

John 15:19 “If you were from the world [2d class condition: you are not now but you once were], the world would keep on having love for its own, but I have chosen you [aorist middle indicative of the verb ἐκλέγω (*eklégō*): doctrine of election] out of the world, because of this the world keeps on hating you. (EXT)

14. James’ point is that if a believer is deceived it is because he deceived himself because he did not apply the doctrines that he knew or, worse, did not know at all.
15. This gives Lucifer a free shot at any believer. His brilliance is capable of leading a loser believer down a path of self-aggrandizement or self-pity.
16. Therefore, the mandate, “Stop being deceived,” requires the believer to get with the system by investing serious study in the Word of God.
17. No believer is able to do battle with the devil short of divine power contained in the Bible. Matriculation in the Divine Academy of Grace Didactics is required for developing an effective inventory to withstand assaults from the Dark Side.
18. Believers who have failed to acquire problem-solving devices are overwhelmed in the current Zeitgeist of what’s left of client nation America.
19. Many Christians are presently upset about the decline of traditional standards in this country. This is Operation Rip Van Winkle. Washington Irving’s character, who passed out after drinking too much Holland gin, spent the next twenty years asleep. He awakened after the War for Independence thinking King George III was still in charge.
20. Well, it’s not that bad, but loss of thought has crept deliberately onward so that the foundational standards, designed by God to maintain an environment of freedom, have dangerously eroded.
21. In the process, the diminishment of witnesses for the Prosecution has led the way. It is this condition about which James warns, “Stop being deceived!”

22. The weaker the doctrinal inventory of ideas present in a believer's soul the more ignorant he becomes of Satan's devices (2 Corinthians 2:11, KJV).
23. With this negative warning, James is also encouraging believer's to invest more time in Bible study with the result of more and more consistent application.
24. In order to begin the process of serious Bible study, the deceived believer must first get reoriented to grace by confessing his sins, fixing his eyes on God's perfect plan, and orienting to His unfailing love.
25. God loves His children. The loser believer is still God's child and His grace is designed to permit a grace recovery which begins with confession alone to God alone.
26. Recovery begins by starting with what you know: forgiveness means your sins are forgiven and you have the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit available for recovery.
27. What else do you know? You have access to a local church where doctrine is taught. "Resume attendance, sit down, shut up, and fake it till you make it."
28. Although James' target audience is the scattered Jewish Diaspora, the book's ultimate objective is to warn all Church Age believers whom he calls, "my beloved brethren."
29. The word "beloved" is masculine plural noun **ἀγαπητός (agapētiós)**: "beloved": "(1) pertaining to one who is in a very special relationship with another, (2) one who is dearly loved, *dear, prized, valued*, and (3) of members of a Christian group."¹
30. This is followed by the masculine plural of the noun **ἀδελφός (adelphós)**: "brothers."
31. James will send his epistle to Jews scattered abroad, offspring of Diaspora that occurred from 721 B.C. to 586 B.C. The Assyrian siege upon Samaria from 724–721 provides a good illustration of how that fifth cycle of discipline affected the Samaritan Diaspora:

¹ Walter Bauer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and other Early Christian Literature*, 3d ed., rev. and ed. Frederick William Danker (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2000), 7.

The Fall of Samaria. The Assyrian sources describe the “ravaging” of Samaria (c. 724–721), which may have denoted the entire land. Some archaeological evidence for the destruction has been found at the Israelite city of Shechem. This accords with the typical Assyrian strategy of wasting the territory of a particular state and then surrounding the main city, which had now been cut off from its resources. Both Sennacherib and Nebuchadnezzar II used this policy against Jerusalem. The fact that the siege of Samaria lasted three years although the Assyrians were unmatched in siege warfare shows that it was heavily fortified. The city fell in 722/721. Although Shalmaneser V is given credit for the conquest of Samaria in the Bible, his successor Sargon II claimed the credit in the Assyrian annals. Sargon also claims to have rebuilt the city.

Policy of Deportation. The Assyrian deportation policies had been in effect for nearly four centuries by this time. Sargon claimed to have deported 27,290 people from Samaria. The Assyrians also had a policy of relocating other conquered peoples into Samarian territory. Sargon claims to have repopulated the city of Samaria with other deportees. The deportation policy was intended to remove from conquered peoples anything that they might rally in defense of. If they have no land and no nation, and their ethnic identity has been compromised (through forced assimilation), there is no identity to fight for.²

32. Notice a satanic strategy implemented by Sargon. Not only did he dislocate over 27,000 Israelite captives to Assyria, he also repopulated Samaria with aliens who were neither Jewish nor followers of Jehovah.
33. After 2,740 years, something very similar is taking place today in Western Europe, Great Britain, and the United States. Lucifer’s tactics are much different, but the strategy is the same.
34. Failure to inculcate aliens with the client nation’s legal and cultural standards means that civil and social order is weakened and the road to rebellion is paved with the blood of innocents.
35. This again calls to my mind eight lines in William Butler Yeats’s poem, “The Second Coming”:

² John H. Walton, Victor H. Matthews, and Mark W. Chavalas, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament* (Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP Academic, 2000), 403.

