

JACOB CHAPTER 3 - Parable of the Olive Tree

30 Behold, my brethren, do ye not remember to have read the words of the prophet Zenos, which spake unto the house of Israel, saying : Hearken, O ye house of Israel, and hear the words of me, a prophet of the Lord:

Part I.

31 For behold, thus saith the Lord, I will liken thee, O house of Israel, like unto a **tame olive tree**, which a **man** took and nourished in **his vineyard**: and it grew, and waxed old, and began to decay.

32 And it came to pass that the **master of the vineyard** went forth, and he saw that his **olive tree** began to decay; and he said, I will prune it, and dig about it, and nourish it, that perhaps it may shoot forth **young and tender branches**, and it perish not.

33 And it came to pass that he pruned it, and digged about it, and nourished it, according to **his word**.

34 And it came to pass that after **many days**, it began to put forth somewhat a little, **young and tender branches**; but behold, the **main top** thereof began to perish.

35 And it came to pass that the **master of the vineyard** saw it, and he said unto **his servant**, It grieveth me that I should lose this **tree**;

36 Wherefore, go and pluck the **branches from a wild olive tree**, and bring them hither unto me; and we will pluck off those **main branches** which are beginning to wither away, and we will cast them into the **fire**, that they may be burned.

*Note: Israel (Northern Kingdom) conquered by Assyria in 721 B.C. and they were scattered and never returned to their homeland (10 lost tribes); Judah (Southern Kingdom) conquered by Babylon in 586 B.C.; some of Judah later returned. These are the "Main Branches" which were destroyed. Also see Romans 11:15-27 (words of Paul) and II Nephi 12:77-78.*

37 And behold, saith the **Lord of the vineyard**, I take away many of these **young and tender branches**, and I will graft them whithersoever I will;

38 And it mattereth not that if it so be, that the **root of this tree** will perish, I may preserve the **fruit** thereof unto myself;

39 Wherefore, I will take these **young and tender branches**, and I will graft them whithersoever I will.

40 Take thou the **branches of the wild olive tree**, and graft them in, in the stead thereof;

41 And these which I have plucked off, I will cast into the **fire**, and burn them, that they may not cumber the **ground of my vineyard**.

42 And it came to pass that the **servant of the Lord of the vineyard**, did according to the **word of the Lord of the vineyard**, and grafted in the **branches of the wild olive tree**.

43 And the **Lord of the vineyard** caused that it should be digged about, and pruned, and nourished, saying unto **his servant**, It grieveth me that I should lose this **tree** (Tame O.T.);

V. Tame O.T.

Wild O.T. Branches

Young & Tender Branches

Root of the Tame O.T.

Vineyard

44 Wherefore, that perhaps I might preserve the **roots** thereof that they perish not, that I might preserve them unto myself I have done this thing.

45 Wherefore, go thy way; watch the **tree**, and nourish it, according to **my words**.

46 And these will I place in the **nethermost part of my vineyard**, whithersoever I will, it mattereth not unto thee;

47 And I do it, that I may preserve unto myself the **natural branches of the tree** (Tame O.T.); and also, that I may lay up **fruit** thereof, against **the season**, unto myself: for it grieveth me that I should lose this **tree**, and the **fruit** thereof.

48 And it came to pass that the **Lord of the vineyard** went his way, and hid the **natural branches of the tame olive tree** in the **nethermost parts of the vineyard**; some in **one**, and some in **another**, according to his will and pleasure.

Part II.

49 And it came to pass that a long time passed away, and the **Lord of the vineyard** said unto **his servant**, Come, let us go down into the **vineyard**, that we may labor in the **vineyard**.

50 And it came to pass that the **Lord of the vineyard**, and also the **servant**, went down into the **vineyard** to labor.

51 And it came to pass that the **servant** said unto **his master**, Behold, look here; behold the **tree** (Tame O.T.).

52 And it came to pass that the **Lord of the vineyard** looked and beheld the **tree**, *in the which the wild olive branches* had been grafted; and it had sprung forth, and begun to bear **fruit**.

53 And he beheld that it was good: and the **fruit** thereof was like unto the **natural fruit**.

54 And he said unto the **servant**, Behold, the **branches of the wild tree** hath taken hold of the **moisture of the root** thereof, that the **root** thereof hath brought forth much strength;

55 And because of the much strength of the **root** thereof, the **wild branches** have brought forth **tame fruit**:

56 Now, if we had not grafted in these **branches**, the **tree** thereof would have perished.

57 And now, behold, I shall lay up much **fruit**, which the **tree** thereof hath brought forth; and the **fruit** thereof I shall lay up, against **the season**, unto **mine own self**.

