

## **SPIRITUAL LIFE THROUGH REPENTANCE**

(2 Nephi 6:48-106)

When Jacob was talking about the atonement, Jacob is more warning them away from these things than identifying sins they have already committed. He is letting them know that if they don't get back on track then this is where it will lead.

**V48-72** Jacob now addresses spiritual life through repentance. He gives the standard formula for salvation (v. 48-50), and then states those without the Law are not condemned (v. 51-55).

However, his audience does not fall into this category, as they have the Law (v. 56). Jacob then lists a series of sins Israel has historically been prone to (v. 57-71), and states all those who do these things and die in their sins are condemned (v. 72).

**V48-71** This laundry list of sins is very much derivative of the kinds of sins contemporary prophets hurled at the Jews in Jerusalem. For example, compare v. 28 with Isaiah 47:10, v. 31-32 with Isaiah 6:10 and v. 33 with Jeremiah 9:26.

**V75-106** Jacob then closes that day's sermon with a long and emphatic appeal for repentance. Notice the manner in which Jacob addresses the audience with "my beloved brethren" over and over again (v. 73, 75, 79, 86, 89, 94, 99, 103, 106). As they are all related, they literally are his brothers and family. Jacob encourages them to be spiritually minded (v. 73-74), to not harden themselves against what he has taught them (v. 75-78).

He tells them the path the Lord would have us walk in is narrow and straight (v. 79-82), and those who don't walk in it will be rejected by Him (v. 83-84) while those who humble themselves before Him will obtain true wisdom and happiness (v. 85).

He informs them he has done his duty as a priest in warning the people from sin, and has therefore got the responsibility for their sins off himself (v. 86-87). He follows on to this by pleading with the people to likewise divest themselves of their sins (v. 89-90) so they won't have to shrink in fear from God at Judgment (v. 91-93).

Jacob then laments along with the people in having to perform this unpleasant task. He asks a series of rhetorical questions (v. 94-96) and then answers them to make it clear he had to sermonize them because the situation demanded it and he abhors sins among his people (v. 97).

He turns the lament into a plea for them to abandon their sin and feast in the mercy of the Lord (v. 99, see. Isaiah 55:1-2). He encourages them not to labor for carnal and material things, but to labor for things, which are eternal (v. 100-102). Jacob then closes by encouraging them to humble themselves in prayer to the Lord day and night (v. 103), to remember His condescensions for them, and to remember the covenant He has made with them to preserve their sons so He may bring forth a righteous branch (v. 104). He then tells them he will continue sermonizing tomorrow (v. 105).

**V103-105** summarize the entire speech of chapters 5-6 into two verses and identify Jacob's main points: humble yourself before the Lord, recognize He is your Redeemer, know your children will be preserved because of the covenant with Israel.

