memphis
Marah?
Timna
Elath
SINAI
Jotbathah?
Ezion-geber?
Nile River
Elim?
Red Sea
MIDIAN
Dophkah?
WILDERNESS OF SIN
Hazeroth?
Rephidim?
Mount Sinai? (Jebel Musa)
0
50
100 mi
0
50
100
150 km

James 5:8-9

“[8] You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near [*engizō*]. [9] Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, **the Judge is standing right at the door**.”



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."



1 John 3:2-3

“2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that **when He appears**, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. 3 And **everyone who has this hope *set* on Him purifies himself**, just as He is pure.”



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III. Old Testament Examples of Patience
(5:10-12)

A. The Old Testament Prophets (5:10)

B. The Patriarch Job (5:11-12)



III. Old Testament Examples of Patience
(5:10-12)

A. **<u>The Old Testament Prophets (5:10)</u>**

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III. Old Testament Examples of Patience
(5:10-12)

A. The Old Testament Prophets (5:10)

B. <u>The Patriarch Job (5:11-12)</u>



Scripture's Five Crowns
(Rev 4:10: 3:11; 2 John 8)

SCRIPTURE	CROWN	PURPOSE
1 Cor. 9:24-27	**Incorruptible**	Gaining mastery over the flesh
1 Thess. 2:19-20	**Rejoicing**	Soul winning
Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10	**Life**	Enduring trials
1 Pet. 5:2-4	**Glory**	Shepherding God's people
2 Tim. 4:8	**Righteousness**	Longing for His appearing

Date
(AD 44-47)

- AD 70
- AD 62-63
- AD 49
- AD 48-49
- **Sermon on the Mt**
- Primitive congregational worship (Jas 2:2; 3:1; 5:14)
- Jas 1:1 = Acts 8:1-4; 11:19



CONCLUSION

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  - **Prayer (5:13-18)**
  - Restoration of the erring brother (5:19-20)

