JACOB
(JAMES)

CHAPTER 1

1. **Jacob** (or: James) **a slave belonging to God and to [the] Lord, Jesus Christ** (or: a slave pertaining to God, even in fact, really, to [the] Lord and Owner [or, perhaps: = Yahweh], Jesus Christ), **to the twelve tribes** (or: sprouts and branches which sprang forth) **who are to be constantly rejoicing within the scattering** (or: which are within the midst of the dispersion [= the planting], "To constant joy and gladness!").

2. **My brothers** (= fellow Israelites, or, fellow believers; = My family), **lead every rejoicing** (or: lead the path of all joy) **whenever you may fall into – so as to be encompassed by – various trials** (or: multi-faceted ordeals; [a tapestry of] tests and provings; or: experiments and attempts of varying hues),
3. **habitually knowing by intimate experience and insight that the thing by means of which your faith, trust and confidence is proved** (tested and accepted) **is continually producing** (or: is progressively working down-in the results of) **persistent patient endurance** (a steadfast remaining and dwelling under some ordeal or situation; or: a holding up under sustained attacks; or: a relentless giving of sustaining support).
4. **But patient endurance** (remaining under and/or sustained support) **must habitually be having a work brought to completion** (a complete action; a perfect work; a mature production which reaches its goal) **to the intent that you may be** (or: can exist as) **perfect ones** (complete, matured and finished folks who have attained the goal), **even ones having an entire allotment** (or: whole folks having every part), **being left behind in nothing** (or: lacking not one thing).

5. **So, if any one of you is continually left behind** (or: lacking) **in regard to wisdom, he must keep on asking** (requesting) **from the side** (= immediate presence) **of the God [Who is] continuously giving to everyone singly** (one at a time; or: simply; or: = generously) **and is not constantly reproaching or demeaning, and it will be given to him.**
6. **Yet he must keep on asking in faith and conviction** (or: continue making [his] request in union with trust), **making not one hesitation from habitually distinguishing and constantly evaluating differences** (undecidedly separating throughout; discerning between uncertain points; judging dividedly to produce doubt) **within himself, for the person repeatedly making undecided distinctions** (making a separation and judging dividedly unto doubt) **within himself is like a surge of the sea, being constantly raised and tossed by the wind.**
7. **For that man must not habitually suppose** (or: normally assume) **that he will receive** (or: take in hand; seize; get) **anything from beside** (= from being in the presence of) **the Lord** [= Yahweh, or, Christ].

8. **A two-souled** (or: = divided-willed; or: = emotionally split) **adult male [is] unstable** (unfixed; inconstant; turbulent) **in all his ways.**

9. **Now let the low** (humble; not rising far from the ground) **brother** (or: fellow member/believer) **continually boast** (or: be habitually loud-mouthed) **in his height** (or: exaltation),
10. **but the rich, in his lowness** (or: humiliation; depression), **because he will pass by as a flower of grass** (or: = a wildflower).
11. **For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the grass, and its flower falls off, and the beauty of its face** (= loveliness of its appearance) **loses itself** (finds destruction in itself). **Thus also, the rich one will be extinguished** (faded; withered) **in his goings** (journeys; business; ventures; way of life).

12. **Happy and blessed is the adult male** [A and other MSS: person] **who is continuously remaining under a proving** (a putting to the proof; or: a trial; an ordeal), **because upon being birthed approved** (or: growing and becoming proved and accepted) **he will lay hold of the circle of the life** (or: life's crown; life's encirclement; or: the wreath which is the Life) **which He** [some MSS: the Lord (= Yahweh or Christ)] **Himself promised to those continuously loving Him.**

13. **Let no one, while being continuously put to the proof, be saying "I am constantly being put to the proof** (tested; tried) **in an ordeal from God," for God is One Who is not put to the proof pertaining to things of bad quality** (or: you see, God exists un-testable in worthless situations or among evil or mean things), **and He Himself is normally putting no one to the proof.**
14. **Yet each person is repeatedly put to the proof** (tested and tried in an ordeal), **being continuously dragged** (or: drawn) **out and entrapped under his own over-covering passion** (by his own longing, craving or lust; by what he sets his desires upon).
15. **Thereafter, with the over-covering passion conceiving** (seizing together so as to become pregnant), **it continuously gives birth to failure** (or: repeatedly brings forth an offspring of missing the target; progressively bears sin). **Now the failure** (error; sin; missing of the target), **being brought to full term** (being finished off; being fully formed with all its parts; being brought to its goal) **continues producing** (keeps generating; from pregnancy progressively bears forth) **death.**

