

PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE

Galatians

Chapter 4:1-7

REVIEW: Galatians 3:21-29

- Is the Torah contrary to the promises? No – it serves a different role – bringing His people to the realization that they are doomed without a deliverer.
- One role of the Torah kept us safe while leading us to where we understood we needed a deliverer.
- But once we got to that point, the Torah still has a purpose.
- Once we fully accept Messiah (His gift and His walk), we are part of Abraham's ONE seed, and heirs of the promises.

NKJ **Galatians 4:1-2** Now I say *that* the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, ²but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father.

- “Moreover” – Gr. “de” (Strong’s 1161)
- Paul’s discussion – what does a person have to do to become an heir?
 - Paul believes that physical genealogy is not what’s important
- Gal. 4: 1 – 7 presents an analogy of how a Roman son becomes a man.

PATRIA POTESTAS – THE POWER OF THE FATHER

- Father is the Head
 - He had ultimate power
 - His power extended over the entire family
 - Even power over life and death
 - Sons would never come of age under the patria potestas
 - Entrusted to tutors, guardians, and stewards
 - Sons had the same legal status as a slave – EXCEPT
 - They were entitled to an inheritance unless disowned

EMANCIPATIO (emancipation)

- How sons became free from the “patria potestas”
 - Usually took place at age 14, but could be later
 - Father sells son to a man of equal or greater status
 - Sold three times; bought back 2 times
 - Performed before witnesses
 - Was considered an adoption by the purchaser
 - the purchaser was now the “patria potestas”

ADOPTION

- The son now began a new life
 - All debts were cleared
 - No legal ties to the former family
 - Full member of the adoptive family
 - Became a fully vested heir of the family estate
 - inheritance could never be denied

but . . .

ADOPTION

- If the biological father wanted to keep the son . . .
 - the father bought the son back the 3rd time
 - considered an adoption
 - no longer under the “patria potestas”
 - became a fully vested heir of the family estate
 - inheritance could never be denied

^{NKJ} **Galatians 4:3** Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world

- Paul is simply continuing the analogy – the “patria potestas”
- What he has already said:

^{ESV} **Galatians 3:22** But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

- The Torah had protected Israel as they waited for Messiah to come

NKJ **Galatians 4:3** Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world

- Bondage – Gr. “doulou” (Strong’s 1402) – to make a slave of
- Used 5 other times by Paul – 3 places bondage is good
 - “servants of righteousness”, “servants to God”, “servant unto all”.
- Elements – Gr. “stoicheia” (Strong’s 4747) – to stand in line; to march in ranks

Strong’s - “any first thing from which others belonging to some series or composite whole take their rise.”

Building Blocks



ELEMENTS – BUILDING BLOCKS

Pirkey Avot 5:1 - The world was created with ten utterances. What does this come to teach us? Certainly, it could have been created with a single utterance. However, this is in order to make the wicked accountable for destroying a world that was created with ten utterances, and to reward the righteous for sustaining a world that was created with ten utterances.



Pirkey Avot 1:2 - Shimon the Righteous was among the last surviving members of the Great assembly. He would say: The world stands on three things: Torah, the service of G-d, and deeds of kindness.

^{NKJ} **Galatians 4:3** Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world

- The Torah had provided protection just like the Roman tutors, guardians, and stewards.

^{ESV} **Galatians 4:3** In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world.

NKJ **Galatians 4:4-5** ⁴ But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

- “Moreover” – Gr. “de” (Strong’s 1161)
- Emancipation was controlled by Roman law
 - Most often at 14 yrs. old, but sometimes later
- YHVH determine the time of Israel’s redemption

NKJ **Romans 11:25** For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel **until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.**

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LXE **Genesis 48:19** And he would not, but said, I know it, son, I know it; he also shall be a people, and he shall be exalted, but his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations.

fullness – “pleroma” (Strong’s 4138)

multitude – “plethos” (Strong’s 4128)

NKJ **Galatians 4:4-5** ⁴ But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

ESV **Psalms 44:11** You have made us like sheep for slaughter and have scattered us among the nations.

ESV **Ezekiel 36:18-19** So I poured out my wrath upon them for the blood that they had shed in the land, for the idols with which they had defiled it. ¹⁹ I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed through the countries. In accordance with their ways and their deeds I judged them.

NKJ **Galatians 4:4-5** ⁴ But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

born – “ginomai” (Strong’s 1096)
“to become” or “to come into existence”

under – “hupoi” (Strong’s 5259)
“of” , “by” or “under”

NKJ **John 11:50** " . . . do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish."

NKJ **Galatians 4:6-7** And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" ⁷Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

ESV **Galatians 3:26-29** ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

שְׁלוֹם אֲלֵיכֶם

Shalom Alechim

Peace be Unto You