

# **THE WISDOM OF JAMES THE JUST**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649269488

The wisdom of James the Just by W. Boyd Carpenter

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**W. BOYD CARPENTER**

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JAMES THE JUST**



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BY

THE RIGHT REV.

W. BOYD CARPENTER D.D.

HON. D.C.L. OXON. LORD BISHOP OF RIPON

NEW YORK

THOMAS WHITTAKER

2 & 3 BIBLE HOUSE

1903

Printed by BALLANTYNE, HANSON & Co.  
London & Edinburgh

## PREFACE

Wise men have often told us of the snares of desultory reading. The mental discipline which accompanies continuous study is missed by those who wander from book to book. There may be, and there doubtless is, profit in wide and diversified reading, but it is seldom a profit, except to those who have trained the mind by systematic study. The Bible, like every other book, is only read with fullest advantage when it is studied systematically, *i.e.*, book by book. I fear that Bible reading is too often the reading of detached texts, or of favourite and perhaps isolated passages. Choice extracts are well enough in their way, but they can never take the place of complete works; and it may safely be said that as a man does not know literature who only knows a few "gems" as they are called, so

he does not know his Bible who only knows a few texts.

In the present day, more than in any past days, the study of the Books of the Bible is needful. Only by such study can we appreciate the continuous and growing message of God's spirit in the Bible. Moved by this conviction, let us study one book of the Bible—the Epistle of St. James. In doing so, we take up a book, which is not an elaborate treatise, nor an intricate history; it needs no long preliminary study: it is a frank, simple and earnest letter, addressed to his friends by a man of good and strong character.

The Revised Version of the Epistle is printed here by permission of the University Presses.

W. B. RIPON.

RIPON, *November 1902.*

P.S.—In my study of this book I have been helped by many, but by none more than by Professor Joseph B. Mayor, whom I desire to thank for many happy and profitable hours.

W. B. R.



# CONTENTS

## PART I

### THE LETTER AND THE MAN

CHAP.	PAGE
I. THE SELF-REVELATION OF THE WRITER . . . . .	3
II. HIS PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE . . . . .	23
III. HIS THOUGHTS ABOUT GOD . . . . .	43
IV. THE WRITER AND THOSE TO WHOM HE WROTE . . . . .	61

## PART II

### THE LETTER

I. LIFE AS EDUCATION . . . . .	77
II. THE CO-OPERATION OF INWARD AND OUTWARD FORCES IN SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT . . . . .	104
III. THE CONFLICT FOR IDEALS . . . . .	119
IV. CHARACTER REVEALED IN CONDUCT . . . . .	138
V. RESPECT OF PERSONS AND SELF-RESPECT . . . . .	156

CHAP.	PAGE
VI. FAITH AND WORKS . . . . .	176
VII. TRUE WISDOM . . . . .	191
VIII. PASSION AND PRAYER . . . . .	210
IX. RULE THROUGH OBEDIENCE. . . . .	219
X. AGAINST PRESUMPTION. . . . .	235
XI. PATIENCE IN SPIRIT AND IN WORD . . . . .	234
XII. GOD AND BROTHERLINESS . . . . .	241

THE GENERAL EPISTLE OF  
JAMES

JAMES, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus 1  
Christ, to the twelve tribes which are of the Dis-  
persion, greeting.

Count it all joy, my brethren, when ye fall into 2  
manifold temptations ; knowing that the proof of 3  
your faith worketh patience. And let patience 4  
have *its* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and  
entire, lacking in nothing.

But if any of you lacketh wisdom, let him ask 5  
of God, who giveth to all liberally and upbraideth  
not ; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in 6  
faith, nothing doubting : for he that doubteth is  
like the surge of the sea driven by the wind and 7  
tossed. For let not that man think that he shall  
receive anything of the Lord ; a doubleminded 8  
man, unstable in all his ways.

But let the brother of low degree glory in his 9