

Galatians

Chapter 4:21-31

I. **Galatians 4:21-24**²¹Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law? ²²For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. ²³But he *who was* of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman *was* by promise. ²⁴Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. ²⁵For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.

a. Allegory

I. **Webster's Dictionary 1828** "The distinction in scripture between a parable and an *allegory* is said to be that a parable is a supposed history, and an *allegory* a **figurative** description of real facts."

II. **Paul begins this section to those Galatians that desire to be under the law, not to every Galatian. The key to understanding this section is that Paul is using a real historical event with Isaac and Ishmael as an allegory to teach the Galatians about the difference between being under the law and the freedom of being under grace.**

b. Hear the law

I. **Remember that the law had to be kept completely in order to "keep" the law.**

1. **James 2:10** ¹⁰For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all.
2. **Galatians 3:10** ¹⁰For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that continueth not in all

things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

c. Two Women

I. **Sarai is the freewoman by promise**

1. **Genesis 12:1-2** ¹Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: ²And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:
2. **Genesis 15:3-5** ³And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. ⁴And, behold, the word of the LORD *came* unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. ⁵And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

II. **Hagar is bondwoman**

1. **Genesis 16:1-2** ¹Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name *was* Hagar. ²And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.
2. **Genesis 16:3-4** ³And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife. ⁴And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.

3. **Genesis 16:5-6** ⁵And Sarai said unto Abram, My wrong *be* upon thee: I have given my maid into thy bosom; and when she saw that she had conceived, **I was despised in her eyes**: the LORD judge between me and thee. ⁶But Abram said unto Sarai, Behold, thy maid *is* in thy hand; do to her as it pleaseth thee. And when Sarai dealt hardly with her, she fled from her face.
4. **Genesis 16:7-9** ⁷And the angel of the LORD found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur. ⁸And he said, Hagar, Sarai's maid, whence camest thou? and whither wilt thou go? And she said, I flee from the face of my mistress Sarai. ⁹And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands.

d. Two sons

I. **Isaac= born by promise**

1. **Genesis 17:15-19** ¹⁵And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah *shall* her name *be*. ¹⁶And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be *a mother* of nations; kings of people shall be of her. ¹⁷Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall *a child* be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear? ¹⁸And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee! ¹⁹And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, *and* with his seed after him.
2. **Genesis 18:10** ¹⁰And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and,

lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard *it* in the tent door, which *was* behind him.

3. **Genesis 21:1-3** ¹And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken. ²For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. ³And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac.
4. **Genesis 21:4** ⁴And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac being eight days old, as God had commanded him.

II. Ishmael= born after the flesh

1. **Genesis 16:10-11** ¹⁰And the angel of the LORD said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude. ¹¹And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou *art* with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the LORD hath heard thy affliction.
2. **Genesis 21:9** ⁹And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking.
3. **Genesis 21:10** ¹⁰Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, *even* with Isaac.

e. The first of two covenants

I. Law= Jerusalem which now is

1. Mount Sinai

- a. **Exodus 19:1**¹In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they *into* the wilderness of Sinai.

- b. **Exodus 19:20**²⁰ And the LORD came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the LORD called Moses *up* to the top of the mount; and Moses went up.
- c. **Exodus 24:4**⁴ And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel.

2. Bondage (law)

- a. **Acts 15:7**⁷ And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men *and* brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.
- b. **Acts 15:10**¹⁰ Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

II. **Galatians 4:26**²⁶ But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. ²⁷ For it is written, Rejoice, *thou* barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband. ²⁸ Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. ²⁹ But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him *that was born* after the Spirit, even so *it is* now. ³⁰ Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman. ³¹ So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.

a. Jerusalem above

I. Paul is quoting Isaiah 54

- 1. **Isaiah 54:1**¹ Sing, O barren, thou *that* didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud,

thou *that* didst not travail with child: for more *are* the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the LORD.

- II. **Hebrews 12:18-22**¹⁸For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, ¹⁹And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which *voice* they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: ²⁰(For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: ²¹And so terrible was the sight, *that* Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:) ²²But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,
- III. **Hebrews 11:10**¹⁰For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.
- IV. **Hebrews 11:14-16**¹⁴For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. ¹⁵And truly, if they had been mindful of that *country* from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. ¹⁶But now they desire a better *country*, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.
- V. **Revelation 21:1-2**¹And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. ²And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

b. “We”

- I. **Brethren is the body of Christ. We are of the promise like Isaac by faith...remember what we've covered.**

1. **Romans 3:21**²¹ But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;
2. **Titus 3:5**⁵ Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;
3. **Ephesians 2:8-9**⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast.
4. **II Timothy 1:9**⁹ Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,
5. **Romans 11:6**⁶ And if by grace, then *is it* no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if *it be* of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.
6. **Romans 4:25**²⁵ Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.
7. **Romans 5:1-2**¹ Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: ²By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

c. Born after the flesh

- I. **Ishmael was not by promise. God was not involved (obviously God is all knowing). Sarai and Abram relied on their flesh to produce the seed. It became about their work and not God's promise. This is why this is the "law" in the allegory.**

d. Persecuted

I. **“He that was born after the flesh persecuted him *that was born after the Spirit*”. Remember this verse from above.**

1. **Genesis 21:9** ⁹And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking.

II. **Paul said “now”. In his current day of writing the letter, the Arab nations were mocking Israel. The Judaizers were persecuting and mocking the Galatians for not keeping the Mosaic Law especially circumcision.**

e. Cast out the bondwoman

I. **This is going to set up chapter 5. We are not under the law but under grace. The bondwoman in the allegory represents the law. The bondwoman (Hagar) is cast out and the free (Sarah) is of the promise. The flesh is not involved.**

1. **Genesis 21:10** ¹⁰Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, *even* with Isaac.

2. **Romans 6:14** ¹⁴For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

3. **Galatians 3:24-26** ²⁴Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. ²⁶For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

4. **Colossians 2:14** ¹⁴Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

5. **Ephesians 3:1-2** ¹For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, ²If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: