

28 ¶ The sons of Joseph according to their families: Manasseh and Ephraim.

29 The sons of Manasseh: of Machir, the family of the Machirites; and Machir became the father of Gilead: of Gilead, the family of the Gileadites.

30 These are the sons of Gilead: of Iezer, the family of the Iezerites; of Helek, the family of the Helekites;

31 and of Asriel, the family of the Asrielites; and of Shechem, the family of the Shechemites;

32 and of Shemida, the family of the Shemidaïtes; and of Hepher, the family of the Hepherites.

33 Now Zelophehad the son of Hepher had no sons, but only daughters; and the names of the daughters of Zelophehad were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah and Tirzah.

34 These are the families of Manasseh; and those who were numbered of them were 52,700.

35 ¶ These are the sons of Ephraim according to their families: of Shuthelah, the family of the Shuthelahites; of Becher, the family of the Becherites; of Tahan, the family of the Tahanites.

36 These are the sons of Shuthelah: of Eran, the family of the Eranites.

37 These are the families of the sons of Ephraim according to those who were numbered of them, 32,500. These are the sons of Joseph according to their families.

38 ¶ The sons of Benjamin according to their families: of Bela, the family of the Belaites; of Ashbel, the family of the Ashbelites; of Ahiram, the family of the Ahiramites;

39 of Shephupham, the family of the Shuphamites; of Hupham, the family of the Huphamites.

40 The sons of Bela were Ard and Naaman: of Ard, the family of the Ardites; of Naaman, the family of the Naamites.

41 These are the sons of Benjamin according to their families; and those who were numbered of them were 45,600.

42 ¶ These are the sons of Dan according to their families: of Shuham, the family of the Shuhamites. These are the families of Dan according to their families.

43 All the families of the Shuhamites, according to those who were numbered of them, were 64,400.

44 ¶ The sons of Asher according to their families: of Imnah, the family of the Imnites; of Ishvi, the family of the Ishvites; of Beriah, the family of the Beriites.

45 Of the sons of Beriah: of Heber, the family of the Heberites; of Malchiel, the family of the Malchielites.

46 The name of the daughter of Asher was Serah.

47 These are the families of the sons of Asher according to those who were numbered of them, 53,400.

48 ¶ The sons of Naphtali according to their families: of Jahzeel, the family of the Jahzeelites; of Guni, the family of the Gunites;

49 of Jezer, the family of the Jezerites; of Shilem, the family of the Shillemites.

50 These are the families of Naphtali according to their families; and those who were numbered of them were 45,400.

51 ¶ These are those who were numbered of the sons of Israel, 601,730.

52 ¶ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

53 "Among these the land shall be divided for an inheritance according to the number of names.

54 "To the larger *group* you shall increase their inheritance, and to the smaller *group* you shall diminish their inheritance; each shall be given their inheritance according to those who were numbered of them.

55 "But the land shall be divided by lot. They shall receive their inheritance according to the names of the tribes of their fathers.

56 "According to the selection by lot, their inheritance shall be divided between the larger and the smaller *groups*."

57 ¶ These are those who were numbered of the Levites according to their families: of Gershon, the family of the Gershonites; of Kohath, the family of the Kohathites; of Merari, the family of the Merarites.

58 These are the families of Levi: the family of the Libnites, the family of the Hebronites, the family of the Mahlites, the family of the Mushites, the family of the Korahites. Kohath became the father of Amram.

59 The name of Amram's wife was Jochebed, the daughter of Levi, who was born to Levi in Egypt; and she bore to Amram: Aaron and Moses and their sister Miriam.

60 To Aaron were born Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

61 But Nadab and Abihu died when they offered strange fire before the LORD.

62 Those who were numbered of them were 23,000, every male from a month old and upward, for they were not numbered among the sons of Israel since no inheritance was given to them among the sons of Israel.

63 ¶ These are those who were numbered by Moses and Eleazar the priest, who numbered the sons of Israel in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho.

64 But among these there was not a man of those who were numbered by Moses and Aaron

the priest, who numbered the sons of Israel in the wilderness of Sinai.

65 For the LORD had said of them, “They shall surely die in the wilderness.” And not a man was left of them, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun.

### *A Law of Inheritance*

**27** Then the daughters of Zelophehad, the son of Hopher, the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, of the families of Manasseh the son of Joseph, came near; and these are the names of his daughters: Mahlah, Noah and Hoglah and Milcah and Tirzah.

