

James

A LETTER TO THE SCATTERED

A Graphic Novel Translation
by Earnest Graham

OLIVE BRANCH BOOKS

DEDICATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO FOLLOWERS OF JESUS, ACROSS THE WORLD AND THROUGHOUT THE GENERATIONS, WHO COURAGEOUSLY LIVE OUT THEIR FAITH IN THE FACE OF GREAT TRIALS EVERY DAY.

I WAS TAUGHT, AND SO I BELIEVE, THAT FAITH IS NOT A SOLITARY ADVENTURE. WE NEED ONE ANOTHER TO FAITHFULLY HEAR GOD'S WORD, AND TO FOLLOW IT. THIS COMIC TRANSLATION COMES OUT OF MANY HOURS OF STUDY, PRAYER, ACTION AND MISSION—ALL IN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. I HAVE BEEN RICHLY BLESSED BY ALL. I ESPECIALLY WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE:

MY WIFE SHIRLEY, FOR HER STEADFAST LOVE, FRIENDSHIP AND ENCOURAGEMENT.

MY SON EVAN, WHO SAT BY MY SIDE AS I DREW MANY OF THE PAGES, AND ASKED INSIGHTFUL QUESTIONS.

THE MANY MEMBERS OF BIBLE STUDIES AT ST. FRANCIS IN GREAT FALLS, ST. JOHN'S IN SUFFOLK, ST. MATTHEW'S IN CHESTERFIELD, THE BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW IN SEVERAL CHURCHES, AND TO FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES OVER THE INTERNET WHO OFFERED THEIR WISDOM.

JUSTIN MOORE AND OLIVE BRANCH BOOKS FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE IN BRINGING THIS BOOK TO LIFE.

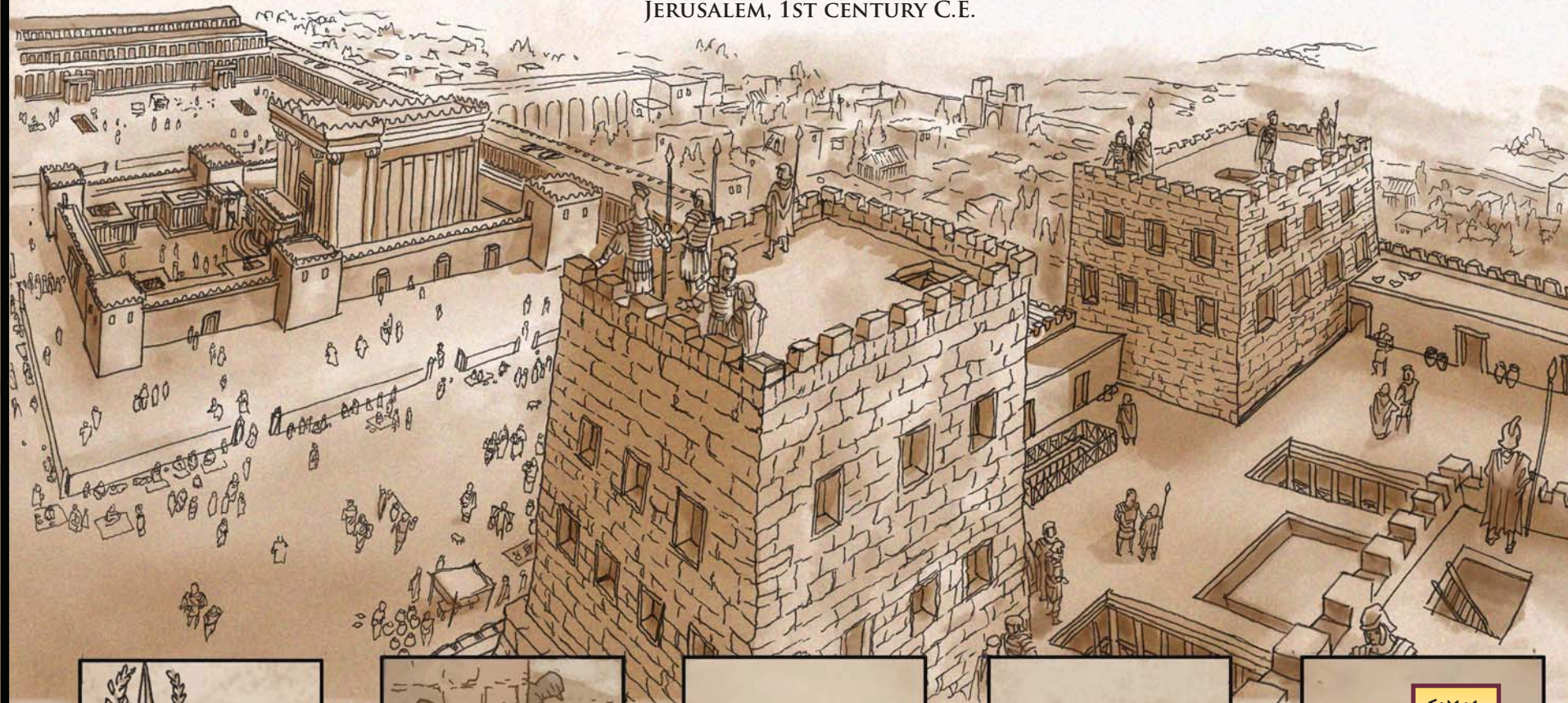
THE REV. DR. KATHERINE GRIEB, PROFESSOR OF NEW TESTAMENT AT VIRGINIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, FOR GIVING ME THE TOOLS TO DIG DEEPER INTO THIS TREASURE IN JAMES.