16. **Do not be repeatedly caused to wander** (or: Be not continuously deceived), **my beloved brothers** (= family members; = fellow believers)**!**
17. **Every good legacy and all virtuous giving** (or: All giving [is] beneficial), **and every perfect** (finished; complete; mature) **gift is from above, descending from the Father of the lights, beside Whom there is no otherness at [His] side** (or: in the presence of Whom is no parallel otherness; [other MSS: along with Whom {is} not one interchange, variation, shifting or mutation]), **nor a**

shadow cast by turning [other MSS: an effect caused by the passing of shadows].
18. **Being purposed** (intended; willed), **from pregnancy He brought us forth by a Word** (collected thought; message) **of Truth and Reality – [placed] into us – to be** (or: to continuously exist being) **a specific firstfruit of His created beings** (or: of the effects of His act of creating; or: of the results of the creation which is Himself).

19. **You folks have seen and are aware** (understand; perceive; know), **my beloved brothers. Yet every man must continuously be quick** (swift) **into the [position or place] to hear, slow into the [readiness] to make vocal utterance,** [and] **slow into intrinsic fervor** (internal swelling of passion; teeming desire; or: agitation; anger; or: a particular mental bent).
20. **For you see, an adult male's intrinsic fervor** (or: mental bent; temperament; disposition; or: swelling desire and passionate longing; or: anger and indignation) **is not working out** (producing; bring into effect) **God's fair and equitable dealing** (rightwised situation which accords to the Way pointed out, in right relationship; the quality of the thing which is right and just).
21. **For this reason, putting away from yourselves all filthiness and encompassing superabundance of bad quality** (ugliness; baseness; malice; evil; qualities that ought not to be), **you folks must receive** (take with your hands) **in gentleness** (meekness) **the implanted** (ingenerated) **Word** (collected thought; idea; message), **the One being continuously able** (or: the one which is constantly powerful) **to deliver** (rescue; keep safe; heal and make whole) **your souls** (your inner self and being).

22. **Now you must continuously come to be** (or: be progressively birthed) **performers of [the] Word** (or: makers of collected thought; framers of an idea; authors of a message; producers of reason; [the] Word's doers), **and not only hearing ones** (listeners; those in an auditorium), **continuously deceiving** (reckoning aside; miscalculating) **yourselves.**
23. **Because if someone is a hearer of [the] Word** (a listener to a thought, idea or message) **and not a doer** (performer; producer), **this one is like** (resembles) **an adult male contemplating** (considering; attentively pondering) **in a mirror the face of his birth** (genesis; origin; existence; generation; lineage; or: = the face with which he was born)**:**
24. **for he contemplated himself and has departed, and immediately forgot of what sort** (quality; manner) **he was.**

25. **But the one stooping down beside in order to attentively view into** (giving a penetrating look into) **the perfect** (finished; matured; completed; full-grown) **law – the one which is freedom** (or: the one whose source is, and which has the qualities of, freedom and liberty) **– and then remaining** (abiding; dwelling) **beside [it] – not being birthed** (or: coming to be) **a hearer of forgetfulness** (or: a forgetful listener), **but rather a performer of work** (a

producer of action) **– this person will be happy and blessed within his performing and in union with his producing.**

26. **Now if someone habitually supposes [himself]** (or: thinks [himself]; presumes; or: constantly appears or seems) **to be religious** (occupied with rituals and ceremonies), **while not habitually guiding his tongue with a bridle, but rather is repeatedly deceiving his heart, the religion** (ritual; observance of a religious system) **of this person is useless** (futile; empty).
27. **Pure** (clean) **and unstained** (undefiled) **religion**, **by the side of** (= in the presence of) **God, even the Father, is this: to habitually visit so as to continuously look upon with the eyes in order to help** (or: oversee) **orphans and widows within the midst of their pressure** (squeezing; distress; ordeal; tribulation); **to habitually keep oneself unspotted from the controlling ordered System** (the world of culture, religion, economy and government).

