

Galatians 4:21-31 Bonds or Promise

1. Do ye not hear the law? It is written... Abraham • Galatians 4:21-22

- a. The law is contrary to the soul who is trusting Christ's finished work on Calvary's cross.
- b. **Abraham:** Faith (without works)
 - i. We can be considered children of Abraham not by being Israel, but by faith. (Gal 3:7)
 - ii. How? Through Abraham's seed. Not Isaac, but Jesus Christ. (Gal 3:16, 29)
 - iii. If you belong to Christ → you are of faith → you are a child of Abraham. (Gal 3:29)
- c. Abraham is our Father by his witness of faith without works. (Rom 4:5, 11, 24-25)
- d. Does this make us Israel? No. It makes all scripture profitable. We can learn via this witness.

2. Abraham had two sons • Galatians 4:22-28

- a. One by a bondwoman (Hagar), the other by a free woman (Sarah)
- b. **Hagar:** Bondwoman, fertile but not free (Gen 16:1-6)
 - i. Son: **Ishmael** → **not** the promised seed, **no** inheritance, the law
 - ii. Allegory: Mt Sinai → **bondage**, her and her children (Ex 19:11, 31:18, 34:4, 29)
 - iii. An **attempt to gain after the work of the flesh** and not by the promise of God
- c. **Sarah:** Freewoman, free but barren (Gen 11:30, 21:1-7)
 - i. Son: **Isaac** → the promised seed, to receive inheritance/promise
 - ii. Allegory: Jerusalem above → **promise**, grace, her and her children
 - iii. A gain that could not be done by the works of the flesh, it required God's grace
- d. Recall: Hagar and Ishmael represent the law, they were never under the law of Moses.
- e. Recall: Sarah and Isaac, while also never under the law, were of the line of Israel.
- f. The point Paul is making is not to say Sarah literally represents the body of Christ or that we are now Israel. The point is **promise vs bondage**.

3. Abraham our Father, Sarah our Mother • Galatians 4:22-28

- a. Israel recognized Abraham as a biological father. Likewise Sarah, their mother. (Is 51:2)
- b. In Paul's spiritual example, Sarah is **the mother of those of promise and grace**.
- c. Promises can differ between the body of Christ and Israel. (Gal 3:14)
- d. For it is written... the desolate hath many more children... (Is 54:1)
- e. We are not of bondage, but of promise. Like Isaac.

4. We are of the free • Galatians 4:28-31

- a. Persecution? Those teaching the law seem to be persecuting those who are free.
- b. Some desire to return the Galatians to bondage, despising liberty. (Gal 4:9)
- c. Cast out... those in bondage are not heirs. (Gen 21:10-12)
- d. But we are heirs. Therefore we are free. (Gal 4:7)
- e. Are we children of Abraham and Hagar? Or Abraham and Sarah? (Eph 2:8-9)
- f. Have we received the Spirit of bondage? (Rom 8:15)
- g. In our liberty, we are more than conquerors. We are free. (Rom 8:37-39)