

James 4:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

Analysis

Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go... and gain." James confronts presumption in business planning that ignores God's sovereignty. Boastful planning reveals arrogant independence.

Reformed doctrine of providence insists that all plans submit to God's will. James applies theology to commerce for diaspora merchants.

Historical Context

Many Jews engaged in trade across the empire. Planning was necessary but easily became self-reliant. James addresses their habit of projecting profits without reference to God's purposes.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do you plan without presumption?
2. Where have you excluded God from decisions?
3. What practices remind you of God's control over your schedule?

Interlinear Text

Ἄγε νῦν οἱ λέγοντες Σήμερον καὶ αὔριον πορευσώμεθα
G71 now G3588 ye that say To day and to morrow we will go
G3568 G3004 G4594 G2532 G839 G4198

εἰς τήνδε τὴν πόλιν καὶ ποιήσωμεν ἐκεῖ ἐνιαυτὸν ἕνα
into such G3588 a city and continue there year a
G1519 G3592 G4172 G2532 G4160 G1563 G1763 G1520

καὶ ἐμπορευσώμεθα καὶ κερδήσωμεν
and buy and sell and get gain
G2532 G1710 G2532 G2770

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 27:1 (Parallel theme): Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

Ecclesiastes 2:1 (Parallel theme): I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also is vanity.

Isaiah 24:2 (Parallel theme): And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the taker of usury, so with the giver of usury to him.