

*An Easy to Understand  
Book of Mormon  
Adaptation of  
The Book of Jacob*

*Jacob is given charge  
of the plates . . .  
(compare Jacob, chapter 1)*

In the year 545 BC, fifty-five years after Lehi's group left Jerusalem, my older brother Nephi gave me, Jacob, instructions regarding the **small** plates, upon which these words are engraved.

He told me to write **only a few things** on these plates — things I thought were **most precious**. He told me to include only a little history of his people, the people of Nephi. He said the people's **history** should be engraved on his large plates.

Nephi told me to preserve all the plates and hand

them down from generation to generation. He also told me to engrave any **sacred** preaching, great **revelations** and **prophecy**, and to engrave as **much** of this as possible for Christ and our people.

Because of our **faith** in the Lord and **great concern** for our people, **we had been shown what would happen to them**. We also had **many revelations** and the **spirit of prophecy**, and we knew about Christ and His kingdom that would come.

We worked very hard among our people to persuade them to **come** to Christ and to **enjoy** God's goodness, that they might someday enter His rest. Otherwise, God would **vow** in His anger they

would not enter, just as He did when the children of Israel fell into temptation in the wilderness.

We hope with God's help we might persuade all people to not rebel against Him — to not provoke His anger, but to **believe in Christ**, who would suffer and die on the cross while bearing the shame of the world.

Because of these **desires**, I Jacob take it upon myself to follow my older brother's instructions.

When Nephi was old and realized he would soon die, he anointed **a man to be king and ruler** over his people as the people had desired.

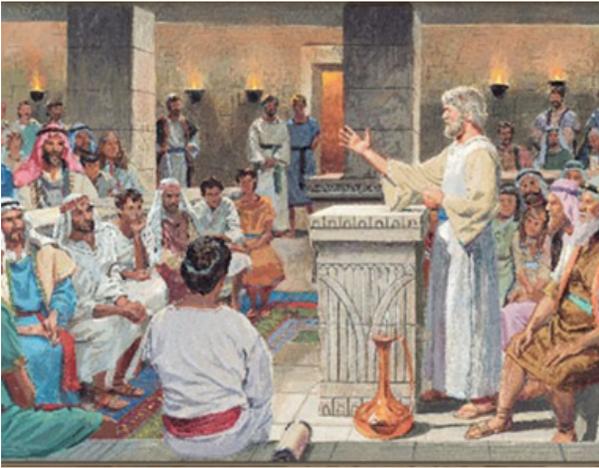
The people loved Nephi very much, for he had been their great protector,

defending them with Laban's sword, and he had worked for their temporal and spiritual welfare all his life.

Because they loved him so much, the people wanted to remember his name. So they decided that whoever reigned after Nephi would be named Nephi the Second, Nephi the Third, and so on as kings continued to reign over the people.

All those who were not Lamanites were called Nephites, even though there were Jacobites, Josephites, Zoramites, Lamanites, Lemuelites and Ishmaelites.

I Jacob will not refer to them by these names, but will refer to all those who want to destroy Nephi's people as Lamanites. And I



will refer to all those friendly to Nephi as Nephites.

The Nephites under the reign of their second king, Nephi the Second, started the wicked practice of desiring and indulging themselves with many wives and mistresses, like David of old and his son Solomon had done.

They also began to dig for great amounts of gold and silver, for they were beginning to become proud. Because of these things, I Jacob, having been called by God, taught them in the temple.

Nephi had consecrated my **brother Joseph and I** to be the people's priests and teachers.

We increased our commitment to serve the Lord, feeling responsible for the people's sins if we did not teach them God's word **as best** as we could.

We taught them with **all our might** so we would **not have to answer** for their sins.

*Jacob calls his people to repentance . . .*

*(compare Jacob, chapter 2)*

After Nephi died, I spoke these words to the Nephites:

My beloved brothers and sisters, I am responsible to God to fulfill my obligation to serve you, so I will not

have to answer for your sins. This is why I have come to give you God's words in the temple today.

You know I have taught you diligently. So far, this has not been hard to do. But today it *is* hard because I am weighed down more than ever with anxiety over the welfare of your souls.

Until now, you have obeyed the Lord's words I have given you. But listen to me now, for by the help of the all-powerful Creator of heaven and earth, **I know your thoughts** — how you're beginning to work in sin, which is very offensive to God and me.

It sorrows my soul and causes me to shrink with shame before the presence of my Maker, for I must testify to you about the wickedness of your hearts.

