

James 1:2-3

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2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

Verse 2

- *Temptation* here is not about the general temptation to sin or do something bad, but in this context is defined as a *trial*, by which they are being tested or proved. We see this from the context of verse three. It is something specific that *tries* or tests their faith. The word *temptation* is used in the same manner in **Luke 8:13** and **Rev. 3:10**. It just so happens that the context of these two passages are the exact same context dispensationally as that of James, that is, the time in which they are preparing to enter the last days, the prophesied time of tribulation. God is not the one directly causing this temptation, as we will learn from verse 13, He has simply allowed Satan and the mystery of iniquity to unfold and this is going to reveal what is in men's hearts.
- They are to count it all joy because they are looking forward to the prophesied Messianic Kingdom, of which they are potential inheritors. Consider **Daniel 2:37-45** and **Daniel 12:9-13**. Daniel 12:10 specifically says many shall be *tried*. And what does James 1:3 say? That the *trying* of their faith worketh patience.
- They are to count it all joy in light of their inheritance in the kingdom of Christ. Consider the parable of the talents in **Matthew 25:23**, where Jesus refers to His kingdom as *His joy*. Phrases like the *joy of thy Lord* or *the rest* are phrases used in reference to the kingdom.

- There are “divers” or various temptations, in the sense that during this period there is a succession of trials they must face. For unbelievers, or for those who believe but fall away, there is a succession of supernatural judgments God executes upon the earth before Christ’s return (the seals, the trumpets, and the vials). For the believing remnant, who is the focus of the book of James, they have the divine promise of being kept from those judgments (**Luke 21:36, Rev. 3:10**), but yet face the threat of starvation, nakedness, poverty, being betrayed by their own families, prison, and even being killed or beheaded by the antichrists armies (**Rev. 2:9-10, Luke 21:16-17, Rev. 20:4**).
- They are to count it all joy just as Jesus, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross (**Heb. 12:2**), because they too must endure chastisement as sons (**Heb. 12:5-6**), just as Jesus was perfected through the things He suffered (**Heb. 5:8-9**). James 1:4 is going to say *Let patience have her perfect work*. They will afterward inherit the promises and glory (**Heb. 10:36, Is. 45:25, Is. 46:13, Is. 60:7, 19; Is. 62:2**)

Verse 3

- They have need of patience (**Heb. 10:36**); patience = endurance in continuance and waiting (*wait for the Lord, Luke 12:36; endure Matt. 24:13*).
- Patience is a major subject in Hebrews and James, mentioned in **Heb. 6:12, 10:36, 12:1**, and **James 1:3-4, 5:7, 5:10**, and **5:11**. **Revelation 14:12** defines this patience for us. Jesus says to the apostles in **Luke 21:19** *In patience possess ye your souls*. Jesus also addresses the severity of this situation in **Matthew 10:14-33**.
- In patience they must possess their souls, **Luke 21:19**, the thing they are in danger of losing (**Matt. 16:26**). Their “perfecting” requires this patience.
- The Hebrew epistles form a sequence of doctrine meant to exhort and perfect the remnant of Israel, to get them through the tribulation to receive the kingdom. **2 Peter 1:5-7** gives an outline of the things necessary for them and which are found in their epistles.