2 They stood before Moses and before Eleazar the priest and before the leaders and all the congregation, at the doorway of the tent of meeting, saying,

3 “Our father died in the wilderness, yet he was not among the company of those who gathered themselves together against the LORD in the company of Korah; but he died in his own sin, and he had no sons.

4 “Why should the name of our father be withdrawn from among his family because he had no son? Give us a possession among our father’s brothers.”

5 So Moses brought their case before the LORD.

6 ¶ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

7 “The daughters of Zelophehad are right in *their* statements. You shall surely give them a hereditary possession among their father’s brothers, and you shall transfer the inheritance of their father to them.

8 “Further, you shall speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘If a man dies and has no son, then you shall transfer his inheritance to his daughter.

9 ‘If he has no daughter, then you shall give his inheritance to his brothers.

10 ‘If he has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to his father’s brothers.

11 ‘If his father has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to his nearest relative in his own family, and he shall possess it; and it shall be a statutory ordinance to the sons of Israel, just as the LORD commanded Moses.’ ”

12 ¶ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go up to this mountain of Abarim, and see the land which I have given to the sons of Israel.

13 “When you have seen it, you too will be gathered to your people, as Aaron your brother was;

14 for in the wilderness of Zin, during the strife of the congregation, you rebelled against My command to treat Me as holy before their

eyes at the water.” (These are the waters of Meribah of Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.)

### *Joshua to Succeed Moses*

15 ¶ Then Moses spoke to the LORD, saying,

16 “May the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation,

17 who will go out and come in before them, and who will lead them out and bring them in, so that the congregation of the LORD will not be like sheep which have no shepherd.”

18 So the LORD said to Moses, “Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him;

19 and have him stand before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and commission him in their sight.

20 “You shall put some of your authority on him, in order that all the congregation of the sons of Israel may obey *him*.

21 “Moreover, he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire for him by the judgment of the Urim before the LORD. At his command they shall go out and at his command they shall come in, *both* he and the sons of Israel with him, even all the congregation.”

22 Moses did just as the LORD commanded him; and he took Joshua and set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation.

23 Then he laid his hands on him and commissioned him, just as the LORD had spoken through Moses.

### *Laws for Offerings*

**28** Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

2 “Command the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘You shall be careful to present My offering, My food for My offerings by fire, of a soothing aroma to Me, at their appointed time.’

3 “You shall say to them, ‘This is the offering by fire which you shall offer to the LORD: two male lambs one year old without defect as a continual burnt offering every day.

4 ‘You shall offer the one lamb in the morning and the other lamb you shall offer at twilight;

5 also a tenth of an ephah of fine flour for a grain offering, mixed with a fourth of a hin of beaten oil.

6 ‘It is a continual burnt offering which was ordained in Mount Sinai as a soothing aroma, an offering by fire to the LORD.

7 ‘Then the drink offering with it *shall be* a fourth of a hin for each lamb, in the holy place you shall pour out a drink offering of strong drink to the LORD.

8 ‘The other lamb you shall offer at twilight; as the grain offering of the morning and as its

- 3 ¶ Praise Him with trumpet sound;  
Praise Him with harp and lyre.  
4 Praise Him with timbrel and dancing;  
Praise Him with stringed instruments  
and pipe.

- 5 Praise Him with loud cymbals;  
Praise Him with resounding cymbals.  
6 Let everything that has breath praise  
the LORD.  
Praise the LORD!

# The Proverbs

## *The Usefulness of Proverbs*

- 1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David,  
king of Israel:  
2 To know wisdom and instruction,  
To discern the sayings of  
understanding,  
3 To receive instruction in wise  
behavior,  
Righteousness, justice and equity;  
4 To give prudence to the naive,  
To the youth knowledge and  
discretion,  
5 A wise man will hear and increase in  
learning,  
And a man of understanding will  
acquire wise counsel,  
6 To understand a proverb and a figure,  
The words of the wise and their  
riddles.  
7 ¶ The fear of the LORD is the beginning  
of knowledge;  
Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