CHAPTER 2

1. **My brothers** (= fellow believers, or, fellow Israelites, or, Family), **stop, or do not have the habit of, holding the faith of Jesus Christ, our Lord** (Master; Owner), **Who is the glory** (the manifestation Who calls forth praise), **in respect of persons** (or: do not persist in holding our Lord's [= Yahweh's or Christ's] trust in partiality or favoritism, or in the receiving of faces or personalities, thus affecting the reputation of Jesus Christ).
2. **For if a gold-ringed adult male, in a shining or radiant robe, may enter into your gathering** (or: synagogue), **but then a poor person** (one reduced to beggary; an indigent) **in a dirty or filthy robe** (or: shabby clothing) **may also enter,**
3. **and you should look upon** (or: gaze upon and regard) **the one wearing the shining robe** (= expensive, new clothes), **and you may say, "You sit here in a fine and beautiful [manner or position]** (= in a place of honor),**" and to the poor one you may say, "You stand there," or, "You sit under my footstool** (= on the floor near my feet; = a place beneath my position),**"**
4. **are you not thoroughly separated and disconnected within yourselves** (or: discriminating and making a distinction among yourselves) **and have birthed yourselves to become** (or: caused yourselves to be) **judges having the qualities of evil reasonings** (or: decision makers whose motives are wicked designs and harmful logistics)**?**

5. **Listen and hear, my beloved brothers! Did not God at one point choose** (call and speak out; pick out; select) **for Himself the poor folks in the System** (or: Himself lay out and collect the beggars and those who slink and cower with wretchedness in the world of society, culture, religion and government) **– rich folks in faith, trust, loyalty and conviction, and also heirs** (those who possess by distribution of an allotment) **of the reign and kingdom which He promised to and assured for those continually loving Him?**

6. **But you folks dishonor and devalue the poor. Are not the rich people continuously exploiting you people, repeatedly exercising [their] power and abilities against you? Are they not continually dragging you into courts of law for judicial hearings?**
7. **Are they not constantly defaming** (slandering; speaking abusively of) **the beautiful** (fine; excellent; honorable; ideal) **Name – the one being called upon** (= put upon), **and conferred on, you folks?**

8. **Since, however** (or: If, really), **you are continuously bringing to its goal** (finishing; bringing to fruition; perfecting; ending; bringing to a close; fulfilling) **the royal law** (or: kingly custom; sovereign distribution; rule fit to guide a king), **you are performing beautifully** (doing ideally; producing excellently), **down from and in accord with the Scripture, "You will love your neighbor** (the one near you; your associate) **as yourself."** [Lev. 19:18]
9. **Yet if you habitually show favoritism** (accept faces; behave with partiality), **you are continuously working error** (a miss of the target; a failure; sin) **being ones by proof of guilt repeatedly convicted as transgressors** (folks stepping aside or across [the line]), **under the Law** (or: exposed as deviators by the custom).
10. **For you see, whoever perhaps kept** (or: may have guarded and observed) **the whole Law, yet possibly at some point stumbled in one thing, had become held** (or: caught) **within all [its aspects]** (or: = is liable for and susceptible to everything).
11. **You see, the One saying, "You should** (or: may) **not commit adultery," also said, "You should** (or: may) **not murder."** [Ex. 20:13] **Now if you are not committing adultery, yet you are now being a murderer, you have come to be** (you have been birthed) **a transgressor of** (a deviator from; [*p*74 and A read: one who stands away from]) **law** (or: custom).

