THE QUESTION

What does James mean by telling the rich to weep and howl (James 5:1–6)?

Asked by a THF member on July 19, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 13 numbered quotations · the 38 early Christian passages and 257 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-does-james-mean-by-telling-the-rich-to-weep-and-howl-james-5-1-6

The short answer *Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words*

James is warning rich people who grew wealthy by cheating their workers and living in luxury while the righteous suffered. Early writers taught that such riches cannot last and cannot save anyone. They also taught that wealth itself is not the problem; the danger is greed, injustice, and a heart set on money instead of God.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
SHARING WITH AN AI?	Every quotation here comes from The Historic Faith's library. If you paste this study into an AI, anything it adds beyond these pages comes from that AI, not from us.

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POINT 1 OF 8

Riches gained by injustice cannot last

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Lactantius says the unjust often have plenty of money, power and honor, but these are passing rewards won by greed and force. This matches James's picture of riches that are already rotting.

1

> “For this reason, the unjust, and those who do not know God, abound in riches, power, and honors. For all these things are rewards of injustice, because they cannot last forever, and they are sought through lust and violence.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Divine Institutes* 23 (c. 290–320 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 37, page 9 Read it in the library ›

POINT 2 OF 8

Earthly treasure rots, so store it in heaven

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian points to Jesus' warning about moth and rust, the same picture James uses. He says the Lord urges nothing more often than giving to the poor instead of leaning on earthly goods.

2

> “Among His divine commands and heavenly teachings, He commands and urges nothing more often than that we should devote ourselves to giving alms, and not depend on earthly possessions, but instead store up heavenly treasures.”

later in the same passage

> “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 26, page 8 Read it in the library ›

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POINT 3 OF 8

Workers must be paid fairly and on time

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

James condemns holding back workers' pay. Clement of Alexandria says God's law required wages to be paid without delay because the poor suffer when they wait. Archelaus adds that wages taken by fraud should be paid back.

3 "In the same way, the command to pay the wages of the poor each day teaches that wages owed for work should be paid without delay."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 2.18 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 15, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

4 "But if a person tries to practice fraud in this matter, it is surely most just that what he got by fraud should be demanded back from him, especially when the wages are large."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Archelaus,** *Disputation with Manes* 1 (c. 270–300 AD) **Source 33, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 8

Luxury and greed make people slaves

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

James rebukes those who lived in pleasure and luxury. Novatian says people ruled by appetite are never free, and he links greed to luxury. Tatian's gospel records Jesus' own warning to the rich.

5 "For those who obey the rule of their belly and their palate would never lack material for their lusts, so their slavery could never end."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Novatian,** *On the Jewish Meats* 1 (c. 240–258 AD) **Source 25, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

6 "But woe to you who are rich! For you have received your comfort."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tatian,** *Diatessaron* 8 (c. 150–180 AD) **Source 10, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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POINT 5 OF 8

The danger is wealth held in the heart

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement of Alexandria describes the person who keeps gold or land in his heart in place of God's Spirit and always wants more. Such a person cannot long for God's kingdom. This is the kind of rich person James warns.

7

> “but the man who carries his wealth in his soul, who instead of God's Spirit carries gold or land in his heart, who is always making his possession unmeasured and constantly looking for more — bowed downward and shackled by the world's snares, being earth and bound to depart to earth — how can such a man yearn for and have a thought for the kingdom of heaven, a man bearing not a heart but a field or a mine, who must of necessity be found among the things he chose?”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** **Source 16, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
Who Is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved? 17
(c. 190–215 AD)
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 8

Money itself is not condemned

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement notes that Jesus visited wealthy tax collectors without telling them to give everything away. He fixed the wrong use of wealth and praised the right use. So there is good wealth and bad wealth.

8

> “He does not command them to give up their wealth. Instead, by establishing the right use of it and removing the wrong use, he proclaims, "Today salvation has come to this house."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** **Source 13, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
Who Is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved? 13
(c. 190–215 AD)
THF's updated English

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9 “Just as, then, with him as also with us, treasure is not just one thing — the kind that gives a sudden, great gain when found — but there is also a second kind, profitless and unenviable, hard to acquire and harmful: so also there is one wealth made of good things and another made of bad, since indeed we know that wealth and treasure are not by nature divorced from each other.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Who Is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved?* 17 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 16, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 8

Riches distract, but sharing helps

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Hermas warns that riches pull a rich man's attention away from God. The Didache gives the cure: do not turn away the needy, and share with your brother instead of calling your goods your own.