I'm also sorry I must speak so boldly about you in front of your wives and children, for many of their feelings are very tender, chaste and delicate before God, which is pleasing to Him. They have come to hear the pleasing word of God — the word that heals the wounded soul.

My soul is burdened because I am compelled by a **strict command** from God to admonish you for your crimes, and enlarge the wounds of those who are already wounded, instead of consoling and healing them.

And those who have not been wounded, instead of feasting upon the pleasing word of God, they will have their souls pierced and delicate minds wounded.



But as hard as this is, I must obey God's strict command and tell you about your wickedness in the presence of their pure and broken hearts, and do it under the gaze of the Almighty God's piercing eyes.

I must tell you the truth according to God's plain word. For as I was praying, His word came to me, saying,

*"Jacob, go to the temple tomorrow and tell your people the words I will give you."*

Now my brothers and sisters, these are the words:

Many of you have begun to search for gold, silver and all types of precious ores found in abundance in this land of promise. A land given to you and your descendants.

God has smiled upon you most pleasingly, and by His providence you have obtained many riches.

Because some of you have obtained more riches than others, you have become lifted up in the **pride** of your hearts. You lift your heads high because of your expensive clothing, and you criticize others, thinking you are better than they.

Now, do you think God justifies you in doing this? No, He condemns you.

And if you continue to do this, His judgments must quickly come upon you.

I wish He would show you how He can level you to the dust with just one glance of His eyes! I wish His Spirit would take the desire to sin from you so you would listen to His commands and not let the pride of your hearts destroy your souls!

You should know **all** your brothers and sisters' needs as you do your own, and be **generous with your things**. So generous that you **all** become **equally rich**.

But **before** you seek riches, seek **God's kingdom**. After you have obtained a **hope in Christ**, then you will have riches, **if** you want them to do good — to buy food and clothing for those in need, to liberate those in

debt, and to give relief to the sick and afflicted.

I have spoken to you about **pride**. And those of you who afflict and despise your neighbors because you're **so proud of your possessions** — things God has blessed you with -- what do you say for yourselves?

Don't you think your pride offends your Creator, to whom everyone is equally precious? For God created all of us from the dust, to obey His commands and by doing so glorify Him forever.

This is all I will say about your pride. If I did not have to speak to you about a more serious sin, my heart would rejoice greatly because of you. But God's word burdens me because of your crimes.

The Lord told me,

*"This people are becoming sinful. They do not understand the scriptures. They try to excuse their immorality because of what is written about David and his son Solomon, who both had many wives and mistresses--a serious sin before me.*

*I led this people out of Jerusalem by the power of my arm to raise up righteous descendants of Joseph of old. To do this, I, the Lord God, **cannot allow** this people to do what David and Solomon did."*

Now my brethren, hear me and obey the Lord, for every man should have **only one wife** and no mistresses. For the Lord said:

*"I, the Lord God, **delight** in the chastity of women, and*

*immorality of **any kind** is a very **serious sin** before me. My people will keep my commandments or the **land** will be cursed for their **sakes**.*

***If I need to raise up many righteous people, I will command accordingly.** Otherwise, they must obey this law.*

*I, the Lord, have seen the sorrow and have heard the mourning of my people's daughters in **Jerusalem**, and in **all** my people's lands, because of their husbands' wickedness.*

*I will not allow the cries of the fair daughters of this people, whom I have led out of Jerusalem, to come up to me **against my people's men**. For if they seduce and capture the hearts of my people's daughters because of their tenderness, I will visit*

*them with destruction for committing sexual sins like those of old."*

My brethren, you know these commandments were given to our father Lehi.

Now you have come **under great condemnation** for doing what you **know** is wrong. Your sins are **greater** than those of the Lamanites.

And because of your bad examples, you have broken your wives' tender hearts and have lost your children's confidence. The sobbing of their hearts goes up to God, and because of God's strict word that has come down against you, many of their **hearts have died**, pierced with **deep wounds**.

*Jacob speaks out*

*against adultery . . .  
(compare Jacob, chapter 3)*

I Jacob now speak to the pure in heart. Look to God with determination, praying to Him with great faith, and He will comfort you **in your trials**. He will plead your cause and send down justice upon those who try to destroy you.

All you who are pure in heart, lift up your heads and receive God's pleasing words. If you are **committed to doing right**, then you will enjoy His love forever.

But those of you who are **not pure in heart** are greatly cursed. Unless you repent, the **land** is cursed for your **sakes**.

