

Who Is Your Mother?

Galatians 4:21-31/ September 10, 2022

Introduction: The Galatian's Negative Response to Paul for Living in the Spirit (4:16-20, ESV)

1. The Galatians now treated Paul as an enemy for confronting them about abandoning Jesus

Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth? (4:16) *(Turning away they are making Paul an enemy, not a friend)*

2. The Galatians were listening to the false teachers, not to Paul

They make much of you, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out, that you may make much of them. It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you, (4:17-18)

3. Paul Anguished Over the Galatians

my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you! I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, for I am perplexed about you. (4:19-20)

So, You Want to Live by the Law? (4:21-31)

Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law?

Historical Argument (4:22-23)

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.

Birth from the Slave Woman: Ishmael

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. And **Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her."**

And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife. **And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived.** And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress.

And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the LORD judge between you and me!"

But Abram said to Sarai, "Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her. (Genesis 16:1-6, ESV)

And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram. (Genesis 16:15-16, ESV)

Birth from the Free Woman: Isaac

And God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. **I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.**"

Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before you!"

God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. **I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.**

As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation.

But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year." (Genesis 17:15-21, ESV)

Allegorical Argument 4:24-27

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.

Present Jerusalem

On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the LORD had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder. The LORD came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up. (Exodus 14:16-20, ESV)

But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. 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." (Isaiah 54:1)

New Jerusalem

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And 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. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. (Revelation 21:1-7, ESV)

Children of Sarah are Children of the New Jerusalem

"Sing, O barren one, who did not bear; / break forth into singing and cry aloud, you who have not been in labor! / For the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her who is married," says the LORD. (Isaiah 54:1, ESV)

Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise.

- **Expect Persecution**

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.

And the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, laughing. (Genesis 21:9, ESV)

- **Faith in Jesus Will Inherit Heaven (New Jerusalem)**

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.”

Cast Out the Slave Woman

So she said to Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not be heir with my son Isaac.” And the thing was very displeasing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, “Be not displeased because of the boy and because of your slave woman. Whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for through Isaac shall your offspring be named. And I will make a nation of the son of the slave woman also, because he is your offspring.” So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba. (Genesis 21:10-14, ESV)

- **Conclusion**

So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. (5:1)

Works of the Law	Faith in Jesus
Ishmael	Isaac
Mount Sinai	Mount Zion
Hagar	Sarah
Present Jerusalem	Heavenly Jerusalem
Children of the barren and desolate one	Children of the one with the husband
Born of the flesh	Born of the Spirit
The Persecutor	The Persecuted
Cast out the son of the slave	Son of the free woman will inherit
We are not children of the slave woman	We are children of the free woman