

مَقْدَمَةُ الرِّسَالَةِ

¹يَعْقُوبُ، عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَالرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، يُهْدِي السَّلَامَ إِلَى الْإِثْنَيْ عَشَرَ سِبْطاً الَّذِينَ فِي السَّتَاتِ.

أَمْتِحَانُ الْإِيمَانِ يُنْشِئُ صَبْرًا

²أَحْسِبُوهُ كُلَّ فَرْحٍ، يَا إِخْوَتِي، حَيْثَمَا تَقْعُونَ فِي تَجَارِبٍ مُتَوَعَّةٍ³ عَالَمِينَ أَنَّ امْتِحَانَ إِيْمَانِكُمْ يُنْشِئُ صَبْرًا.⁴ وَأَمَّا الصَّبْرُ فَلْيَكُنْ لَهُ عَمَلٌ تَامٌ لِكَيْ تَكُونُوا تَامِينَ وَكَامِلِينَ غَيْرَ تَاقِصِينَ فِي شَيْءٍ.⁵ وَإِنَّمَا إِنْ كَانَ أَحَدُكُمْ يُعَوِّزُهُ حِكْمُهُ فَلْيَطْلُبْ مِنَ اللَّهِ الَّذِي يُعْطِي الْجَمِيعَ بِسَخَاءٍ وَلَا يُعْزِرُ، فَسَيُعْطَى لَهُ.⁶ وَلَكِنْ لِيَطْلُبْ بِإِيمَانٍ غَيْرِ مُزْتَابٍ الْبَتَّةَ لِأَنَّ الْمُزْتَابَ يُشْبِهُ مَوْجًا مِنَ الْبَحْرِ تَحْبِطُهُ الرِّيحُ وَتَذْفُقُهُ،⁷ فَلَا يَطْنُ ذَلِكَ الْإِنْسَانُ أَنَّهُ يَتَالُ شَيْئًا مِنْ عِنْدِ الرَّبِّ.⁸ رَجُلٌ ذُو رَأْيَيْنِ هُوَ مُتَقَلِّقٌ فِي جَمِيعِ طُرُقِهِ.⁹ وَلْيَفْتَخِرِ الْأَخُ الْمُتَضَعُ بِازْتِقَاعِهِ،¹⁰ وَأَمَّا الْغَنِيُّ فَبِإِضْغَاعِهِ لِأَنَّهُ كَزَهْرِ الْعُشْبِ يَزُولُ.¹¹ لِأَنَّ الشَّمْسَ أَشْرَقَتْ يَالْحَرَّ فَيَبَسَّتِ الْعُشْبُ، فَسَقَطَ زَهْرُهُ وَفَنِيَ جَمَالُ مَنْظَرِهِ، هَكَذَا يَذْبُلُ الْغَنِيُّ أَيْضًا فِي طُرُقِهِ.¹² طُوبَى لِلرَّجُلِ الَّذِي يَحْتَمِلُ التَّجْرِبَةَ، لِأَنَّهُ إِذَا تَرَكَى يَتَالُ إِكْلِيلَ الْحَيَاةِ الَّذِي وَعَدَ بِهِ الرَّبُّ لِلَّذِينَ يُجَبُّونَهُ.

¹³لَا يَقُلْ أَحَدٌ، إِذَا جَرَّبَ: إِنِّي أَجَرَّبْتُ مِنْ قِبَلِ اللَّهِ، لِأَنَّ اللَّهَ غَيْرُ مُجَرَّبٍ بِالشَّرُورِ وَهُوَ لَا يَجَرَّبُ أَحَدًا.¹⁴ وَلَكِنْ كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ يُجَرَّبُ إِذَا انْجَدَبَ وَانْجَدَعَ مِنْ شَهْوَتِهِ، ثُمَّ الشَّهْوَةُ، إِذَا حِيلَتْ، تُلِدُ حَظِيئَةً وَالْحَظِيئَةُ، إِذَا كَمَلَتْ، تُنْجِئُ مَوْتًا.¹⁶ لَا تَضَلُّوا، يَا إِخْوَتِي الْأَجْبَاءَ.¹⁷ كُلُّ عَطِيَّةٍ صَالِحَةٍ وَكُلُّ مَوْهِبَةٍ تَامَةٍ هِيَ مِنْ قَوْنٍ تَارِلَةٍ مِنْ عِنْدِ أَبِي الْأَنْوَارِ، الَّذِي لَيْسَ عِنْدَهُ تَغْيِيرٌ وَلَا طِلُّ دَوْرَانٍ.¹⁸ سَاءَ قَوْلَدَتَا بِكَلِمَةِ الْحَقِّ لِكَيْ تَكُونَ بَاكُورَةً مِنْ خَلَائِقِهِ.

