

James 5:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you.

Analysis

Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Come now, you rich, weep and howl (ololuzete, ὄλολύζετε) for miseries coming upon you. James issues prophetic woe against oppressive wealthy elites. Their judgment is imminent.

Reformed prophetic witness confronts systemic injustice. Wealth hoarded at others' expense will draw God's wrath.

Historical Context

Rich landowners in Judea and throughout the empire exploited day laborers. James echoes prophets like Amos, warning that divine judgment looms over unrepentant elites.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How might God be calling you to weep over unjust wealth patterns?

2. Where could your resources relieve misery?
3. What safeguards prevent oppression within your business or church?

Interlinear Text

Ἄγε	νῦν	οἱ	πλούσιοι	κλαύσατε	όλολύζοντες	ἐπὶ	ταῖς				
G71	now	G3588	ye rich men	G4145	weep	G2799	and howl	G3649	for	G3588	
										G1909	
ταλαιπωρίαις		ὑμῶν	ταῖς	ἐπερχομέναις							
miseries		your	G3588	that shall come upon							
		G5216								G1904	

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 11:28 (Parallel theme): He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.

Proverbs 11:4 (Parallel theme): Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.

Jeremiah 9:23 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:

James 1:11 (Parallel theme): For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.

Micah 6:12 (Parallel theme): For the rich men thereof are full of violence, and the inhabitants thereof have spoken lies, and their tongue is deceitful in their mouth.

Isaiah 13:6 (Parallel theme): Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.

Zephaniah 1:18 (Parallel theme): Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.

Deuteronomy 32:15 (Parallel theme): But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation.

James 2:6 (Parallel theme): But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

James 4:13 (Parallel theme): 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:

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