58 And it came to pass that the **Lord of the vineyard** said unto the **servant**, Come, let us go to the **nethermost parts of the vineyard**, and behold if the **natural branches of the tree** hath not brought forth much **fruit** also, that I may lay up of the **fruit** thereof, against **the season**, unto **mine own self**.

59 And it came to pass that they went forth whither the **master of the vineyard** had hid the **natural branches of the tree**, and he said unto the **servant**, Behold these:

60 And he beheld the **first**, that it had brought forth much **fruit**; and he beheld also, that it was good.

Nethermost part of my Vineyard

Natural Branches "hid"

long time passed away...

V. Tame O. T. bears fruit

fruit like unto "natural fruit"

"tame fruit"

the season

Nethermost part of Vineyard

N. 1st (poorest spot) bears good fruit

61 And he said unto the **servant**, Take of the **fruit** thereof, and lay it up, against **the season**, that I may preserve it unto **mine own self**;

62 For behold, said he, this **long time** have I nourished it, and it hath brought forth much **fruit**.

63 And it came to pass that the **servant** said unto **his master**, How comest thou hither to plant this **tree**, or this **branch of the tree**? for behold, it was the **poorest spot in all the land of thy vineyard**.

64 And the **Lord of the vineyard** said unto him, Counsel me not: I knew that it was a **poor spot of ground**; wherefore, I said unto thee, I have nourished it this **long time**; and thou beholdest that it hath brought forth much **fruit**.

65 And it came to pass that the **Lord of the vineyard** said unto **his servant**, Look hither: behold, I have planted **another branch of the tree** also; and thou knowest that this **spot of ground was poorer than the first**.

66 But, behold the **tree**: I have nourished it this **long time**, and it hath brought forth **much fruit**; therefore, gather it, and lay it up, against **the season**, that I may preserve it unto **mine own self**.

67 And it came to pass that the **Lord of the vineyard** said again unto **his servant**, Look hither, and behold **another branch** also, which I have planted; behold that I have nourished it also, and it hath brought forth **fruit**.

68 And he said unto the **servant**, Look hither, and behold **the last**: behold, this have I planted in a **good spot of ground**; and I have nourished it this **long time**, and only **a part of the tree** hath brought forth **tame fruit**; and the **other part of the tree** hath brought forth **wild fruit**: behold, I have nourished this **tree** like unto the others.

69 And it came to pass that the **Lord of the vineyard** said unto the **servant**, Pluck off the *branches that have not brought forth good fruit* , and cast them into the **fire**.

70 But behold, the **servant** said unto him, Let us prune it, and dig about it, and nourish it a little longer, that perhaps it may bring forth **good fruit** unto thee, that thou canst lay it up against **the season**.

71 And it came to pass that the **Lord of the vineyard**, and the **servant of the Lord of the vineyard**, did nourish all the **fruit of the vineyard**.

**Part III.**

72 And it came to pass that **a long time** had passed away, and the **Lord of the vineyard** said unto **his servant**, Come, let us go down into **the vineyard**, that we may labor again in **the vineyard**.

73 For behold, *the time draweth near, and the end soon cometh*: wherefore, I must **lay up fruit**, against **the season**, unto **mine own self**.

74 And it came to pass that the **Lord of the vineyard**, and the **servant**, went down into **the vineyard**; and they came to the **tree** (tame O. T.) **whose natural branches had been broken off, and the wild branches had been grafted in**; and behold, **all sorts of fruit did cumber the tree**.

75 And it came to pass that the **Lord of the vineyard** did taste of the **fruit**, every sort according to its number.

"plant" tree or branch (not graft)

2nd (another branch; poorer spot than 1st) bears much fruit

3rd (another branch)

4th (last branch; good spot of ground)

"...a long time had passed away..."

"...the end soon cometh..."

V. Tame O.T.; all sorts of fruit on the tree

76 And the **Lord of the vineyard** said, Behold, this **long time** have we nourished this **tree**, and I have laid up unto myself against **the season, much fruit**.