10 “The rich man has much wealth, but he is poor in matters relating to the Lord, because he is distracted by his riches.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hermas,** *Shepherd* (c. 90–150 AD) **Source 3, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

11 “You shall not turn away from him who is in want, but you shall share all things with your brother, and shall not say that they are your own.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Didache,** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 4 (c. 50–120 AD) **Source 1, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 8 OF 8

The just often suffer under the unjust

Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words

James ends with the just man who does not resist. Lactantius says the just man endures wrongs patiently and so is often under the power of the unjust, who live for earthly gain. He sees this as part of a faithful life.

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12 “Since, therefore, he injures no one, and does not desire the property of others, and does not even defend his own if it is taken from him by violence, since he knows how to endure with moderation even an injury done to him, because he is endowed with virtue, it is necessary that the just man should be subject to the unjust, and that the wise should be insulted by the foolish, so that the one may sin because he is unjust, and the other may have virtue in himself because he is just.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Divine Institutes* 23 (c. 290–320 AD) **Source 37, page 9** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

13 “Therefore, it is necessary for the just and wise man to be involved in all evils, since courage overcomes evils; but the unjust man is involved in riches, honors, and power. For these goods belong to the body and are earthly; and these people also live an earthly life.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Divine Institutes* 5 (c. 290–320 AD) **Source 35, page 9** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- None of these passages comments line by line on James 5:1–6.
- They do not say exactly who the rich people in James's letter were.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 38 early Christian passages and 257 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–38, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 39–201, in Bible order), then 94 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF’s updated English unless marked “1885 English” (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). “… [continues online]” marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

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EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *38 passages from 16 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · source 1*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 4 **Quote 11, page 5** “you shall know who is the good repayer of the hire… [continues online] **read ›**

Barnabas, *c. 70–132 AD · source 2*

2 *Epistle of Barnabas* (1885 English; on point 7) “turn away him that is in want, who oppress the afflicted, who are advocates of the rich, who are unjust judges of the poor, and who are in every respect… [continues online] **read ›**

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · sources 3–4*

3 *Shepherd* **Quote 10, page 5** “and rotten. Therefore, this illustration is for the servants of God, for the poor man and for the rich." I said, "How so, sir? Explain it to me." He said… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *Shepherd* (on point 7) and understanding nothing? These are the people who do have faith, but they also have the riches of this world. Therefore, when tribulation comes, they deny the Lord because of… [continues online] **read ›**

Aristides, *c. 125–140 AD · source 5*

5 *Apology* 15 “not do to others. They do not eat food consecrated to idols, for they are pure. They calm their oppressors and make them their friends. They do good to their… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · source 6*

6 *First Apology* (on point 2) “lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven, where neither… [continues online] **read ›**

Minucius Felix, *c. 150–270 AD · source 7*

7 *Octavius* 24 (on point 5) “avarice has been consecrated in gold and silver… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · sources 8–10*

8 *Diatessaron* 29 (on point 3) “20:1 The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. Matthew 20:2 He agreed with the… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Diatessaron* 15 (on point 3) to you. Stay in that house, eating and drinking what they have, for the laborer is worthy of his hire. Do not move from house to house. Into whatever city… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *Diatessaron* 8 (1885 English) **Quote 6, page 3** “Luke 6:24 But woe unto you rich! For you have received your consolation” **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 11–12*

11 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English; on point 3) “these objectors] allege that [the Israelites] acted dishonestly, because, forsooth, they took away for the recompense of their labours, as I have observed, unstamped gold and silver in a few… [continues online] **read ›**

12 *Against Heresies: Book III* (on point 5) “the saying "You cannot serve two masters" is explained by Him: "You cannot serve God and mammon," recognizing God as God but mentioning mammon as something that exists. He does… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 13–19*