The Lamanites, also cursed, are not sinful like you, will destroy you. Unless you

repent, they will soon possess the land of your inheritance and the Lord will **lead the righteous out from among you.**

The Lamanites, your brethren, whom you hate because of their sinfulness and **curse of dark skin**, are more righteous than you, for they have not forgotten the Lord's commandment to have only one wife and not to commit these types of sins.

Because they keep this commandment, the Lord will not destroy them. He will be merciful to them, and one day they will become a blessed people.

Their husbands love their wives, their wives love their husbands, and they all love their children. They hate you and do not believe in God because of their

fathers' false traditions. So **how much better** are you than they in the sight of your Creator?

Oh my brethren, I'm afraid unless you repent, **their skin will be lighter than yours** when you **stand next to them** before God's throne.

I command you, by the word of God, not to hate them because of their dark skin and sinfulness!

Remember your own sinfulness, and remember their sinfulness came because of their fathers.

Remember how you have grieved your children's hearts because of your bad examples. Your sinfulness may bring them to destruction, and if so, their sins will be upon your heads at the last day.

Oh my brethren, listen to me. Awaken your souls from the sleep of death. Loosen yourselves from the pains of hell so you will not become angels to the devil. Do not be thrown into a lake of fire to your second death (dead to righteousness forever).

I Jacob said many other things to Nephi's people, warning them against sexual sins and every kind of sin, telling them the awful consequences of them.

But not even one percent of what these people did can be engraved upon these smaller plates.

However, much of what they did is engraved on the larger plates — their **wars**, disputes and reign of their kings.

Some of these smaller plates, upon which I now engrave, are called Jacob's Plates, even though my brother Nephi made them.

*Jacob values prophecies and records . . .*

*(compare Jacob, chapter 4)*

I've spoken many times to my people, but I can only write a small part of what I spoke because engraving on plates is difficult.

We engrave, knowing what we write on metal plates will endure, as other materials would not last.

The little we do engrave will give our children, and also our beloved brethren, the Lamanites, a little knowledge of us, their forefathers.

We work diligently to engrave on these plates, hoping the **Lamanites** and

their children **in the last days** will receive them with **thankful hearts**, and learn with joy, and not sorrow over or resent Laman and Lemuel, their first parents.

We keep our records so **they will know we knew** of Christ and had a hope of His glory several hundred years before He came, and that holy prophets who lived **before us** also had a **hope** of His glory.

Those prophets believed in Christ and worshipped the Father in His name **as we do now**. And like them, we keep the law of Moses, which points our souls to Christ.

Our sacrifices are considered righteous, as were Abraham's, who offered his son Isaac — a

symbol of God's offering of His Only Begotten Son.

We search the prophets' writings and have **many revelations** in the spirit of prophecy. With **all** these witnesses, we have **hope**.

Our **faith** becomes so **strong** we can **command** the trees, the mountains and the ocean in the name of Jesus, and they obey us.

But the Lord shows us our weaknesses so we may know it's by His **grace** and great **kindness** to His people that we have this power.

The Lord's works are great and marvelous! How deep His mysteries are! It's impossible for people to know all His ways, and **no one knows His ways without revelation**. This is why you should **not**

despise revelation from God.

By His **word**, man, woman and the earth were **created**. So if God created the earth and everything on it by speaking, why can't He command the elements of the earth as He so desires?

As you think about this, do **not** try to counsel the Lord. Instead, **take** His counsel, for you know He counsels in **wisdom, justice** and **great mercy** over all His works.

Be **reconciled** to Him through the atonement of Christ, His Only Begotten Son.

If you do this, then through Christ's power, you may be among the **first** to be resurrected and presented to God.

Have **faith** in Him, and obtain a **hope of glory** in Him before He shows Himself in the flesh. Don't be confused about what I'm telling you, because **why not talk** about the **atonement** of Christ? Why not seek a **perfect knowledge** of Him, and of the **resurrection**, and of the **world to come**?

Those who prophesy **should be understood** by the people, for the Spirit speaks the **truth** and does not lie. He speaks of things as they really **are**, and as they really **will be**, explaining eternal truths to us **plainly** to save our souls.

We are not the only witnesses of these things, for God also told them to the prophets of old.

But the Jews were stubborn. They despised plain words and killed the prophets, looking for things they could not understand.

