

Be patient for the Lord's coming; pray

James 5:1–20 · 20 verses · Song: “Early and Late Rain”

The picture: A farmer leans on his staff by the young crops under the storm, while on the mountaintop Elijah prays and the rain pours down.



PICTURE WORD

Rain

THE CHAPTER IN BRIEF



he farmer waits for the rain; Elijah prayed and the rain came.

Remember it: FIVE: the last chapter ends in rain. Chapter 5: wait, pray, bring them home.

MEMORY VERSE

So confess your sins to each other and pray for each other, so that you will be healed. A righteous person's prayer has great power as it does its work.

James 5:16 · the author's translation

GREEK WORD

προσευχέσθω

“he should pray” · verse 13

In James: four times

Every use of this verb in James is in chapter 5: the suffering pray, the elders pray over the sick, we pray for each other, and Elijah “prayed hard” (5:13–18). The letter that began by telling us to ask God for wisdom (1:5) ends in prayer.

HOW THE CHAPTER MOVES

1–6 Woe to the rich who hold back the workers' pay.

7–11 Be patient like the farmer; Job held out.

12 Let your yes mean yes and your no mean no.

13–18 Pray: the suffering, the sick, confession, Elijah.

19–20 Bring back the one who wanders.

FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

v. 4 ← Isa 5:9 The cries reach the Lord of Hosts.

v. 11 ← Job 1–2; 42 How Job held out.

v. 17–18 ← 1 Kgs 17:1; 18:41–45 Elijah prays: no rain, then rain.

v. 20 ← Prov 10:12 Love covers a great many sins.



Listen. Hear James 5 sung in the **James by Heart** app, or free at ispress.de/james/songs/5.

The song: “Early and Late Rain.” Every verse of the chapter is sung.

Woe to the rich who cheat

Patience until the Lord comes

Let your yes be yes

The prayer of faith

FILL IN THE BLANKS

The _____ waits for the _____; _____ prayed and the rain came.

CHECK YOURSELF

1. What does the farmer wait for?

- ☐ (A) The harvest festival
☐ (C) A buyer for his land

- ☐ (B) The early and the late rains
☐ (D) The end of winter

2. What should anyone who is sick do?

- ☐ (A) Keep it to himself
☐ (C) Take an oath

- ☐ (B) Send for the church's elders
☐ (D) Wait for the Lord's coming

3. How long did no rain fall when Elijah prayed?

- ☐ (A) Forty days
☐ (C) Three years and six months

- ☐ (B) Seven years
☐ (D) One year

TALK IT OVER

1. James warns rich people who held back their workers' pay. Where do we see that kind of wrong today?

2. Elijah "was a man with a nature just like ours." What does that tell you about your own prayers?

3. Is there someone who has wandered whom you could help bring back?

IN YOUR OWN WORDS: WHAT DOES JAMES 5 TEACH?

- ☐ I listened to the song
☐ I can say 5:16 by heart

- ☐ I can say what it teaches
☐ I know the picture word

Answers: Blanks: farmer · rain · Elijah · Check yourself: 1. B (v. 7) · 2. B (v. 14) · 3. C (v. 17)