

## GALATIANS 4:26-31

A. Galatians 4:26 - But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.

1. Paul is showing the contrast between the two Jerusalems. There is the now - present Jerusalem, and then there is the above Jerusalem. The one on earth at this time was enslaved religion under law's bondage. The one above is the one free from bondage.
2. As Hagar represented Mt. Sinai - law - bondage, Sarah represents - corresponds to Jerusalem, the city in Heaven..the city of the living God.

Hebrews 11:10, 16 - For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Heb. 11:16 - But now they desire a better *country*, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

Hebrews 12:22 - But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

a. [is free] There is no bondage - slavery in the Abrahamic covenant because it is of grace and faith.

\* | Paul says that when one is saved, they are not born of Mt. Sinai, but are born by the Spirit  
\* | from above (Heaven) that sets one free.

b. [which is the mother of us all.] Sarah represents the system that produces heirs of God through Christ. By faith, we believers are of her.

Galatians 4:7 - Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

B. Galatians 4:27 - For it is written, Rejoice, *thou* barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband.

1. This is a quotation of Isaiah 54:1. This was written to the Jewish exiles in Babylon. Paul uses it here to apply to Sarah. Sarah is pictured as childless. Also, the heavenly Jerusalem that was so empty for so long..also had been barren under the old covenant of law. However, her barrenness ended when Jesus died on the cross.
2. [for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband.] God commanded Sarah, as a barren non-child-bearing woman, to rejoice. She is to cry for joy because, as one deserted and deprived of children, she will have many children, even more than the woman who has the husband by faith.
  - a. The prophet tells of a time when Sarah's seed would include all the spiritual seed of Abraham composed of Gentiles and Jewish believers in Christ (Galatians 3:25-29; Ephesians 2:11-16).
  - b. \*[hath many more children] In Paul's day and ours, believers are multiplying while Judaism has declined.

C. Galatians 4:28 - Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.

1. Paul is speaking of all believers in this grace-body-age. All believers are children of the Abrahamic promise; namely, that Abraham believed in God, and it was counted upon him for righteousness.

Genesis 15:6 - And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

Galatians 3:6-7 - Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

Gal. 3:7 - Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

2. Isaac was born of the free woman, Sarah, and is an heir. Likewise, we, in this allegory, identify with the free woman and are children and heirs like Isaac (spiritually speaking).
  - a. Isaac received the blessings of Abraham because he was born of the right mother in the right way. It was through grace-faith that he was supernaturally born.
  - b. We believers likewise, through grace-faith, are recipients of Abraham's blessings. We have supernaturally been born of God in Christ alone, thus spiritually related to Sarah - Abraham.

Galatians 3:14 - That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Galatians 3:29 - And if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

D. 

<u>Galatians 4:29</u> - But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him <i>that was born</i> after the Spirit, even so <i>it is</i> now.
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1. Ishmael was born after the flesh (law), while Isaac was born after the Spirit (promise). The Jewish people were always persecuted by Ishmael.

Genesis 21:8-9 - And the child grew, and was weaned: and Abraham made a great feast the *same* day that Isaac was weaned. Gen. 21:9 - And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking.

2. This was prophesied earlier.

Genesis 16:11-12 - And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou art with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the LORD hath heard thy affliction. Gen. 16:12 - And he will be a wild man; his hand *will be* against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.

\*David even said: Psalms 83:4-6 - They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from *being* a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance. Psalms 83:5 - For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee: Psalms 83:6 - The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagarenes;

Note: [even so it is now.] Paul is saying, "You Galatian believers who are standing true to the gospel of grace, are being scorned - rejected by the Judaizers just because you have refused to forfeit your faith, freedom, and liberty in Christ." This is just as Ishmael (law) persecuted Isaac (faith), now you, too!

E. 

<u>Galatians 4:30</u> - Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.
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1. When Sarah saw Ishmael mocking on the day Isaac was weaned, she said to Abraham:

Genesis 21:10, 12 - Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac. Gen. 21:12 - And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called.

2. The reason for Ishmael's expulsion is he was **not** to be joint-heir with Isaac and receive covenant promises. That was only reserved for the true children of **promise**.
3. Application. Paul wanted the Galatian believers to **ex**communicate the Judaizers (Hagar-flesh-law) who were legalists.

\*Sarah (grace) did not **tol**erate Hagar and Ishmael in her midst. Likewise, neither should the Body Church of today **all**ow false legalists any part of its assembly. Remember, grace and law can never mix and should not be together (truth and error cannot).

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

1. In concluding the allegory, Paul affirms again that believers today are **not** children of the slave maid, Hagar (law-flesh-earthy Jerusalem), with its religious legalism. Paul shows that believers should have nothing to do with the law and its condemnation.

Romans 6:14 - For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Galatians 3:24-26 - Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. Gal. 3:25 - But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.  
Gal. 3:26 - For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

2. In light of this truth, Galatians are to be free in Christ from the enslavement of the law. They have been liberated **from** the curse of spiritual death by the blood of Christ.

Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Colossians 1:14, 2:14 - In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins: Col. 2:14 - Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

Recap of the two mothers' representations:

1. Hagar - Ishmael - law - physical birth:
  - a. Hagar was Abraham's second wife - Like the law, she was added for the **lack** of faith and she was only **temp**orary (Galatians 3:24-25).
  - b. Hagar was a slave - The law served as a **mirr**or to reveal man's sins (Romans 3:19-20).
  - c. Hagar was not meant to bear children - Abraham's marriage to her was out of the will of God in unbelief (law cannot give **life** either - Galatians 3:21).
 

\* | The Judaizers were trying to make Hagar a mother again (to bring people **under** the law).
  - d. Hagar gave birth to a **sla**ve - [a wild man - Genesis 16:12]. Like Ishmael, the old nature is at war with God and the law cannot control it (Galatians 5:17). Law only leads to bondage and **fail**ure (Galatians 4:8-11).
  - e. Hagar was cast **out** - And it was Sarah (grace) who gave the order (Genesis 21:9-10)! Ishmael (law) was not permanent! The Judaizers were trying to unify Sarah and Hagar, Isaac and Ishmael, which was **con**trary to God's word.

f. Hagar was not married again - She was to remain unwed. Likewise, once the law was set aside by the **cross** of Jesus, she was never to be wed again to anybody.

2. Sarah Isaac represents believing Galatians that were of grace-faith, with a spiritual birth.

a. Isaac was born by **God** - [after the Spirit] (Galatians 4:29). Likewise, we believers are, too (Galatians 3:9).

b. Isaac brought **joy** - His name means laughter. Likewise, we believers have the joy of the Lord, and a new song in our hearts (Galatians 5:22, Psalms 40:1-3).

c. Isaac developed into **manhood** - [weaned] (Genesis 21:8). Likewise, we believers are to grow and mature, but **not** under legalism (I Cor. 13:11, Romans 14:1-8).

d. Isaac was persecuted for his liberty (Genesis 21:9). Likewise, we believers, who live in liberty, can always **expect** judgmental attitudes and actions to put us down.