12. **Thus keep on speaking and thus keep on doing** (performing)**: as those being continuously about to be separated and decided about** (judged; made a distinction between; scrutinized) **through means of a law** (or: custom; [*p*74: word; message]) **of freedom and liberty.**
13. **For you see, the separating and deciding** (or: scrutinizing and judging) **is merciless to the one not performing mercy. Mercy is consistently speaking loudly and boasting down against separating** (making decisions; scrutinizing; judging)**!**

14. **What is the advantage** (the furtherance; the increase), **my brothers** (= fellow believers; = family) **if a certain person may keep on claiming to continuously have faith** (or: may be now saying [that he is] habitually having trust, loyalty and conviction), **yet he may not normally have works** (or: keep on possessing actions and deeds)**? Is the faith** (trust; loyalty; conviction) **not continuing able** (constantly having power) **to deliver** (rescue; save; make whole and heal; restore) **him?**

15. **But if a brother or a sister may continuously subsist** (or: should begin now in a position under [circumstances]) **as naked ones** (= without sufficient clothing), **and may constantly be deserted** (or: wanting) **of daily food,**
16. **yet a certain person out from among you folks may be saying to them, "Be now humbly departing in peace** (or: Continue leading [your life] under [these circumstances] in union with harmony), **be continuously warming yourselves and be habitually fed and fully satisfy yourselves," but you would not give to them the body's necessities – what is the advantage or resulting benefit?**
17. **Thus also [is] the faith** (the trust, conviction and loyalty)**: if it should not continue to have works** (include actions; possess deeds; have employment), **by itself it exists being dead** (or: is lifeless) **in correspondence to** (or: down from) **its own nature.**

18. **Yet someone will say, "You continuously have** (hold) **faith, and I continuously have** (or: possess) **works** (actions). **You at once show me** (exhibit to my eyes) **your faith apart from the works or actions, and I, forth from out the midst of my actions and works, will show** (exhibit to) **you my faith, trust, conviction and loyalty."**

19. **You continuously believe** (or: trust; are convinced) **that God is One** (or: that God exists being One; that One exists being God; or: that there is one God). [Deut. 6:4] **You are performing** (doing) **beautifully** (excellently; ideally) **– even the demons** (Hellenistic concept and term: = animistic influences) **continuously believe** (or: presently trust; are constantly loyal; are normally convinced [about this]), **and constantly shudder** (bristle; shiver; are ruffled).

> [comment: in this last phrase Jacob is either making an ontological statement about "demons," or he is using sarcasm, referring in a derogatory manner to the Jews who also believe this; Jesus used the term *diablos* (devil; one who thrusts-through folks) to refer to Judas in John 6:70; He used the term *satan* when speaking to Peter in Mk. 8:33; this phrase could also refer to the superstitious mindsets of folks who have believed Jewish or pagan myths, or have accepted animistic influences into their thinking]

20. **But are you willing to experientially and intimately know and receive insight, O empty person, that the faith, trust and loyalty, apart from the works and actions, exists being inactive** (continues unproductive; [*p*74 reads: empty; without contents; other MSS: is dead])**?**

21. **Our father Abraham was not placed within the Way pointed out** (made fair and equitable; put in right relationship; rightwised; made a just one) **from out of works, when offering up his son Isaac upon the altar!**
22. **Are you normally seeing that the faith, trust and loyalty continued to work together with his actions and works, and forth from out of the actions** (or: works), **faith** (trust, loyalty and conviction) **was brought to its goal** (was perfected; was matured; was finished)**?**

23. **And thus the Scripture was made full, the one saying, "Now Abraham believed** (or: put trust and confidence) **in God** (or: became persuaded by God; adhered to God), **and he was counted into the Way pointed out by Him** (or: he was considered rightwised by Him; he was reckoned fair, equitable and just in Him; alternately: and it was counted to him into {or: for} righteousness),**"** [Ex. 15:6] **and he was called "God's friend."** [Isa. 41:8]

24. **Are you folks normally observing** (or: perceiving) **that humanity** (or: a person) **is normally being rightwised** (from time to time being placed in right relationship in the Way pointed out; progressively made fair and equitable; normally justified) **forth from out of the midst of actions and works, and not only from out of faith and trust?**
25. **Now in this same vein, even Rahab the prostitute, taking under [her roof] and welcoming the agents** (messengers), **and then later exiting them by a different way, was not rightwised** (placed in right relationship in the Way pointed out; made fair and equitable; justified; or: shown to be righteous) **forth from out of works.**
26. **You see, just as the body apart from a breath-effect** (or: spirit) **is lifeless** (dead), **thus also the faith and trust apart from actions and works** [i.e., the living it out] **is** (exists being) **lifeless** (dead).

