

Live the Creed: An Exposition of James
“A Field Manual for Living in Exile”

James 1:1–2

The Lord’s Day Morning

April 7, 2024

In 1 and 2 Kings, we were introduced to the principle of a holy nation in exile: God’s people are members of the nation of Israel. They are providentially distributed among the nations, working for their peace and prosperity, representing the only true God, studying Scripture, raising up the next generation of believers, and eagerly awaiting the coming of the son of David who will save them (Ex. 19:5,6; 2 Samuel 7; Jer. 29:4-7).

In Jesus, the son of David came, lived a perfect life, died in the place of sinners, defeated sin and death, and was vindicated in his resurrection. Now, God’s people are members of the church, the “holy nation” and “the Israel of God.” This “holy nation” has no land or borders, but lives in exile, providentially distributed among the nations, working for their peace and prosperity, representing King Jesus, making disciples of all the nations, raising up the next generation of believers, and eagerly awaiting the return of the King of kings (1 Peter 2:9; Gal. 6:16; Mt. 28: 18-20; Phil. 3:20).

The book of James is a practical manual for living as a steadfast and optimistic exile until Jesus returns. In James himself, we have the example of what a true exile looks like:

James *before* the resurrection:

1. The _____ biological son of the parents of Jesus (Mt. 13:55-57).
2. The _____ brother related to Jesus (Gal. 1:19).
3. The _____ who wanted a political Jesus (Jn. 7:3-5; 1 Cor. 15:7).

James *after* the resurrection:

1. _____ by the resurrection to worship Jesus as God.
2. _____ by the apostles to learn, love, and live the Christian creed.
3. _____ to a holy nation in exile: the interracial, international church.
4. _____ through trials in a world that despises genuine Christianity.