

Trials: The Response of Mature Tongue-Bridlers (The Epilogue: James 5:7-20)

Water of Life Dr. John Niemelä 13 Feb 2014

REVIEW

Welcome trials, **swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger**, proper response to trials

NEW EXPOSITION

5:7 We are to await patiently the Lord's *parousia* (starts at rapture) as (Mediterranean) farmers await harvest through the rains of late fall (early rains) and spring (late rains)

Parousia (NKJ: *coming*) literally = presence (*being beside*): *para* = *beside*; *ousia* = *being*
(Not to be confused with references to Christ's Second Coming, using different Greek words.
Unfortunately, English translations often render this term as *coming*, but cf. 2 Cor 10:10)

5:8 We are patiently (to await the Lord's presence) and to establish our hearts, because it is imminent

5:9 We should not grumble against one another, because the Judge is at the door (for the *Bēma*)

5:10 The Prophets are another example of patient suffering (who awaited His vindication)

5:11 Those who endure are blessed (by God), as with Job

5:12 We are not to volunteer for oaths, truthfulness suffices, because false oaths have consequences

Jesus' teaching on oaths: Matthew 5:33-37

Jesus' actions when put under an oath formula: Matthew 26:63ff.

5:13 [Rather than oaths] respond to trials with prayer; respond to cheerfulness by singing psalms

5:14 Those suffering illness may call for the elders to pray and to anoint with oil in the Lord's name

5:15 Prayer w/ faith (in due time) deliver believers from death; God forgives sins confessed (to Him)

Prayer in faith mean that the prayer is according to God's will

James does not speak of instantaneous healing (although apostles did heal instantaneously)

The anointing *may* be an act of kindness (the verb is *aleiphō*), not a religiously-freighted one

cf. Mark 6:17; 16:1; Luke 7:38, 46; John 11:2; 12:3: is even used of washing one's face

5:16a We should confess sins to those we offend

Such confession is on a *need to know* basis. Discernment is advisable here.

5:16b We should pray in intercession, because concerted prayer by righteous believers avails much

5:17f Elijah (despite having a nature like our own) prayed [righteously] and God answered (1 Kings 18)

5:19f [Prayers and personal ministry of righteous] we can deliver straying believers from death as well as covering a multitude of sins

Excursus: What about Hebrews 6:4? It is impossible (for whom? _____) to restore...

Why does Hebrews 6:4 speak of impossibility?

Believers who abandon church-fellowship are _____

CONCLUSION

Next week: Overview of Flow of OT