

Abraham Had Two Sons.

Galatians 4:21-31

Intro:

- A. The Galatians had been made free from law.
 - 1. **3:13** The Law as God gave it to Moses. Jews.
 - 2. **4:3** The bondage of elements. Gentiles.
- B. As time progressed they desired to return to certain aspects of their past religions.
 - 1. **Vs. 9** These "Religious things", had no power to help.
 - 2. They had to do with things, not God.
 - 3. **Vs. 8,10** They were not God's, but idol's and day's.
- C. Paul continues his teaching by using Jewish history as an allegory.
 - 1. **Vs. 21** "Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law,"
 - 2. "...do ye not hear the law?"
 - 3. Here the law refers to that which is written.

I. Abraham Had Two Sons.

- A. **Vs. 22** "For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman."
 - 1. Hagar "Bondmaid" = παιδισκη = "a young female slave".
 - 2. Sarah "Freewoman" = ελευθερος = "one who can go where one wills", "to be free".
- B. **Vs. 23** "But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh: but he of the freewoman was by promise."
 - 1. Ishmael "Flesh" = σαρξ = "the material side".
 - 2. Isaac "Promise" = επαγγελια = "to announce one's intention".
- C. The facts of the issue.
 - 1. Ishmael came as a result of lack of faith. Sarah, Abraham and Hagar entered into an agreement based solely on human wisdom and understanding, humanism.
 - 2. Isaac came as a result of God keeping His promise. Abraham and Sarah needed only to wait on God.

II. These Things Are An Allegory.

- A. **Vs. 24** "Which things are an allegory;"

1. "Allegory" = αλλος = another + αγορευω = "to speak, to speak openly or in public".
 2. These things represent principles.
- B. "**for these are the two covenants: the one from the Mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar.**"
1. "Covenants" = διαθηκαι = "testaments", or "dispositions of the will of God".
 2. "Gendereth" = γενναιαω = "to bear", "bring forth".

III. The Two Covenants.

- A. **Vs. 25** The first covenant.
1. "Answereth" = συστοιχεω = "to stand in the same row or line with, correspond to".
 2. Hagar represents Mt. Sinai and Jerusalem which existed at that time. Now Jerusalem.
 3. This would be true of those who had not believed in Jesus as Messiah but it would be true of the Church in Jerusalem. They were led by James who had not given up the law but gloried in the zeal of the Jerusalem saints for the law. **Acts 21:19-22**
 4. Paul knew the connections and had already written of them. **2:11-13**
- B. **Vs. 26** The other covenant.
1. "**But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.**"
 2. "Above" - ανω = "above Jerusalem" This is the only time this phrase is used in the N.T. The word ανω is used 3 times by Paul and refers by it to freedom. (Phil 3:14, Col 3:1-2) It is used by him to refer to mystery truth.
 3. This is NOT the "now = (νυν) Jerusalem of verse 25. This now Jerusalem is the law-keeping Jerusalem. The place where the law given on Mt. Sinai was kept.
 4. "Free" = ελευθερω = "set at liberty".
 5. "Mother" = μητηρ = "a mother".
 6. The "above Jerusalem", that which represents Isaac and the promise and faith is the source of spiritual life to believers.
 7. The proof of this statement and the reason for using the word, mother. **Vs. 27** which is taken from **Isa 54:1**.
 8. We are the children of promise **Vs. 28**
 9. We are as Isaac was!

IV. "Now Jerusalem", A Source Of Persecution.

- A. Vs. 29 "But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the spirit, even so it is now."
1. "Persecuted" = διωκω = "to cause to flee", "to pursue after with hatred".
 2. Ishmael teased Isaac. **Gen 21:8-10**
 3. The enmity has never ended. **Ps 83:1-6**
 4. It was going on at Paul's writing, so it is now. He and all who stood for grace alone were the objects of anger and enmity.
- B. Vs. 30 "Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son:"
1. What do you read in the Bible?
 2. Here Paul gives the result of Ishmael's teasing and the fruit of law-keeping.
- C. "for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman."
1. Those who are children of Mt. Sinai will not be the heirs according to promise.
 2. Vs. 7 The heirs of promise are "Above Jerusalem."
- D. "So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free."
1. This would be particularly repugnant to the Jews. Paul is calling them Arabs!
 2. Our heritage is in Isaac, not in Ishmael.