13 *Who Is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved?* 13 (1885 English) **Quote 8, page 4** “to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness, that when you fail, they may receive you into the everlasting habitations… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *Instructor* 2.3 (on point 4) I approve of Plato, who plainly lays it down as a law that a man is not to labor for wealth of gold or silver, nor to possess a useless… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *Stromata* 2.18 (1885 English) **Quote 3, page 3** “also the following, To pay the wages of the poor daily, teaches to discharge without delay the wages due for service… [continues online] **read ›**

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16 *Who Is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved?* 17 **Quotes 7, 9, pages 4, 5** necessity be found among the things he chose? "For where the mind of a man is, there is also his treasure." And the Lord recognizes a twofold treasure. The one… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Instructor* 2.2 (1885 English; on point 4) “Holy Spirit, uttering His voice by Amos, pronounces the rich to be wretched on account of their luxury: Amos 6:4, 6 Those that drink strained wine, and recline on… [continues online] **read ›**

18 *Instructor* 2.3 (on point 4) using cups made of silver and gold, or others decorated with precious stones, is out of place. It only deceives the eye. If you pour any warm drink into them… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *Instructor* 2.13 (1885 English; on point 4) “which alone luxury is reserved, as being an idol, not a reality… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 20–23*

20 *Against Marcion* 15 (on point 4) to the Creator's interests. Then, on the admission just mentioned, since the woe aimed at the rich belongs to the Creator, it follows that it is not Christ, but… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Against Marcion* 32 (on point 5) them: "You cannot serve God and mammon," Luke 16:13. Then the Pharisees, who were covetous of riches, mocked Him, because they understood that by mammon He meant money. Let… [continues online] **read ›**

22 *Against Marcion* 24 (on point 3) “cities for the Egyptians were surely workers worthy of their pay. They were not told to commit fraud. They were simply told to claim payment for their labor, since they… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *On the Apparel of Women* 1.5 (on point 1) and silver, the main material causes of worldly splendor, must necessarily be the same in nature as that from which they come into being. That is, they are earth. In… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · source 24*

24 *Against Celsus* 56 (on point 8) blessings of life, but also bear its appointed sorrows as a test for our souls. For this is how divine Scripture usually speaks about human afflictions: just as gold is… [continues online] **read ›**

Novatian, *c. 240–258 AD · source 25*

25 *On the Jewish Meats* 1 **Quote 5, page 3** from the fact that we are given freedom in foods, it does not necessarily follow that luxury is allowed to us. Nor, because the Gospel has dealt very generously with… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 26–29*

26 *Treatises* **Quote 2, page 2** and give alms." Luke 12:33 And again: "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But… [continues online] **read ›**

27 *Treatises* (on point 8) “they cried with a loud voice, saying, 'How long, O Lord, holy and true, do You not judge… [continues online] **read ›**

28 *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 8) “gold and silver is tried in the fire, but acceptable men in the furnace of humiliation. Sirach 2:5… [continues online] **read ›**

29 *Treatises* (on point 8) “gold and silver are tried in the fire." Sirach 2:4-5… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 30–32*

30 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 5) “being able to intercede with Him continuously on account that her mind and disposition run after money: for where the treasure is, there will the heart be also… [continues online] **read ›**

31 *Apostolic Constitutions* “15:31 And again: "You shall not accept the persons of the rich in judgment… [continues online] **read ›**

32 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 1) “riches unjustly gotten shall be vomited up… [continues online] **read ›**

Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · source 33*

33 *Disputation with Manes* 1 **Quote 4, page 3** “Again, we have the saying, "The workman is worthy of his hire… [continues online] **read ›**

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Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · sources 34–38*

34 *Divine Institutes* 23 (on point 8) and by constant labors He trains them in the practice of virtue. Nor does He allow them to be corrupted and spoiled by weak and passing goods. From this, no… [continues online] **read ›**

35 *Divine Institutes* 5 (1885 English) **Quote 13, page 6** "the unjust in riches, in honours, in power… [continues online] **read ›**

36 *Divine Institutes* 1 (1885 English; on point 4) "short, they have no consideration or regard for anything, if only they can glitter with gold, and shine conspicuous with plate, with jewels, and with garments, can spend riches upon… [continues online] **read ›**

37 *Divine Institutes* 23 (1885 English) **Quotes 1, 12, pages 2, 6** "this cause the unjust, and those who are ignorant of God, abound with riches, and power, and honours… [continues online] **read ›**