## *The Enticement of Sinners*

- 8 ¶ Hear, my son, your father's  
instruction  
And do not forsake your mother's  
teaching;  
9 Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to  
your head  
And ornaments about your neck.  
10 My son, if sinners entice you,  
Do not consent.  
11 If they say, "Come with us,  
Let us lie in wait for blood,  
Let us ambush the innocent without  
cause;  
12 Let us swallow them alive like Sheol,  
Even whole, as those who go down to  
the pit;  
13 We will find all *kinds* of precious  
wealth,  
We will fill our houses with spoil;  
14 Throw in your lot with us,  
We shall all have one purse,"

- 15 My son, do not walk in the way with  
them.  
Keep your feet from their path,  
16 For their feet run to evil  
And they hasten to shed blood.  
17 Indeed, it is useless to spread the  
*baited* net  
In the sight of any bird;  
18 But they lie in wait for their own  
blood;  
They ambush their own lives.  
19 So are the ways of everyone who gains  
by violence;  
It takes away the life of its possessors.

## *Wisdom Warns*

- 20 ¶ Wisdom shouts in the street,  
She lifts her voice in the square;  
21 At the head of the noisy *streets* she  
cries out;  
At the entrance of the gates in the city  
she utters her sayings:  
22 "How long, O naive ones, will you love  
being simple-minded?  
And scoffers delight themselves in  
scoffing  
And fools hate knowledge?  
23 "Turn to my reproof,  
Behold, I will pour out my spirit on  
you;  
I will make my words known to you.  
24 "Because I called and you refused,  
I stretched out my hand and no one  
paid attention;  
25 And you neglected all my counsel  
And did not want my reproof;  
26 I will also laugh at your calamity;  
I will mock when your dread comes,  
27 When your dread comes like a storm  
And your calamity comes like a  
whirlwind,  
When distress and anguish come upon  
you.  
28 "Then they will call on me, but I will  
not answer;

- They will seek me diligently but they  
will not find me,  
29 Because they hated knowledge  
And did not choose the fear of the  
LORD.  
30 "They would not accept my counsel,  
They spurned all my reproof.  
31 "So they shall eat of the fruit of their  
own way  
And be satiated with their own  
devices.  
32 "For the waywardness of the naive will  
kill them,  
And the complacency of fools will  
destroy them.  
33 "But he who listens to me shall live  
securely  
And will be at ease from the dread of  
evil."

### *The Pursuit of Wisdom Brings Security*

- 2** My son, if you will receive my words  
And treasure my commandments  
within you,  
2 Make your ear attentive to wisdom,  
Incline your heart to understanding;  
3 For if you cry for discernment,  
Lift your voice for understanding;  
4 If you seek her as silver  
And search for her as for hidden  
treasures;  
5 Then you will discern the fear of the  
LORD  
And discover the knowledge of God.  
6 For the LORD gives wisdom;  
From His mouth *come* knowledge and  
understanding.  
7 He stores up sound wisdom for the  
upright;  
*He is* a shield to those who walk in  
integrity,  
8 Guarding the paths of justice,  
And He preserves the way of His godly  
ones.  
9 Then you will discern righteousness  
and justice  
And equity *and* every good course.  
10 For wisdom will enter your heart  
And knowledge will be pleasant to  
your soul;  
11 Discretion will guard you,  
Understanding will watch over you,  
12 To deliver you from the way of evil,  
From the man who speaks perverse  
things;  
13 From those who leave the paths of  
uprightness  
To walk in the ways of darkness;  
14 Who delight in doing evil

- And rejoice in the perversity of evil;  
15 Whose paths are crooked,  
And who are devious in their ways;  
16 To deliver you from the strange  
woman,  
From the adulteress who flatters with  
her words;  
17 That leaves the companion of her  
youth  
And forgets the covenant of her God;  
18 For her house sinks down to death  
And her tracks *lead* to the dead;  
19 None who go to her return again,  
Nor do they reach the paths of life.  
20 So you will walk in the way of  
good men  
And keep to the paths of the righteous.  
21 For the upright will live in the land  
And the blameless will remain in it;  
22 But the wicked will be cut off from the  
land  
And the treacherous will be uprooted  
from it.

