

## The Allegory of Galatians 4:21-31

March 01, 2009

### Galatians 4:21-31

21 Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?

22 For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman.

23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise.

24 Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Hagar.

25 For this Hagar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.

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.

### Paul is writing to the churches of Galatia

**Galatians 1:2** And all the brethren which are with me, **unto the churches** of Galatia:

#### False teachers

**Acts 15:5** But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them **to keep the law of Moses**.

#### The law of Moses

**Luke 2:22** And when the days of her purification according to **the law of Moses** were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;

#### Many Jews were faithful to the old covenant

**Psalms 119:55** I have remembered thy name, O LORD, in the night, and **have kept thy law**.

**Luke 1:6** And they [two Jews] were both righteous before God, **walking in all the commandments and ordinances** of the Lord blameless.

**Philippians 3:6** Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; **touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless**.

#### The law was not given to the Gentiles

**Ephesians 2:11-12** Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past **Gentiles** in the flesh, who are **called Uncircumcision** by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; 12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and **strangers from the covenants** of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

#### An allegory

### Galatians 4:24-26

Which things [refers back to v.22-23] are an allegory: for these [Hagar and Sarah] are [represent? NIV] **the two covenants**

[the old covenant ? the Mosaic law and the new covenant ? Christ Jesus]; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Hagar. 25 For this **Hagar is mount Sinai in Arabia**, and answereth to Jerusalem which

now is, and is in bondage with her children. 26 But [in contrast] Jerusalem which is above is free [Sarah], which is the mother of us all.

**NJB Galatians 4:24** There is an allegory here: these women stand for the two covenants. The one given on Mount Sinai -- that is Hagar, whose children are born into slavery;

**NAB Galatians 4:25** Hagar represents Sinai, a mountain in Arabia; it corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery along with her children.

**NLT Galatians 4:26** But Sarah, the free woman, represents the heavenly Jerusalem. And she is our mother.

### **The children of the promise ? the true seed of Abraham**

**Romans 9:8** That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but **the children of the promise are counted for the seed.**

### **Not all Jews are considered to be Jews**

**Romans 2:28-29** For **he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly**; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

**Romans 9:6** Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For **they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:**

### **Born of promise ? born of God**

**John 1:11-13** He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were **born**, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but **of God.**

### **The gospel message**

**Acts 2:38**

And Peter said to them [Israel], ?Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

### **Jesus predicted persecution from Ishmael**

**Matthew 23:34** "Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: *some* of them you will kill and crucify, and *some* of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city,

### **They that are of Hagar cannot be heirs**

**Romans 4:14** For if **they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void**, and the promise made of none effect:

### **Only a remnant of national Israel will be saved**

**Romans 9:27** Isaiah also cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, **The remnant will be saved.**

**Romans 11:5** Even so then at this present time also there is **a remnant according to the election of grace.**

### **Sarah replaced Hagar ? Isaac replaced Ishmael**

**Galatians 3:19** ?What purpose then does **the law** serve? It was added because of transgressions, **till the Seed should come** to whom the promise was made??

**Galatians 3:16** Now to Abraham and **his seed were the promises made.** He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And **to thy seed, which is Christ.**

**Hebrews 10:9-10** Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. **He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.** 10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**Hebrews 8:13**In that he saith, **A new covenant, he hath made the first old**

. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.