38 *Divine Institutes* 4 (1885 English; on point 5) "he infuses into some insatiable avarice, that, being chained by their riches as by fetters, he may drive them from the way of truth… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *163 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

39 **Genesis 30:28** Name your wages to me, and I will give them." **read ›**

40 **Genesis 31:7** But your father deceived me and changed my wages for the ten lambs; yet God did not allow him to do me harm. **read ›**

41 **Genesis 31:41** These twenty years I have been in your house. I served you fourteen years for your two daughters and six years among your sheep, and you falsely reckoned my wages by ten lambs. **read ›**

42 **Genesis 42:19** If you are men of peace, let one of your brothers be held in custody, and the rest of you go and carry home the grain you have bought. **read ›**

43 **Genesis 49:18** waiting for the salvation of the Lord. **read ›**

44 **Exodus 5:16** No straw is given to your household slaves, and yet they tell us to make bricks. And behold, your servants have been whipped; so you will do wrong to your people." **read ›**

45 **Exodus 5:18** Now therefore go and work; for straw shall not be given to you, yet you shall deliver the quota of bricks." **read ›**

46 **Exodus 22:15** But if its owner is with it, he shall not pay for the loss; and if it was hired, it shall be his in place of his hire. (Septuagint Exodus 22:14 (Exodus 22:15 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

47 **Exodus 23:3** And you shall not show mercy to a poor man in judgment. **read ›**

48 **Leviticus 14:56** for a scar, for a mark, and for a shining spot, **read ›**

49 **Leviticus 19:13** You shall not wrong your neighbor, nor rob him; and the wages of your hired worker shall by no means remain with you overnight until morning. **read ›**

50 **Leviticus 25:40** He shall be with you as a hired servant or a temporary resident; he shall work for you until the year of release, **read ›**

51 **Leviticus 25:53** as a hired servant. He shall be with him year by year; you shall not wear him down with toil before you. **read ›**

52 **Numbers 31:22** Except for the gold and the silver, the bronze, the iron, the lead, and the tin, **read ›**

53 **Deuteronomy 24:14** You shall not withhold the wages of the poor and needy, whether of your brothers or of the resident foreigners who are in your cities. **read ›**

54 **Deuteronomy 24:15** You shall pay him his wages the same day; the sun shall not go down on it, for he is poor and has set his hope on it; and he will cry out against you to the Lord, and it will be sin in you. **read ›**

55 **Deuteronomy 32:43** Rejoice, O heavens, with him, and let all the angels of God worship him; rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people, and let all the sons of God be strong in him; for he avenges the blood of his sons, and he will take vengeance and render justice to the enemies, and he will repay those who hate; and the Lord will cleanse the land of his people. **read ›**

56 **2 Kings 12:16** The money for sin offerings and the money for guilt offerings, whatever was brought into the house of the Lord, went to the priests. (Septuagint 4 Kingdoms 12:17 (2 Kings 12:16 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

57 **Job 13:28** a thing that wears out like a wineskin, or like a moth-eaten garment. **read ›**

58 **Job 17:14** I have called upon death to be my father, and corruption my mother and my sister. **read ›**

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59 **Psalms 2:12** Lay hold of instruction, lest the Lord be angry, and you perish from the righteous way. Whenever his wrath is quickly kindled, blessed are all who trust in him. **read ›**

60 **Psalms 66:10** For you, O God, have tested us; you have refined us by fire as silver is refined. (Septuagint Psalm 65:10 (Psalm 66:10 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

61 **Proverbs 17:3** As silver and gold are tested in a furnace, so are choice hearts with the Lord. **read ›**

62 **Proverbs 22:16** He who oppresses the needy increases his own goods, yet he gives to the rich to his own loss. **read ›**

63 **Proverbs 25:4** Beat the unproven silver, and it will be made entirely pure. **read ›**

64 **Proverbs 26:23** Silver given with deceit is to be counted as a piece of broken pottery; smooth lips cover a hurtful heart. **read ›**

65 **Proverbs 27:21** Fire is the test for silver and gold, and a man is tested by the mouth of those who praise him. The heart of the lawless seeks evils, but an upright heart seeks knowledge. **read ›**

66 **Proverbs 28:6** Better is a poor man walking in truth than a rich man who lies. **read ›**

