

## Jacob 3 — The Pure in Heart, the Lamanite Husbands, and the Mercy Available Yet

*Jacob's continuing temple sermon; comfort to the pure; Lamanite husbands' faithfulness shames Nephite faithlessness, c. 544 BC.*

The chapter is the continuation of Jacob's temple sermon and the BoM's clearest articulation of the mercy-available-yet doctrine. Having delivered the hard rebuke of ch. 2, Jacob turns first to the pure-in-heart who have been wounded, then back to the unrepentant with the contrastive-shame of Lamanite-fidelity. Three movements: (1) consolation to the pure (vv. 1–2); (2) the Lamanite contrast (vv. 3–11); (3) Jacob's editorial conclusion (vv. 12–14). Center: vv. 5–7 — the Lamanite-righteousness-contrast, the chapter's-most-uncomfortable but most-pastorally-effective rebuke.

### Ten Insights

- 1. Look unto God; he will plead your cause (v. 1).** *O all ye that are pure in heart, lift up your heads... look unto God with firmness of mind, and pray unto him with exceeding faith, and he will console you... and he will plead your cause.* The Lord-as-advocate-for-the-wounded (Ps. 9:9; Heb. 4:14–16).
- 2. Feast upon his love forever (v. 2).** *Feast upon his love; for ye may, if your minds are firm, forever.* Pre-Pauline articulation of Rom. 5:5's love of God shed abroad in our hearts. Eternal-feasting conditional on mind-firmness.
- 3. Lamanites as instrument of scourging (v. 3).** *The Lamanites... nevertheless they are cursed with a sore cursing, shall scourge you even unto destruction.* Divine-use-of-the-cursed-to-scourge-the-elect (Isa. 10:5 — Assyrian as the rod of mine anger).
- 4. Lamanites more righteous than you (v. 5).** *The Lamanites... are more righteous than you; for they have not forgotten the commandment of the Lord... that they should have save it were one wife.* Comparative-righteousness inversion (Matt. 21:31 — publicans and harlots go before you; Rom. 2:25–29).
- 5. Future Lamanite blessing (v. 6).** *One day they shall become a blessed people.* The Lamanite-curse is reversible; marriage-faithfulness is the seed of future-blessing (2 Ne. 30:6; D&C 49:24).
- 6. Their husbands love their wives (v. 7).** *Their husbands love their wives, and their wives love their husbands; and their husbands and their wives love their children.* The triple-love-formula — soul-of-civilization, intact in the cursed, broken in the privileged (Mal. 4:6; Eph. 5:25; Tit. 2:4).
- 7. Their skins whiter than yours (v. 8).** *I fear that unless ye shall repent of your sins that their skins will be whiter than yours, when ye shall be brought with them before the throne of God.* Covenant-purity is the true-whiteness (Isa. 1:18; Rev. 7:14) — eschatological-inversion of the racial-grammar.
- 8. Revile no more; remember your own filthiness (v. 9).** *Ye shall revile no more against them because of the darkness of their skins... but ye shall remember your own filthiness.* Anti-reviling commandment paired with self-examination-before-condemnation (Matt. 5:44; Matt. 7:3–5).
- 9. Children grieved; sins on your heads (v. 10).** *Ye have grieved their hearts because of the example that ye have set before them; and also, remember that ye may, because of your filthiness, bring your children unto destruction, and their sins be heaped upon your heads at the last day.* Multi-generational-sin-accountability (Ex. 20:5; Mosiah 4:14).
- 10. Arouse the faculties; awake from the slumber of death (v. 11).** *Arouse the faculties of your souls; shake yourselves that ye may awake from the slumber of death; and loose yourselves from the pains of hell.* Pre-Pauline articulation of Eph. 5:14's awake thou that sleepest. *Hithor'er; shenah ha-mavet.*