77 But behold, this time it hath brought forth **much fruit**, *and there is none of it which is good*.

78 And behold, there are *all kinds of bad fruit; and it profiteth me nothing*, notwithstanding all our labor: and now, it grieveth me that I should lose this **tree** (tame O. T.).

79 And the **Lord of the vineyard** said unto the **servant**, What shall we do unto the **tree**, that I may preserve again **good fruit** thereof unto **mine own self**?

80 And the **servant** said unto **his master**, Behold, because thou didst graft in the **branches of the wild olive tree**, they have nourished the **roots**, that they are alive, and they have not perished; wherefore, thou beholdest that they are yet good.

81 And it came to pass that the **Lord of the vineyard** said unto **his servant**, The **tree** profiteth me nothing; and the **roots** thereof profiteth me nothing, so long as it shall bring forth **evil fruit**.

82 Nevertheless, I know that the **roots are good**; and for *mine own purpose I have preserved them*; and because of their much strength, they have hitherto brought forth from the **wild branches good fruit**.

83 But behold, the **wild branches** have grown, and have overrun the **roots** thereof: and because that the **wild branches** have overcome the **roots** thereof, it hath brought forth **much evil fruit**;

84 And because that it hath brought forth so much **evil fruit**, thou beholdest that it beginneth to perish: and it will soon become ripened, that it may be cast into the fire, except we should do something for it to **preserve** it.

85 And it came to pass that the **Lord of the vineyard** said unto **his servant**, Let us go down into the **nethermost parts of the vineyard**, and behold if the **natural branches** have also brought forth **evil fruit**.

86 And it came to pass that they went down into the **nethermost parts of the vineyard**.

87 And it came to pass that they beheld that the **fruit of the natural branches** had become corrupt also; yea, the first, and the second, and also the last; and they had all become corrupt.

88 And the **wild fruit of the last**, had overcome that **part of the tree** which brought forth **good fruit**, even that the **branch** had *withered away and died*.

89 And it came to pass that the **Lord of the vineyard** wept, and said unto the **servant**, What could I have done more for **my vineyard**?

90 Behold, I knew that all the **fruit of the vineyard**, save it were these, had become corrupted.

91 And now, these which have once brought forth **good fruit**, have also become corrupted.

92 And now, all the **trees of my vineyard** are *good for nothing, save it be to be hewn down and cast into the fire*.

Fruit is all bad

root of Tame O.T.  
still good

see vs. 52-57

wild branches  
(gentiles) overrun /  
overcome the roots

Tame O. T. (House of  
Israel) beginning to  
perish...

Nethermost parts of  
Vineyard

1st, 2nd & 4th = all  
fruit corrupt

4th is dead

Lament of the Lord of the  
Vineyard

93 And behold, this **last** (4th Tree), **whose branch hath withered away**, I did plant in a **good spot of ground**; **yea, even that which was choice unto me, above all other parts of the land of my vineyard.**

94 And thou beheldest that I also cut down that which cumbered this spot of ground, that I might plant this **tree** in the stead thereof.

95 And thou beheldest that a **part** thereof, brought forth good fruit; and a **part** thereof, brought forth wild fruit.

96 And because I plucked not the **branches** thereof, and cast them into the **fire**, behold, they have *overcome the good branch, that it has withered away* .

97 And now behold, notwithstanding all the care which we have taken of **my vineyard**, the **trees** thereof have become corrupted, that they bring forth **no good fruit**:

98 And these I had hoped to preserve, to have laid up fruit thereof, **against the season**, unto **mine own self**.

99 But behold, they have become like unto the **wild olive tree**; and they are of no worth, but to be hewn down and cast into the **fire**: and it grieveth me that I should lose them.

100 But what could I have done more in **my vineyard**?

101 Have I slackened my hand, that I have not nourished it?

102 Nay; I have nourished it, and I have digged about it, and I have pruned it, and I have dunged it; and I have *stretched forth mine hand almost all the day long; and the end draweth nigh* .

103 And it grieveth me that I should hew down all the **trees** of **my vineyard**, and cast them into the **fire**, that they should be **burned**.

104 Who is it that has corrupted my vineyard?

105 And it came to pass that the **servant** said unto **his master**, Is it not the **loftiness of thy vineyard**?

106 Have not the **branches** thereof **overcome the roots**, which are good?

107 And because the **branches** have **overcome the roots** thereof, behold, they grew faster than the strength of the **roots**, taking strength unto themselves.

