OUR GUARANTEE

After explaining the condition of the rich to the rich, James turns his attention to his “brethren,” who were likely often victims of the rich. While those who live for themselves and at the expense of others should fear the impending future, God’s people should look toward the future with patience and hope. For those against God, the future is worse than they realize; for those who live in surrender to Him, it’s much better than they could ever imagine.

Using parables ranging from agriculture to the devastating story of Job, James reminds his listeners that patience and perseverance are not novel concepts in the realm of the life of faith. Hopeful patience is needed for farmers desiring to feed their families, prophets repeatedly giving the same message to idolatrous nations, a man of God wondering why his circumstances are what they are, and a believer straining with eyes of faith toward the future. In all these circumstances, the individual is blind to the future (even the present!), because they cannot see it clearly. Instead, they must trust the One who can.

In this time of waiting, words continue to reveal the condition of the heart. James warns his listeners not to give utterance to grumblings or swearing, as both bring condemnation and judgment in their wake. “Establish your hearts,” he encourages, “for the coming of the Lord is at hand” (James 5:8). No matter how unlikely, how uncontrollable, or how far-off it may seem, the Lord Jesus is coming, and all that He has promised will surely be fulfilled.
Write out James 5:7–12 from the Bible translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out James 5:7, 8. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
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Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

**Circle** repeated words/ phrases/ideas

**Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw **Arrows** to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in James 5:7–12. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

Which of these three needs for patience do you experience the most? Struggle with the most? Why?

Why do you think patience is such an essential quality of a Christian?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/jam11-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How have you noticed grumbling impacting your own view of a situation?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/jam11-4
Review your memorized verse from James 5:7–12.

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What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Nehemiah 9:30
Romans 15:5, 6
2 Thessalonians 3:5
Habakkuk 2:3
Jude 1:16
2 Peter 4:9
Matthew 5:33–36

What other verses come to mind in connection with James 5:7–12?
How does remembering Jesus’ patience impact your patience with a current situation in your life?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the passage, what are personal applications you are convicted of in your life and sphere of influence?

What are practical applications you must make in your school, family, workplace, and church?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/jam11-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

In your own words, what does “patience” mean practically?

Why do you think complaining is so acceptable in most circles? What are ways to change that in our lives?

What is your reaction to this section of this week’s inSight: “Often when we pray for the graces of the Spirit, God works to answer our prayers by placing us in circumstances to develop these fruits; but we do not understand His purpose, and wonder, and are dismayed”?

Is the psalmic phrase “wait on the Lord” the same thing as having patience? Why or why not? Use Bible verses to further explain your thoughts.

What are different ways you need to express patience in the coming week? How can that be accomplished?