### *The Rewards of Wisdom*

- 3** My son, do not forget my teaching,  
But let your heart keep my  
commandments;  
2 For length of days and years of life  
And peace they will add to you.  
3 Do not let kindness and truth leave  
you;  
Bind them around your neck,  
Write them on the tablet of your heart.  
4 So you will find favor and good repute  
In the sight of God and man.  
5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart  
And do not lean on your own  
understanding.  
6 In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He will make your paths straight.  
7 Do not be wise in your own eyes;  
Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.  
8 It will be healing to your body  
And refreshment to your bones.  
9 Honor the LORD from your wealth  
And from the first of all your produce;  
10 So your barns will be filled with plenty  
And your vats will overflow with new  
wine.  
11 My son, do not reject the discipline of  
the LORD  
Or loathe His reproof,  
12 For whom the LORD loves He reproves,  
Even as a father *corrects* the son in  
whom he delights.  
13 ¶ How blessed is the man who finds  
wisdom

36 "Be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that they may immediately open *the door* to him when he comes and knocks.

37 "Blessed are those slaves whom the master will find on the alert when he comes; truly I say to you, that he will gird himself *to serve*, and have them recline *at the table*, and will come up and wait on them.

38 "Whether he comes in the <sup>a</sup>second watch, or even in the <sup>b</sup>third, and finds *them* so, blessed are those *slaves*.

39 ¶ "But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have allowed his house to be broken into.

40 "You too, be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect."

41 ¶ Peter said, "Lord, are You addressing this parable to us, or to everyone *else* as well?"

42 And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and sensible steward, whom his master will put in charge of his servants, to give them their rations at the proper time?"

43 "Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes.

44 "Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

45 "But if that slave says in his heart, 'My master will be a long time in coming,' and begins to beat the slaves, *both* men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk;

46 the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect *him* and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and assign him a place with the unbelievers.

47 "And that slave who knew his master's will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, will receive many lashes,

48 but the one who did not know *it*, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few. From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.

### Christ Divides Men

49 ¶ "I have come to cast fire upon the earth; and how I wish it were already kindled!

50 "But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is accomplished!

51 "Do you suppose that I came to grant peace on earth? I tell you, no, but rather division;

52 for from now on five *members* in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three.

53 "They will be divided, father against son

and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

54 ¶ And He was also saying to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'A shower is coming,' and so it turns out.

55 "And when *you see* a south wind blowing, you say, 'It will be a hot day,' and it turns out *that way*.

56 "You hypocrites! You know how to analyze the appearance of the earth and the sky, but why do you not analyze this present time?"

57 ¶ "And why do you not even on your own initiative judge what is right?"

58 "For while you are going with your opponent to appear before the magistrate, on *your way there* make an effort to settle with him, so that he may not drag you before the judge, and the judge turn you over to the officer, and the officer throw you into prison.

59 "I say to you, you will not get out of there until you have paid the very last cent."

### Call to Repent

**13** Now on the same occasion there were some present who reported to Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices.

2 And Jesus said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were *greater* sinners than all *other* Galileans because they suffered this *fate*?"

3 "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

4 "Or do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them were *worse* culprits than all the men who live in Jerusalem?"

5 "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

6 ¶ And He *began* telling this parable: "A man had a fig tree which had been planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and did not find any.

7 "And he said to the vineyard-keeper, 'Behold, for three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree without finding any. Cut it down! Why does it even use up the ground?'

8 "And he answered and said to him, 'Let it alone, sir, for this year too, until I dig around it and put in fertilizer;

9 and if it bears fruit next year, *fine*; but if not, cut it down.'

<sup>a</sup>I.e. 9 p.m. to midnight

<sup>b</sup>I.e. midnight to 3 a.m.

### Healing on the Sabbath

10 ¶ And He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath.

11 And there was a woman who for eighteen years had had a sickness caused by a spirit; and she was bent double, and could not straighten up at all.

12 When Jesus saw her, He called her over and said to her, “Woman, you are freed from your sickness.”

13 And He laid His hands on her; and immediately she was made erect again and began glorifying God.

14 But the synagogue official, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, began saying to the crowd in response, “There are six days in which work should be done; so come during them and get healed, and not on the Sabbath day.”

15 But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites, does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the stall and lead him away to water *him*?”

16 “And this woman, a daughter of Abraham as she is, whom Satan has bound for eighteen long years, should she not have been released from this bond on the Sabbath day?”

17 As He said this, all His opponents were being humiliated; and the entire crowd was rejoicing over all the glorious things being done by Him.

### Parables of Mustard Seed and Leaven

18 ¶ So He was saying, “What is the kingdom of God like, and to what shall I compare it?”

19 “It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and threw into his own garden; and it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air nested in its branches.”