Because of their blindness, which came from looking beyond the mark, God gave them exactly what they wanted. He **took** away His **plain** words and gave them many things they could not understand. This is why they stumbled spiritually and fell.

Now I Jacob am led by the Spirit to prophesy, for I sense by the workings of the Spirit in me, that because the Jews **stumble**, they will **reject the stone** upon which they might have built as a **safe foundation**.

According to the scriptures, this stone will become the

great, last and only sure foundation upon which they can build.

**Note:** Christ is the cornerstone upon which to build. ([Helaman 5:12](#))

And how will it be possible for the Jews, after rejecting their sure foundation, to **ever build upon it** and make it their cornerstone? I will tell you how, as long as I don't get too anxious in my determination in the Spirit, stumbling because of my anxiety over you.

Speaking to all members of the house of Israel, Zenos, the Lord's prophet, told us **exactly how** the Jews will **make Christ their cornerstone** after rejecting Him for centuries:

*Jacob reads Zenos' Olive Tree Allegory (compare Jacob, chapter 5)*

The Father said **the house of Israel** (the Jews, or Judah, the lost tribes, and the tribe of Joseph) **is like a tame olive tree**, which He planted in his vineyard and cared for.



The tree grew, became old and started to **decay**.



**Note:** Abraham was the beginning of the olive tree, planted in Canaan around 1900 BC. His grandson Israel (Jacob) went with his twelve sons into Egypt.

Jacob's descendants were delivered from Egypt and wandered until Joshua led them into Canaan around 1350 BC.

The house of Israel began to grow in righteousness under King David and Solomon, but by 931 BC, its government had begun to **decay** spiritually and politically.

Seeing this, the Father of the vineyard said, "I will prune out its wicked



leaders and divide it into two kingdoms:

I will water it by sending many prophets, who will declare righteousness to the



people (prophets such as **Jehu and Elijah**).

Then perhaps the house of Israel will repent, sprouting new, righteous young branches, and not die."

So He pruned it, dug around it, and watered it -- sending many prophets to both kingdoms. After much time, part of the house of Israel began to **grow in truth**, but the main branches at the top of the tree (their kings) began to

die spiritually (by worshipping idols).

Seeing this, the Father of the vineyard said to the Savior, "Losing the entire house of Israel, the whole olive tree, would grieve me.

The Father of the vineyard said, "I will pluck out the young and tender branches and plant them in **other parts** of my earth. Then I will not lose the whole house of Israel if the roots die, and I will still preserve

the good fruit (those who keep their covenants).

Take the **branches of the wild olive tree** and graft them into the **tame tree.**"

Therefore, bring in the branches from a wild olive tree (the Assyrian and Babylonian kings). We will pluck out and burn the dying main branches (the apostate kings of Israel) and **replace** them with wild branches."

**Note:** The northern kingdom of Israel was invaded by the Assyrians (a **wild** olive tree branch) in 722 BC.

**Note:** The southern kingdom of Judah was invaded by the Babylonians (another **wild** olive tree branch) in 587 BC.

The Savior did as he was told and grafted the wild branches into the olive tree.

And in His mercy, the Father of the vineyard

cared for the house of Israel's **spiritual roots**.

**Note:** Through Daniel, Esther and Nehemiah, the Lord caused the house of Israel's **roots** to be nourished.

Then He said, "The tender branches I plucked out (scattered tribes, Jews, Mulek & Lehi's people) will be preserved for myself, that I may lay up their fruit before the last day, for it would grieve me to lose the house of Israel and its fruit."

The Father **hid** the natural branches that had been plucked out in **separate places** upon His earth. He planted the **here** and **there** according to His will and pleasure. The tree began to bear **much good fruit** (keeping the laws and commandments of Moses). After many years had passed, the Father said to

the Savior, "Come, **let us go down** to the vineyard."

They both went down to labor, and the Son said to



the Father, "Look at the tame olive tree, the roots of Israel!"

The Father of the vineyard saw the mother tree in which the wild branches had been grafted.

**Note:** The mother tree was the Babylonian captives of Judah, now **returned** to Jerusalem. Lehi saw this return in vision. See **1 Nephi 10:3**

Even though wild branches had been grafted into the mother tree, it **bore good fruit**, just as good as the natural branches

transplanted to other places.

The Father then exclaimed to the Savior, "Look, the branches from the wild tree have taken hold, **getting strength** from the **spiritual roots** of the house of Israel (the prophets of Judah).

The wild branches are now bearing tame fruit!

