

waiting, longing, hoping & praying
for the Day of the Lord / **Study 1**

WAITING

JAMES 5:1-11

- 1** Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you.
- 2** Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes.
- 3** Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days.
- 4** Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.
- 5** You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.
- 6** You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.
- 7** Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains.
- 8** You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.
- 9** Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!
- 10** Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.
- 11** As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

BENEDICTION

by Ruth Patterson

Now go out into the world in peace.
Beware, keep alert, for we do not know the hour when we will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.
Be faithful in service and persistent in prayer; be Advent people, loving and serving the Lord.
Amen.

COMMENTARY

primary source: UBS Handbooks for New Testament

v.1 *weep and wail*: the reaction of wicked people to the horror of impending divine judgment (see Is 13:6, Ezekiel 21:12, Amos 8:3). **v.2** *moths*: see Matt 6:19-20. **v.2** *clothes*: Expensive clothes are sometimes coupled with silver and gold as signs of wealth (see Acts 20:33). **v.3** *testify against you*: as evidence to support a guilty verdict against them in the Day of Judgment. **v.4** *wages*: withholding wages was against God's law (see Deut 24:14, 15). **v.4** *cry out*: cry aloud against someone or something, often in protest against injustice. **v.6** *innocent one*: general term referring to innocent or good people. **v.7** *patient*: literally "long tempered", an ability to take and absorb difficult and irritating things or people. **v.7** *the Lord's coming*: a technical term for the return of Christ (1 Thess 2:19, 2 Thess 2:1, Matt 24:27, 37). **v.7** *autumn and spring rains*: see Deut 11:14, Jer 5:24, Hosea 6:3. **v.8** *stand firm*: do not give up, do not lose heart, have unwavering confidence. **v.9** *grumble*: to complain, or blame your troubles on one another. **v.9** *standing at the door*: about to arrive, his foot on the doorstep. **v.10** *suffering*: hardship suffered at the hand of others. **v.10** *prophets*: God's messengers and interpreters of his will. **v.11** *persevered*: showed endurance, had the power to see things through.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What caught your attention? Why?
2. Why is hoarding wealth a bad idea?
3. What charges does James bring against rich oppressors? What are some contemporary examples of oppression by the rich?
4. What does James write about patience?
5. What are some of the struggles we have in exercising patience, and how might we overcome them?
6. How are the prophets an example and encouragement to us?
7. What kind of blessing does perseverance bring?
8. In Job's case "perseverance" meant that, even though he did complain about God's treatment of him, he never lost his faith (Job 1:21, 2:10). Discuss what Job's example means to you.
9. **In Summary: What does this passage teach us about how we, as a community, stand firm in the faith (v.8) and prepare for Jesus' return?**
10. What fresh perspective did you gain from this study? What do you want to explore further?