



TEACH ME
THE BIBLE PODCAST

STUDY GUIDE

PASTOR TIM WEBB AND DR. DAVID KLINGLER

CHAPTER

1:1-12

THE BOOK OF

J A M E S

Faith, Works and Blessing



James 1:1-12

If you are new to the Story of the Bible or would like to review the Story:
Listen to the following TMTB Podcasts:

The Story: Understanding the “Big Story” (30 min)

Old Testament: Walk Through the Broad Story (27 min)

Timeline: New Testament Beginnings (35 min)

Letters: Paul’s Writing to the Churches–Part 1 (30 min)

SUMMARY

Summary of James 1:1-12 – James introduces his letter to the twelve dispersed tribes of Israel in order to instruct them concerning how they should regard the testing of their faith. Adopting the wrong theological approach to trials would result in judging oneself, one’s brother, the Law, and the Lord incorrectly. Instead, James’s desire is that his readers would understand the essential role of trials in the perfecting of the believer’s faith. For once the believer’s faith has been approved then he or she will receive the crown of life.



James 1:1-12

MONDAY

Listen to the James 1:1-12 podcast.

TUESDAY

Read Deuteronomy 30:1-10, Isaiah 11, and Ezekiel 36.

Does the LORD have a plan to gather dispersed Israel again to the land?

In fact, every prophet looks forward to the restoration of the nation Israel. In the New Testament there are several letters that were written specifically to Jewish believers in order to encourage them during the age when Israel had rejected her Messiah. We call these letters the “*general epistles*.” They include Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Jude. The last book of the Bible, the book of Revelation, tells of the final gathering of the dispersion of Israel back into their land and the establishment of the millennial kingdom.

WEDNESDAY

The word that James uses for “*testing*” is used in James 1:3 and 1 Peter 1:7. Read 1 Peter 1:1-9 and compare what Peter is saying to those “*dispersed*” Jewish believers with what James is saying to the “*twelve tribes dispersed*.”

Are the authors saying the same things?

What are the similarities in these two passages?

Are there any differences?



James 1:1-12

THURSDAY

The word for “works” plays a significant role in the book of James. Unfortunately, it is not translated very consistently in English translations.

Look up the following verses that contain the word “works”: 1:3 (translated as “produces” in the NASB), 4 (translated as “result” in the NASB), 20 (translated as “achieve” in the NASB), 25 (translated as “effectual doer” in the NASB); 2:9 (translated as “committing” in the NASB), 14, 17, 18 (3x), 20, 21, 22 (3x), 24, 25, 26; 3:13 (translated as “deeds” in the NASB); 5:4 (translated as “laborers” in the NASB), 16 (translated as “effective” in the NASB).

Between the podcast and your own study can you piece together what James is saying?

What works are the antagonists claiming to have? What works are they really doing?

What works should they be doing?

FRIDAY

The word that is translated as “doubting” in James 1:6 is “diakrino.” Literally it means “through judging.” The problem with the pharisees is that they judged with the wrong standard and therefore judged incorrectly.

Take a look at the following verses: Matthew 16:3; 21:21; Mark 11:23; Acts 10:20; 11:2, 12; 15:9; Romans 4:20; 14:23; 1 Corinthians 4:7; 6:5; 11:29, 31; 14:29; James 1:6; 2:4; Jude 9, 22. In each of these passages “judging” makes more sense. Certainly James’s use of the same word in 2:4 should relate back to his meaning here in chapter 1:6.

Between listening to the podcast and your own study can you make sense of what James is saying?