It's **good** we brought in wild branches (many who converted to the Lord). Otherwise the tame roots would have died by now, having had no **branches to nourish them**.

Now I will have much fruit (covenant people) before the last day. Come, let us now go to the **other parts** of the earth to see if the transplanted natural branches of the house of

Israel are also bearing good fruit."

They went to the other parts of the earth, and the Father said to His Son, "Look at these!"

The Son saw the first tree (scattered Jews), with grafted wild branches, bearing tame fruit!

The Father told the Savior to **harvest** the fruit, for He had nourished that tree for a long time. Then the Savior asked His Father, "**Why** did you plant the first branch in the **poorest spot** in the vineyard?"

The Father replied, "Counsel me not. I knew



this was a poor spot, and so I **nourished it for a long time**. Now you see it has brought forth **much good fruit** (many people keeping their covenants).

Look over there, where I planted another

branch (scattered tribes). You know this spot of ground was **poorer** than the first. But look at them.

I nourished them a long time and they now produce **much good fruit**. Harvest that tree as well."

And the Lord of the vineyard again said to His servant, "Look over here, where I planted and

nourished **another** branch (others scattered tribes). It bears much fruit.

And look over here and see the **last branch** I planted (Mulek, Lehi, Ishmael and their families) in a **very good** (choice land) part of



my earth. I have nourished them for a long time, but now **only part** (the Nephites) are righteous, bearing good fruit.

The rest of them (the Lamanites) bear **wild** fruit that's **not** good. Let the Nephites completely

destroy the wild branches (their brethren the Lamanites) who don't bear good fruit."

But the Savior said, "Let the Nephites preach to the Lamanites a little longer. Maybe the Lamanites will yet bear good fruit for you on the day of judgment."

Then the Father of the vineyard and His Son **nourished the entire earth.**

A long time passed, and the Father said to His Son, "Come, let us go down in the earth, for the **end is near**, and I must have good fruit (celestial souls) for myself **before** the last day."

They went to the **tame olive tree** again (the mother tree) whose natural branches had been broken off, and whose grafted-in wild branches had born

good fruit. Now **all types** of fruit **burdened** the tree.

The Father of the vineyard tasted **each type** of fruit from the mother tree, sorted and counted them, and said, "We have taken care of this tree for a long time. In the past the wild branches were **fed by the natural roots**, and this tree gave me much good fruit. It still bears much fruit, but now **it's all bad** (general apostasy in Jerusalem).

This tree **no longer profits me** in spite of all our work, and I will be sad to lose it now. What must we do to help this tree bear good fruit once again?

The Savior answered, "The wild branches we brought in, which once bore good fruit, are all corrupt again.

However, the **original roots are still good.**"

The Father replied, "But even with good roots, this bad fruit is worthless to me. And yes, the roots are good. Because of their great strength, they **once nourished** the wild branches, which bore good fruit.

But now look. The corrupt branches (governing powers) have overrun the spiritual roots. This is why their fruit is bad.

Because this tree bears so much bad fruit, it will die unless we **do** something. Let's go down to the **other parts** of the earth and see if **other natural branches** also bear bad fruit."

And sure enough, **all the natural branches** (scattered Jews and/or tribes, and the descendants of Mulek, Lehi

and Ishmael) had also become corrupt.

The wild fruit of the last tame tree (the Lamanites) had overcome (destroyed) the part of the tree that **at one time** had borne good fruit (the Nephites).

Upon seeing this, the Father of the vineyard wept while saying to His Son,

**"What more could I have done for my vineyard? I knew all the fruit had become corrupt, except for these (the Nephites). Now even they who once bore good fruit have become corrupt and are gone!**

Now all the people of the earth are good for nothing except to be burned. Look at this branch of the last tree (the Nephites), withered away. I planted

**it in the best part of my earth,** in the choicest land!

You saw me remove what was here before (the Jaredites) so I could plant this tree (the Nephites) in its place.

You saw this tree bear good fruit **and** wild fruit.

Because I did not destroy the wild branches (the Lamanites) long ago, they overcame the good branch.

Now in spite of all the care we have given to my earth, **all the people** in it have become corrupt.

I had hoped to save them, to have preserved their souls to myself before the last day. But look at them. **They have all become like wild olive trees, good only for burning.** Losing all of them grieves me.

What **more** could I have done? Have I **ever** stopped nourishing my vineyard? (sending prophets, giving scriptures, etc.). It grieves me to cut down all the trees of my vineyard and burn them.