CHAPTER 3

1. **My brothers** (= fellow members), **do not continue to become many teachers** (or: stop becoming a bunch of teachers), **knowing that we shall receive [a] greater effect from the decision** (or: will take more intense scrutiny; will get a stronger result of the separation; will receive heavier judgment),
2. **for we all are stumbling** (= making mistakes) **many times [and] are causing many to stumble. If anyone is not continually stumbling in word** (or: collected thought; reason; or: = what he says), **this one is a mature** (perfect; finished; complete) **male adult** (or: husband), **able** (having power) **also to guide the whole body with a bridle.**

3. **Now if we are thrusting the bridle bits into the horses' mouths to make them continually yield themselves to us, we also continually lead together** (or: change the course of and direct) **their whole body.**
4. **Consider also the ships, being of so great size, and being constantly driven under rough and hard winds. They are continually steered under** (or: by) **the smallest rudder, wherever the impulse of the helmsman** (the one presently guiding straight and right) **continues determining and intending.**

5. **Thus also, the tongue is a little member of the body, and yet is continuously making a great boast** [other MSS: constantly brags about great things] **– consider how great a forest a little fire progressively sets ablaze** (or: lights up)**!**

6. **Well the tongue [is] a fire; [its fuel is] the System of injustice** (or: the ordered and decorated but dominating world of culture, religion, politics and government which is unjust; or: The tongue, also, [is] fire: the world of disregard for what is right).
The tongue is placed down within our members, continuously spotting (staining; = defiling) **the whole body, and repeatedly setting on fire the wheel of birth** (= the cycle of the origin [of life], or of generation; the wheel of genesis), **as well as being continuously set on fire by** (or: under) **the garbage dump** (the depository of refuse; Greek: Gehenna).

7. **For every nature, both of wild animals and of flying creatures, both of creeping animals and of those in the salt sea, is continuously being restrained** (tamed) **and has been restrained by the nature of man** (the human nature).
8. **But the tongue – an unruly** (un-restrainable; other MSS: unfixed; unstable; restless), **worthless** (ugly; bad; malicious; unrefined; harmful; base) **[member], full of death-bearing venom – no one of humanity is able** (continues having power) **to subdue, restrain or tame.**
9. **With it we continuously speak well of** (or: speak a good word about; bless) **the Lord** [other MSS: God] **and Father, and with it we constantly curse** (pray down upon) **those men having been born "according to** (down from and corresponding to) **God's likeness."** [Gen. 1:26-27]
10. **Out of the same mouth is continuously coming forth blessing and cursing. My brothers, there is no need** (or: it is not necessary) **for these things thus to be repeatedly birthed** (or: to keep on happening in this way).
11. **A spring** (or: fountain) **is not continuously bursting forth the sweet and the bitter** (or: cutting and pricking; [*p*74: salty]) **out of the same hole** (or: opening).
12. **My brothers, a fig tree is not able to produce olives, nor a grape-vine figs, neither brine to produce sweet water.**

13. **Who [is] wise and understanding** (adept) **among you? Let him at once exhibit** (show; present to the sight) **his works and actions out of beautiful behavior** (fine, ideal, excellent and appropriate conduct) **in gentleness** (or: meekness) **of wisdom.**
14. **Yet if you folks continuously have bitter rivalry** (jealousy) **and selfish ambition** (faction) **in your heart, do not habitually boast** (exult) **and lie** (speak falsely or deceitfully) **concerning the truth or reality** (or: are you not now vaunting against and falsifying the truth?).
15. **This is not the wisdom continuously coming down from above, but rather [is] upon the earth** (or: earthly; terrestrial), **pertaining to or proceeding from the soul** (soulful; having the mind, will and emotions as its source; = natural), **pertaining to, or proceeding from, or having the characteristics of demons** [Hellenistic term and concept; = influences thought of in that period and culture as being animistic or personified].

