

PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE

Galatians

Chapter 4:21-31

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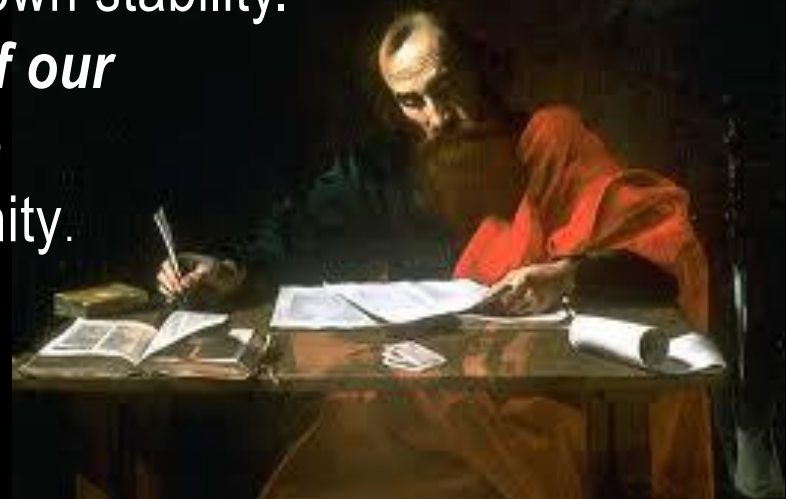
ESV **2 Peter 3:15** And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. ***There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction,*** as they do the other Scriptures. You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. ***But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*** To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity.



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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"
- It appears that the non-Jews were being driven back into Roman paganism

NKJ **Galatians 4:21** Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law?

“hear” – akouo (Strong’s 191)

Meaning – “hear and consider”

In LXX – translates the word “shema”

What is an **Allegory**?

allegory = *allegoreo* (Strong's 238)

Meaning - “to say something allegorically”

“a representation of an abstract or spiritual meaning through concrete or material forms; figurative treatment of one subject under the guise of another.”

Dictionary.com

What is an Allegory?

“the world must have come to an end;
Johnny cleaned up his bedroom without being told!”

- Fact – the world will be coming to an end sometime, but we don't expect it any time soon
- the likelihood that Johnny would clean his bedroom without being told is highly unlikely

NKJ **Galatians 4:22-24** For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. ²³ But he *who* was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, ²⁴ which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar --

5 factual characters –

- Abraham
- Sarah
- Isaac
- Hagar
- Ishmael

the Facts:

- Sarah = freewoman
- Isaac = son of freewoman
- Isaac = born as a result of a promise
- Isaac = faith
- Hagar = bondwoman
- Ishmael = son of bondwoman
- Ishmael = born as a result of Abraham's efforts
- Ishmael = works

the Allegory:

- Sarah = Abrahamic Covenant
- Hagar = Sinai Covenant

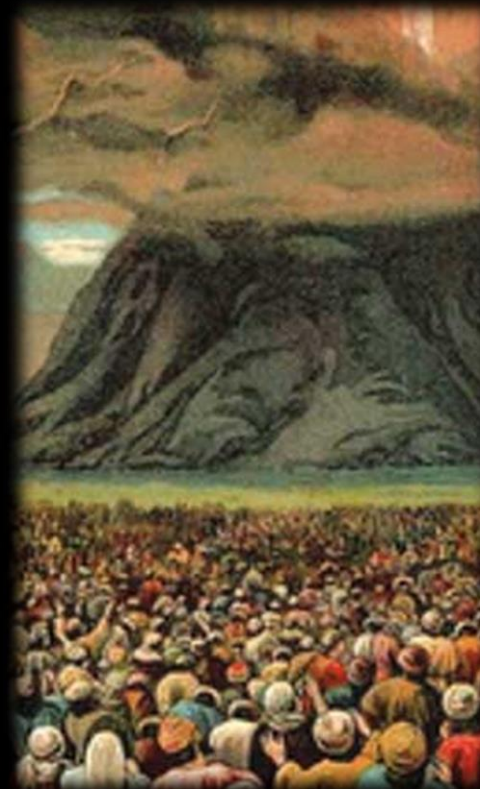
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the **Abrahamic Covenant:**

- Made between God and Abraham
- Abraham was asleep when it was made
- Unconditional on Abraham's part – it depended on YHWH
- Based on Faith

the **Siniatic Covenant:**

- Made between God and Israel
- Both parties present when it was made
- Both parties responsible for making it work
- Based on obedience (works)



NKJ **Galatians 4:25-26** . . . for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children -- but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.

the Facts:

- Sarah = freewoman
- Isaac = son of freewoman
- Isaac = born as a result of a promise
- Isaac = faith
- Hagar = bondwoman
- Ishmael = son of bondwoman
- Ishmael = born as a result of Abraham's efforts
- Ishmael = works

the Allegory:

- Sarah = Abrahamic Covenant
- Abrahamic Covenant = freedom
- Freedom = Heavenly Jerusalem
 - Mother = Sarah
- Hagar = Sinaitic Covenant
- Sinaitic Covenant = bondage
- Bondage = 1st Century Jerusalem
 - Mother = Hagar

The Israelites were redeemed because of the covenant, not because of their works!

NKJ **Exodus 2:24-25** ²⁴ So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. ²⁵ And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged *them*.

“Torah does not save or redeem you; it’s what saved and redeemed people do”.

^{NKJ} **Galatians 4:27** For it is written: "Rejoice, O barren, *You* who do not bear! Break forth and shout, You who are not in labor! For the desolate has many more children than she who has a husband."

- Isaiah 54:1 - Quoted out of the Septuagint (LXX)
- Clearly about the return of Ephraim (northern tribes)
 - a barren people (Hosea 2:2; 9:11; 14:4-6)

NKJ **Galatians 4:28** Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise.

ESV **Galatians 4:28** Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise.

NKJ **Galatians 4:29-30** But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him *who was born* according to the Spirit, even so *it is* now. Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman."

NKJ **Genesis 21:9-10** And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, scoffing. Therefore she said to Abraham, "Cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, *namely* with Isaac."



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“scoffing” – *tsachaq* - צַחֵק (Strong’s 6711)

KJV **Genesis 26:8** . . . behold, Isaac was sporting with Rebekah his wife.

NKJ **Genesis 39:17** . . . “The Hebrew servant whom you brought to us came in to me to mock me”.

NKJ **Exodus 32:6** Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

NKJ **Galatians 4:29-30** But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him *who was born* according to the Spirit, even so *it is* now. Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? **"Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman."**



NKJ **Galatians 4:31** So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.

REVIEW: Galatians 4:21-31

- Paul's allegory was not intended to equate Torah to bondage
 - It was to equate those who promote association by works (flesh) with Hagar, the bondswoman
- Torah – as pictured by Mount Sinai – becomes bondage if you use it to obtain covenant status
- If you believe covenant status is a byproduct of works (flesh), then you are a son of Hagar
- If you believe covenant status is by faith in the promise, then you are a son of Sarah
- The fate of those who promote covenant status by works (flesh) will suffer the fate of Ishmael.

שְׁלוֹם לָכֶם

Shalom Alechim

Peace be Unto You