

## Organizing grammatical constructions in the book of James

By Bob Young

One way to understand the organization to an epistolary text is to look for terms of address (in Greek, these would be vocative case). These may be of two kinds.

- Direct (brothers, my brothers), perhaps to all readers?
- Indirect, (you....), to a subset of the readers?

One may also notice “companion instructions,” which often appear in an “if/when.....” format. These occur only in the first half of the book.

The following list is correlated to a topical list which reflects a possible chiasmic construction in the book.

1:2	my brothers 1:13, if/when	Temptations/Riches
1:16	my dear brothers	[God’s Care]
1:19	my dear brothers 1:26, if/when	Treat others
2:1	my brothers 2:3, if/when	Favoritism
2:5	my dear brothers 2:8ff, if/when	Riches
2:14	my brothers 2:16, if/when	Faith
2:20	you foolish man...	
3:1	my brothers 3:2, if/when	Tongue/Wisdom
3:11	my brothers	
3:12	my brothers	Wisdom/Tongue
4:4	you adulterers...	
4:11	brothers	Faith/submission
4:13	you who say....	
5:1	you rich....	Riches
5:7	brothers	Favoritism
5:10	brothers	Treat others
5:12	my brothers	God’s Care
5:19	my brothers	Temptation