108 Behold, I say, Is not this the cause that the *trees of thy vineyard have become corrupted*?

#### Part IV.

109 And it came to pass that the **Lord of the vineyard** said unto the **servant**, Let us go to, and hew down the **trees of the vineyard**, and cast them into the **fire**, that they shall not cumber the ground of my vineyard: for I have done all; what could I have done more for **my vineyard**?

110 But behold, the **servant** said unto the **Lord of the vineyard**, Spare it a little longer.

111 And the **Lord** said, Yea, I will spare it a little longer: for it grieveth me that I should lose the **trees of my vineyard**.

112 Wherefore let us take of the **branches** of these which I have planted in the **nethermost parts of my vineyard**, and let us graft them into the **tree** (Tame O. T.) from whence they came;

N. 4th (planted in choicest spot of ground)  
Jaredites  
Nephites / Lamanites

trees corrupted; no good fruit

likened to wild olive tree (gentiles)

loftiness (pride, haughtiness) corrupted vineyard

spare it a little longer...

N. 1st to 4th branches to be grafted back into Tame O.T.

113 And let us pluck from the **tree** (Tame O.T.) **those branches whose fruit is most bitter**, and graft in the **natural branches of the tree** in the stead thereof.

114 And this will I do, that the **tree** (Tame O.T.) may not perish, that perhaps I may preserve unto myself the **roots** thereof, for **mine own purpose**.

115 And behold, the **roots of the natural branches of the tree which I planted whithersoever I would**, are yet alive;

116 Wherefore, that I may preserve them also, for **mine own purpose**, I will take of the **branches of this tree** (Tame O. T.), and I will graft them in unto them.

117 Yea, I will graft in unto them the **branches of their mother tree**, that I may **preserve the roots** also unto **mine own self**, that when they shall be sufficiently strong, perhaps they may bring forth **good fruit** unto me, and I may yet have *glory in the fruit of my vineyard*.

118 And it came to pass that they took from the **natural tree** (natural branches) **which had become wild** (Tame O. T.), and grafted in unto the **natural trees** (1st to 4th plantings in nethermost part of vineyard), *which also had become wild*:

119 And they also took of the **natural trees which had become wild** (1st to 4th plantings in nethermost part of vineyard), and grafted into their **mother tree** (Tame O. T.).

120 And the **Lord of the vineyard** said unto the **servant**, Pluck not the **wild branches from the trees**, **save it be those which are most bitter**; and in them ye shall graft, according to that which I have said.

121 And we will nourish again the **trees of the vineyard**, and we will trim up the **branches** thereof; and we will pluck from the **trees those branches which are ripened that must perish**, and cast them into the fire.

122 And this I do, that perhaps the **roots** thereof may take strength, because of their goodness; and because of the change of the **branches**, that the *good may overcome the evil*;

123 And because that I have preserved the **natural branches, and the roots** thereof; and that I have grafted in the **natural branches again**, into their **mother tree** (Tame O.T.); and have preserved the **roots of their mother tree** (Tame O.T.), that perhaps the **trees of my vineyard** may bring forth again **good fruit**;

124 And that I may have joy again in the **fruit of my vineyard**; and perhaps that I may rejoice exceedingly, that I have preserved the **roots and the branches of the first fruit**.

125 Wherefore, go to, and call **servants**, that we may labor diligently with our mights in the **vineyard**, that we may prepare the way, that I may bring forth again the **natural fruit**, which **natural fruit is good, and the most precious above all other fruit**.

Part V. - The Last Time

V. Tame O. T.

N. 1st to 4th branches

grafting...

grafting...

hope that good will overcome the evil (natural branches overcome wild branches)

"first fruit" see vs. 52-57

126 Wherefore, let us go to, and labor with our mights, this **last time**; for behold **the end draweth nigh: and this is for the last time** that I shall prune my vineyard.

"last time" see D&C 32:7c & 39:5a; church established for last time April 6, 1830

127 Graft (transplant) in the **branches**; *begin at the last* (gentiles), *that they may be first, and that the first (Jews) may be last*, and dig about the **trees** (plural), both old (Tame O.T.) and young (Trees 1-4), *the first and the last, and the last and the first*, that all may be nourished once again for **the last time**.

the last are the gentiles; first is the House of Israel

128 Wherefore, dig about them, and prune them, and dung them once more, for the **last time**: for **the end** draweth nigh.