THE REV. DR. RICHARD JONES, FOR OPENING MY EYES TO SEE THE CHURCH AS IT IS SCATTERED AROUND THE WORLD.

THANK YOU,

EARNEST

JERUSALEM, 1ST CENTURY C.E.



100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000 1100 1200 1300 1400 1500 1600 1700 1800 1900 2000

JAMES

A SERVANT OF GOD AND OF
THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

TO THE TWELVE TRIBES WHO
ARE SCATTERED ABROAD...

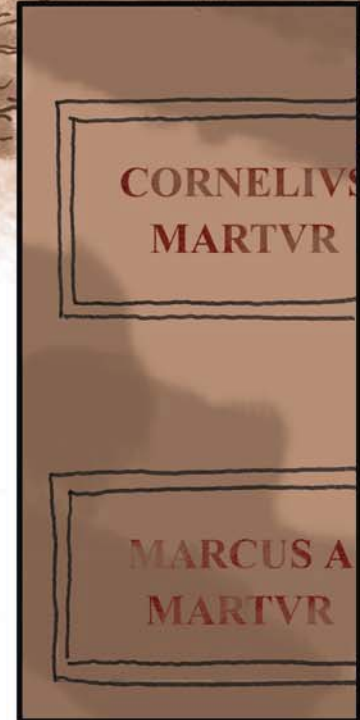
GRACE.

James 1:1



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ROME, 2ND CENTURY C.E.
THE CATACOMBS

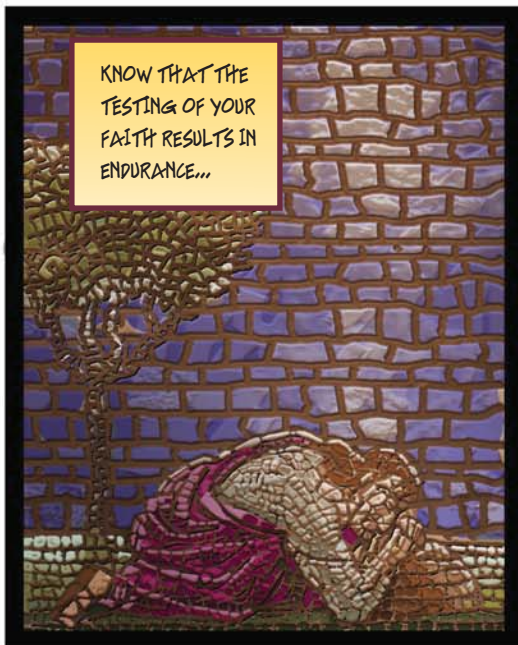




James 1:2

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KNOW THAT THE
TESTING OF YOUR
FAITH RESULTS IN
ENDURANCE...



