

VERTICAL CHART EXAMPLE: JAMES

Segment 1. 1:1-18

Who is James? 12 tribes?
 Define "dispersion:" Name applied to Jews living outside of Palestine - cf. Dt. 4:27; Zondervan Dict., p.217

Repeated words, ideas:
 Temptation 9x, Endurance 3x
 Atmosphere: Joy, positive
 Key Words: Faith, wisdom

Repeated idea: Doubt
 Contrast: Faith - Doubt
 Define: "Ask in faith" (v.6)
 "double-minded" (cf.4:8)

Comparison: lowly/rich
 flower/rich
 Illustration:
 Isaiah 40:6-8

Figures of speech:
 "crown of life" (metaphor)
 "desire" (personification)
 Contrast: God/self (source of temptation)
 Progression

CONTRAST: 2 BIRTHS
 Define: "First fruits"
 cf. Lev.23:9-14, Jer.2:3
 To acknowledge all belonged to God, Israelites brought of the fruits that ripened first. (Zond.,284).

1:1 JAMES - TO TWELVE TRIBES Servant of God, Jesus
1:2 TESTING FAITH PRODUCES ENDURANCE Whenever trials Consider it JOY..... Because Endurance --> Mature, Complete
1:5 LACKING WISDOM - ASK GOD <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> If ↑ </div> Who gives: generously, ungrudgingly But ask: in faith.... never doubting For doubter not receive
1:9 LOWLY BOAST > BEING RAISED Rich --> being brought low Because rich like flower: • Sun withers field, • The rich beauty perishes wither
1:12 BLESSED: WHO ENDURES TEMPTATION Will receive crown of life No one say: Tempted by: B Tempted by: God U Own desire Desire --> lured T -----> conceived -----> birth to sin -----> birth to death
1:17 EVERY GIFT FROM ABOVE From Father of Lights -- no variation His purpose -- birth So that: Kind of first fruits

Conditional

Character of God

CONTRAST: 2 BIRTHS

Character of God

12 Tribes, Dispersion - is this literal?
 What about Gentile believers? Perhaps figurative - speaking spiritually to the whole church. cf. Acts 8:1b.

Why the emphasis on endurance?
 Church is experiencing difficulties. He's giving them a future perspective so they can see how God will use this to their benefit if they persevere.

Why: "Ask for wisdom"? Tests & temptations can cause foolish choices.
 Why mention God's character? Testing could make the readers question God's concern & goodness.
 "Ask in faith" appears to mean focusing on Jesus, or the opposite of being double-minded.

Why an illustration about the rich?
 Perhaps the rich are persecuting poor believers? Isaiah 40 focuses on how short life is. Perhaps James wants them to see how transient earthly wealth is.

"Crown of life" = eternal life. James is giving them an eternal perspective for endurance.
 Why contrast God/self? Trials could cause them to blame God for their internal temptation. Again, the need for wisdom.
 Personification & progression: shows the power of sinful desires and the end result of sin.

Not only is God NOT to be blamed for sin, but He wants to give life in contrast to the death caused by sin.

First fruits - a way of saying that believers belong to God. This should build security in the reader.

Summary of segment: James is speaking to believers, perhaps the poor, in the midst of trials. Appealing to God's character, he encourages them to ask in faith for wisdom to endure and mature.