

## **Allegory Of Hagar And Sarah**

Galatians 4:21-31

**GAL 4:21 Tell me, you [Galatian Christians] who want to be under [Mosaic] law, do you not listen to the law [Old Testament]? 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the bondwoman [Hagar] and one by the free woman [Sarah]. 23 But the son [Ishmael] by the bondwoman [Hagar] was born according to the flesh, and the son [Isaac] by the free woman [Sarah] through the promise [Divine, miraculous intervention]. 24 This is allegorically speaking: for these women are [represent] two covenants, one proceeding from Mount Sinai bearing children who are to be slaves; she is Hagar. 25 Now this Hagar is [represents] Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. 26 But the Jerusalem above is free; she is our [Christians] mother. 27 For it is written, "Rejoice, barren woman who does not bear; Break forth and shout, you who are not in labor; For more are the children of the desolate Than of the one who has a husband." 28 And you [or we] brethren, like Isaac, are children of promise. 29 But as at that time he [Ishmael] who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit [Divine intervention], so it is now also. 30 But what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the bondwoman [Hagar] and her son [Ishmael], For the son [Ishmael] of the bondwoman [Hagar] shall not be an heir with the son [Isaac] of the free woman [Sarah]." 31 So then, brethren, we are not children of a bondwoman [Hagar], but of the free woman [Sarah].**

### **Notes:**

- Verse 27 is a quote from the Septuagint text of Isaiah 54:1.
- "like Isaac" (kata Isaak) is "after the manner of Isaac."

### **Comments**

- There was a great controversy over the question of the rightful heirs of Abraham
- **Earlier Paul stated those of faith were Abraham's true children.**

GAL 3:7 Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith [in Christ] who are sons of Abraham.

GAL 3:9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.

GAL 3:29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

- **Believers are true Israel.**

GAL 6:16 And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

Greek has “And as many as shall walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God”

- Some think the “Israel of God” is an additional body different from “as many as.” If the “and” is copulative, then the “Israel of God” is apparently meant to be an additional body. Paul then would be praying for peace and mercy both on Christians and upon those in Israel who had not yet become followers of Christ.
- This is certainly possible, but it is also possible that the Greek “kai” (and) is used here in the sense of “even, that is.” He would then be defining the “as many as” as the “Israel of God.”
- Salvation was not promised to physical Israel, but to spiritual Israel. (Matt. 3:9; Rom. 2:28, 29; 4:12; 9:6-8; Gal. 3:7, 9, 29; Phil. 3:3; 1 Pet. 2:5-9).

- **Once again, through an allegory, Paul will show those of faith were the children of Abraham.**
- **They are children of the freewoman.**

### I. Allegory Defined

A. The word comes from the Greek word “allegoreo” [al lay go reh’ o].

1. It is composed of two Greek words - the word “allos” meaning “other, another” and “agoreuo” meaning “to speak.”
2. It literally means “to speak with another meaning.”

B. An allegory is a historical account which can be spiritually applied.

**To allegorize is to give an interpretation other than the literal sense.**

C. It is not a myth or a made up story.

### II. Facts About Abraham’s Two Sons (Gal. 4:21-23).

A. Ishmael was born of Hagar, an Egyptian slave, according to the ordinary course of nature. (Gen. 16: 1-3, 15; Gal. 4:23). “kata sarka” is “according to the flesh.”

**GEN 16:1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife had borne him no children, and she had an Egyptian maid whose name was Hagar. 2 So Sarai said to Abram, "Now behold, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Please go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children through her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. 3 And after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Abram's wife Sarai took Hagar the Egyptian, her maid, and**

**gave her to her husband Abram as his wife.**

**GEN 16:15 So Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael.**

**GAL 4:23 But the son by the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and the son by the free woman through the [miraculous] promise.**

B. Isaac was born of Sarah, a freewoman, by promise (miraculous intervention). (Gen. 17:17; Gal. 4:23; Heb. 11:11, 12).

GEN 17:17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed [with joy], and said in his heart, "Will a child be born to a man one hundred years old? And will Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

GAL 4:23 But the son by the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and the son by the free woman through the promise.

