

Two Mothers of Two Sons of Father Abraham

Galatians 4:21-31

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

²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. ²³ But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. ²⁴

Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar.

²⁵ Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶ But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. ²⁷ 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.” ²⁸ Now you, brothers, like

Isaac, are children of promise. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ 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.” ³¹ So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.****

Two Mothers of Two Sons of Father Abraham

Slave Woman	Free Woman
[Ishmael]	Isaac
Born of the Flesh	Born through Promise
Covenant of Law	New Covenant
Mt Sinai	[Golgotha (Gospel)]
Hagar	[Sarah]
Present Jerusalem	[Heavenly] Jerusalem
Born of the Flesh	Born of the Spirit
Shall not Inherit	[Is the Heir]
[Judaism]	[Christianity]

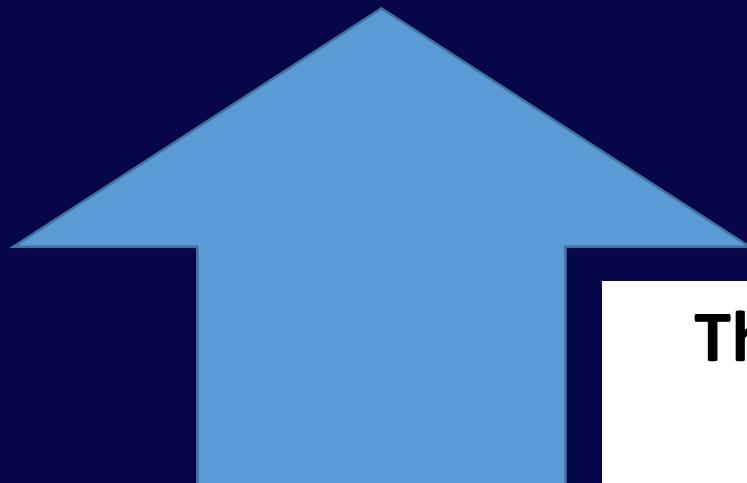


Paul Continues His Rebuke of Those Who Desire to Live Under the Mosaic Law



Galatians 4:21

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



The Torah: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, Numbers



Gal 4:22

•For it is written **that Abraham**





Abraham (Genesis 11-25)

- Firstborn son of Terah (9th gen. from Noah); uncle of Lot
- From the city of Ur of the Chaldees
- Called by God to be the Patriarch of Israel (God's nation)
- Husband of Sarah
- Named Abraham by God (father of a multitude of nations)
- Prophet and herdsman
- Promised land, offspring, a great name, and blessing by God
- Blessed by Melchizedek (priest of God Most High)
- Believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness
- Friend of God; a man of great faith
- Father of Ishmael and then Isaac; grandfather to Esau & Jacob
- Died at 175 years old; mentioned 72x in the NT



Gal 4:22

- For it is written that Abraham had two sons, **one by a slave woman** and **one by a free woman.**

Two Mothers of Two Sons of Father Abraham

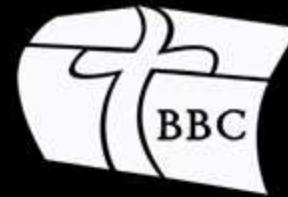
Slave Woman

[Ishmael]

Free Woman

Isaac

Notice how Paul is using
slave versus free



Romans 8:2

- For the law of the Spirit of life
has set you free in Christ
Jesus from the law of sin and
death.



Galatians 4:23

- But the son [Ishmael] of the slave [Hagar] was born according to the flesh,
- while the son [Isaac] of the free woman [Sarah] was born through promise.

Two Mothers of Two Sons of Father Abraham

Slave Woman

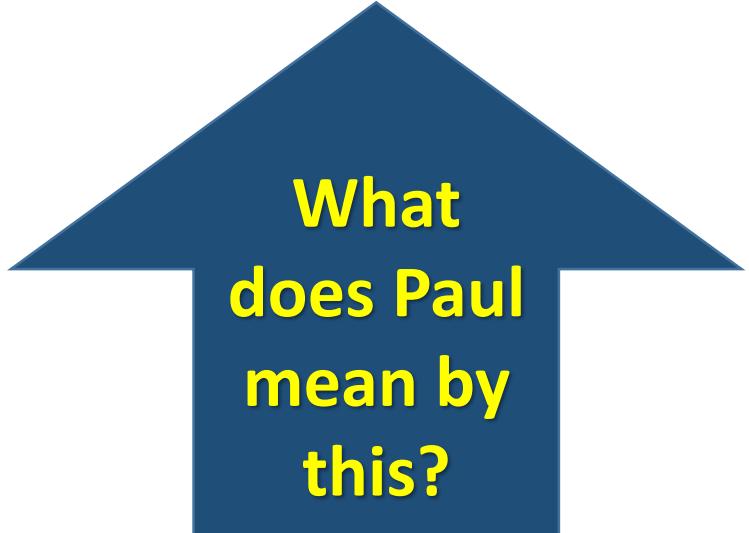
[Ishmael]

Born of the Flesh

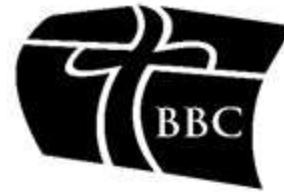
Free Woman

Isaac

Born through Promise



What
does Paul
mean by
this?



