

James 5:10,11
“Consider the Prophets”
July 12, 2026

James 5:10 *“My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. 11 Indeed we count them blessed who endured...”*

“take” Gr *lambano* to get hold of something by laying hands on it; to grasp.

Jeremiah 1:4,5 *“...Behold, I do not know how to speak, Because I am a youth.”*

We, like Jeremiah, might be reluctant servants; but, we have an assignment just like him, as “ambassadors for Christ.” (2 Cor 5:20,21)

Jeremiah 8:18-22 *“...I mourn, dismay has taken hold of me...”*

If you have ever grieved over the obstinance of someone refusing help from God, then you have suffered for the sake of Christ.

Jeremiah 11:21 *“...Do not prophesy in the name of the LORD, so that you will not die at our hand”*

Have you ever been hated for the sake of Christ? You have endured a trial.

Jeremiah 12:1-3 *“...Why has the way of the wicked prospered...”*

Have you ever felt like you were doing good for God, and suffering, and those who were less sincere and even evil seemed to prosper?

Galatians 6:9 Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.

Jeremiah 12:6 *“For even your brothers and the household of your father, Even they have dealt treacherously with you...”*

Have you ever suffered from your family because of your stand for Christ? That's a trial! Following Jesus as a disciple requires an attitude of letting go of the approval of family. See Luke 14:26.

Jeremiah 13:15-17 *“...My soul will sob in secret for such pride; And my eyes will bitterly weep And flow down with tears...”*

Consider the prophets: your concern for the eternal welfare of others might indeed cause you a lot of pain.

Jeremiah 15:1,2 *“...send them away from My presence and let them go!”* God is “slow to anger” but not “never to anger.” See Hebrews 3:12f. Sin is deceitful, and it can produce a hardened heart even in the “brethren.”

Jeremiah 16:1,2 *“...You shall not take a wife for yourself...”*
Some trials will involve personal sacrifice.

Jeremiah 18:18-20 *“...For they have dug a pit for me...”*

Have your encouraging words been ignored; have your spiritual warnings been spurned? You have had a trial.

Jeremiah 20:1,2 *“...Pashhur had Jeremiah the prophet beaten and put him in the stocks...”*

Sometimes life just is not fair. But, God challenges us to live a life for something bigger than ourselves. See Romans 12:1.

Jeremiah 23:5,6 Sometimes our most powerful words come in the midst of suffering and trials. Let us never fall into the trap of thinking, “I’m suffering so much now, I’m not at the top of my game, I can’t even concentrate, there is no way God is going to use me in the condition I am in.” That’s where God is going to use you the most!

2 Corinthians 12:9 *“...My grace is sufficient for you...”*

Jeremiah 26:7,8 *“...You must die!”* You might do all that the Lord commanded you to do, you might say all that the Lord commanded you to say, and yet you might still “fail” in the eyes of men. See Noah, Gen 6:3,22 and 2 Peter 2:5.

Jeremiah 36:1-28 If it seems like all your hard work is going up in smoke, that does not mean that you are doing the wrong thing; that might be part of God’s plan for your ministry.

Jeremiah 37:15-17 *“...and beat him, and they put him in jail...”*

Enduring in trial means keeping your composure and keeping on doing what is right.

Jeremiah 38:6 *“...and Jeremiah sank into the mud.”*

Hebrews 11:39,40 *“And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.”*

The OT prophets did not see the Messiah, for the sake of those of us who would come later. God’s plan for perfecting them involved them not receiving what was promised (in this life). See 1 Peter 1:10,11.