

# Symbolic Elements in Zenos's Allegory

## 1. The Trees

a tame olive tree  
young and tender branches  
mother tree  
main top  
natural branches  
root of the main tree  
moisture of the root  
transplanted branches  
a wild olive tree  
grafted branches  
many other trees  
good, tame, natural fruit  
bad, wild, bitter fruit  
equal fruit

### Trees' Doings

growing  
waxing old  
decaying and perishing  
cumbering the ground  
overrunning the roots  
bringing forth much fruit  
becoming corrupt  
withering away  
growing faster than roots  
taking strength  
good overcoming evil  
thriving exceedingly

## 2. The Actors

master of the vineyard  
servant  
a few other servants

### Actors' Doings

nourishing  
digging about  
dunging  
pruning/plucking off branches  
burning, casting into fire  
grafting  
planting branches  
cutting down trees  
grieving  
laboring long, caring  
sparing  
balancing the root and top  
preserving  
laying up fruit  
obeying  
rejoicing

## 3. The Places

a vineyard  
nethermost part  
poorest spot  
poorer than the poorest spot  
good spot

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**Key Scripture** Jacob 5

**Explanation** Zenos's allegory of the tame and wild olive trees, though complicated, is one of great doctrinal and historical importance, in part because it represents the past and future history of the house of Israel. Understanding the elements in this allegory, which are grouped together and listed on this chart, can lead to added insights concerning God's dealings with his covenant people. As this data shows, the allegory is a dynamic interchange between several trees (or parts of trees) and the master of the vineyard, his servant, and several laborers. This chart does not interpret these symbols as they appear in Jacob 5, but it shows that many elements are built into this extended allegory and thus facilitates in-depth reflection on this text.