### Who has corrupted my vineyard?"

The Savior answered, "The **proud** people (lofty



branches) have overcome their spiritual roots. They have grown too **proud** and rich to be fed by their spiritual roots.

The lofty branches have **stolen the strength** (the



governing power) from their spiritual roots, starving and overcoming them. This is why your world has become corrupt."

The Father replied, "Yes. Now let's cut down the trees and burn them, for I've done everything I can to save them."

But the Savior said, "**Spare** them a little longer."

The Father answered, "I will, for it would be sad to lose all the trees of my vineyard.

**Note:** Now comes the gathering of Israel in these last days. Isaiah's great prophecies describe these events.

Let us **gather** the branches planted in the outer parts of my earth (the Jews, the ten tribes, and the tribe of Joseph) and **bring them back to their spiritual roots**.

Let us **pluck out** the branches with **most bitter** fruit (the most wicked), and **replace them** with the **natural branches**. I will do this to save their roots for my own purpose.



The **roots** of the house of Israel are **yet alive**. To preserve these roots, I will **graft** their **original**,

natural branches **back into them**, even though the branches have become **corrupt**.

When these corrupt natural branches are **strong again**, maybe then they will bear **good** fruit for me, that **I may yet** have glory in the fruit of my orchard."

Then the Father and the Savior took **branches from the mother** tree that had become corrupts, and grafted them into the **transplanted natural trees**, which also had become corrupt.

**Note:** The original transplanting was the Jewish / Lamanite dispersions, caused by the wicked Gentiles.

Then they took the **corrupt branches** from the transplanted natural trees

and grafted them **back into their mother tree.**

**Note:** This grafting is the **gathering** of the Jews, Lamanites, and dispersed tribes of Israel to their lands of inheritance, to be assisted by the righteous Gentiles (**1 Nephi 15:15-18, 3 Ne 21:22-28 Mormon 5:14-15, 20**)

The Father of the vineyard said to the Savior, "As we do this, **only remove the most wicked** from corrupt natural trees before doing as I have said. As we do this, we will **send prophets** to these corrupt natural branches once again.

We will **destroy only the most wicked** (those most ripe). We will do this so that the good, **spiritual roots** of the house of Israel will again be **able to nourish** their corrupt natural branches, and help them overcome evil.

Because I have saved the natural branches and their roots, perhaps the people of the house of Israel throughout my earth will bear good fruit once again, and I will have joy in them.

Now go. Give **power to other servants**, that we



may all labor together diligently with our might in the earth, preparing the way, that I may yet have natural, good fruit again (most precious fruit of all)!

Let us labor with our might this **last time**, for the **end is near**. This is the **last time** I will destroy the wicked of my earth. Gather the

corrupt natural branches of the house of Israel back to both Jerusalems.

Bring the gospel to the Gentiles **first** (the latter-day restoration). Then gather the scattered Jews **last**.

Gather in Ephraim and Manasseh, the ten tribes, and Judah (the Jews), that they **may all be taught the gospel one last time**.

Nourish the house of Israel **one last time**, for the end will soon come.

If these last grafts produce good fruit, then according to their strength and numbers, **clear their way** for them to produce more by destroying the wicked.

Do not destroy the wicked all at once, but **only as fast** as the natural, good fruit can **take their place**.

By doing this, Israel's descendants will **rely on me**, and I will not lose them.

Their roots (spiritual power) and high branches (governing power) will be kept **equal** in strength until their good fruit completely overcomes the bad.

Otherwise, I would lose the good fruit, which would grieve me.

This is **how** I will **sweep the wicked from my earth**.

I will bring the corrupt **natural** branches back to their **mother tree** (gathering), and I will graft corrupt branches from the mother tree into the transplanted corrupt natural trees (dispersion).

After the natural branches have come together (the mingling of latter-day Israel), they will again bear

good fruit as one, natural tree, and **all the wicked** in will be **removed** during this last cleansing."

Then the Father of the



vineyard sent His Son, who gave **other servants power** to preach and cleanse. These servants were **few** when compared to the **hosts** of the wicked.

The Father said to them, "Go and labor in my earth with **all your might, mind** and **strength** because

this is the **last time** I will work in my earth, for the end is near.

If you labor mightily with me, you **will have joy** in the fruit I will preserve to myself against the day of judgment, which soon comes."

Then the servants labored with their might, obeying all the commandments of the Father, who labored with them.

The natural, good fruit grew again in the earth. The servants did as they were commanded, keeping the spiritual roots and the governing tops of the trees **in balance**.

