
Jacob 2 — Tender Feelings Wounded — Jacob's Temple Sermon on Pride, Riches, and the David-Solomon Sin

Jacob's first recorded temple sermon; rebuke of pride and unauthorized polygamy; the Lord delights in chastity of women; c. 544 BC.

The chapter is the BoM's clearest articulation of pastoral-prophetic-difficulty. Jacob must deliver a temple-sermon that wounds tender feelings in the very congregation that includes wives and children listening from the gallery. Four movements: (1) Jacob's anguish at having to deliver hard words (vv. 1–11); (2) rebuke of pride and wealth-accumulation (vv. 12–22); (3) rebuke of unauthorized polygamy and the David-Solomon-pattern (vv. 23–35); (4) the prophetic-contrast. Theological center: vv. 28–31's *I, the Lord God, delight in the chastity of women* — the chapter's-most-Lord-revealing block.

Ten Insights

- 1. Magnify mine office; rid my garments (v. 2).** *According to the responsibility which I am under to God, to magnify mine office with soberness, and that I might rid my garments of your sins.* Continues ch. 1:19's watchman-grammar.
- 2. Boldness before tender wives and chaste children (v. 7).** *It grieveth me that I must use so much boldness of speech concerning you, before your wives and your children, many of whose feelings are exceedingly tender and chaste and delicate before God, which thing is pleasing unto God.* The pastoral-difficulty of public-rebuke wounding the innocent.
- 3. Comparative pride from comparative wealth (v. 13).** *Because some of you have obtained more abundantly than that of your brethren ye are lifted up in the pride of your hearts.* Pride is comparative (Lk. 18:11 — Pharisee's prayer).
- 4. Think of brethren like unto yourselves (v. 17).** *Think of your brethren like unto yourselves, and be familiar with all and free with your substance, that they may be rich like unto you.* The chapter's master-consecration-verse — pre-Acts 4:32–35 articulation.
- 5. Seek the kingdom first (v. 18).** *Before ye seek for riches, seek ye for the kingdom of God.* The BoM's clearest pre-Christ articulation of Matt. 6:33's seek-ye-first-the-kingdom doctrine.
- 6. Riches for intent to do good (v. 19).** *After ye have obtained a hope in Christ ye shall obtain riches, if ye seek them; and ye will seek them for the intent to do good — to clothe the naked, and to feed the hungry, and to liberate the captive, and administer relief to the sick.* Pre-Matt. 25 corporal-works grammar.
- 7. They mis-use David and Solomon (v. 23).** *This people begin to wax in iniquity; they understand not the scriptures, for they seek to excuse themselves in committing whoredoms, because of the things which were written concerning David, and Solomon his son.* Scripture-mis-use as moral-license (2 Pet. 3:16).
- 8. Save it be one wife; concubines he shall have none (v. 27).** *There shall not any man among you have save it be one wife; and concubines he shall have none.* Monogamy-default (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:5). Same default; conditional-plurality articulated at vv. 30 / D&C 132:34–39.
- 9. I delight in the chastity of women (v. 28).** *I, the Lord God, delight in the chastity of women. And whoredoms are an abomination before me.* One of the BoM's most personal-Lord-revealing utterances (1 Thes. 4:3–7).
- 10. Broken hearts; lost confidence; ascending sobbings (v. 35).** *Ye have broken the hearts of your tender wives, and lost the confidence of your children, because of your bad examples before them; and the sobbings of their hearts ascend up to God against you.* The chapter's master-paternal-accountability verse (Mal. 4:6; Eph. 6:4).