20 ¶ And again He said, “To what shall I compare the kingdom of God?”

21 “It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour until it was all leavened.”

### Teaching in the Villages

22 ¶ And He was passing through from one city and village to another, teaching, and proceeding on His way to Jerusalem.

23 And someone said to Him, “Lord, are there just a few who are being saved?” And He said to them,

24 “Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

25 “Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, ‘Lord, open up

to us!’ then He will answer and say to you, ‘I do not know where you are from.’”

26 “Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets’;

27 and He will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you are from; DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS.’”

28 “In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves being thrown out.

29 “And they will come from east and west and from north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God.

30 “And behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last.”

31 ¶ Just at that time some Pharisees approached, saying to Him, “Go away, leave here, for Herod wants to kill You.”

32 And He said to them, “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I reach My goal.’”

33 “Nevertheless I must journey on today and tomorrow and the next day; for it cannot be that a prophet would perish outside of Jerusalem.

34 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it!”

35 “Behold, your house is left to you desolate; and I say to you, you will not see Me until the time comes when you say, ‘BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!’”

### Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

14 It happened that when He went into the house of one of the leaders of the Pharisees on the Sabbath to eat bread, they were watching Him closely.

2 And there in front of Him was a man suffering from dropsy.

3 And Jesus answered and spoke to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?”

4 But they kept silent. And He took hold of him and healed him, and sent him away.

5 And He said to them, “Which one of you will have a son or an ox fall into a well, and will not immediately pull him out on a Sabbath day?”

6 And they could make no reply to this.

### Parable of the Guests

7 ¶ And He began speaking a parable to the invited guests when He noticed how they had

death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated

38 (*men* of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.

39 ¶ And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised,

40 because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.

### *Jesus, the Example*

12 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 ¶ For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

### *A Father's Discipline*

4 You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin;

5 and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons,

“MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE  
DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD,  
NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED  
BY HIM;

6 FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE  
DISCIPLINES,

AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE  
RECEIVES.”

7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom *his* father does not discipline?

8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?

10 For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He *disciplines us* for *our* good, so that we may share His holiness.

11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

12 ¶ Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble,

13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that *the limb* which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.

14 ¶ Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

15 See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;

16 that *there be* no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a *single* meal.

17 For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.

### *Contrast of Sinai and Zion*

18 ¶ For you have not come to a *mountain* that can be touched and to a blazing fire, and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind,

19 and to the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words which *sound was such that* those who heard begged that no further word be spoken to them.

20 For they could not bear the command, “IF EVEN A BEAST TOUCHES THE MOUNTAIN, IT WILL BE STONED.”

21 And so terrible was the sight, *that* Moses said, “I AM FULL OF FEAR and trembling.”

22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels,

23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of *the* righteous made perfect,

24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than *the blood* of Abel.

### *The Unshaken Kingdom*

25 ¶ See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned *them* on earth, much less *will we escape* who turn away from Him who *warns* from heaven.

26 And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, “YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN.”

27 This *expression*, “Yet once more,” denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

28 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;

29 for our God is a consuming fire.

### *The Changeless Christ*

**13** Let love of the brethren continue. 2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.

3 Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, *and* those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body.

4 Marriage *is to be held* in honor among all, and the *marriage* bed *is to be* undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

5 *Make sure that* your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"

6 so that we confidently say,

"THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID.

WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?"

7 ¶ Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.

8 Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday and today and forever.

9 Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited.

10 We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat.

11 For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest *as an offering* for sin, are burned outside the camp.

12 Therefore Jesus also, that He might sancti-

fy the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate.

13 So, let us go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach.

14 For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking *the city* which is to come.

### *God-pleasing Sacrifices*

15 Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

16 And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

17 ¶ Obey your leaders and submit *to them*, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

18 ¶ Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves honorably in all things.

19 And I urge *you* all the more to do this, so that I may be restored to you the sooner.

### *Benediction*

20 ¶ Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, *even* Jesus our Lord,

21 equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.

22 ¶ But I urge you, brethren, bear with this word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly.

23 Take notice that our brother Timothy has been released, with whom, if he comes soon, I will see you.

24 Greet all of your leaders and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you.

25 ¶ Grace be with you all.

## The Letter of

# James

### *Testing Your Faith*

**1** James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

¶ To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.

2 ¶ Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

4 And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

5 ¶ But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.