

FAITH WORKS

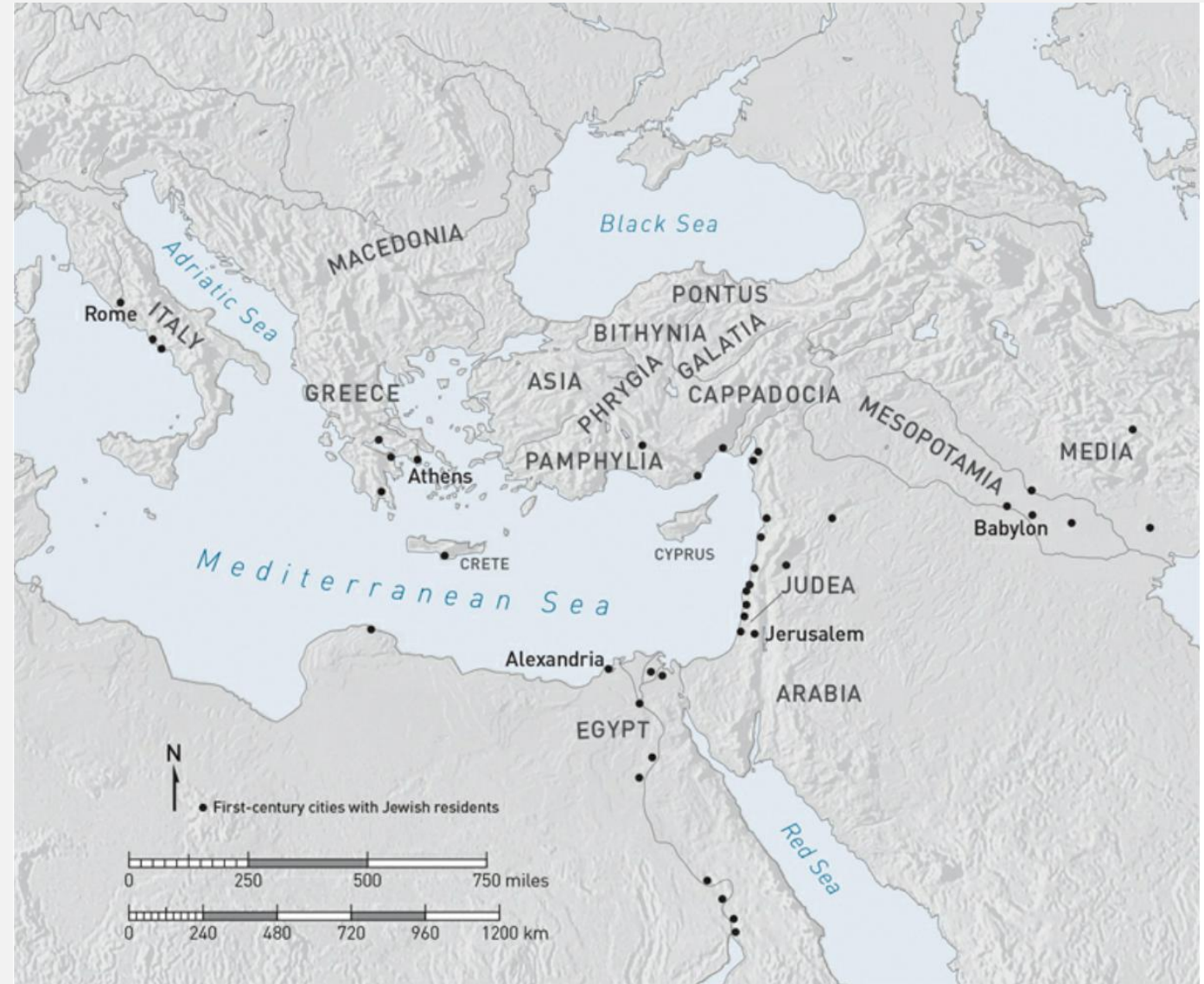
James 1:1b + Overview

I. THE CHALLENGES BELIEVERS FACE (IB-2A)

James 1:1b To the twelve tribes in the
Dispersion: Greetings.

A. THE CHALLENGES OF WHO WE ARE: FACING RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION (IB)

- *Ib* To the twelve tribes



I CORINTHIANS 1:21-24

- ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

B. THE CHALLENGES OF WHERE WE ARE: THE DIFFICULTIES OF IMMIGRATION (IC)

- *I^c in the Dispersion*

C. THE CHALLENGE TO HOW WE ARE: REJOICE IN HARDSHIP (ID-2A)

- *Id Greetings [Gr. Chairō = rejoice].² Count it all joy [Gr. Chara], my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,*

II. THE CHANGE FAITH PRODUCES (JAMES 1-5)

**Faith In The Gospel Of Christ
Produces ... Growth, Godliness,
Humility**

**FAITH IN THE GOSPEL OF
CHRIST PRODUCES ... GROWTH**

I. TESTING PRODUCES GROWTH

- **James 1:3b-4** the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
- **James 1:12a** ² Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial,

2. TEMPTATION IS REPLACED BY GRACE

- **James 1:13a** ¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,”
- **James 1:17** ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

**FAITH IN THE GOSPEL OF
CHRIST PRODUCES ...
GODLINESS**

I. GOOD WORDS INSTEAD OF ANGRY BEHAVIOR

- **James 1:19b-20** be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

2. **GODLY OBEDIENCE INSTEAD OF NOT BEING TRANSFORMED BY SCRIPTURE**

- **James 1:22** ²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves
- **James 1:27** ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

3. GRACIOUS LOVE INSTEAD OF FAVORITISM

- **James 2:1** My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.

4. **GODLY WORKS INSTEAD OF EMPTY FAITH**

- **James 2:18** ¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

5. GUARDED TONGUE INSTEAD OF DESTRUCTIVE WORDS

- **James 3:6** ⁶ And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.

6. GODLY WISDOM INSTEAD OF SELFISH AMBITION

- **James 3:13-14** ¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth.

**FAITH IN THE GOSPEL OF
CHRIST PRODUCES ... HUMILITY**

I. HUMILITY IN DISPUTES

- **James 4:10-11a** ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. ¹¹ Do not speak evil against one another, brothers.

2. HUMILITY IN OPPORTUNITIES

- **James 4:15-16** ¹⁵ Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” ¹⁶ As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

3. HUMILITY IN FINANCES

- **James 5:5** ⁵ You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.

4. HUMILITY IN FRUSTRATION

- **James 5:11** ¹¹ Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

5. HUMILITY IN PRAYER

- **James 5:16b** The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

6. HUMILITY IN WANDERING

- **James 5:19-20** ¹⁹ My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, ²⁰ let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

DISCUSSION:

- How has a recent hardship given you greater faith, wisdom and/or perspective?
- How does pride manifest itself in the church? Why do people need to project foul speech, angry responses, divisive attitudes and demonstration of riches? How does the Gospel cure these aspects of pride?
- What challenges do we face as a church? How could we grow from these challenges?