AND LET ENDURANCE
COMPLETE THE WORK



THAT YOU MAY
BE COMPLETE

PERFECT

A WHOLE
PERSON

LACKING IN
NOTHING



BUT IF ANYONE OF YOU IS LACKING IN WISDOM ...



ASK GOD,
WHO GIVES TO ALL,
SIMPLY,
GENEROUSLY,
WITHOUT
DISCRIMINATION,
WITHOUT
REPROACHING...

AND IT WILL BE GIVEN
TO THAT PERSON.



James 1:3-5



A TWO-MINDED
PERSON IS
UNSTABLE/
IRRESOLUTE
IN ALL OF HIS
OR HER WAYS.



James 1:6-8

LET THE HUMBLE LOWLY
ONES TAKE PRIDE IN BE-
ING LIFTED HIGH...

AND THE RICH ONE IN BEING
HUMBLED AND LOWLY

FOR HE WILL
FADE LIKE A
FLOWER IN THE
GRASS

FOR AS THE SUN ROSE,
AND IT'S BURNING HEAT
DRIED THE GRASS, AND
THE FLOWER FELL...

AND THE BEAUTY OF IT'S
APPEARANCE PERISHED,

EVEN SO, THE RICH
PERSON WILL ALSO FADE
AWAY IN HIS JOURNEY

James 1:9-11

CENTRAL EUROPE 17TH CENTURY C.E.

THE THIRTY YEARS WAR



James 4:1-10



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ARE THEY NOT FROM HERE?

FROM YOUR DESIRES AT WAR
WITH YOUR MEMBERS?

YOU DESIRE WHAT
YOU DO NOT HAVE. YOU
KILL AND COVET AND YOU
ARE NOT ABLE TO OBTAIN.

SO YOU FIGHT AND
YOU GO TO WAR.

YOU DO NOT HAVE,
BECAUSE YOU DO
NOT ASK...

OR YOU ASK AND DO NOT RECEIVE
BECAUSE YOU ASK WRONG,
THAT YOU MAY SPEND IT IN YOUR
PURSUITS OF PLEASURE.

UNFAITHFUL ONES!
DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT
FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD
IS ENMITY WITH GOD?

AND WHOEVER CHOOSES
TO BE A FRIEND OF THE
WORLD, MAKES HIMSELF
AN ENEMY OF GOD.

James 4:1-10



OR DO YOU THINK IT IS IN VAIN
THAT THE SCRIPTURES SAY,
"THE SPIRIT JEALOUSLY YEARNs
TO DWELL WITHIN US,"?

BUT THERE
IS GRACE,

James 4:1-10



SCRIPTURE ALSO SAYS,
"GOD OPPOSES THE PROUD, BUT HE
GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."



BE SUBJECT TO GOD,
BUT RESIST THE DEVIL AND
HE WILL FLEE FROM YOU.



DRAW NEAR TO GOD,
AND GOD WILL DRAW
NEARER TO YOU.

THOSE WHO HAVE GONE ASTRAY,
CLEANSE YOUR HANDS

AND PURIFY YOUR HEARTS,
DOUBLE MINDED ONES.