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## Cross-References

Gen. 4:7 (sin lieth at the door); Ex. 20:5 (visiting the iniquity — direct parallel v. 10); Ex. 20:12 (honour thy father and mother); Deut. 24:16 (fathers shall not be put to death for the children); Judg. 5:12 (awake, awake, Deborah — direct background v. 11); 1 Sam. 16:7 (Lord looketh on the heart); Ps. 9:9 (refuge for the oppressed — direct parallel v. 1); Ps. 13:3 (sleep the sleep of death — direct background v. 11); Ps. 24:4 (clean hands, pure heart — direct parallel v. 1); Ps. 34:18 (Lord nigh unto broken heart — direct parallel v. 35); Ps. 51:10 (create in me a clean heart); Prov. 11:30 (he that winneth souls is wise); Isa. 1:18 (sins as scarlet, white as snow — direct background v. 8); Isa. 10:5 (Assyrian rod — direct parallel v. 3); Isa. 52:1 (awake, awake — direct parallel v. 11); Isa. 60:1 (arise, shine); Ezek. 33:11 (turn ye, turn ye); Hos. 6:1 (let us return unto the Lord); Mal. 4:6 (turn the heart — direct parallel vv. 7, 10); Matt. 5:8 (pure in heart — direct parallel v. 1); Matt. 5:44 (love your enemies — direct parallel v. 9); Matt. 7:3–5 (mote and beam — direct parallel v. 9); Matt. 11:28 (come unto me); Matt. 18:6 (offend one of these little ones); Matt. 19:14 (suffer little children); Matt. 21:31 (publicans and harlots before you — direct parallel v. 5); Mk. 9:42 (offend one of these little ones); Lk. 6:31 (do unto others); Lk. 6:42 (mote and beam); Lk. 15:11–32 (prodigal); Lk. 17:18 (Samaritan returned — direct parallel v. 5); Jn. 8:7 (he that is without sin); Jn. 13:34 (love one another); Rom. 2:25–29 (circumcision — direct parallel v. 5); Rom. 5:5 (love of God shed abroad — direct parallel v. 2); Rom. 8:1 (no condemnation); Rom. 12:14 (bless them which persecute — direct parallel v. 9); Rom. 13:11 (it is high time to awake — direct parallel v. 11); 1 Cor. 13:4–7 (charity suffereth long); 1 Cor. 15:34 (awake to righteousness — direct parallel v. 11); 2 Cor. 7:10 (godly sorrow worketh repentance); Eph. 4:32 (be ye kind); Eph. 5:14 (awake thou that sleepest — direct parallel v. 11); Eph. 5:22–6:4 (household-code); Eph. 6:4 (provoke not your children — direct parallel v. 10); Tit. 2:4 (love their husbands, love their children — direct parallel v. 7); Heb. 4:14–16 (come boldly unto throne — direct parallel v. 1); Heb. 12:5–11 (chastening); Jas. 1:14–15 (drawn away of own lust); Jas. 1:27 (visit the fatherless); 1 Pet. 1:22 (purified your souls); 1 Jn. 4:16 (God is love — direct parallel v. 2); Rev. 7:14 (washed their robes, made them white — direct parallel v. 8); Rev. 20:14 (lake of fire, second death — direct parallel v. 11); Rev. 21:8 (lake which burneth — direct parallel v. 11); 1 Ne. 2:16 (Nephi's lev rakh); 2 Ne. 5:23–24 (Lamanite curse); 2 Ne. 26:33 (all are alike unto God); 2 Ne. 30:6 (Lamanites pure and delightsome); Jacob 1 (Jacob's commission); Jacob 2 (direct context — prior chapter); Jacob 4 (looking beyond the mark — direct sequel); Alma 17:14 (Lamanites' future blessing); Alma 23:18 (Lamanites of Anti-Nephi-Lehi); Alma 24:6 (Lamanite converts' covenant); Alma 26:23–25 (Ammon's mission); Hel. 6:36 (Lord blessed Lamanites); Hel. 14 (Samuel the Lamanite — direct parallel v. 6); 3 Ne. 2:14–16 (Lamanite converts whiten); 3 Ne. 19:25 (countenance of Jesus); 4 Ne. 1:17 (no distinction between Nephites and Lamanites); Morm. 7:5–10 (latter-day Lamanite remnant); D&C 49:24 (Lamanites blossom — direct parallel v. 6); D&C 50:6 (woe unto hypocrites); D&C 64:9–10 (forgive one another); D&C 88:118 (study and faith); D&C 121:34–36 (rights of priesthood); D&C 121:41–45 (gentleness); D&C 137:9 (judged according to desires of heart).

## Apocryphal Correlations

**Sirach 38:18–23.** Comfort to those who mourn — direct vv. 1–2 consolation parallel.

**Wisdom 3:1–9.** Souls of the righteous — direct vv. 1–2 protection of pure-in-heart parallel.

**4 Ezra 7:36–42.** Day of judgment will not abolish mercy — direct vv. 6, 9 mercy-available parallel.

**2 Baruch 84:1–11.** I have proclaimed a commandment — direct vv. 1, 11 final-warning parallel.

**Testament of Reuben 5:1–6.** My children, beware of fornication — direct vv. 5, 12 parallel.

**Testament of Issachar 4:1–6.** I walked in uprightness of heart — direct v. 1 pure-in-heart parallel.

**1 Enoch 91:18–19.** I show you the two ways — direct v. 11 awakening parallel.

**Damascus Doc (CD) 7:9–12.** Walk in these things, visited by the Lord with grace — direct vv. 1–2 parallel.

## Hebrew Word Studies

**bar levav** (בָּרִבְבֵּל, **pure of heart**) — v. 1. Ps. 24:4 — he that hath clean hands, and a pure heart.

**tachanun** (תַּחֲנוּן, **supplication**) — v. 1. The synagogue's daily-prayer-of-supplication grammar.

**ahavat ish-isha** (אַהֲבַת־אִשָּׁה, **husband-wife love**) — v. 7. The Song-of-Solomon-grammar; intact in Lamanites, broken in Nephites.

**ahavat horim-banim** (אַהֲבַת־בָּנִים, **parent-child love**) — v. 7. Mal. 4:6's heart-turning-grammar.

**hithor'er** (הִתְהוֹרֵר, **arouse oneself**) — v. 11. Hitpa'el reflexive of ur — to wake; Judg. 5:12 — awake, awake, Deborah.

**shenah ha-mavet** (שְׁנַת הַמָּוֶת, **sleep of death**) — v. 11. Ps. 13:3 — lest I sleep the sleep of death.

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### **Personal Application**

*Three practices. First, receive consolation when wounded by the prophet. When scripture rebukes a behavior you do not hold, do not absorb the rebuke as condemnation — receive instead the consolation that the Lord pleads your cause and feast on his love (Rom. 8:1). Second, examine before you revile. Whenever you find yourself contemptuous of another's-failing, immediately examine yourself for the same-or-worse failing; the Spirit will reveal the beam to those who look for it (Matt. 7:3–5). Third, awaken; do not let the slumber settle. Each morning, ask the Lord to wake your soul; each evening, examine whether you have lived this day as awakened or as drowsy (Ps. 5:3; Eph. 5:14).*