[comment: note that the three adjectives "earthly," "natural/soulish," and "demonic" are tied together to this same context, as being of the same sphere of being – or, fruit of the same tree]

16. **For where [there is] jealousy** (rivalry) **and selfish ambition** (faction; intrigue), **in that place [is] instability** (disorder; an unsettled state) **and every ignoble** (base; vile; worthless) **practice.**

17. **But the wisdom from above is** (constantly exists being) **indeed first** (or: primarily) **pure, thereafter peaceable** (pertaining to peace and harmony), **suitable** (fair; reasonable; yielding; unassertive), **compliant** (easily persuaded; receptive), **full of mercy** (= practical help) **and good fruits, non-separating** (not discriminatory; unwavering; non-contending), **unpretending.**

18. **Now the fruit of fair and equitable dealing** (justice and right relationship in accord with the Way pointed out; rightwisedness) **is continuously being sown in peace and harmony by and for those habitually performing** (making; doing; producing) **peace and harmony.**

[comment: fruit of the Spirit, or, from the Tree of Life]

CHAPTER 4

1. **From what situation** (place; source) **[arise] battles** (or: wars; situations of combat) **and fights** (quarrels; strife; controversies) **among you? Are they not from this source** (or: place)**: from out of your sensual pleasures** (enjoyments and gratifications) **[which are] themselves continually performing as soldiers within your members?**

2. **You folks are continuously strongly desiring to possess, and yet continuously you do not have; you continue murdering and are repeatedly jealous** (boil with rivalry), **and so you are perpetually unable to hit the mark** (to attain or master [something]). **You are habitually quarreling and fighting.**

(or: You people constantly have full longing, desire and lust – and still you are not presently holding or possessing – and so you repeatedly murder. You are progressively envious, boiling with rivalry, and yet continue having no power to obtain [your goal], so you are constantly striving and having controversies – even doing combat and waging wars!)

You continue not having [your desires] because you yourself do not continue asking (or: you are not normally asking for yourselves).

3. **You continue asking** (requesting), **and yet are not receiving because you are asking inappropriately** (worthlessly requesting; or: = asking for a wrong purpose) **to the intent that you may spend** (= waste) **it in** (or: on) **your pleasures.**

4. **Adulterers and adulteresses** (= Folks unfaithful to Christ or God as your husband)**! Have you not seen, and are you not aware, that the System's friendship** (the affection whose source is this world of religion, culture, economy and government) **is a source of enmity with God** (or: hostility and hatred with regard to God; [Aleph reads: exists being alienation to God])**? Whoever, then, may have been made to want** (to intend; to purpose) **to be the System's** (or:

world's) **friend is continuing to be established** (habitually set down; progressively rendered or constituted) **[as] God's alienated and hostile person.**
5. **Or are you supposing that the Scripture is speaking void of effect** (emptily; vainly)**? The breath-effect** (or: spirit) **which housed-down in us normally sets its desire** (longing; affection; yearning) **upon [something], [with a view] toward ill-will, malice, envy and jealousy!**

(or: The Spirit – which He causes to dwell in union with us – is constantly longing and progressively yearning [for us]: to the point of jealousy.
or: Is the spirit and attitude which lives within us periodically longing toward envy?)

6. **Yet He is constantly and progressively giving greater** (= more abundant; more intense; larger; more frequent) **grace and favor, therefore it is saying**

"God continuously sets Himself in opposition to, and aligns Himself against, those that show themselves above (the proud; the assuming), **but He habitually gives grace and favor to the low ones** (the unassuming ones; the humble ones; those of low rank)**."** [Prov. 3:34]

7. **Consequently, you must be subjected by** (or: be at once placed and arranged under in; be humbly aligned with and to) **God. So stand in opposition to the [or: your] adversary** (or: take a stand [as in battle] against the one trying to thrust you through [with a weapon]), **and he will flee** (take flight) **away from you!**

8. **Draw near in God** (or: Approach by God; Be close at hand for God; Be or stay near to God), **and He will draw near in you** (or: be or stay near to you; be close at hand for you)**!**
You failing folks (ones missing the target; sinners), **cleanse [your] hands** (= your actions)**! You two-souled folks** (or: double-minded ones; people with split affections and loyalties), **purify** (make of one substance) **[your] hearts!**
9. **You must endure labor and hardships, and be miserable and wretched; you must mourn, and you must cry. Your laughter must be converted into mourning, and joy into dejection with [your] eyes cast down.**
10. **You must be made low** (humbled; demoted) **in the Lord's sight** (= in [Yahweh's, or Christ's] presence), **and then He will lift you up** (elevate you).