LAMENT, MOURN, WEEP,

LET YOUR LAUGHTER
BE CHANGED INTO
MOURNING AND YOUR
JOY INTO GLOOM,

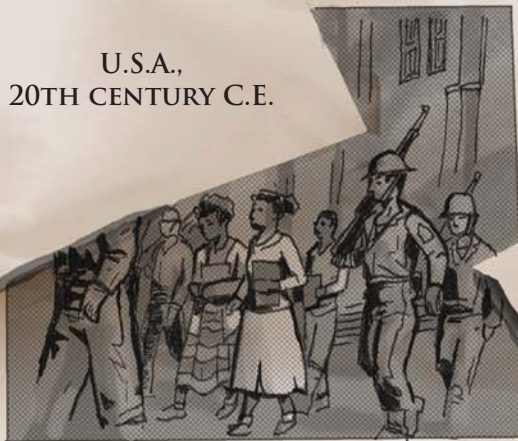
BE HUMBLE BEFORE
THE LORD, AND HE
WILL LIFT YOU UP,

James 4:1-10

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U.S.A.,
20TH CENTURY C.E.

MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT



Bodies of Civil Rights



...were killed while trying to register colored voters



I KNOW MANY OF YOU ARE ASKING, "HOW LONG, HOW LONG MUST WE CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE?"

DESEGREGATION IN THE SCHOOLS FEDERAL TROOPS ESCORT STUDENTS

Today in Little Rock, Arkansas, armed federal troops escort nine black students.



Protesters Sprayed with Fire Hoses
Birmingham, AL.
Unordered troops to fire hoses at protesters sent them flying like balls down the street.

FREEDOM DAY
DEMONSTRATION



LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD FOUND IN THE EPISTLE OF JAMES.



"BE PATIENT, BROTHERS AND SISTERS, UNTIL THE COMING OF THE LORD."

James 5:7-11

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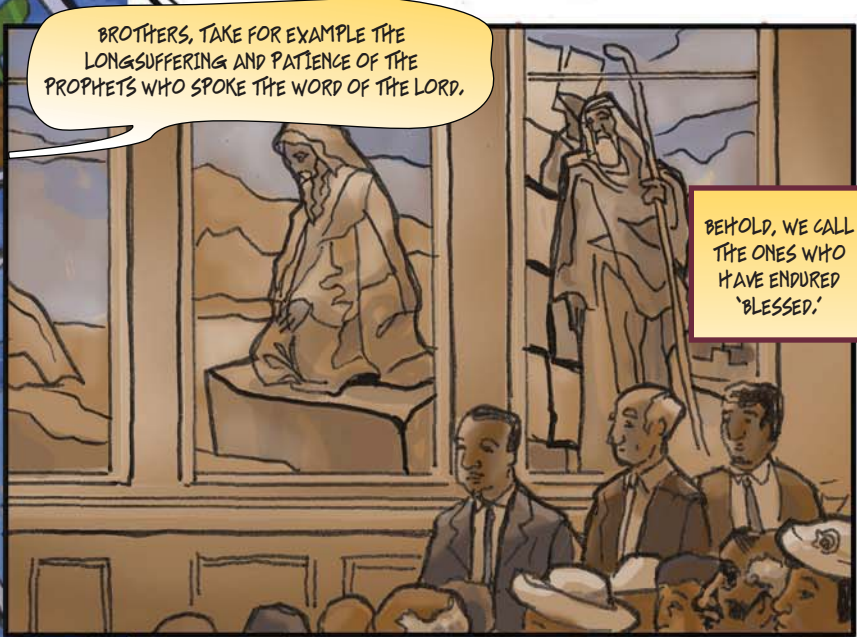
LOOK AT THE FARMER,
WHO WAITS FOR THE PRECIOUS
FRUITS OF THE EARTH,

...AND IS PATIENT WITH IT
UNTIL IT RECEIVES THE EARLY
AND LATTER RAIN,



AND SO, BE PATIENT,
ESTABLISH YOUR HEARTS,
KNOWING THAT THE COM-
ING OF THE LORD
HAS DRAWN NEAR.

