

Search the Scriptures Chapter Analysis Format

Passage/Chapter: James 1:12-18

| vs # | Observation - Examination (What do I see?) | Interpretation - Comprehension | | |
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| | | Definitions/Word Studies | Cross References (with correlation) | What does it mean? [What questions (& answers) come to mind?] |
| 1 2 | <p><i>Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.</i></p> <p>As believers in Christ, it is not a matter of dispute or consequence that we receive the crown of life. Our life is a life of persecution (in various forms, from various perspectives). Our hope and surety is knowing we will receive God's crown of life when we've persevered to the end. I see a connection between loving God and persevering for God.</p> | <p>(crown) stephanos, <i>stef'-an-os</i>; from an apparently primary stepho (to twine or wreath); a chaplet (as a badge of royalty, a prize in the public games or a symbol of honor general; but more conspicuous and elaborate than the simple fillet, Greek 1238 (diadema)), literal or figurative :- crown. 2 Tim 4:8 – Crown of righteousness 1 Peter 5.4 – Crown of glory Rev 2.10 – Crown of life</p> | <p><i>Philip. 4:1 Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!</i> <i>1 Thes. 2:19 For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?</i> Paul wrote that people walking in obedience as a result of his life and investment were his crown.</p> | <p>? What happens to the man that does not persevere under trial (seed in "rocky soil" – Matt 13)? Does he NOT receive the crown of life? Can a man lose his salvation? (<i>John 10:28-30 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. [29] My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. [30] I and the Father are one.</i>) ? What are implications of how we interpret this verse? ? Is it assumed that by Paul that all believers persevere in the same way that those who come to Christ do so being likewise committed to living under Christ's lordship?</p> <p>Meaning – A decision for Christ is more than just "fire insurance", accepting of the Gospel also must include a commitment to yield to God's sovereignty in our lives. By receiving the free gift of salvation, we are stepping back into the Garden of Eden and back under God's complete lordship and role as Lord of our lives.</p> |
| 1 3 | <p><i>When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;</i></p> <p>For God to be in the "tempting business" is for Him to be operating a house divided</p> | <p>(can God tempt?) No! <i>Luke 11:17-20 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall. [18] If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebul. [19] Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your followers drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. [20] But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you.</i></p> | <p><i>Psalms 1:6 For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.</i> Nothing happens to us that God does not observe. Assuming He is omnipotent, He retains His full sovereignty over our lives.</p> | <p>? To what degree can God be held us responsible for tempting us since nothing happens to us that does not pass through His fingertips?</p> <p>Meaning – God allows tempting in our lives for our development. God maintains a long-term perspective, whereas we focus on the here and now. God understands that dealing with temptation takes us to a greater level in our faith journey and pursuit of His righteousness. (<i>Job 23:10 But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold.</i>)</p> |
| 1 4 | <p><i>but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.</i></p> <p>Combating our own mind (the source of our evil desires) requires transformation of our mind.</p> | <p>anakainosis, <i>an-ak-ah'ee-no-sis</i>; from Greek 341 (anakainoo); renovation :- renewing. Renovating (Titus 3:5 He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit) It requires a make over – out with the old, in with the new.</p> | <p><i>Romans 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.</i> <i>Romans 7:21-23 So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. [22] For in my inner being I delight in God's law; [23] but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.</i></p> | <p>? How can hold us in account for our own desires when they are part of us? Ans: We are to deliberately offer ourselves up to God (Rom 6.11-14)</p> <p>Meaning – We are engaged in warfare of the mind and soul. We are slaves to sin originally, and it reigns in our lives. The battle is to defeat to influence of sin in our lives, allow slavery to righteousness to dominate us. It requires constant vigilance and obedience. It is this constant pressure that makes the man a disciple of Christ.</p> |