Turning and turning the widening gyre³
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart: the center [Pivot] cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.

36. Satan rules this world and contributing to his designs is the great turnover of peoples from generation to generation. Their increasing ignorance of history's forewarnings has caused them to ignore the sequel playing out before them.

Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. —George Santayana

37. James's concern is for those Jews who are not only the progeny of the Samaritan Diaspora, but also of Judah in 586 B.C. That group was taken to Chaldea by Nebuchadnezzar.
38. So in some way he is referring to his blood brothers for whom he obviously has great affection and concern. However, the greatest emphasis is for those blood brothers who are also Messianic Jews of former Diaspora.
39. A tremendous amount of pressure has followed Jews from place to place since 721 B.C. Once you can define an enemy then prejudice toward it is codified and applied. Such was the case beginning in 1879:

Anti-Semitism, hostility toward or discrimination against Jews as a group. *Anti-Semitism* was coined in 1879 by the German agitator Wilhelm Marr to designate contemporary anti-Jewish campaigns in Germany. The term has wide currency but is a misnomer, since it implies discrimination against all Semites, a group that includes Arabs and others who are not targets of anti-Semitism as it is usually understood.

***The Origins of Christian anti-Semitism.* Although Jesus was a Jew, and Christianity is rooted in Jewish monotheism, Judaism and Christianity became rivals after the Roman destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.**

From St. Augustine in the 4th century to Martin Luther in the 16th, Christian theologians excoriated the Jews as rebels against God and murderers of the Lord. They were described as companions of the devil and a race of vipers. (p. 447)

³“Gyre \jī-er\; a circular or spiral motion” (*Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th ed.) s.v. “gyre.”

Nazi anti-Semitism and the Holocaust. The storm of anti-Semitic violence loosed by Nazi Germany under the leadership of Adolf Hitler from 1933 to 1945 not only reached a terrifying degree in Germany itself but also inspired anti-Jewish movements in France, Hungary, England, and the United States.

In Nazi Germany, anti-Semitism reached a new level. If Christianity sought the conversion of the Jews, the political leaders from Spain and England sought their expulsion, the Nazis sought the “final solution to the Jewish question,” the killing of all Jews and their eradication from the human race. Anti-Semitism and ideas of racial superiority became government policy—taught in schools, elaborated in “scientific” journals and research institutes, and promoted by a highly effective organization of international propaganda. In 1941 the liquidation of European Jewry became official Nazi party policy. Some 5,700,000 Jews were exterminated in such death camps as Auschwitz and Treblinka during World War II.⁴ (p. 448)

40. It is imperative at this point to review the policy of Grace Doctrine Church regarding anti-Semitism:

Anti-Semitism is defined as intolerance, hatred, prejudice, opposition, and persecution of the Jewish people and represents a satanic plot to eliminate the Jews from history. God has promised the Jews a reigning Messiah who will rule them in their own land called Israel. In order for Christ to fulfill these divine promises to Israel, Jews must survive until His Second Advent. Thus, anti-Semitism becomes a part of Satan’s desperate plan to circumvent Messiah’s return. Every member of the human race is warned by God Himself to avoid any form of anti-Semitism: “I will bless those who bless you and I will curse those who curse you;” (Genesis 12:3). Consequently, Grace Doctrine Church stands in righteous opposition to any vestige of anti-Semitic thought, comment, or action. Further, anyone associated with this church that engages in anti-Semitic actions will be expelled from the fellowship. (Zechariah 2:8–9; Revelation 12)⁵

41. James’s intended readers are contemporaries, Jews of the first century A.D., but with continuing application to believers from then until the Rapture of the church.
42. When he refers to them as “beloved brothers,” the emphasis is on Jewish believers in the first century.

⁴ Michael Berenbaum, “Anti-Semitism,” in *The New Encyclopaedia Britannica: Micropaedia* (2010), 1:447–48.

⁵ *Forty Proclamations: The Theology of Grace Doctrine Church* (St. Charles: Joe Griffin Media Ministries, 2011), 19.