



## James Chapters 4b and 5

Last week we finished up in James chapter 4 verse 12 and we spoke about what James meant when he said “But who are you to judge your neighbor”, and we spoke about our Messiah who commands us to judge rightly in John 7:24, and we looked at the whole of scripture so that we could better understand what James was actually trying to convey to us... so if you missed last week’s study... and you don’t know these things... we invite you to please visit us at [HolyImpactMinistries.com](http://HolyImpactMinistries.com) so that you can catch up to where we are in our study into the book of James this week because there is much to know if you haven’t been following along with us in this study.

As for this week... I’d like to begin with re-reading the end of James chapter 4 from verse 13 to 17 before we move into the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of James... so let’s begin at James 4:13-17:

*Jas 4:13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"—*

*Jas 4:14 yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.*

*Jas 4:15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."*

*Jas 4:16 As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.*

*Jas 4:17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.*

And so, as we finish up in chapter 4 of the book of James we find James planting some very important seeds of truth in our hearing. How many times have we made plans for the future? How many times have we said “Next summer we’re going to do this or that... or we’re going to go camping, or we’re going to go here or there”? How many times have we planned for our children’s collage education, or planed a vacation, or planned to do one thing or another... never really taking into consideration whether we’ll even be here tomorrow or not?

As a hunter and a fisherman, I like to plan out my spring, summer, fall, and winter... that way that I’m ahead of the game so to speak. I like to already have all my fishing areas picked out in late winter so that when spring hits I know which lake I’m headed for, and which lake I’m going to fish first, and where I think the fish will be spawning that on-coming spring. In the late summer, I like to go get out into the woods and place my trail cameras and get to know where the deer are congregating, and where the scrapes and the rubs are and which food plot their feeding at and where they’re bedding down at so that I know where and when to be there to

meet them. But I have to be honest with you... at my age each year becomes a bigger blessing than the last. I always wonder just how far these old legs, and joints, and knees are going to take me. And with all of that being said.... I can't help but wonder just how long this old pump in my chest is going to keep on pumping. What I'm trying to say, is that even though I make plans like everyone else makes plans... I know that everything that I plan depends on my Father's will. No-where in the scripture are we promised a tomorrow here on this earth.

As we look around I think it's safe to say that almost everyone who's been watching the news, and taking note of the times that we're now living in... has been asking themselves... just how much time do we have left to live our lives as we know them today? Just how long will it be before the next earthquake hits where I live... or the next hurricane, or tsunami, or the next wave of tornados or the next heat wave or below freezing cold snap? Will I drive my car into a sink hole this year... or will I be run over by some madman in a speeding truck who's trying to kill as many people as he can in the name of Allah? Will I be lynched because I'm black or because I'm white, or because I'm a Christian, or because I like, or dislike the President?

I think it's fair to say that many more of us today are already thinking about how much more time we have here on this old earth. There's a whole lot of people out there today who are wondering where all of this ends up. There's a whole lot of people out there today who know that this world cannot continue in the direction that it's headed for much longer. There's a whole lot of people out there who are smart enough to know that the earth is beginning to real like a hut... like a drunkard... and we can already see signs in the sun, moon, and the stars, and the distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves... and there are a lot of people out there who are already fainting with fear and foreboding over what's coming upon the world today. Have you been to YouTube lately? Have you seen all the informational video's about the return of the Nephilim, or the September 23<sup>rd</sup> star alignment, or planet "X" and the return of "Nibiru", or the approaching asteroid this October, or Cern out in Switzerland and the idea that they can now cross over into different dimensions... and just what evil may reside in those other dimensions, How about HARP and weather modification technology, or transhumanism and the welding together of man and machine, oh and let's not forget the increase in UFO sightings... and the whole laundry list of components that go along with that phenomena? There is no shortage of things that people believe are coming upon the earth that would cause someone to faint with fear.

We ought to think about... and what we ought to remember... exactly what James is trying to convey to us in verses 13 through 17... and we ought to realize that none of us live forever here on this earth. And we ought to realize that this empire of dirt that we have amassed... is going to all be swallowed up in fire one day very soon. All of the conspiracy theories, and our scientific technology, and our gadgets and gismos, along with man's ridiculous ideas about living forever and becoming god, himself are all going to be turned into ashes. Let's turn to 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:1-12:

*2Pe 3:1 This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am*

*stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder,*

*2Pe 3:2 that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles,*

*2Pe 3:3 knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.*

*2Pe 3:4 They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation."*

*2Pe 3:5 For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God,*

*2Pe 3:6 and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished.*

*2Pe 3:7 But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.*

*2Pe 3:8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

*2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

*2Pe 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.*

*2Pe 3:11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness,*

*2Pe 3:12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!*

You see the first time our Father destroyed the earth with water and a great flood... but the day is soon to come when both Heaven and Earth will be burned up like a pile of dried up leaves in the fall. Revelation chapter 21 verse 1 through 4 tells us that John saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