Cross-References

Gen. 2:24 (cleave unto his wife — direct parallel v. 27); Ex. 3:7 (heard their cry — direct parallel v. 31); Ex. 20:14 (thou shalt not commit adultery); Deut. 6:5 (love with all heart); Deut. 8:11–14 (lest thy heart be lifted up — direct parallel vv. 13–16); Deut. 17:17 (king shall not multiply wives — direct background v. 24); 1 Sam. 1:6–10 (Hannah's grief — direct background v. 31); 2 Sam. 11–12 (David's adultery — direct background v. 24); 1 Ki. 11:1–13 (Solomon's wives — direct background v. 24); Ezra 9:6 (ashamed and blush — direct parallel v. 6); Ps. 34:18 (Lord nigh unto broken heart — direct parallel v. 35); Ps. 51:6 (truth in inward parts); Ps. 68:5 (father of the fatherless — direct parallel v. 32); Prov. 5:15–20 (rejoice with the wife of thy youth); Prov. 11:28 (he that trusteth in his riches); Prov. 16:18 (pride goeth before destruction); Eccl. 5:10 (he that loveth silver); Isa. 1:17 (relieve the oppressed); Isa. 3:14–15 (grinding the faces of the poor); Isa. 5:8 (woe unto them that join house to house); Isa. 58:6–7 (loose the bands of wickedness — direct parallel v. 19); Isa. 61:1 (proclaim liberty to the captives — direct parallel v. 19); Jer. 7 (temple sermon); Jer. 22:13 (woe unto him that buildeth by unrighteousness); Lam. 3:48–51 (mine eye runneth down); Ezek. 22:7 (set light by father and mother); Mal. 2:13–16 (witness between thee and the wife of thy youth — direct parallel v. 35); Mal. 4:6 (turn the heart of the fathers — direct parallel v. 35); Matt. 5:8 (pure in heart); Matt. 6:19–21 (lay not up treasures); Matt. 6:24 (cannot serve God and mammon); Matt. 6:33 (seek ye first — direct parallel v. 18); Matt. 19:3–9 (one flesh — direct parallel v. 27); Matt. 19:21 (sell that thou hast); Matt. 25:35–40 (corporal works — direct parallel v. 19); Lk. 6:8 (he knew their thoughts — direct parallel v. 5); Lk. 12:15 (beware of covetousness); Lk. 18:7 (avenge his own elect — direct parallel v. 31); Acts 2:44–45 (had all things common — direct parallel v. 17); Acts 4:32–35 (neither said any of them — direct parallel v. 17); 1 Cor. 6:18 (flee fornication); Eph. 5:25 (husbands, love your wives); Eph. 6:4 (provoke not your children — direct parallel v. 35); 1 Thes. 4:3–7 (sanctification, abstain from fornication — direct parallel v. 28); 1 Tim. 6:9–10 (love of money — direct parallel vv. 12–16); Heb. 4:12 (discerner of thoughts — direct parallel v. 5); Heb. 13:4 (marriage is honourable); Jas. 1:27 (visit the fatherless — direct parallel v. 19); Jas. 5:1–6 (weep and howl, ye rich men); 1 Pet. 3:7 (giving honour unto the wife); 1 Jn. 2:15–17 (love not the world); 1 Ne. 8:26–28 (great and spacious building); 2 Ne. 9:30 (woe unto the rich); 2 Ne. 26:31 (priestcraft); 2 Ne. 28:15 (woe unto the proud); Jacob 1 (Jacob's commission — direct context); Jacob 3 (Lamanite contrast — direct sequel); Mosiah 4:16–26 (king Benjamin on impart of substance — direct parallel v. 17); Alma 1:30 (Nephites' equity); Alma 4:6–13 (Nephite pride); Alma 34:28 (turn away the needy); Hel. 13:18 (cursed shall be the land); 3 Ne. 13:33 (seek ye first the kingdom); 4 Ne. 1:3 (all things common — direct parallel v. 17); D&C 6:7 (seek not for riches); D&C 38:24–27 (esteem brother as himself — direct parallel v. 17); D&C 42:30–32 (consecration — direct parallel v. 17); D&C 49:20 (not given that one man should possess above another); D&C 56:16–18 (woe unto you rich); D&C 78:5–6 (equal in earthly things); D&C 121:34–36 (rights of priesthood); D&C 121:41–45 (gentleness — direct parallel v. 7); D&C 132:34–39 (David, Solomon plural-marriage exception — direct parallel vv. 23–30); Family: A Proclamation (fathers preside in love); Articles of Faith 13 (chaste, benevolent).

Apocryphal Correlations

Tobit 4:5–11. Tobit's instruction on almsgiving — direct vv. 17–19 consecration parallel.

Sirach 31:1–11. Watching for riches consumeth the flesh — direct vv. 12–18 wealth-rebuke parallel.

Wisdom 5:8–14. What hath pride profited us — direct vv. 13–16 pride-rebuke parallel.

4 Maccabees 2:7–10. Reason restrains lust and rebuke of polygamy — direct vv. 23–35 parallel.

1 Enoch 96:4–8. Woe unto you, ye rich — direct vv. 12–16 woe-to-rich parallel.

Testament of Levi 14:6–8. Ye shall corrupt the daughters of Israel — direct vv. 31–35 parallel.

Damascus Doc (CD) 4:20–5:11. Polygamy denounced; monogamy as Edenic-norm — direct vv. 27–28 monogamy-default parallel.

Psalms of Solomon 4:1–13. Why sittest thou, O profane man — direct vv. 12–16 wealth-pride parallel.

Hebrew Word Studies

rakh (רַךְ, **tender, soft**) — v. 7. The same root as Nephi's lev rakh (softened heart) at 1 Ne. 2:16.

tahor (טָהוֹר, **pure**) — v. 7. The priestly-purity noun (2 Ne. 30:6's pure-and-delightsome).

tzedakah (צְדָקָה, **righteousness, almsgiving**) — vv. 17, 19. In post-exilic Hebrew, almsgiving — just-distribution of one's substance.

chesed (חֶסֶד, **covenant-loving-kindness**) — vv. 17, 19. Mic. 6:8's love mercy.

shever lev (שֶׁבַר לֵב, **heart-break**) — v. 35. Ps. 34:18 — the Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart.

emun ha-banim (אֱמוּנַת הַבָּנִים, **children's trust**) — v. 35. Hab. 2:4's emunah-faith; the father's-sin erodes the child's-emun.

Personal Application

Three practices. First, think of brethren as yourselves; be free with substance. Examine your substance weekly; if anyone in your stewardship is in need, share (Acts 4:32–35). Second, seek the kingdom before riches. Each morning, name the kingdom-priority for the day before naming the work-priority; let the kingdom-priority shape the work-priority, not vice-versa (Matt. 6:33). Third, cultivate the family-altar; do not break the tender hearts. Examine yourself daily for the small-sins that erode the family-altar — sharp word, broken promise, hidden vice, unkind tone, lust-of-the-eye, absent-presence (Mal. 2:13–16).