11. **Brothers** (= believers in God’s household) **do not be continuously** (or: stop constantly) **speaking down** (or: gossiping or babbling; wearing someone down by talking; talking a person down) **against one another. The one habitually speaking down against a brother** (= a fellow believer, or, a fellow Israelite; or: = a member of God’s household), **and continuously judging** (separating and making decisions about) **his brother, is continuously speaking down against law, and thus keeps on judging** (making separations and then decisions about) **law. Now if you continue judging law, you are not being a performer** (a doer) **of law, but rather, a judge** (one who makes separations and decisions).
12. **There is one Lawgiver and Separator** (Decider; Judge)**: the One being continuously able and powerful to deliver** (rescue; heal; save; restore to

wholeness), **as well as to cause loss** (or: bring a condition of utter ruin; or: cause [something or someone] to be lost; or: destroy). **So you, who are you, the one continuously judging the one near you** (the neighbor; the associate)**?**

13. **Come now, those continuously saying, "Today or tomorrow we will travel into this or that city and produce** (make; perform; do [something]) **one year there, and then we can trade** (or: conduct business) **and make a profit,"**
14. **– namely, those who are not in the habit of putting their attention upon the thing of tomorrow** (or: who are not normally versed in or acquainted with the morrow; or: are not now standing upon tomorrow). **Of what sort [is] your life? You see, you folks are** (or: exist being) **a vapor** (a mist), **progressively** (or: repeatedly) **appearing for a little while** (toward a little space), **and thereupon continually** (or: repeatedly) **being made to disappear –**
15. **Instead of that, you should be saying, "If the Lord** [= Yahweh, or, Christ] **should will** (or: intend), **we also will live and will do** (or: produce) **this or that."**
16. **Yet now you continue speaking loudly** (boasting; gloating) **in your empty, bragging speech and displays. All such boasting is bad** (harmful; painfully laborious; miserable).
17. **So for one** (or: in a man; to a person) **having seen and thus knowing to be continually performing [the] beautiful** (doing [the] ideal; making [the] good; producing [the] excellent), **and then not habitually performing** (doing) **[it], in him it is a failure** (for him it is error; to him it is sin; by him it is a missing of the target and a deviation from the goal).

CHAPTER 5

1. **Continue leading on now, you wealthy folks, burst into tears while continuously uttering cries of distress upon your repeatedly recurring hardships** (difficulties and wretchedness which must be endured).
2. **Your riches have rotted; your garments have come to be moth-eaten.**
3. **Your gold and silver have been corrupted with poison** (or: corroded and covered with oxidation**), and their venom** (or: corrosion) **will be unto you a witness** (or: evidence) **and will eat your flesh** (= the enslaved and alienated self; = the human nature that has been molded by and conformed to the System) **as fire. You folks pile up a treasure hoard in the midst of last days!**
4. **Consider and look to the worker's wage – that having been withheld by you which belongs to those mowing your farms – which constantly utters** (or: shouts) **a cry, and now the outcries and shouts of those gathering in the harvest have entered into the ears of the Lord** [= Yahweh] **of hosts** (armies)**!**

5. **You folks live a soft life in delicate luxury** (or: You self-indulge) **and take excessive comfort and live in wanton pleasure upon the land. You nourish your hearts in the midst of** (or: = fatten yourselves up for) **a day of slaughter!**
6. **You oppose fairness, equity and justice, while you degrade the way pointed out; you murder the fair and equitable person** (the just one; the one in accord with the way pointed out; the righteous; or: the innocent); **he is not**

normally setting himself opposed to you (or: is He not now aligning Himself against you, and resisting you folks?).

7. **Be patient** (long-tempered; long-passioned; slow to rush; or: Have long-term feelings and emotions), **then, brothers, during the continuance of the Lord's** [= Yahweh's, or, Christ's] **presence and His being alongside. Consider! The worker of the land repeatedly receives** (takes into his hands) **the precious fruit of the land, being patient** (slow to rush and with long-term feelings) **upon it during the continuance where it can receive "an early as well as a latter** (or: late) **rain."** [Deut. 11:14]
8. **You, too, be patient** (be slow to rush while maintaining long-term feelings); **establish** (place supports and make stable; firmly set) **your hearts, because the Lord's** [= Yahweh's or Christ's] **presence has drawn near** (has approached and now exists close to us).

