

The Olive Tree Allegory: Jacob 5

The Scattering of Israel

Before the Time of Christ (verses 3-14)



Tame olive tree (Israel) is dying (verses 3-4).

The master prunes and fertilizes; a few new branches grow but the top is still dying (verses 4-6).

Main branches are removed and wild branches are grafted in; tender branches are hidden (verses 7-14).



Withered branches are burned (verses 7, 9).



Wild olive tree (Gentiles; verses 7, 9)

Natural branches are hidden in the nethermost part of the vineyard.



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 Time of Christ

(verses 15-28)



Good fruit (verses 15-18)



Poor ground; good fruit (verses 20-22)



Poorer ground; good fruit (verse 23)



Good ground; good and bad fruit (verses 24-25)*

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.

* While it is possible that this passage refers to two distinct branches, many believe that it refers to the same branch (see also Jacob 5:39).

The Great Apostasy

(verses 29-49)



Evil fruit (verses 29-37)



Evil fruit (verses 39, 46)



Evil fruit (verses 39, 46)



Evil fruit only (verses 39, 46)

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 Gathering of Israel

The Gospel Goes to All the World (verses 50-76)

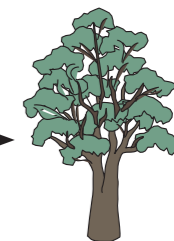


Branches of the scattered trees are grafted back into the original tree (verses 52-53).



Branches of the original tree are grafted into the scattered trees (verses 54-56).

The Millennium (verses 76-77)



All trees become as one and bear natural fruit (verses 74-76).



As the natural branches grow, the wild branches are burned (verses 57-58, 65-73).



When the bad fruit comes again, the good fruit will be gathered out and the vineyard will be burned (verse 77).

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.