First visit: 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.

(Gentiles; vv. 7, 9)

mentioned again; v. 24) Good ground; good and bad fruit (v. 25) Second visit: 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.

Evil fruit only (vv. 39, 46) Third visit: 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 Branches of the scattered trees are grafted back into the be gathered out and the vinevard will be burned (v. 77)

Fourth visit: 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.

