

PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE

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# Galatians

*Chapter 4:8-20*

# BACKGROUND:

- Two opposing cultures'
  - “one god” – the culture of the Jews
  - “polytheism” – the culture of the Romans
- Civil and Religious laws of each culture
  - government and religion were intertwined
  - written and unwritten “oral” laws
- The Romans only allowed two religions to co-exist
  - Worship of the myriad Greek/Roman mythical gods
  - Judaism – the worship of the god YHVH

# BACKGROUND:

- Judaism's special STATUS within the Roman territories
  - Religious courts
  - Their own money (no face of the emperor)
  - Their own places of worship (Temple, synagogues)
- Evidence of that STATUS
  - Synagogues throughout the territories
  - Cornelius

# REVIEW: Galatians to this point

- Galatian congregations were a mixture of Jewish and non-Jewish believers
- Paul's letter was written primarily to the non-Jews, but Paul knew that the Jews would be reading it as well
- Letter motivated by the fact that some of the non-Jews were being swayed by "another gospel".
- The crux of the "other gospel" was that the non-Jews had to convert to Judaism, which implied observance to the "oral law"

# REVIEW: Galatians 4:1-7

- “patria postestas” – the “power of the father”
  - To become an heir, you had to be “emancipated”
  - Adoption guaranteed that you were an heir
  - Paul used this example in regards to the Jews and the non-Jews

NKJ **Galatians 4:8** But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods.

<sup>NKJ</sup> **Galatians 4:9-11** But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how *is it that* you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? You observe days and months and seasons and years. I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain.

“turn again” – epistrepho (Strong’s 1994)  
used in LXX to translate “shuwb”

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“elements” – stoicheion (Strong’s 4747)

Meaning – “the first (or primary) in an order of things”

# Building Blocks



NKJ **John 9:1** Now as *Jesus* passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth . . . . <sup>19</sup> And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup> His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup> "but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know . . ." <sup>22</sup> His parents said these *things* because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed *that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue.*

NKJ **John 12:42** Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess *Him*, lest they should be put out of the synagogue;

NKJ **John 16:1** "These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. <sup>2</sup> "They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.

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NKJ **Galatians 4:12** Brethren, I urge you to become like me, for I *became* like you. You have not injured me at all. <sup>13</sup> You know that because of physical infirmity I preached the gospel to you at the first. <sup>14</sup> And my trial which was in my flesh you did not despise or reject, but you received me as an angel of God, *even* as Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> What then was the blessing you *enjoyed*? For I bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your own eyes and given them to me. <sup>16</sup> Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?

NKJ **Matthew 23:34-37** <sup>34</sup> "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 . . . <sup>37</sup> " O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under *her* wings, but you were not willing!

NKJ **Matthew 10:16-17** <sup>16</sup> " Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. <sup>17</sup> "But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues.

NKJ **Mark 13:9-10** <sup>9</sup> "But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues. You will be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them. <sup>10</sup> "And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations.

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NKJ **2 Corinthians 11:24** From the Jews five times I received forty *stripes* minus one.

NKJ **Acts 20:22-24** "And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup> "except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. <sup>24</sup> "But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

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“And my trial which is my Gospel, you did not despise or spit out? . . . but you received me as a messenger from God, just as you would Christ Jesus.”

(Galatians 4:14 TLK Version)

I bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your own eyes and given them to me. <sup>16</sup>

Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?

<sup>NKJ</sup> **Galatians 4:17-18** They zealously court you, *but* for no good; yes, they want to exclude you, that you may be zealous for them. But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you.

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**NKJ Genesis 12:3** I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

**NKJ Isaiah 42:6** "I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles,

<sup>NKJ</sup> **Galatians 4:17-18** They zealously court you, *but* for no good; yes, they want to exclude you, that you may be zealous for them. But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you.

<sup>NKJ</sup> **Matthew 23:15** "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

<sup>NKJ</sup> **Galatians 4:19-20** My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you, I would like to be present with you now and to change my tone; for I have doubts about you.

# REVIEW: Galatians 4:8-20

In this installment we've seen that:

- Paul is trying to show them how YHVH has worked in them
  - It was through divine intervention that YHVH lead Paul to them
  - They received Paul's gospel message willingly and eagerly
- Paul understood their plight
  - Yet why go back into bondage (either to the Roman religion or the Jewish "oral" law
  - Instead, endure the persecution that comes with the walk
- the "weak and beggarly elements" was the worship of the Roman gods as well as their associated holidays.

שְׁלוֹם אֲלֵיכֶם

**Shalom Alechim**

*Peace be Unto You*

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