**Note:** This balance is between the Lord's **word** and His **law**,



which will go out from Zion (the old and new Jerusalems).  
([2 Nephi 12:3](#))

They did this by destroying **only part** of the wicked at a time, allowing the natural branches to grow **in their place**.

The servants labored with all diligence, according to the Father's commandments, **until all the wicked had been swept off the earth** and the Father had preserved to Himself the natural fruit.

Now all of Israel's house had become **unified in**

**love**, as one body, and were all **equal**. The Father of the vineyard had preserved to Himself the natural fruit (His righteous children) which had been most precious to Him from the beginning.

When the Father of the vineyard saw that His fruit was good, and that all the corrupt had been destroyed, He called up all His servants and said to them,

"We have nourished my earth for the last time, and you have seen me do my will, preserving the good, natural fruit, like it was in the beginning.

You are all blessed for having diligently labored with me in my earth, keeping my commandments, bringing the natural fruit to me

again and destroying all  
the wicked.

Because of the good souls

the good and bad. I will  
preserve the good to myself  
and throw the bad out to



of the earth you have  
gathered, you **will have joy  
with me in my house.** I  
will preserve these souls to  
myself for a long time after  
the last day, which soon  
comes. I have nourished  
my people and have  
destroyed the wicked for  
the last time.

When evil comes upon the  
earth again (end of  
millennium), I will gather

their own place.

Then the **final judgment,**  
and I will **celestialize my  
earth with fire."**

*Jacob explains  
Zenos' writings  
(compare Jacob, chapter 6)*

Now, my brothers and  
sisters, I Jacob said I would  
prophecy to you, and this is  
my prophecy . . .

*What Zenos wrote about Israel's descendants, by comparing them to a tame olive tree, will surely come to pass!*

When the Lord again sets His hand, sending His **powerful servant**, like Moses, to **deliver His people**, it will be the last time **powerful servants** will preach and destroy throughout the world.

**Note:** **powerful servants** referred to in **2 Nephi 6:14-15** and **D&C 103:15-18**

Soon after this, the end will come. How blessed are those who will labor diligently in His earth, and how cursed are those who will be cast out to their own place before the world is **celestialized with fire**.

**Note:** compare **D&C 43:23-33**

How **merciful** is our God, who will remember Israel's

descendants, both their **spiritual roots** and their **governing branches**. He extends His arms to them continually, but they are stubborn and contentious, and they will not come to Him.

However, those who do **not** harden their hearts will be saved in His kingdom.

Because of this, my beloved brothers and sisters, I call upon you to **repent** and sincerely come to God with all your hearts, holding onto Him as **He holds you**.

While His arms of mercy are extended toward you in the light of the day, do not harden your hearts. If you want to **hear His voice today**, then do not harden your hearts against Him and die spiritually.

After being nourished by God's good word for so long, **will** you openly rebel, only to be cut down and thrown into the fire?

**Will** you **reject** the words of so many prophets who have spoken about Christ?

**Will** you **deny** His power and the gift of the Holy Ghost?

**Will** you **drive off** the Holy Spirit, mocking the great plan of redemption that has been laid before you?

Don't you know if you do these things, then the power of the **redemption** and the **resurrection**, which is in Christ, will bring you to **stand** with shame and awful guilt before God?

Then, according to the power of the justice of God's word, which cannot be denied, you must go

away from Him into that fire that separates the wicked from the righteous. Into those flames and smoke that go up forever.

Knowing this reality, **repent** and **enter** at the straight gate. Then **stay** on the narrow path, **holding** onto God's word until you obtain eternal life.

Oh be wise!

What more can I say?

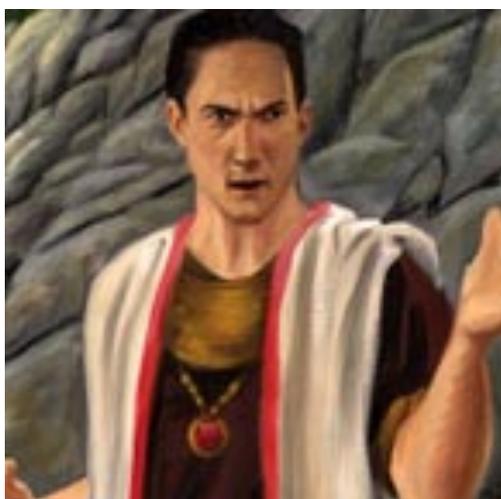
Farewell, until I meet you again before the pleasing bar of God, which bar strikes the wicked with awful dread and fear.