129 And if it so be that these last grafts shall grow, and bring forth the **natural fruit**, then shall ye *prepare the way* for them, that they may grow;

130 And as they begin to grow, ye shall **clear away the branches which bring forth bitter fruit**, according to the **strength of the good and the size thereof**;

131 And ye shall not clear away the bad thereof, all at once, lest the **roots** thereof should be too strong for the graft, and the graft thereof shall perish, and I lose the **trees of my vineyard**.

bad slowly cleared away

132 For it grieveth me that I should lose the **trees of my vineyard**; wherefore, ye shall *clear away the bad, according as the good shall grow*, that the **root and the top may be equal in strength**, until the *good shall overcome the bad*, and the bad be hewn down and cast into the **fire**, that they **cumber not the ground of my vineyard**; and thus will I sweep away the bad out of **my vineyard**.

root and top to be equal

133 And the **branches of the natural tree** (1st to 4th) will I graft in again, into the **natural tree**; and the **branches of the natural tree** will I graft into the **natural branches of the tree**;

134 And thus will I bring them together again, that they shall bring forth the **natural fruit**; and *they shall be one*.

to be one (branches and tree)

135 And the **bad shall be cast away**; **yea, even out of all the land of my vineyard**; for behold, only this once will I prune my vineyard.

to prune vineyard "only this once"

136 And it came to pass that the **Lord of the vineyard** sent **his servant**; and the **servant** went and did as the **Lord** had commanded him, and brought **other servants**; *and they were few*.

very few servants

137 And the **Lord of the vineyard** said unto them, Go to, and labor in the vineyard, with your mights.

138 For behold, this is **the last time** that I shall nourish **my vineyard**: for the **end is nigh at hand**, and **the season speedily cometh**;

last time; end soon season (period of time) cometh

139 And if ye labor with your mights with me, ye shall have joy in the **fruit** which I shall lay up unto myself, against **the time** which will soon come.

140 And it came to pass that the **servants** did go, and labor with their mights; and the **Lord of the vineyard** labored also with them; and they did obey the commandments of the **Lord of the vineyard**, in all things.

Lord of the Vineyard and servants labor...

141 And there began to be the **natural fruit** again in the **vineyard**; and the **natural branches** began to grow and thrive exceedingly;

142 And the **wild branches** began to be plucked off, and to be cast away; and they did **keep the root and the top thereof equal**, according to the strength thereof.

**Part VI. - Bad cast away; One Body of Natural Fruit**

143 And thus they labored, with all diligence, according to the commandments of the **Lord of the vineyard**, even until the bad had been cast away out of the **vineyard**, and the Lord had preserved unto himself, that the **trees** had become again the **natural fruit**;

144 And they became like unto **one body**; and the **fruit were equal**; and the **Lord of the vineyard** had **preserved unto himself** the **natural fruit**, which was most precious unto him from the beginning.

145 And it came to pass that when the **Lord of the vineyard** saw that his **fruit** was **good**, and that **his vineyard** was **no more corrupt**, he called up **his servants** and said unto them, Behold, for this **last time** have we **nourished my vineyard**; and thou beholdest that I have done according to **my will**;

146 And I have **preserved** the **natural fruit**, that it is **good, even like as it was in the beginning**; and blessed art thou.

147 For because ye have been diligent in laboring with me in **my vineyard**, and have kept **my commandments**, and have brought unto me again the **natural fruit**, that **my vineyard** is no more **corrupted**, and the **bad is cast away**, behold, ye shall have **joy with me**, because of the **fruit of my vineyard**.

148 For behold, for **a long time** will I lay up of the **fruit of my vineyard** unto **mine own self**, against **the season**, which speedily cometh;

149 And for **the last time** have I nourished **my vineyard**, and pruned it, and dug about it, and dunged it;

150 Wherefore I will lay up unto **mine own self** of the **fruit** for a **long time**, according to that which I have spoken.

**Part VII. - Time to come; evil again in Vineyard**

151 And when the **time cometh** that **evil fruit shall again come into my vineyard**, then will I cause the **good and the bad to be gathered**:

152 And the **good will I preserve unto myself**; and the **bad will I cast away into its own place**.

153 And then cometh **the season** and **the end**; and **my vineyard** will I cause to be **burned with fire**.

one body; fruit equal

vineyard no more corrupt

"long time"..."against the seasons"

"long time"...

time to come; evil again in vineyard

good preserved; bad cast away...

the Season and the end;  
Vineyard burned with fire