And he saw the holy city... a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And John said that he heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. And John tells us that he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Now I know that there are a lot of people out there in the world who are making literally billions of dollars proclaiming that there is going to be what they call a pre-tribulation rapture... and these people have predicted time after time after time... the date upon which their so called Pre-tribulation rescue" is going to take place. But once again my friends... the Bible tells us about these kinds of people in Deuteronomy 18:18-22:

*Deu 18:18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put*

*my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.*

*Deu 18:19 And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.*

*Deu 18:20 But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.'*

*Deu 18:21 And if you say in your heart, 'How may we know the word that the LORD has not spoken?'—*

*Deu 18:22 when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.*

My friends there are a whole host of Prophets, Priests, Bishops, and Popes... not to mention many different denominational charters of men out there that have prophesied things that have not come to pass when they have said that they would come to pass... and most Christians today have grown wise to their nonsense and their man made foolishness... and yet on the other side of that coin... we find another whole host of would be professing Christians out there in the world today... who just love to spend their money on these circus clowns as they watch them grow fat off of the backs of the poor... the unsuspecting...the uneducated, and the un-studied.

Scripture after scripture after scripture tells us that there are prophecies that must take place before any kind of so called “rapture” can take place. Scripture after scripture after scripture tells us exactly when this so called “rapture” will take place... and yet Christian, after Christian, after Christian... continue to line the pockets of those who preach directly against the word of our Father in Heaven. But that my friends is another story.

What James is talking about is the fact that our Father is in control. James is trying to tell us that man does not know his time. Like fish that are taken in an evil net, and like birds that are caught in a snare, so too... the children of man are snared at an evil time, when it suddenly falls upon them. You can find that in Ecclesiastes 9:12 for those of you who don't already know that.

What James is trying to tell us is that that very small spark of electricity that causes our hearts to beat every second of every day... could stop at any second. Our souls could be required of us in an instant... in the blink of an eye... the snap of a finger. We see what our Messiah had to say about such things in Luke 12:22-40:

*Luk 12:22 And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on.*

*Luk 12:23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.*

*Luk 12:24 Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!*

- Luk 12:25 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?*
- Luk 12:26 If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest?*
- Luk 12:27 Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.*
- Luk 12:28 But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith!*
- Luk 12:29 And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried.*
- Luk 12:30 For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them.*
- Luk 12:31 Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.*
- Luk 12:32 "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."*
- Luk 12:33 Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys.*
- Luk 12:34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*
- Luk 12:35 "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning,*
- Luk 12:36 and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks.*
- Luk 12:37 Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.*
- Luk 12:38 If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants!*
- Luk 12:39 But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into.*
- Luk 12:40 You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."*

What James the brother of Yahushua Jesus is trying to tell us is exactly what his brother already told us in the book of Luke. This life is but a vapor... it's so short... so miniscule... so microscopic... that next to all of eternity... this life can't even be measured by today's sub-atomic Nano technology! And this is exactly why we ought to be saving our treasures up in the life to come... rather than building an empire of dirt in this life. Because just as our Messiah tells us in Luke 12:24... "For where your treasure is... there will your heart will be also".

James is trying to tell us not to boast about having a tomorrow that we are not promised here on this earth. It's okay to plan things... and by no means is it a sin to plan ahead... but let us all realize that these plans will only happen if our Father in Heaven allows them to happen. Our

Messiah tells us in Luke 12:40 that he will come at an hour that we do not expect... and because that promise has been made by our Messiah we cannot simply dismiss it as some kind of cliché... just because we hear it all the time. What did we just read in 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:3 and 4?

*knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.*

*2Pe 3:4 They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation."*

You see a lot of un-educated and un-studied Christians love to throw around that old standby scripture that says that no man knows the day nor hour... they love to quote Luke 12:40 where our Messiah tells us that he will come at an hour that we will not expect... but this is not all that he told us concerning the time of his return. Let's turn to 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:1-6:

*1Th 5:1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you.*

*1Th 5:2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.*

*1Th 5:3 While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.*

*1Th 5:4 But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.*

*1Th 5:5 For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.*

*1Th 5:6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.*

You see once again my friends... it pays to have read the whole book and not just half of it. He may come at an hour that we do not expect... but we will know when the time is near... even at the door. At least those of us who have studied to show ourselves approved rightly dividing his God breathed scriptures will. And so even though we may not know the exact day or the hour... we will indeed know when it is near... even at the door.