9. **Brothers, do not be groaning** (or: sighing) **down against** (or: in relation to) **one another, so that you may not be separated and have a decision made** (or: be put asunder, scrutinized and judged). **Consider! The Decider** (the Separator and Judge) **has taken a stand, and now continues standing before the doors.**

10. **Brothers, take the prophets who spoke within [the authority of], and in union with, the Name of the Lord** [= Yahweh] **as an example to be copied: of experiencing worthless responses and bad conditions while suffering from harmful treatment and evil – as well as of patience** (long-suffering; slow-rushing; long-term feelings).
11. **Consider! We are calling happy and blessed those remaining under** (or: patiently and humbly enduring; or: steadfast and supporting). **You heard [about] the persistent remaining under** (steadfast, patient and humble endurance) **of Job, and you saw the Lord's** [= Yahweh's] **goal** (the end attained by the Lord; the Lord's completion), **because "the Lord** [= Yahweh] **is great of tender affections** (literally: great of internal organs; full of guts) **and is empathetically compassionate."** [Ex. 34:6]

12. **Now before all things** (= above all; but especially; or: before all mankind), **my brothers, do not be in the habit of promising by swearing [to, or, by] either the heaven** (or: atmosphere; sky), **nor the earth** (or: land), **nor any other oath. But let your affirmation continually be, "Yes," and the negative, "No," to the intent that you may not fall under a process of judging** (or: fall by an act of separating for a decision, or by scrutinizing, or by discriminating).

13. **Is anyone among you folks continually experiencing bad things** (misfortune; ugly situations; evil)**? Let him be habitually thinking with a view to ease and well-being and repeatedly speak toward goodness** (or: pray). **Is someone normally cheerful and in good spirits? Let him play a stringed or percussion instrument and make music or sing psalms.**

14. **Is anyone among you habitually experiencing weakness or normally infirm? Let him at once call to himself the older folks of the called-out community, and then let them speak well-being** (or: pray goodness) **upon him, anointing** (or: massaging) **him with olive oil in union with and in [the authority of] the Lord's** [= Yahweh's, or, Christ's] **Name,**
15. **and then faith's impartation of well-being** (or: the prayer which comes from trust; the desire of conviction) **will deliver** (restore to health; rescue; save) **the one being continuously labored to weariness and exhaustion, and the Lord** [= Christ, or, Yahweh,] **will cause him to rise, and if it may be he has been making mistakes** (performing amiss; doing acts which miss the goal) **it will be forgiven to him** (sent forth for him; let go off in him).

16. **Consequently, be continuously confessing fully** (or: openly speaking out similarly about) **your failures** (errors; misses of the target; sins) **to one another, and be habitually speaking well-being over** (or: praying and thinking goodness on behalf of) **one another, in a manner so that you may be cured** (or: would be healed). **A binding need** (or: a petition and an entreaty out of need) **of a person within the Way pointed out** (of a fair and equitable person; of one in right relationship; of a rightwised and rightly aligned man; of a just one) **– which progressively works inwardly and itself continuously creates energy from union – constantly exerts much strength.**
17. **Elijah was a person** (a human being) **of like experiences and emotions with us, and with a thought toward things being well, he spoke toward goodness** (or: prayed) **for it to not rain, and it did not rain upon the land [for] three years and six months.**
18. **And back again he spoke toward goodness** (or: offered prayer), **and the sky** (or: atmosphere; heaven) **gave rain, and then the land germinated and produced her fruit.**

19. **My brothers** (= Dear family), **if someone among you may be led astray** (caused to wander) **away from the Truth and reality, and someone should** (or: would) **turn him back,**
20. **continue knowing from experience and realize that this one turning back a sinner** (a failure; one missing the goal; one living in error or under a mistake) **out of [the] straying of his way** (or: from the midst of his path of wandering), **will deliver** (rescue; save; make healthy and whole) **a soul** (= a person) **from out of the midst of death, and "will cover [the] fullness of [his] mistakes** (errors; failures to hit the target; sins)**."** [Prov. 10:12]

[written circa A.D. 47-48 – Based on the critical analysis of John A.T. Robinson]