



# 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?  
<sup>22</sup> For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. <sup>23</sup> But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. <sup>24</sup> Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. <sup>25</sup> Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. <sup>26</sup> But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. <sup>27</sup> 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.” <sup>28</sup> Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> 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.” <sup>31</sup> So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

# Two Mothers of Two Sons of Father Abraham

**Slave Woman**

**[Ishmael]**

**Born of the Flesh**

**Covenant of Law**

**Mt Sinai**

**Hagar**

**Present Jerusalem**

**Born of the Flesh**

**Shall not Inherit**

**[Judaism]**

**Free Woman**

**Isaac**

**Born through Promise**

**New Covenant**

**[Golgotha (Gospel)]**

**[Sarah]**

**[Heavenly] Jerusalem**

**Born of the Spirit**

**[Is the Heir]**

**[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 (9<sup>th</sup> 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**

**Free Woman**

**[Ishmael]**

**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**

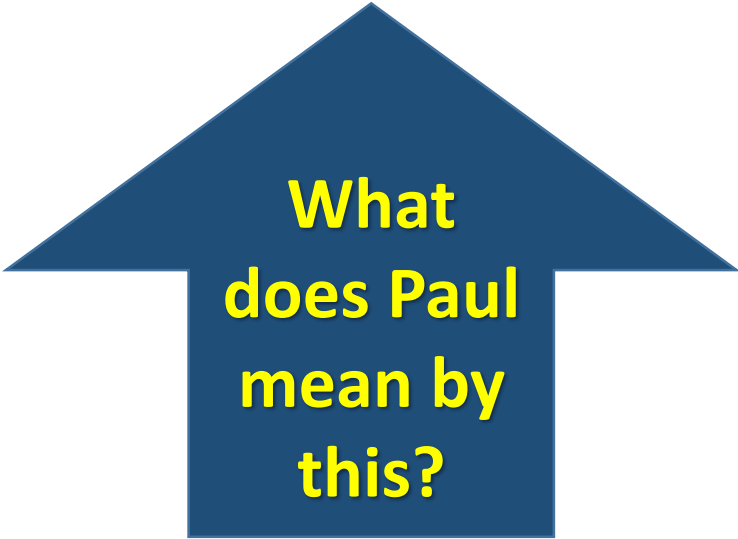
**[Ishmael]**

**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. <sup>2</sup> 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 earth <sup>3</sup> and said, “O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup> Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, <sup>5</sup> 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.” <sup>6</sup> And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, “Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes.” <sup>7</sup> And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> They said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” And he said, “She is in the tent.” <sup>10</sup> **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. <sup>11</sup> Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. <sup>12</sup> So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?” <sup>13</sup> The LORD said to Abraham, **“Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ <sup>14</sup> 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.”** <sup>15</sup> 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**

**[Ishmael]**

**Born of the Flesh**

**Covenant of Law**

**Free Woman**

**Isaac**

**Born through Promise**

**New Covenant**



**Mt.  
Sinai**



# Galatians 4:24

- these women are two covenants.

# Two Mothers of Two Sons of Father Abraham

Slave Woman

[Ishmael]

Born of the Flesh

**Covenant of Law**

Free Woman

Isaac

Born through Promise

**New Covenant**



Let's look  
at this  
one first.



# 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, <sup>32</sup> **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. <sup>33</sup> 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. <sup>34</sup> 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

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**Mt. Sinai**

**Free Woman**

**Isaac**

**Born through Promise**

**New Covenant**



## 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**.  
<sup>2</sup> 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.

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**Mt Sinai**

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**Isaac**

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**New Covenant**

**[Golgotha (Gospel)]**

**[Sarah]**



# 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

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**Isaac**

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**New Covenant**

**[Golgotha (Gospel)]**

**[Sarah]**

**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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**[Golgotha (Gospel)]**

**[Sarah]**

**Jerusalem Above**



# **The Tale of Two Women and Two Cities**

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





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. <sup>39</sup> 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, <sup>2</sup> 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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**New Covenant**

**[Golgotha (Gospel)]**

**[Sarah]**

**Jerusalem Above**

**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.”

# Two Mothers of Two Sons of Father Abraham

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**Shall not Inherit**

**Free Woman**

**Isaac**

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**New Covenant**

**[Golgotha (Gospel)]**

**[Sarah]**

**[Heavenly] Jerusalem**

**Born of the Spirit**



## Galatians 4:31

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

# Two Mothers of Two Sons of Father Abraham

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**[Ishmael]**

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**[Is the Heir]**

**[Christianity]**