67 **Ecclesiastes 5:13** There is a sickness that I have seen under the sun: wealth kept by its owner to his harm; (Septuagint Ecclesiastes 5:12 (Ecclesiastes 5:13 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

68 **Isaiah 2:2** For in the last days the mountain of the Lord shall be manifest, and the house of God shall be on the top of the mountains, and it shall be raised above the hills; and all the nations shall come to it. **read ›**

69 **Isaiah 51:8** For as a garment will be eaten by time, and as wool will be eaten by a moth; but my righteousness will be forever, and my salvation to generations of generations. **read ›**

70 **Jeremiah 7:7** then I will make you dwell in this place, in the land which I gave to your fathers from of old and forever. **read ›**

71 **Jeremiah 9:17** Thus says the Lord: Call the mourning women, and let them come; and send to the wise women, and let them lift their voice; (Septuagint Jeremiah 9:16 (Jeremiah 9:17 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

72 **Jeremiah 11:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

73 **Jeremiah 17:11** The partridge called; it gathered what it did not bear, making his wealth unjustly; in the half of his days they will forsake him, and at his end he will be a fool. **read ›**

74 **Jeremiah 23:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

75 **Jeremiah 51:13** who dwell by many waters and amid the abundance of her treasures. Your end has truly come, into your very bowels. (Septuagint Jeremiah 28:13 (Jeremiah 51:13 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

76 **Lamentations 4:5** He. Those who ate delicacies are desolate in the streets; those who were nursed in scarlet have clothed themselves with dung. **read ›**

77 **Ezekiel 7:19** Their silver shall be thrown into the squares, and their gold shall be despised; their souls shall never be satisfied, and their bellies shall never be filled; for it became the torment of their unrighteous deeds. **read ›**

78 **Ezekiel 20:15** And I lifted up my hand against them in the wilderness once for all, that I would not bring them into the land that I gave them, a land flowing with milk and honey—it is a honeycomb beyond every land— **read ›**

79 **Ezekiel 22:20** As silver and bronze and iron and tin and lead are gathered into the midst of a furnace, to blow fire upon it so that it may be melted, so I will gather you in my anger, and I will collect you and melt you, **read ›**

80 **Ezekiel 22:22** As silver is melted in the midst of a furnace, so you shall be melted in the midst of it; and you shall know that I the Lord have poured out my wrath upon you.” **read ›**

81 **Ezekiel 22:24** “Son of man, say to her: You are a land that is not rained upon, nor has rain come upon you in the day of anger; **read ›**

82 **Ezekiel 24:6** Therefore thus says the Lord: O city of blood, a caldron in which there is rust, and the rust has not gone out of it! She has brought it out piece by piece; no lot has fallen upon it. **read ›**

83 **Ezekiel 24:11** and it may stand on the coals, so that her bronze may be burned and heated, and melted in the midst of her uncleanness, and her rust be consumed, **read ›**

84 **Ezekiel 25:6** For thus says the Lord: Because you clapped your hand and stamped with your foot, and rejoiced from your soul over the land of Israel, **read ›**

85 **Ezekiel 28:1** And the word of the Lord came to me, saying: **read ›**

86 **Daniel 8:10** and it grew great up to the host of heaven; and some of the host of heaven and of the stars fell to the earth, and they trampled on them. **read ›**

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87 **Daniel 8:18** And while he was speaking with me, I fell on my face to the ground; and he touched me and set me on my feet, **read ›**

88 **Daniel 10:2** In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. **read ›**

89 **Daniel 11:28** And he shall return to his land with many possessions, and his heart shall be against the holy covenant; and he shall act, and return to his own land. **read ›**

90 **Hosea 10:1** Israel is a vine with fine branches, its fruit abundant; according to the multitude of its fruits he multiplied altars; according to the good things of his land he built pillars. **read ›**

91 **Obadiah 1:6** How has Esau been searched out, and his hidden things seized? **read ›**

92 **Jonah 3:2** “Arise, go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach in it according to the former message that I spoke to you.” **read ›**

93 **Micah 4:1** And it shall be in the last days that the mountain of the Lord shall be manifest, ready upon the tops of the mountains, and it shall be lifted high above the hills; and peoples shall hasten to it, **read ›**

