

3/21/20

Jacob 5-7

GT

The Lord Labors with Us

BofM #12

Jacob ch 5 is a continuation from 4 -

what is the purpose of Jacob's repeating the allegory?

To demonstrate how the Jews can have Christ as their head cornerstone, ~~having~~ having once rejected him.

orig. Roots/tree: land of concen
doctrine
Christ other trees: locations (branches: people
nourishment: grace/love of God
connection of roots to branches: fellowship/worship/practice
fruit: works/choices/observance

Romans 11:15:

when they were rejected, all other people were changed from God's enemies into his friends

11:18 consider this: you do not support the root, but the root supports you

11:17 you, though a wild olive ~~tree~~ shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root

Isaiah 59:20-21

The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repeat my words will be on your lips and on the lips of your descendants forever

1 Nephi 10:12-14

Scattered upon the face of the earth, after the Gentiles had received the fulness of the Gospel, the natural branches, or remnants of the house of Israel, should be grafted in, or come to the knowledge of the true Messiah, their Lord and Redeemer

2 kinds of grafting:

- what we call grafting: taking a shoot from one branch and grafting it onto a branch of another tree (bud into ~~bark~~ bark, split branch, inserted into the end of cut-off)
- rooted cuttings: a cutting (a branch end about 12-18 inches long) is placed into a certain kind of soil ~~at~~ at a certain time of year and fertilized a certain way, and it will grow roots. this has dangers ~~for~~ for both the tree and the cutting

1 Book of Mormon Central.org David Rolph Seely & John Welch "Zenos and the texts of the Old Testament"

2 Hugh Nibley - Rediscovery of the Apocrypha Part 2

- Positive & negative aspects of vine & orchard imagery (blessings & curses) are found throughout the old Testament (Psalm 52, Ps. 80 'vine', Hosea 14) Isaiah 58
- Zenos (or the author of this chapter) had an extensive understanding of ancient olive husbandry - he got every detail correct

emphasized by Jacob in Ch. 6

importance of choosing Jehovah, Christ, religion, & true doctrine

other chapters:

1 Nephi 15

John 15

Exodus 15

Ch. 7 Sherem (antichrist) vs. Jacob

This chapter is an apparent shift of gears:

- many years later
- narrative rather than instructive
- not explicitly tied

But consider:

he has a perfect knowledge ^{of language} (part of the natural branches) (v. 4)

he was prideful

he was loyal to the Law of Moses (v. 7)

What better example could you have for the attitude of the branches described in Jacob 5 (v. 37, 48)?

To understand the deception of Sherem, compare verse 7:

"No man knoweth of such things; for he cannot tell of things to come."

with verse 9:

"If there should be a Christ, I would not deny him; but I know that there is no Christ, neither has been, nor ever will be."

His "anti" beliefs required just as much faith as "pro" beliefs, yet he claimed to reject faith.

This is not a chapter instructing us how to deal with apostates. Sherem is struck dead, by the mere word of Jacob and the will of God. This almost never happens, in fact, in narrative terms, it's called a *deus ex machina*, and considered a weak way to end a story.

It is a chapter telling us about how the Lord cares for his orchard/vineyard. It is a testimony that he really does take the actions described in Jacob 5 (pluck out/burn in fire) and that he does extend mercy to those who repent (graft back in to their natural tree).

It is also a chapter giving us insight into the life of Zeno (Alma 33)