In James chapter 4 verse 17 James tells us that "*Whoever knows the right thing to do... and fails to do it, for him it is sin*". And so, we should be able to get a clear picture here concerning what both our Messiah and his brother James are trying to tell us. They're both trying to remind us that our treasures here on this earth... should not be as important as our treasures in his coming kingdom. This empire of dirt that we possess here on this earth is only momentarily. The home that we should be building for ourselves should be a home in his coming kingdom, and the treasures that we save here on this earth will all rust and be moth eaten and burned to ashes in the end... but the treasures that we save up in his coming kingdom will last forever.

And so, if we hoard all of our money, time, and resources here on this earth and we do not give to others in need... and we know that this is a sin... then because we know it... it is a sin for us. Our Messiah told us very clearly that whatever we do for the least of his brothers... we have

done for him... and this I believe is a quote from our Messiah that to many of us have long forgotten. So, let us remind ourselves of these things from time to time. Let us think... and meditate on these things on his holy, sanctified 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath... and let us not sit on our blessed assurance and do nothing... but rather let us be sure that our works are indeed completing our faith, just as James tells us in James 2:22.

And so, as we close chapter 4 of the book of James I hope and pray that you'll spend some time going back over these scriptures and once again as we always ask... please.... Take these things to your prayer closet... and test the things that you have heard here today through the fire of prayer.

Moving onto James chapter 5... lets read through James chapter 5 so that we can be sure to better understand the context of what James is trying to tell us in chapter 5:

**Jas 5:1** *Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you.*

*Jas 5:2 Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten.*

*Jas 5:3 Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days.*

*Jas 5:4 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.*

*Jas 5:5 You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.*

*Jas 5:6 You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.*

*Jas 5:7 Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.*

*Jas 5:8 You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.*

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

*Jas 5:10 As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.*

*Jas 5:11 Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.*

*Jas 5:12 But above all, my brothers, 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.*

*Jas 5:13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.*

*Jas 5:14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.*

*Jas 5:15 And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up.*

*And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.*

*Jas 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*

*Jas 5:17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.*

*Jas 5:18 Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.*

*Jas 5:19 My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back,*

*Jas 5:20 let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.*

Verses one through 6 of James chapter 5 have a lot to do with the rich man... but we must understand that James is not talking about a Godly rich man. James is talking about a very selfish, and deceitful rich man. One who does not pay his workers what he agreed to pay them, and a one who has taken more pride in his silver and gold here on earth than his treasures in the coming kingdom. This is a rich man who had murdered righteous people even though they do not resist him, and so it's important that we keep what James is talking about here in the proper context. We must remember that Abraham was rich, Job was rich, Isaac, Jacob, and David were all rich men found in our scripture... so it's not bad for our Father in heaven to bless you abundantly... it is however bad... when we hoard what we've been blessed with while we're watching others around us go without.

Many people misunderstand the scripture when they start proudly proclaiming that money is the root of all evil. This is not what the scripture says. The scripture says that it is the "Love" of money that is the root of all evil. We all know that it takes money to live. We must pay for our food and our housing, and our electricity, water, and trash removal. We all need cloths to wear, and shoes on our feet but our Father in Heaven knows these things. If we seek our Father in Heaven and his only begotten Son first... before we seek anything else... these things will be added to us... But if we seek money first and our Father and his Son afterward... then we have put the proverbial horse before the cart.

Our Father is not against our having the money we need to take care of ourselves... but if that's all we're using our money for... is to take care of ourselves... and we don't care for those who have less than we do... then we're not seeking our Father first... because it is our Father that commands us to take care of those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Each one of us should be looking for ways... and seeking out ways... that we can reach out and bless someone else who has less than we do. And this does not always mean monetarily with money and earthly possessions... but also with our time and our compassion, and our ability.

If your neighbor is too old to cut his grass... then cut it for him. If he has no car to get to the store then take him. If he can't reach up to clean his blinds then clean them for him. If he has lost his wife and is alone... then comfort him. To many of us use the excuse that we don't have anything left to give... but I would submit to you my friends... that we always have

something... to give. A kind word, or even a smile can go a long way in the life of someone who is deeply depressed, or lonely. And the truth of our Fathers word shines light on the path to everlasting life. But we... must put what we have to good work.

And so, let us not be like the rich man that James is talking about, who does not deal fairly with his employees and hordes and loves his money and his earthly treasures... but rather let us use our money and our resources the best that we can so that we can be a blessing to our brothers and sisters, and so that we can expand the coming kingdom with those we have led to him through our example of who he is.

And so, for today's study... I think we'll stop right here and we'll close out the book of James next Wednesday evening... right here at 7pm eastern standard time.