94 **Nahum 2:9** They plundered the silver, they plundered the gold, and there was no end to her adornment; they are weighed down with all her desirable vessels. (Septuagint Nahum 2:10 (Nahum 2:9 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

95 **Zephaniah 1:18** And their silver and their gold shall certainly not be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord’s anger; and all the earth shall be consumed in the fire of his jealousy; for he will make an end, and a swift one, of all who live in the land. **read ›**

96 **Haggai 2:7** and I will shake all the nations, and the choice things of all the nations will come; and I will fill this house with glory, says the Lord Almighty. **read ›**

97 **Zechariah 14:1** Behold, days of the Lord are coming, and your spoils shall be divided in your midst; **read ›**

98 **Zechariah 14:14** And Judah shall draw up for battle in Jerusalem, and shall gather the strength of all the peoples around: gold and silver and clothing in very great abundance. **read ›**

99 **Tobit 2:12** And they too paid her the wages, and gave her a young goat besides. **read ›**

100 **Tobit 2:14** But she said, “It was given to me as a gift in addition to the wages.” And I did not believe her, and I told her to give it back to the owners, and I was ashamed of her. But she answered and said to me, “Where are your alms and your righteous deeds? See, everything about you is known.” **read ›**

101 **Judith 7:29** And there was great weeping in the midst of the assembly, all together, and they cried out to the Lord God with a loud voice. **read ›**

102 **Wisdom of Solomon 10:11** When those who oppressed him were greedy, she stood by him, and made him rich. **read ›**

103 **Wisdom of Solomon 16:22** But snow and ice endured fire and did not melt, so that they might know that the fruits of their enemies were being destroyed by fire blazing in the hail and flashing in the rains; **read ›**

104 **Wisdom of Sirach 2:5** For gold is tested in the fire, and acceptable men in the furnace of humiliation. **read ›**

105 **Wisdom of Sirach 8:2** Do not contend with a rich man, lest he throw his weight against you; for gold has destroyed many, and turned aside the hearts of kings. **read ›**

106 **Wisdom of Sirach 11:14** Good things and bad, life and death, poverty and wealth, are from the Lord. **read ›**

107 **Wisdom of Sirach 11:21** Do not marvel at the works of a sinner; trust in the Lord and keep to your labor; for it is easy in the eyes of the Lord to make a needy man rich quickly, in an instant. **read ›**

108 **Wisdom of Sirach 13:3** A rich man does wrong, and he even adds threats; a poor man is wronged, and he must even plead. **read ›**

109 **Wisdom of Sirach 13:22** When a rich man slips, his helpers are many; he speaks things not to be spoken, and they justify him; a lowly man slips, and they rebuke him besides; he speaks with understanding, and no place is given him. **read ›**

110 **Wisdom of Sirach 13:24** Wealth is good to one who has no sin, and poverty is evil in the mouth of the ungodly. **read ›**

111 **Wisdom of Sirach 14:3** Wealth is not fitting for a stingy man, and why should a grudging man have money? **read ›**

112 **Wisdom of Sirach 18:2** The Lord alone will be justified. **read ›**

113 **Wisdom of Sirach 19:3** Moths and worms will inherit him, and a reckless soul will be taken away. **read ›**

114 **Wisdom of Sirach 21:4** Terror and arrogance will lay waste wealth; so the house of the proud will be laid waste. **read ›**

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115 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:24** See that you fence your property with thorns; bind up your silver and your gold; **read ›**

116 **Wisdom of Sirach 29:7** Many have turned away from lending because of wickedness; they have been wary of being defrauded for nothing. **read ›**

117 **Wisdom of Sirach 31:22** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

118 **Wisdom of Sirach 34:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

119 **Wisdom of Sirach 34:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

120 **Wisdom of Sirach 34:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

121 **Wisdom of Sirach 40:25** Gold and silver make the foot stand firm, but above both counsel is esteemed. **read ›**

122 **Wisdom of Sirach 42:13** for from garments comes a moth, and from a woman a woman's wickedness. **read ›**

123 **Wisdom of Sirach 50:9** like fire and frankincense in the censer, like a vessel of hammered gold adorned with every precious stone, **read ›**

124 **Baruch 3:1** O Lord Almighty, God of Israel, a soul in distress and a weary spirit cries out to you. **read ›**