Paul is asking:

**If you were spiritually born from
above through promise of the
free woman why are you desiring
to put yourself back under the
tyranny of the law?**



Turn to Genesis 18:1-15

And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day.² He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth³ and said, “O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant.⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree,⁵ while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.”⁶ And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, “Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes.”⁷ And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly.⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.⁹ They said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” And he said, “She is in the tent.”¹⁰ **The LORD said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son.”** And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him.¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah.¹² So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?”¹³ **The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’**¹⁴ **Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”**¹⁵ But Sarah denied it, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid. He said, “No, but you did laugh.”



Genesis 21:1

- The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised.



Galatians 4:24

- Now this may be interpreted allegorically:
- these women are two covenants.

Figuratively
a symbolic representation

Two Mothers of Two Sons of Father Abraham

Slave Woman	Free Woman
[Ishmael]	Isaac
Born of the Flesh	Born through Promise
Covenant of Law	New Covenant





Galatians 4:24

- these women are two covenants.

Two Mothers of Two Sons of Father Abraham

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[Ishmael]	Isaac
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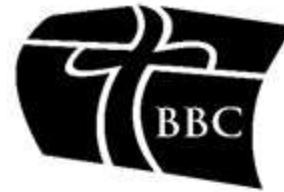
Turn to Jeremiah 31:31-34



Promises & Covenants

- **Eve** (Gen. 3)
- **Noah** (Gen. 6 & 9)
- **Abraham** (Gen. 12, 15, 17)
 - Isaac, Jacob (Ex. 2:24)
- **Moses/Sinai** (Ex. 19; Deut. 4)
 - New Generation of Israelites/Moab (Deut. 29)
- **David** (2 Sam. 7)
- **New** (Jer. 31; Ezek. 36)

Jeremiah 31:31–34



“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make **a new covenant** with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² **not like the covenant** that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, **my covenant that they broke**, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: **I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts.** And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. **For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.**”



Galatians 4:24b

- One is from Mount Sinai,

**Let's Look @
Exodus 19**

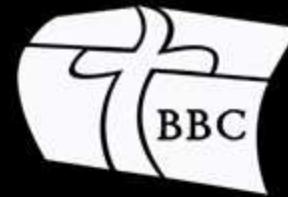
Two Mothers of Two Sons of Father Abraham

Slave Woman	Free Woman
[Ishmael]	Isaac
Born of the Flesh	Born through Promise
Covenant of Law	New Covenant
Mt. Sinai	



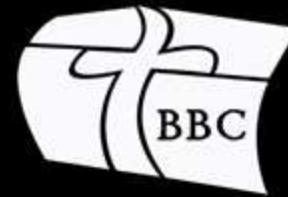
Exodus 19:1–2

- On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai.
- 2 They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness.



Exodus 19:3

- There Israel encamped **before the mountain**, while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, **“Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel:**



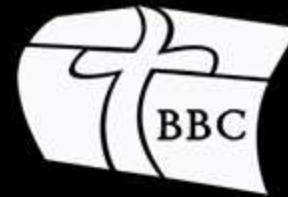
Exodus 19:4

- 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.'



Exodus 19:5

•Now therefore, **if** you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine;



Exodus 19:5–6

•and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”



What happens to
God's plan to make
Israel a kingdom of
priests and a holy
nation when they do
not obey the law?



1 Peter 2:9

•But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.



This
if then
language is used
over and over



Exodus 23:22

- “But if you carefully obey his voice and do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.



Deuteronomy 11:13

- “And **if** you will indeed obey my commandments that I command you today, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, he will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, that you may gather in your grain and your wine and your oil.



What is the problem with this covenant?

What happens if I don't obey all the law?

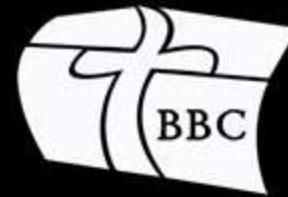


Deuteronomy 28:15

• “But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you.



Israel's failure to keep
the covenant explains
why God established a
new covenant no longer
based on obedience to
the law.



Hebrews 8:7

- For if that first covenant had been faultless,
- there would have been no occasion to look for a second.



