

April 8–14

Jacob 5–7

“The Lord Labors With Us”



Priestcraft

Ezra Taft Benson

"The Book of Mormon brings men to Christ through two basic means. First, it tells in a plain manner of Christ and his gospel....

"Second, the Book of Mormon exposes the enemies of Christ. It confounds false doctrines and lays down contention. It fortifies the humble followers of Christ against the evil designs, strategies, and doctrines of the devil in our day. The type of apostates in the Book of Mormon are similar to the type we have today. God, with his infinite foreknowledge, so molded the Book of Mormon that we might see the error and know how to combat false educational, political, religious, and philosophical concepts of our time." (CR, April 1975)

Priestcraft

Jacob 7:1-4

What tool does Sherem use to lead the people away from the truth?

Priestcraft

Jacob 7:6-7

In what way would you say that Sherem had “a form of Godliness”?

In what way would you say that Sherem denied the power of God?

Priestcraft

Jacob 7:8-12

What argument does Jacob use against Sherem's statement that no man can know that Christ will come?

What do we learn from Jacob's example of what to do when someone challenges us about something that we know to be true?

Priestcraft

Jacob 7:15-17

Scattering and Gathering of Israel

Jacob 5:3-6

Ralph E. Swiss

"The story opens at a time of growing decay, perhaps such a time as the period following the reigns of Saul, David, and Solomon when the glory of Israel was greatly lessened by growing wickedness and evil....

"Even in the midst of Israel's apostasy, such prophets as Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Lehi came to lead the people, and some of the Israelites turned to the Lord." ("The Tame and Wild Olive Trees", Ensign, August 1988)

Scattering and Gathering of Israel

Jacob 5:7,9-10

What examples do we have in Old Testament times of mixing Gentiles in with Israel?

How do you think that the invasion of foreigners into Israel help keep Israel from dying out completely?

Ralph E. Swiss

"After the death of King Solomon, the kingdom of Israel divided into two kingdoms. First, the mighty nation of Assyria destroyed the Northern Kingdom, carrying off many of the inhabitants of Israel....

Similarly [the] Assyria brought non-Israelites into the Northern Kingdom, who adopted the religion of Israel. These people became known as the Samaritans."
("The Tame and Wild Olive Trees", Ensign, August 1988)

Scattering and Gathering of Israel

Jacob 5:8,13-14

Why does the Lord of the vineyard scatter many of the young and tender branches?

Joseph Fielding Smith

“In that parable the olive tree is the House of Israel... In its native land it began to die. So the Lord took branches like the Nephites, like the lost tribes, and like others that the Lord led off that we do not know anything about, to other parts of the earth. He planted them all over his vineyard, which is the world” (Answers to Gospel Questions, 4:204)

Scattering and Gathering of Israel

Jacob 5:15-18

What was the result of grafting the wild branches into the tree?

Scattering and Gathering of Israel

Jacob 5:19-25

How many different scatterings are mentioned and how are they described?

What scattered group do you think the “part tame and part wild fruit” (verse 25) refers to?

Why?

Scattering and Gathering of Israel

Jacob 5:29-32

What do you think is meant by "all sorts of fruit"?

Ralph E. Swiss

"This scene is much like the condition of the earth during the great apostasy. In many lands, including ancient America, the gospel was lost entirely; in others, Christianity had fragmented into a multitude of differing sects and doctrines." ("The Tame and Wild Olive Trees", Ensign, August 1988)

Scattering and Gathering of Israel

Jacob 5:38-41

What does it teach us about the importance of doing the Lord's work when we read that "the Lord of the vineyard wept"?

JS-H 1:19

I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong; and the Personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight; that those professors were all corrupt; that: “they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me, they teach for doctrines the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof.”

Jeffrey R. Holland

“After digging and dunging, watering and weeding, trimming, pruning, transplanting, and grafting, the great Lord of the vineyard throws down his spade and his pruning shears and weeps, crying out to any who would listen, ‘What could I have done more for my vineyard?’

“What an indelible image of God’s engagement in our lives! What anguish in a parent when His children do not choose Him nor ‘the gospel of God’ He sent! How easy to love someone who so singularly loves us!” (CR, Oct. 2003)

Scattering and Gathering of Israel

Jacob 5:47-48

What do you think he means by “the branches... [take] strength unto themselves”?

B. H. Roberts

"The force of heathen rage was aimed at the leaders and strong men of the body religious; and being long-continued and relentlessly cruel, those most steadfast in their adherence to the Church invariably became its victims. These being stricken down, it left none but weaklings to contend for the faith, and made possible those subsequent innovations in the religion of Jesus which a pagan public sentiment demanded, and which so completely changed both the spirit and form of the Christian religion as to subvert it utterly." ("A New Witness for God," pg. 47-48)

Scattering and Gathering of Israel

Jacob 5:52,65-68

Why is the Lord careful not to “clear away the bad” too quickly?

What do you think that means?

Scattering and Gathering of Israel

Jacob 5:70-72

What blessing is promised to those who labor with the Lord in his vineyard?

How can we be numbered with His servants and receive these great blessings?

D&C 33

3 For behold, the field is white already to harvest; and it is the eleventh hour, and the last time that I shall call laborers into my vineyard.

4 And my vineyard has become corrupted every whit...

7 Yea, verily, verily, I say unto you, that the field is white already to harvest; wherefore, thrust in your sickles, and reap with all your might, mind, and strength....

9 Yea, open your mouths and spare not, and you shall be laden with sheaves upon your backs, for lo, I am with you.

The Millennium

Jacob 5:75-77

What do we learn about the Millennium from these verses?

Next Week:

April 15–21

Enos—Words of Mormon

“He Works In Me To Do His Will”