سَامِعِي وَفَاعِلِي الْكَلِمَةِ

¹⁹إِذَا، يَا إِخْوَتِي الْأَجْبَاءَ، لِيَكُنْ كُلُّ إِنْسَانٍ مُسْرِعًا فِي الْإِسْتِمَاعِ، مُبْطِئًا فِي التَّكَلُّمِ، مُبْطِئًا فِي الْعَصَبِ،²⁰ لِأَنَّ عَصَبَ الْإِنْسَانِ لَا يَصْنَعُ بِرَّ اللَّهِ.²¹ لِذَلِكَ اطْرَحُوا كُلَّ تَجَاسِيَةٍ وَكَثْرَةَ شَرٍّ فَاقْبَلُوا يَوْدَاعَةَ الْكَلِمَةِ الْمَعْرُوسَةِ الْقَادِرَةِ أَنْ تُخَلِّصَ نُفُوسَكُمْ.²² وَلَكِنْ كُونُوا عَامِلِينَ بِالْكَلِمَةِ لَا سَامِعِينَ فَقَطْ، خَادِعِينَ نُفُوسَكُمْ.²³ لِأَنَّهُ إِنْ كَانَ أَحَدٌ سَامِعًا لِلْكَلِمَةِ وَلَيْسَ غَامِلًا قَدَاكَ يُشْبِهُ رَجُلًا تَاطَرَأَ وَجْهَ خَلْقَتِهِ فِي مِرَاةٍ، فَإِنَّهُ تَطَرَّ ذَاتَهُ وَمَضَى وَلُوفَتِ نَيْسِي مَا هُوَ.²⁵ وَلَكِنْ مَنْ اطَّلَعَ عَلَى التَّامُوسِ

¹James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.²My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;³Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.⁴But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.⁵If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.⁶But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.⁷For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.⁸A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.⁹Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted:¹⁰But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away.¹¹For 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.¹²Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.¹³Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:¹⁴But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.¹⁵Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.¹⁶Do not err, my beloved brethren.¹⁷Every good gift and every

الْكَامِلِ، تَامُوسِ الْخُرْبَةِ، وَتَبَّتْ وَصَارَ لَيْسَ سَامِعاً تَأْسِياً
 بَلْ عَامِلاً بِالْكَلِمَةِ، فَهَذَا يَكُونُ مَغْبُوطاً فِي عَمَلِهِ.²⁶ إِنْ
 كَانَ أَحَدٌ فِيكُمْ يَظُنُّ أَنَّ دِينَ وَهُوَ لَيْسَ يُلْجِمُ لِسَانَهُ بَلْ
 يَخْدَعُ قَلْبَهُ، فَدِيَانَتُهُ هَذَا بَاطِلَةٌ.²⁷ الدِّيَانَةُ الطَّاهِرَةُ النَّقِيَّةُ
 عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْآبِ هِيَ هَذِهِ: افْتِقَادُ الْيَتَامَى وَالْأَرَامِلِ فِي
 ضِيقَتِهِمْ وَحِفْظُ الْإِنْسَانِ نَفْسَهُ بِلَا دَنَسٍ مِنَ الْعَالَمِ.

perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.¹⁸ Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.¹⁹ Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:²⁰ For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.²¹ Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.²² But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.²³ For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:²⁴ For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.²⁵ But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.²⁶ If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.²⁷ Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.