*Jacob meets with Sherem  
(compare Jacob, chapter 7)*

After some years had passed, a man named Sherem came among the Nephites. He began to

preach that there would be **no** Christ. He preached many flattering things in order to overthrow Christ's doctrine. He worked hard and led many hearts away.

He knew I Jacob had faith in Christ who would come, so he tried many times to speak to me. Sherem was



a **well educated** man, and he had a perfect knowledge of the people's language.

He was a very **flattering** and powerful **speaker**, having power from the devil.

Sherem was hoping to shake me from my faith in spite of the many revelations and things I had seen, for I truly had seen angels who had spoken to me. I had also heard the Lord's voice speak to me from time to time, so I could not be shaken.

When Sherem finally got his chance to speak to me, he said,

"Brother Jacob, I have been looking forward to meeting you for some time now, for I have heard, and also know you preach what you call 'the gospel' or 'the doctrine of Christ.'

You've led many people to change the ways of God and not keep the law of Moses, the right way.

You're attempting to convert the law of Moses into worshipping a being whom you say will come many hundreds of years from now.

I Sherem declare to you this is blasphemy, for no one knows such things. No one can see the future."

Then the Lord God poured His Spirit into my soul, enabling me to confound Sherem. I said to him, "Do you deny Christ, who will come?"

He answered, "If there were a Christ, I would not deny Him, but I know there's no Christ. There never has been nor ever will be one."

I asked him, "Do you believe the scriptures?"

He said, "Yes."

I said, "Then you do not understand them, Sherem, because they truly testify of Christ. None of the prophets ever wrote or prophesied without mentioning Christ.

I have seen and heard Christ in vision, and by the power of the Holy Ghost, it has been made known to me, if no atonement were made, everyone would be lost!"

Sherem replied, "Show me a sign by the power of this Holy Ghost, whom you know so much about."

I answered him, "Who am I to tempt God by asking Him to show you a sign to prove to you what you already know is true? Even if you saw a sign, you'd still deny Christ, because you're of the devil.

It's not up to me, but if God smites you, that's His sign to you He has power and that Christ will come. Oh Lord, Thy will be done, not mine."

As I Jacob said this, the Lord's power came upon Sherem and he collapsed. He was barely kept alive for many days.

Then one day Sherem said, "Gather the people together tomorrow, for I'm going to die soon."

The next day a crowd gathered and Sherem spoke plainly. He denied what he had taught. He confessed the **reality** of Christ, of the **power** of the Holy Ghost, and of the ministering of angels. He explained he'd **been deceived by the devil's power**. He spoke of hell, of

eternal punishment and of eternity.

Sherem uttered, "I'm afraid. I think I have committed the unpardonable sin, for I **lied to God**. I denied the Christ, yet said I believed the scriptures, which truly testify of Him. Because I have lied to God, I'm afraid for my soul. But I now confess my evil works to God."

Sherem could say no more, and he died.

Having seen Sherem confess just before dying, the multitude was greatly astonished. As God's power came upon and overcame them, they all fell to the earth.

This pleased me, Jacob, because I had asked my Father in heaven for such an event. He had heard my

cry and had answered my prayer.

God's love and peace was restored among the people. They searched the scriptures, and Sherem's lies died with him.

The Nephites had many ideas about how to restore the Lamanites to the knowledge of the truth, but they were all in vain because the Lamanites delighted in war and bloodshed. They had an eternal hatred against us, their brethren, and they continually tried to kill us.

So we people of Nephi fortified ourselves against them with our weapons and strength, **trusting in God**, the rock of our salvation. By doing this we were able to conquer our enemies.

As I Jacob now grow old, I finish my record on the small plates Nephi gave me. The Nephite history is kept on Nephi's larger plates.

The best way I can describe our lives is by saying they passed like a dream. We were a lonesome and solemn people. We were wandering outcasts from Jerusalem, born in tribulation in the wilderness. We were hated by our brethren, who constantly caused wars and contention. And so we mourned out our days.

When I Jacob realized I would soon die, I told my son Enos to take charge of all the plates. I repeated the commands of my brother Nephi to Enos, and he promised to obey them.

This is the end of what little  
I have engraved. I hope  
many of my brethren, **the  
Lamanites**, will be among  
those who read my words.

Farewell, and may  
blessings attend you.