

Personal Applications of Olive Symbolism

Key Scripture Jacob 5

Explanation The tame olive tree in Jacob 5 may represent not only the house of Israel but also each of us personally. Listed in this chart are symbolic elements of the olive tree allegory and possible personal applications of them. While the gathering of the house of Israel is of utmost concern, personal conversion to the gospel of Jesus Christ as a member of the house of Israel may be even more important. Thus Zenos's allegory should be read and applied in terms of individual as well as collective salvation.

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Symbol

Planted in God's vineyard
Olive trees grow slowly
Without care olives become wild
Each tree needs particular care
Even trees in good soil go wild
Branches should balance the roots
Olive trees like dry, rocky soil
Strong roots will support the stock
Branches should not become lofty
Pruning is necessary
Each branch needs light to grow
Prunings must not cumber the ground
Grafting will preserve the stock
Dunging is necessary
Olive oil is very valuable
Pressure is needed to extract oil
"What could I have done more?"
"It grieveth me to lose this tree"
"Spare it a little longer"

Possible Applications

Membership in God's church
Spiritual growth is slow
We must remain faithful
Lord knows us individually
Use blessings properly
Grow patiently and deeply
Adversity can be a blessing
Keep spiritual roots strong
Avoid pride
Repent regularly
Keep Light of Christ in all
Completely remove evil
Draw strength from others
Study, ponder, and pray
The worth of souls is great
Attaining purity takes work
God does all he can for us
God loves his children
The Lord is patient with us