Paul Continues

v. 25



Galatians 4:24b-25

- 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.**

Two Mothers of Two Sons of Father Abraham

Slave Woman	Free Woman
[Ishmael]	Isaac
Born of the Flesh	Born through Promise
Covenant of Law	New Covenant
Mt Sinai	[Golgotha (Gospel)]
Hagar	[Sarah]
Present Jerusalem	



Look Back @ Galatians 4:7



Galatians 4:7

•So you are no longer a **slave**, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

You have been redeemed
from slavery.



Galatians 4:26

- But the Jerusalem above is free,
- and she is our mother.

We are her
sons and
daughters

Two Mothers of Two Sons of Father Abraham

Slave Woman	Free Woman
[Ishmael]	Isaac
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Mt Sinai	[Golgotha (Gospel)]
Hagar	[Sarah]
Present Jerusalem	Jerusalem Above

Heavenly Jerusalem



**Stop and grasp what Paul is
saying concerning the
“Jerusalem above”**

**Paul positively affirms the
reality of a heavenly Jerusalem**





Hebrews 12:22

- But you have come to Mount Zion and **to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,** and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,



Revelation 3:12

•The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

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Present Jerusalem	Jerusalem Above

The Tale of Two Women and Two Cities

Chapters 14, 16, 17, 18	Chapters 19, 21, 22
Great Prostitute	Bride of Christ
Clothed purple and scarlet	Clothed fine linen, bright and pure
City of man	City of God
Babylon	New Jerusalem
Earth Dwellers	Elect of God
Sinful & Wicked	Holy & Righteous
Kings of the Earth	King of Kings, Lord of Lords
Destroyed from heaven	Coming down from heaven
Built by Man	Built by God



One Father
Two Women
Two Sons
Two Covenants
Two Births
Two Cities
One Lord



Look Back @

Galatians 4:27



Galatians 4:27

- 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



Galatians 4:28

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

Everyone needs to understand the significance of the idea of promise in the Bible.



God made a promise to Eve; then to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; then to Israel; and subsequently to all who would believe the gospel.



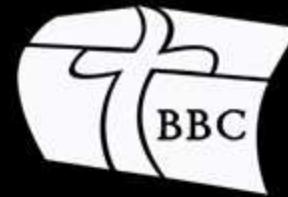
Galatians 3:22

- But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.



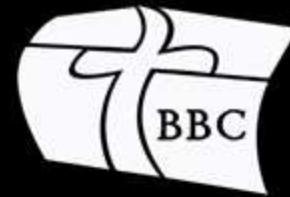
The promise by faith of:

- **mercy (Luke 1:72)**
- **the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:33)**
- **eternal life (1 John 2:25)**
- **forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38-39)**
- **the gospel (Romans 1:1-2)**
- **rest (Hebrews 4:1)**
- **an eternal inheritance (Hebrews 9:15)**
- **the crown of life (James 1:12)**
- **new heavens and new earth (2 Peter 3:13)**



Acts 2:38–39

- And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”



Acts 13:32

- And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers,



Romans 1:1-2

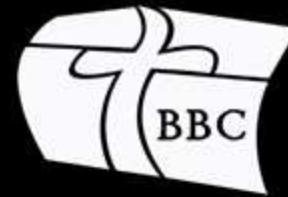
•Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus,
called to be an apostle, **set**
apart for the gospel of God, ²
which he promised
beforehand through his
prophets in the holy Scriptures,



Galatians 4:29

- But just as at that time he [Ishmael] who was born according to the flesh persecuted him [Isaac]

Compare to Genesis 21:9



Genesis 21:9

- But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, **laughing**.

KJV

- And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, **mocking**.



Galatians 4:29

- But just as at that time he [Ishmael] who was born according to the flesh persecuted him **[Isaac]**
who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now.

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Mt Sinai	[Golgotha (Gospel)]
Hagar	[Sarah]
Present Jerusalem	Jerusalem Above
Born of the Flesh	Born of the Spirit



See the Parallel

Since Sarah was barren the Holy Spirit worked in her womb to give birth to Isaac the child of promise

Likewise the Holy Spirit works in us who believe such that we are born from above and are also children of promise



Those who are convinced that individuals are declared righteous by faith alone in the gospel of the one and only Son of God should not be surprised when they are persecuted by those who are in bondage to rule keeping for righteousness.



Now Paul quotes from Genesis 21:10



Galatians 4:30

- 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.”

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Mt Sinai	[Golgotha (Gospel)]
Hagar	[Sarah]
Present Jerusalem	[Heavenly] Jerusalem
Born of the Flesh	Born of the Spirit
Shall not Inherit	



Galatians 4:31

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

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Shall not Inherit	[Is the Heir]
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