

Galatians 4:21-31

Our Passage...

Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman, and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother.

Gal 4:21-26 (ESV)

For it is written, “Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband.” Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. But what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman.” So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

Gal 4:27-31 (ESV)

The Law



**Moral & Legal
Requirements**



Circumcision

The Law



**Moral & Legal
Requirements**

The Torah



Circumcision

**Genesis, Exodus,
Leviticus, Numbers
and Deuteronomy**

Bendell's Summary

God first revealed Himself (Abram 75, Sarai 65)

- God promised to make of Abram ***a great nation*** (Gen 12:2)

Bendell's Summary

God first revealed Himself (Abram 75, Sarai 65)

- God promised to make of Abram ***a great nation*** (Gen 12:2)

≈ 10 years later – God appears again

- Abram and Sarai getting impatient
- Hagar bears Ishmael (not the son promised)

Bendell's Summary

God first revealed Himself (Abram 75, Sarai 65)

- God promised to make of Abram *a great nation* (Gen 12:2)

≈ **10 years later** – God appears again

- Abram and Sarai getting impatient
- Hagar bears Ishmael (not the son promised)

≈ **14 years later** – Abram to Abraham, Sarai to Sarah

- Abraham laughs
- the Lord appears again, Sarah laughs
- Isaac (“Laughter”) born according to God’s promise

Bendell's Summary

God first revealed Himself (Abram 75, Sarai 65)

- God promised to make of Abram ***a great nation*** (Gen 12:2)

≈ 10 years later – God appears again

- Abram and Sarai getting impatient
- Hagar bears Ishmael (not the son promised)

≈ 14 years later – Abram to Abraham, Sarai to Sarah

- Abraham laughs
- the Lord appears again, Sarah laughs
- Isaac (“Laughter”) born according to God’s promise

Hagar and Sarah compete, Ishmael and Isaac as well

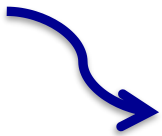
Sonship

*Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? For **it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman, and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. Now this may be interpreted allegorically:** these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother.*

Gal 4:21-26 (ESV)

Allegory

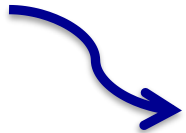
*Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? For **it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman, and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. Now this may be interpreted allegorically***



a way of reading a text that takes the details and makes them say something other than what, on the surface, they appear to mean

Allegory – the Greek

*Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? For **it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman, and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. Now this may be interpreted allegorically***



“Allo” (“another”) and “Agora” (“market place”)
“to talk of something here to refer to something else there,” or “another way of saying this.”

Another Way of Saying This

These two women serve as an illustration of God's two covenants. The first woman, Hagar, represents Mount Sinai where people received the law that enslaved them. And now Jerusalem is just like Mount Sinai in Arabia, because she and her children live in slavery to the law. But the other woman, Sarah, represents the heavenly Jerusalem. She is the free woman, and she is our mother.

Gal 4:24-26 (NLT)

According to the Flesh

... the son of the slave was born according to the flesh

- Sarah and Abraham took things into their own hands
- The Hebrew people who received the law at Mt. Sinai were doing things in their own strength
- Judaizers were teaching a false “gospel”

According to the Flesh

... the son of the slave was born according to the flesh

- Sarah and Abraham took things into their own hands
- The Hebrew people who received the law at Mt. Sinai were doing things in their own strength
- Judaizers were teaching a false “gospel”

The only way to be in a positive relationship with the living God is by trusting in the Lord Jesus and His finished work on our behalf.

Promise Making, Promise Keeping

Abraham



**Promised
an heir**



**Abraham 99,
Sarah 89**



God did it!

Us



**Promised
redemption and
eternal life**



Standard is perfection



**Free gift is ours in
Christ Jesus**

Jerusalem(s)

Law-keeping



**Jerusalem of
Paul's day**

Gospel of Grace



**Perfect heavenly
Jerusalem**

Jerusalem(s)

Law-keeping



**Jerusalem of
Paul's day**

Gospel of Grace



**Perfect heavenly
Jerusalem**

I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God..."

Rev 21:2-3: (ESV)

Sarah

... Sarah, represents the heavenly Jerusalem. She is the free woman, and she is our mother. ²⁷For it is written, “Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband.”

Gal 4:26-27(ESV)

Speaking of Jesus...

...it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

Is 53:10-11 (ESV)

Speaking of Jesus...

*...it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant make **many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.***

Is 53:10-11 (ESV)

Speaking of Jesus...

...it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

Fulfills the promise made to Abram

Is 53:10-11 (ESV)

The Church in Glory

...a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

Rev 7:9-10 (ESV)

Children of Promise

Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. But what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman.” So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

Gal 4:28-31 (ESV)

Prodigal Son's Brother

...He was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!'

Lk 15:28-30 (ESV)

Prodigal Son's Brother

...He was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!'

Lk 15:28-30 (ESV)

There will always be tension...
We need to respond with love and grace

So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman. Gal 4:31

We are free!

So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman. Gal 4:31

We are free!

1. From condemnation

- Freed from the penalty our sins deserve**
- All our guilt is wiped away**

So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman. Gal 4:31

We are free!

1. From condemnation

- **Freed from the penalty our sins deserve**
- **All our guilt is wiped away**

2. From fear

- **Fear of standing before God and being found to be lacking**
- **Jesus is infinitely more than good enough**

So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman. Gal 4:31

We are free!

1. From condemnation

- **Freed from the penalty our sins deserve**
- **All our guilt is wiped away**

2. From fear

- **Fear of standing before God and being found to be lacking**
- **Jesus is infinitely more than good enough**

3. From sin

- **From sin's power over us**
- **Inward transformation, Holy Spirit living inside**

Have you experienced the freedom found
in the gospel?

OR

Are you still in bondage to your sins,
trying to earn your way into heaven?