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## Hostility to Jacob

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**Abstract:** This article explains the hostility of the Canaanites towards Jacob.

*Lay Members.*

Who are lay members of the Church?

Those may be considered lay members of the Church who are not ordained to the priesthood, and children of Latter-day Saint parentage who are under eight years of age.

*Hostility to Jacob.*

In Manual, 1902-3, page 17, sub. 9, we find the statement: Jacob and his family had been providentially sent down into Egypt, to escape destruction at the hands of the hostile peoples who surrounded them in Canaan. Where can we find authority to support the statement of "hostility" and threatened destruction?

As to actual hostilities on the part of the Canaanites towards the Hebrews, the Bible history is full of instances. From the time of the "battle of the kings," referred to in Genesis 14, down to the close of the conflict between King David and the scattered Canaanite tribes, this "hostility" is clearly shown. There is no doubt as to the existence of a deadly hostility. Regarding the threatened destruction of the Hebrews, it need only be said, that at the time of going down into Egypt, the Hebrews numbered only seventy souls. It seems reasonable that so small a family, surrounded by powerful, hostile tribes, would be in imminent danger of extinction. It seems providential that they were taken into Egypt, where they were surrounded for a long time by a friendly populace, there they could develop into a powerful nation, capable of returning at a later time to conquer the land of Canaan. The statement in the Manual is based upon the above facts and inferences. Geike and other Bible commentators take this view of the case.

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CORRECTION.

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In Elder Roberts' "Reply," in the ERA for February, 1903, page 251, through an error in printing, the following corrections should be made:

Instead of *maach* read *naaseh*.

Instead of *betsalman* read *be-tsalme-nu*.