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| 1 5 | <p><i>Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.</i></p> <p>The path of sin is a very slippery slope. Once we start down on the “slope,” momentum builds making it more difficult to stop.</p> | <p>(desire or lust) epithumia, <i>ep-ee-thoo-mee'-ah</i>; from Greek 1937 (epithumeo); a <i>longing</i> (especially for what is forbidden) :- concupiscence, desire, lust (after).</p> <p>(conceive) sullambano, <i>sool-lam-ban'-o</i>; from Greek 4862 (sun) and Greek 2983 (lambano); to <i>clasp</i>, i.e. <i>seize</i> (arrest, capture); specially to <i>conceive</i> (literal or figurative); by implication to <i>aid</i> :- catch, conceive, help, take.</p> | <p><i>Proverbs 7:7-9 I saw among the simple, I noticed among the young men, a youth who lacked judgment. [8] He was going down the street near her corner, walking along in the direction of her house [9] at twilight, as the day was fading, as the dark of night set in.</i></p> <p>A fool chose the path that took him in the vic. Of the harlot’s house. It was dark, and he was alone – folly!</p> | <p>Meaning – This verse speaks to the momentum of sin in our lives. While it is obvious that momentum is best stopped as it slowly builds rather than once it has built up, we seem to think illogically when it comes to “fondling” sin and temptation. We must identify the “line” and the “path” to sin, and then steer ourselves as far from this line or path as possible. If this requires radical actions on our part, then so be it.</p> |
| 1 6 | <p><i>Don't be deceived, my dear brothers.</i></p> <p>We deceive ourselves as to how strong we think we are. Wisdom is to stay as far away from the “line” as possible.</p> | <p>(deceived) planao, <i>plan-ah'-o</i>; from Greek 4106 (plane); to (properly <i>cause</i> to) <i>roam</i> (from safety, truth, or virtue) :- go astray, deceive, err, seduce, wander, be out of the way.</p> | <p><i>Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.</i></p> <p>Play with fire and get burned</p> <p><i>Philip. 2:12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.</i></p> <p>A healthy set of fear and trembling should help us stay away from the “edge”</p> | <p>Meaning – We are our worst enemy believing that we can retain control of situations or thoughts in our mind or our response to images/temptations we come across. We must assume a healthy paranoia of ourselves and induce measures of control and accountability in our lives to fight against ourselves. Additionally, applying Rom 12.2, we must be constantly injecting God’s Word into our mind to give ammunition to the Holy Spirit to assist us in waging the battle for the mind.</p> |
| 1 7 | <p><i>Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.</i></p> <p>God is neither fickle nor variable. He remains committed to us. He provides us all we need to righteousness.</p> | <p>(change or variableness) parallage, <i>par-al-lag-ay'</i>; from a compound of Greek 3844 (para) and Greek 236 (allasso); <i>transmutation</i> (of phase or orbit), i.e. (figurative) fickleness :- variableness.</p> <p><i>1 Cor. 10:13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.</i></p> | <p><i>James 3:17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.</i></p> <p>God provides from the Throne (of Grace) His wisdom that is pure a capable to show us how to avoid sin. (see verses Is 30.21 and 1 Cor 10.13)</p> <p><i>Isaiah 30:21 Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."</i></p> | <p>? Is “gift” here referring to God’s wisdom that helps us avoid sin? If so, then what happened to Solomon and what can we learn from this?</p> <p>Meaning – Having the knowledge about the dangers of sin OR the tactics of the tempter OR wisdom to avoid sin OR whatever does not make us avoid sin and its destructiveness, and pursue God’s better plan and righteousness. Obedience and perseverance makes us do this. It is a decision of the mind/will to yield to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and walk in obedience.</p> |
| 1 8 | <p><i>He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.</i></p> <p>As God’s firstfruits, we enjoy both special privilege and responsibility: Privilege – access to God’s power to live right Responsibility – to pursue righteousness and to represent Him</p> | <p>aparche, <i>ap-ar-khay'</i>; from a compound of Greek 575 (apo) and Greek 756 (archomai); a <i>beginning</i> of sacrifice, i.e. the (Jewish) <i>first-fruit</i> (figurative) :- first-fruits.</p> | <p><i>Jeremiah 2:3 Israel was holy to the Lord, the firstfruits of his harvest; all who devoured her were held guilty, and disaster overtook them, ' "</i></p> <p>As Israel (physical) was the firstfruits to God, so we are the firstfruits (spiritually) to God</p> | <p>Meaning – Our birth began with God overcoming the darkness with the light of His truth. Truth always overcomes darkness. We must now continue to walk by exposing our lives and the tactics of Satan to the light of God’s truth. This truth is the basis of our obedience. Our access to this truth is a special privilege that we receive as God’s firstfruits. We are stewards of this special privilege, and we must take advantage of it and not squander it.</p> |

PASSAGE OVERALL COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS

Passage Title: A complete decision for Christ (lordship and salvation)

Theme(s): Obedience, momentum, warfare

Key Verse (Why): *James 1:12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.*
Why? — We must choose to persevere; this is our development process towards righteousness.

Application - Internalization: Scripture memory. A refocus and reemphasis on it. Begin with reviewing previously learned verses a week, and have a goal of learning at least 2 new verses each week.