

Handout: THE LETTER OF ST. JAMES, Lesson 6

Have you noticed that James has mentioned Jesus twice by name?

1. James 1:1: *From James, servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.*
2. James 2:1: *My brothers, do not let class distinction enter into your faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord.*

These are the only two occasions where St. James mentions Jesus directly. St. James, in each of these verses, proclaims Jesus as “Lord,” meaning the Messiah whose message of salvation has been authorized in His resurrection from the dead. In the Old Testament “Lord”, *Adonai* in Hebrew, is a title for Yahweh. In the New Testament this word rendered in Greek is *Kyrios*. James will use this title for Jesus fourteen times in his address (2 times 7; perhaps Jesus’ humanity and divinity times His spiritual perfection, or double spiritual perfection). His Jewish-Christian audience clearly understood he was referring to Jesus as the divine Messiah.

| Direct references to Jesus Christ as Lord in the Letter of St. James | Reference |
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| 1. <i>From James, servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.</i> | 1:1 |
| 2. <i>...inconsistent in every activity, must not expect to receive anything from the Lord.</i> | 1:8 |
| 3. <i>Such a person is of proven worth and will win the prize of life (literally “the crown of life) that the Lord has promised to those who love him.</i> | 1:12 |
| 4. <i>My brothers, do not let class distinction enter into your faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord</i> | 2:1 |
| 5. <i>Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will lift you up</i> | 4:10 |
| 6. <i>Instead of this, you should say, ‘If it is the Lord’s will we shall still be alive to do this or that.’</i> | |
| 7. <i>The cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord Sabaoth.</i> | 5:4 |
| 8. <i>Now be patient, brothers, until the Lord’s coming.</i> | 5:7 |
| 9. <i>You too must be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord’s coming will be soon.</i> | 5:8 |
| 10. <i>For your example, brothers, in patiently putting up with persecution, take the prophets who spoke in the Lord’s name...</i> | 5:10 |
| 11. <i>You have heard of the perseverance of Job and understood the Lord’s purpose...</i> | 5:11 |
| 12. <i>...realizing that the Lord is kind and compassionate.</i> | 5:11 |
| 13. <i>Any one of you who is ill should send for the elders of the church and they must anoint the sick person with oil in the name of the Lord and pray over him.</i> | 5:14 |
| 14. <i>The prayer of faith will save the sick person and the Lord will raise him up again...</i> | 5:15 |

| Indirect References to Jesus in the Letter of St. James | Reference |
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| 1. <i>the Word (Logos) of truth:</i> | 1:18 |
| 2. <i>the Word (Logos) that has been planted in you</i> | 1:21 |
| 3. <i>do what the Word (Logos) tells you</i> | 1:22 |
| 4. <i>Anyone who listens to the Word (Logos)</i> | 1:23 |
| 5. <i>the honorable name</i> | 2:7 |

THE SYMBOLIC IMAGES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS

| Image Groups | Part I Covenant relationship | Part II Rebellion | Part III Redemptive Judgment | Part IV Restoration Fulfilled |
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| Covenant Marriage [examples in Scripture] | Israel Bride of Yahweh Ezekiel 16:4-14; Isaiah 61:10-11; Jeremiah 2:2 | Unfaithful adulteress/harlot Ezekiel 16:15-34; 23:1-12; Isaiah 1:21; Jeremiah 3:6-10; 13:22-27; 23:10; Hosea 4:10-14 | Humiliated, abused & abandoned by lovers Ezekiel 16:23-61; 23:35-49; Amos 4:7-8; Jeremiah 3:1b-2; 4:30-31; Hosea 2:4-15 | The Bride restored to her Bridegroom Promise: Isaiah 62:1-5 Fulfilled: John 3:28-29; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:25-27; Revelation 19:7-9; 21:2;9; 22:17 |
| Vineyard or Fig tree [examples in Scripture] | Well-tended vineyard/fruitful fig tree Isaiah 5:1-4; Ezekiel 19:10-11; Jeremiah 24:4-7 | Vines grow wild/failure to produce fruit Jeremiah 2:21; Hosea 2:14; Micah 7:1-4; Joel 1:11-12; 7:1-4; | Weeds overgrow vineyard/ ruin and destruction Isaiah 5:3-6; Ezekiel 19:12-14; Jeremiah 8:13; Nahum 3:12-15 | Vines are replanted/ fruitfulness restored Promise: Zechariah 2:8-10 Fulfilled: John 15:1-2, 4-6 |
| Animals [examples in Scripture] | Domesticated animals Micah 4:13; Isaiah 40:10-11; 65:25; Ezekiel 34:15-16 | Run away and become wild Isaiah 50:6; 53:6; Jeremiah 5:5d-6; 8:6b-7; 23:1-2; Ezekiel 19:1-9 | Ravaged by wild beasts/birds of prey Isaiah 50:7; Jeremiah 8:15-17; 50:6-7; Hosea 8:1-14; 13:6-8 | Rescued by their Master Promise: Ezekiel 34:11-13 Fulfilled: Matthew 11:28-30; John 1:29, 36; 10:1-18; Hebrews 3:20; Rev. 5:6, 13; 7:9-17; 14:1-10; 19:2-9; 21:9-23; 22:1-3 |
| Drinking Wine [examples in Scripture] | Joy of drinking good wine Jeremiah 40:12; Isaiah 62:8-9 | Becoming drunk Isaiah 5:11-12; 28:1; Jeremiah 8:13; 48:26; 51:7; Joel 1:5 | Drinking the “cup of God’s wrath” Joel 4:13; Isaiah 51:17; 63:2-3; Jeremiah 13:12-14; 25:15-31; 48:26; 25:27-30 | Rejoicing in the best “new wine” at the Master’s table Promise: Zech.9:15-17 Fulfilled: Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32; Revelation 19:7-9 |

Each of the image groups consist of four parts:

- ◆ Part I: Yahweh and his people enter into a Covenant relationship. Yahweh will bind this people to Himself in the blessings of security and prosperity in return for obedience to the Covenant of the Torah (first 5 books of Moses).
- ◆ Part II: Israel, the Covenant people ignore the Laws of the Covenant; they rebel by going their own way.
- ◆ Part III: God sends His holy prophet to call His people back to Him. Failing in this mission the prophet calls down a Covenant Lawsuit which results in Covenant curses—punishment meant to bring about repentance and restoration.
- ◆ Part IV: In response to repentance, Yahweh reaches out to restore and to take His people back into the Covenant relationship they had first enjoyed. M. Hunt© copyright 2003