125 **Baruch 3:17** who played with the birds of heaven, and who stored up silver and gold, in which men have trusted, and there was no end to their getting? **read ›**

126 **Letter of Jeremiah 1:12** Yet these do not save themselves from rust and from moth, though they are dressed in purple clothing. **read ›**

127 **Letter of Jeremiah 1:24** For as regards the gold which they wear for beauty, they will certainly not shine unless someone wipes off the rust; for not even when they were being cast did they feel it. **read ›**

128 **Letter of Jeremiah 1:50** For since they are of wood, and overlaid with gold and with silver, it will afterward be known that they are false; **read ›**

129 **Letter of Jeremiah 1:55** For when fire falls upon a house of gods of wood, or overlaid with gold or with silver, the priests will flee and escape, but they themselves will be burned up in the middle like beams. **read ›**

130 **3 Maccabees 2:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

131 **3 Maccabees 5:51** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

132 **3 Maccabees 6:31** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

133 **1 Enoch 1:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

134 **1 Enoch 27:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

135 **1 Enoch 48:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

136 **1 Enoch 48:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

137 **1 Enoch 51:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

138 **1 Enoch 52:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

139 **1 Enoch 52:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

140 **1 Enoch 55:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

141 **1 Enoch 57:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

142 **1 Enoch 65:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

143 **1 Enoch 91:14** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

144 **1 Enoch 94:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

145 **1 Enoch 96:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

146 **1 Enoch 96:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

147 **1 Enoch 96:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

148 **1 Enoch 97:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

149 **1 Enoch 97:10** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

150 **1 Enoch 99:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

151 **1 Enoch 100:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

152 **1 Enoch 102:10** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

153 **1 Enoch 108:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

154 **Matthew 1:18** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was like this: After his mother, Mary, was engaged to Joseph, before they came together, she was found pregnant by the Holy Spirit. **read ›**

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155 **Matthew 6:19** Do not lay up treasures for yourselves on the earth, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break through and steal; **read ›**

156 **Matthew 6:20** but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes, and where thieves do not break through and steal; **read ›**

157 **Matthew 20:2** When he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. **read ›**

158 **Matthew 20:7** They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and you will receive whatever is right.' **read ›**

159 **Matthew 20:8** "When evening had come, the lord of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning from the last to the first.' **read ›**

160 **Mark 2:8** Immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you reason these things in your hearts? **read ›**

161 **Luke 6:24** But woe to you who are rich! For you have received your consolation. **read ›**

162 **Luke 9:14** For there were about five thousand men. He said to his disciples, "Have them recline in groups of fifty each." **read ›**

163 **Luke 11:5** He said to them, "Which of you will have a friend and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, **read ›**

164 **Luke 11:13** If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?" **read ›**

165 **Luke 12:33** Sell what you have and give alms. Make for yourselves money bags that do not grow old, an unfailing treasure in the heavens, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. **read ›**

166 **Luke 13:30** Behold, there are some who are last who will be first, and there are some who are first who will be last." **read ›**

167 **Luke 14:1** When he went into the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees on a Sabbath to eat bread, they were watching him. **read ›**

168 **Luke 16:11** If therefore you have not been faithful in unrighteous mammon, who will entrust the true riches to you? **read ›**

169 **Acts 2:2** Suddenly a sound came from heaven like a rushing, mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. **read ›**

170 **Acts 3:14** But you denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, **read ›**

171 **Acts 13:5** When they were at Salamis, they proclaimed God's word in the Jewish synagogues. They also had John as their attendant. **read ›**

172 **Acts 14:7** There they preached the gospel. **read ›**

173 **Acts 14:11** When the multitude saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voice, saying in the language of Lycaonia, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" **read ›**

174 **Acts 24:14** But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, so I serve the God of our fathers, believing all things which are according to the law, and which are written in the prophets; **read ›**

175 **Acts 25:8** while he said in his defense, "Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar, have I sinned at all." **read ›**

176 **Acts 26:21** For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. **read ›**

177 **Romans 10:5** For Moses writes of the righteousness that is from the law, "The man who does them shall live in them." **read ›**

178 **Romans 12:12** rejoicing in hope, enduring in troubles, continuing steadfastly in prayer, **read ›**