BE SURE NOT TO MURMUR AGAINST
ONE ANOTHER, BROTHERS, IN ORDER
THAT YOU MAY NOT BRING DOWN
JUDGMENT. YOU SEE, THE JUDGE IS
ALREADY AT THE DOOR.



BROTHERS, TAKE FOR EXAMPLE THE
LONGSUFFERING AND PATIENCE OF THE
PROPHETS WHO SPOKE THE WORD OF THE LORD.

BEHOLD, WE CALL
THE ONES WHO
HAVE ENDURED
'BLESSED.'

James 5:7-11

YOU HAVE HEARD OF JOB...

The Lord said to the Accuser, "Have you seen my servant Job? There is no one like him on the Earth. He is blameless and upright, he fears God and turns away from evil."

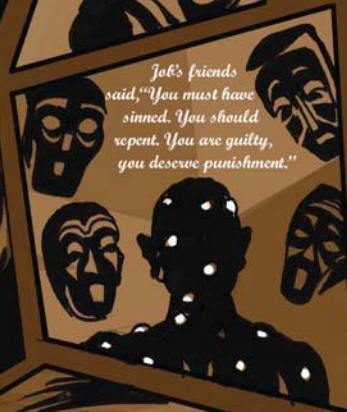
But the Accuser said, "Yes, but you have put a fence around him and blessed him. Take it away and he will curse you to your face."



The Lord said to the Accuser, "Very well, all that he has is in your hands, but do not harm him."



"Naked I came into the world. The Lord has given and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord."



Job's friends said, "You must have sinned. You should repent. You are guilty, you deserve punishment."

Then the Accuser said, "A person will give anything to save his life, but touch his flesh and bones and he will curse you to your face." And the Lord said, "Very well, he is in your power, only spare his life."



But Job persisted in his defense, and finding the strength, he cried out to the Lord to redeem him.



And the Lord answered Job from the whirlwind.



Job replied to the Lord, "Before I had heard of you by hearing of the ear, but now I see you with my eyes, and I am humbled indeed."

And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job, and the Lord blessed him in the latter days even more than the beginning.

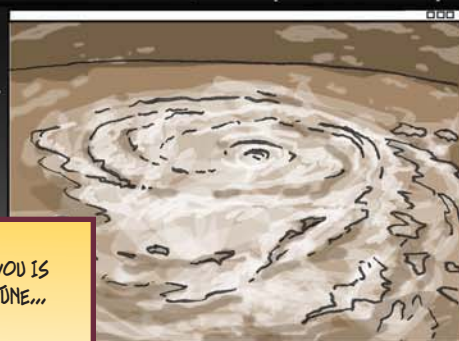


...AND YOU HAVE SEEN IN THE END, WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE, THE LORD IS FULL OF COMPASSION AND MERCY.

James 5:7-11

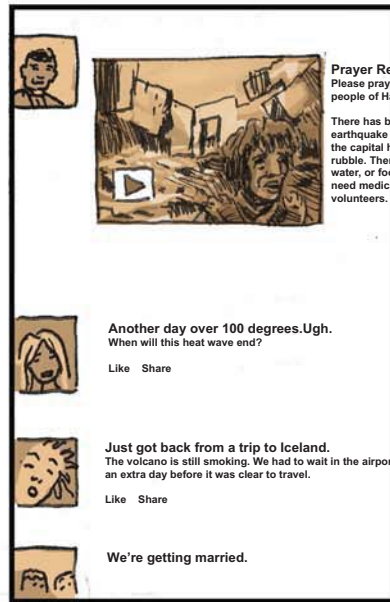
21ST CENTURY C.E. THE WORLD

IF ANYONE AMONG YOU IS
SUFFERING MISFORTUNE...



James 5:13-20

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James 5:13-20



...AND LET THEM PRAY OVER THEM
AND ANOINT THEM WITH OIL IN
THE NAME OF THE LORD,
AND THE PRAYER OF FAITH WILL HEAL
THE ONE WHO IS SICK.



