

TRIALS OF FAITH

A large, dark, stormy cloud formation, possibly a supercell or a large cumulonimbus cloud, dominates the upper two-thirds of the image. The cloud is dark and textured, with some lighter areas near the top. Below the cloud, a calm body of water is visible, reflecting the dark tones of the sky. The overall mood is somber and dramatic.

JAMES 1.2-4

CONTEXT OF JAMES 1

- The “twelve tribes” scattered abroad is a reference to Christians.
 - ❖ Romans 2.28-29 — a “real” Jew
- There seems to be a background of hardship to this letter:
 - ❖ James 1.2,12,19,23; 2.14f; 5.10
- To Christians who were facing trials, James wrote encouraging endurance.



WHAT IS A TRIAL?

JAMES 1.2

- There is a distinction to be understood between *trials* and *temptations*.
 - ❖ Temptations don't come from God - 1.13
 - ❖ Temptations are solicitations to do evil (13) and sin (15).
 - ❖ Trials center around our faith - 1.3
 - ❖ Trials are designed for endurance - 1.3
 - ❖ Trials are for our benefit.



JOY IN TRIALS?

JAMES 1.2-4

- How can we find joy in trials?
 - ❖ It says something about our faith - 1.3
 - ❖ Endurance derives from trials - 1.3
 - ❖ Trials produce endurance - 1.3
 - ❖ Endurance completes us as followers of Christ - 1.4



TRIALS MADE PRACTICAL

- Abraham and Isaac - Genesis 22
 - ❖ This trial came from God (22.1-2).
 - ❖ It was not a solicitation to do evil; rather, it was a call to follow God.
 - ❖ Abraham exercised faith, endured, and came through the trial (22.8,11-14).



TRIALS MADE PRACTICAL

- Judah and Babylon - Isaiah 4
 - ❖ Isaiah 2-4 contain God's rebuke of Judah.
 - ❖ Judah, as a nation, had failed — they would be judged by God (3.8,24-26).
 - ❖ The trial had a purpose (4.4).
 - ❖ Following the Babylonian captivity, when do we see idolatry (2.8) again plaguing the nation?



TRIALS MADE PRACTICAL

- What trials might we face?
 - ❖ Trials that come from God in His word:
 - ➔ Changing our style of living (1 Peter 4.3)
 - ➔ Surviving those who won't understand (1 Pet. 4.4)
 - ❖ Trials that come from living in this world:
 - ➔ Health and circumstance (2 Corinthians 12.7ff)
 - ➔ The loss of loved ones (1 Thessalonians 4.13ff)



"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

Romans 12.2 (NLT)



"In this you greatly rejoice,
though now for a little while, if
need be, you have been grieved
by various trials, that the
genuineness of your faith, being
much more precious than gold
that perishes, though it is tested
by fire, may be found to praise,
honor, and glory at the
revelation of Jesus Christ."

1 Peter 1.6-7 (NASB)