HEB 11:11 By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised; 12 therefore, also, there was born of one man, and him as good as dead at that, as many descendants as the stars of heaven in number, and innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

### III. **Historical Facts Contain An Allegory** (Gal. 4:24).

A. Hagar and Sarah represent two covenants, two Jerusalems (two mothers). (Gal. 4:24).

“diatheke” [dee a thay’ kay](covenant) - Gal. 3:15, 17; Lk. 2:20; 1 Cor. 11:25; Heb. 8:8, 9.

1. Hagar represents the covenant given from Mt. Sinai and also corresponds, in later history, to Jerusalem, the mother of fleshly Israel. (Gal. 4:25).
  - a. Hagar gave birth to a slave.
  - b. Likewise, the children of Mt. Sinai and Jerusalem were under the bondage of the law.
2. Sarah represents the new gospel covenant and corresponds to Jerusalem above (heaven), the mother of spiritual Israel. (Gal. 4:25).
  - a. See Hebrews 12:22; Revelation 3:12; Philippians 3:20.

HEB 12:22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels,  
REV 3:12 'He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.  
PHI 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

b. Sarah gave birth to a freeman.

c. Likewise, those under the gospel are freeman.

B. We are “children of promise.” (Gal. 4:28).

1. The promise of salvation came through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, David, Christ.

2. Great promises have been made to us.

3. The greatest promise is “eternal life.” (1 Jn. 2:25).

C. Ishmael persecuting Isaac represents the Jews persecuting the children of promise. (Gal. 4:29; Gen. 21:9).

**GAL 4:29 But as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so it is now also.**

**GEN 21:9 Now Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, mocking [playing, make sport, scorn].** Paul defined this action as persecution. (Gal. 4:29). Whatever it was it was cruel and harsh.

D. Abraham casting out Hagar and her son stands for the law and its children being cast out. (Gal. 4:30; Gen. 21:10-14).

<p>GEN 21:10 Therefore she said to Abraham, "Drive out this maid and her son, for the son of this maid shall not be an heir with my son Isaac." GEN 21:11 And the matter distressed Abraham greatly because of his son. GEN 21:12 But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the lad and your maid; whatever Sarah tells you, listen to her, for through Isaac your descendants shall be named. GEN 21:13 "And of the son of the maid I will make a nation also, because he is your descendant." GEN 21:14 So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave them to Hagar, putting them on her shoulder, and gave her the boy, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beersheba.</p>	<p>GAL 4:30 But what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the bondwoman and her son, For the son of the bondwoman shall not be an heir with the son of the free woman."</p>
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### **Casting Out**

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1. Those who try to be saved by the Mosaic law will be lost. (Gal. 5:4).
2. We must follow the new covenant. (Heb. 8:6-13).

**HEB 8:6** But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises. 7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second. 8 For finding fault with them, He says, "Behold, days are coming, says the Lord, When I will effect a new covenant With the house of Israel and with the house of Judah; 9 Not like the covenant which I made with their fathers On the day when I took them by the hand To lead them out of the land of Egypt; For they did not continue in My covenant, And I did not care for them, says the Lord. 10 "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel After those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their minds, And I will write them upon their hearts. And I will be their God, And they shall be My people. 11 "And they shall not teach everyone his fellow citizen, And everyone his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' For all shall know Me, From the least to the greatest of them. 12 "For I will be merciful to their iniquities, And I will remember their sins no more." 13 When He said, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

E. The Galatians and Christians are sons of the freewoman (heavenly Jerusalem and gospel covenant), not sons of the bondwoman (Mt. Sinai and the law). (Gal. 4:31).

**GAL 4:31** So then, brethren, we are not children of a bondwoman [Hagar], but of the free woman [Sarah].

1. Lit. "We are not of (a) slave woman children but of the free woman."
2. The sons of the freewoman may be persecuted by the children of the slave woman, but they are still the heirs.