James 5:13-20

THEREFORE, CONFESS YOUR SINS TO ONE ANOTHER AND PRAY ON BEHALF OF EACH OTHER SO THAT YOU MAY BE CURED.

VERY SORRY.

THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.



THE PRAYERS OF THOSE WHO ARE MADE RIGHT ARE ABLE AND EFFECTIVE.



ELIJAH THE TISHBITITE

The story of Elijah 1Kings 17-18

KING AHAZ, YOU HAVE STRAYED AND WORSHIPPED OTHER GODS. THEREFORE THE LORD SAYS IT WILL NOT RAIN EXCEPT BY MY PRAYER.



AND IT DID NOT RAIN.

THE LORD MIRACULOUSLY PROVIDED ENOUGH FOOD FOR EACH DAY.



THE LORD TOLD HIM TO GO TO THE HOUSE OF A WIDOW IN ZAREPHATH. SHE WOULD FEED HIM.



THEN, ONE DAY, THE WIDOW'S SON BECAME ILL AND WAS DYING.



ELIJAH WAS A HUMAN BEING LIKE US, AND WITH PRAYER HE PRAYED THAT IT WOULD NOT RAIN, AND IT DID NOT RAIN UPON THE GROUND FOR THREE YEARS AND SIX MONTHS.

James 5:13-20



ELIJAH PRAYED FOR THE CHILD THREE TIMES AND CRIED OUT TO THE LORD TO LET THE CHILD'S LIFE COME TO HIM AGAIN.



THE LORD LISTENED TO ELIJAH'S VOICE, AND THE BOY BREATHED AGAIN.



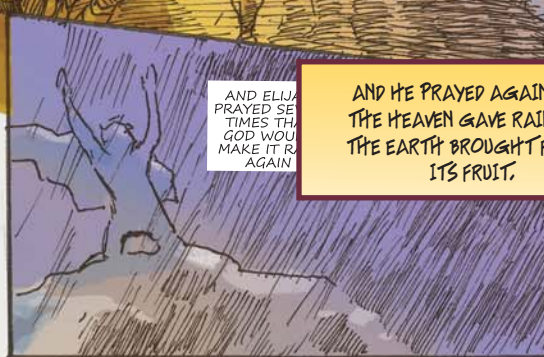
AFTER MANY DAYS THE LORD SENT ELIJAH BACK TO KING AHAB.



ELIJAH CHALLENGED THE PROPHETS OF BAAL AND SHOWED THAT THE LORD IS MIGHTIER THAN A GOD OF WOOD OR STONE.



THEN ELIJAH TOLD KING AHAB THAT GOD WOULD MAKE IT RAIN.

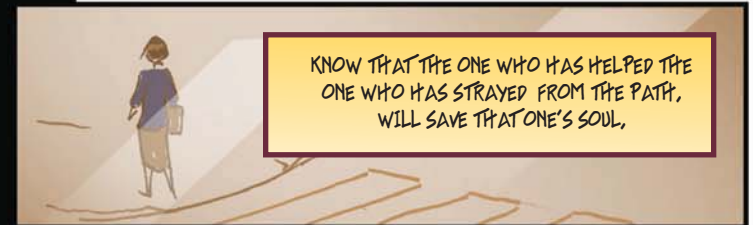


AND ELIJAH PRAYED SEVERAL TIMES THAT GOD WOULD MAKE IT RAIN AGAIN.

AND HE PRAYED AGAIN, AND THE HEAVEN GAVE RAIN, AND THE EARTH BROUGHT FORTH ITS FRUIT.



MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, IF ANYONE AMONG YOU WANDERS FROM THE TRUTH AND IS BROUGHT BACK BY ANOTHER...



KNOW THAT THE ONE WHO HAS HELPED THE ONE WHO HAS STRAYED FROM THE PATH, WILL SAVE THAT ONE'S SOUL,



AND WILL COVER A MULTITUDE OF SINS.

James 5:13-20

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