179 **Romans 14:4** Who are you to judge another's household slave? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand. **read ›**

180 **1 Corinthians 3:1** And I, brothers, could not speak to you as to spiritual people, but as to fleshly people, as to infants in Christ. **read ›**

181 **1 Corinthians 3:17** If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. **read ›**

182 **2 Corinthians 4:5** For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. **read ›**

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183 **Galatians 1:12** For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came to me through revelation of Jesus Christ. **read ›**

184 **Galatians 1:24** So they glorified God in me. **read ›**

185 **1 Timothy 6:17** Charge those who are rich in this present age that they not be arrogant, nor have their hope set on the uncertainty of riches, but on the living God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy; **read ›**

186 **1 Timothy 6:19** laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold of eternal life. **read ›**

187 **James 2:6** But you have dishonored the poor man. Do the rich not oppress you and personally drag you before the courts? **read ›**

188 **James 5:1** Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming on you. **read ›**

189 **James 5:2** Your riches have rotted, and your garments have become moth-eaten. **read ›**

190 **James 5:3** Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be a testimony against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have stored up treasure in the last days. **read ›**

191 **James 5:4** Behold, the wages of the laborers who reaped your fields, which you have withheld, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have entered the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. **read ›**

192 **James 5:5** You have lived in luxury on the earth, and taken your pleasure. You have nourished your hearts as in a day of slaughter. **read ›**

193 **1 Peter 1:7** so that the tested genuineness of your faithfulness, much more precious than gold that perishes though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and honor and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, **read ›**

194 **Revelation 6:10** They cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, Master, the holy and true, until you judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” **read ›**

195 **Revelation 7:10** They cried with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation be to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” **read ›**

196 **Revelation 14:2** I heard a sound from heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of a great thunder. The sound which I heard was like that of harpists playing on their harps. **read ›**

197 **Revelation 14:15** Another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, “Send your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come; for the harvest of the earth is ripe!” **read ›**

198 **Revelation 14:16** He who sat on the cloud thrust his sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped. **read ›**

199 **Revelation 15:3** They sing the song of Moses, the slave of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, “Great and marvelous are your works, Lord God Almighty! Righteous and true are your ways, King of the nations. **read ›**

200 **Revelation 19:1** After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Alleluia! Salvation, power, and glory belong to our God; **read ›**

201 **Revelation 19:6** I heard something like the voice of a great multitude, and like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of mighty thunders, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns! **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *94 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Genesis 6:1

Exodus 22:25 · 23:14

Leviticus 19:9 · 19:15 · 25:4

Psalms 26:2

Proverbs 22:6 · 31:20

Isaiah 1:15 · 1:17 · 10:33 · 40:3

Jeremiah 17:7 · 17:10

Matthew 4:9 · 5:8 · 5:9 · 5:31 · 5:32 · 5:46 · 6:1 · 6:21 · 7:12 · 7:15 · 8:10 · 9:13 · 10:10 · 10:42 · 12:34 · 13:21 · 19:3 · 19:12 · 19:21 · 19:24 · 23:27

Mark 2:19 · 12:41 · 12:42

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Luke 5:29 · 6:25 · 6:26 · 6:28 · 6:30 · 6:36 · 10:4 · 10:5 · 10:7 · 10:9 · 11:41 · 12:42 · 14:33 · 15:21 · 16:9 · 16:12 · 16:13 · 16:15 · 16:16 · 16:17 · 16:18 · 19:9 · 21:3

John 12:25 · 15:5 · 21:19

Acts 4:32

Romans 2:29 · 12:3 · 15:27

1 Corinthians 3:9 · 7:10 · 7:18 · 15:32

2 Corinthians 5:1 · 13:3

Galatians 5:19

Ephesians 1:12 · 4:26 · 6:5 · 6:9

Philippians 4:3

Colossians 3:22 · 4:1

1 Thessalonians 5:12 · 5:18

1 Timothy 6:8 · 6:10

2 Timothy 2:5

Hebrews 4:15 · 10:25 · 13:7

James 5:16

Revelation 22:10 · 22:18

Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What does James mean by telling the rich to weep and howl (James 5:1–6)?” on July 19, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

Library only. This study was written only from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed above, with a link to read it.

How it was made. Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY