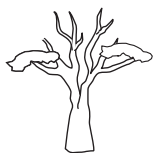


The First Visit - Before the Time of Christ, Jacob 5:3-14



The tame olive tree (Israel) is dying. The master prunes and fertilizes; a few new branches grow but the top is still dying. The main branches are removed and wild branches (Gentiles) are grafted in; tender branches are hidden.

God saw the apostasy of *ancient* Israel. He sent prophets to cry repentance but few people listened. He allowed the wicked to be destroyed and brought in the Gentiles. A few righteous branches of Israel were scattered around the world.

The Second Visit - At the Time of Christ, vv15-28



God saw that Israel (the old root tree) was saved and produced good fruit. The scattered branches of Israel also produced good fruit, except for the Nephites and Lamanites, whose fruit was partly good and partly bad.



The Third Visit - The Great Apostasy, vv29-49



All trees produce evil fruit.

God found that Christianity (the old root tree made up of both Israelites and Gentiles) had become corrupt, but the roots were still good. The natural branches that were scattered were also corrupt

The Third Visit - The Gathering of Israel, and the Gospel Goes to All the World, vv50-76

Branches of the scattered trees are grafted back into the original tree and branches of the original tree are grafted into the scattered trees

God and His servants restore the gospel in its purity. They begin to gather scattered Israel and take the gospel to all the world. As righteousness increases, the wicked are destroyed until no wickedness remains (the Second Coming of Jesus Christ). Righteousness prevails for a long time (the Millennium). When evil again enters the world, God will separate the righteous from the wicked and cleanse the earth by fire.

The Millennium - vv76-77

All trees become as one and bear natural fruit. When the bad fruit comes again, the good fruit will be gathered out and the vineyard will be burned.

SYMBOL	POSSIBLE MEANING
Tame olive tree	The house of Israel, God's covenant people
The vineyard	The world
Decay	Sin and apostasy
Lord and master of the vineyard	Jesus Christ
Pruning, digging, and nourishing	The Lord's efforts to help people receive the blessings of His Atonement
Servant of the master of the vineyard	The Lord's prophets
Branches	Groups of people
Wild olive tree	Gentiles—those who have not made covenants with the Lord. Later in the allegory, natural olive trees become wild, representing portions of the house of Israel that fall into apostasy.
Grafting and planting branches	The scattering and gathering of the Lord's covenant people. In addition, the grafting of wild branches into the tame olive tree represents the conversion of those who become part of the Lord's covenant people.
Burning branches	God's judgments on the wicked
Fruit	The lives or works of people