

## Allegory of Hagar and Sarah

### Int.

1. Aim: To explain how this allegory teaches that the law is not binding and we have liberty in Christ
2. Galatians 4:21 - 5:1 = Text
3. This was Paul's final argument to prove that the system of faith had replaced the work of the Law of Moses
  - a. This allegory is based on the history of Abraham, his two wives, and two sons.
  - b. Gen. 16 & 21 tell the story
    - i. Sarah was barren - Hagar, her handmaid, surrogate mother
    - ii. Hagar despised Sarah and she was forced to leave
    - iii. Ishmael was born -- Abraham was 86
    - iv. Later Isaac was born to Sarah -- Abraham was 100
    - v. Ishmael (14 years older) mocked and tantalized Isaac
    - vi. He and his mother, Hagar, were cast out
  - c. Allegory -- figure of speech [Simile - metaphor - metonymy - synecdoche - hyperbole]
    - i. Comes from two words -- another, and to speak
    - ii. Speak something else than what the language means
    - iii. Extended type of comparison
    - iv. A Figurative application of historical or real facts
    - v. This does not mean that the historical record of Moses was not true.
    - vi. "A series of actions symbolic of other actions."

**Discussion****Part. I THE ALLEGORY****I. TWO WOMEN ----- TWO COVENANTS**

- A. Hagar -- handmaid = Old Covenant or bondage
- B. Sarah -- freewoman = New covenant or freedom

**II. TWO SONS ----- TWO BIRTHS**

- A. Ishmael --natural birth = Jewish church by natural birth
- B. Isaac --birth of promise = Church of Christ or spiritual birth

**III. TWO SOCIAL RANKS ----- TWO SPIRITUAL RANKS**

- A. Ishmael -- domestic bondage = Jewish church or legal bondage
- B. Isaac-- domestic freedom = Church of Christ or spiritual liberty

**IV. TWO CHARACTERS ----- TWO DISPOSITIONS**

- A. Ishmael -- a persecutor = Jewish church a persecutor
- B. Isaac--the persecuted = Church of Christ or the persecuted

**V. TWO INHERITANCES ----- PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL**

- A. Ishmael--slaves portion = Jewish Church or temporal inheritance of Canaan
- B. Isaac -- prince's portion = Church of Christ or spiritual inheritance
  - 1. All of Father's possessions and blessings
  - 2. All God's favor and blessings

**VI. TWO WERE CAST OUT ---- HAGAR AND ISHMAEL**

- A. Hagar and Ishmael --- not to inherit with son of free woman
- B. Old Covenant and fleshly son cast out --- not to inherit with son of free woman
  - 1. Son of flesh shall not inherit with son of spirit
  - 2. Children of flesh are not heirs

**VII. TWO REMAINED ---- SARAH AND ISAAC**

- A. Sarah and Isaac --- Isaac was a child of promise
- B. New Covenant and Christians --- Christians by promise
  - 1. Gal. 4:28 "Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise."
  - 2. Acts 3:25 "Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed."

## Part II - Exegesis of Text - Gal. 4:21-5:1

**I. V. 21-22 NKJV** "Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law?"

22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman."

- A. Some of the people wanted to follow Judaism, even after the law of Christ was in effect
- B. Listen to the law
  - 1. Do you not understand the law?
  - 2. Your desire to be under the law is in conflict with the teachings of the law !!
  - 3. Paul then proceeds to explain the real meaning of the law about the two covenants
- C. He tells about Abraham
  - 1. Abraham had 2 sons - he had more than two sons, but this story is only about two
  - 2. One by a handmaid and the other by a freewoman
  - 3. The status of the Mother determined status of the sons, not the status of the father

**II. V.23 NKJV** "But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise,"

- A. He of bondwoman was born after the flesh - ordinary way
- B. He of freewoman was by promise - Divine means - not a virgin birth - but miraculous because Abraham and Sarah had passed the age of procreation.
- C. It had been promised to Abraham and Sarah - Gen. 12

**III. V.24 NKJV** "which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar--." "Which things are an allegory" - KJV

- A. Which things are an allegory
  1. Extended type of comparison
  2. Description of one thing under figure of another
  3. Does not mean that the historical record of Moses was not true
- B. Two covenants are illustrated - the two women are symbols of the two covenants.

**IV. V. 25-26 NKJV** "for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children- 26 but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all."

- A. Hagar is Mt. Sinai
  1. Represents Jerusalem - center for law of Moses - Temple
  2. Those under the law were under bondage to it
  3. In Arabia = Hagar and Ishmael dwelt in Paran, the territory near Sinai !!
  4. Is in bondage with her children
    - a. Hagar, a slave, bore children that by birth passed into slavery
    - b. Jerusalem, and all those who follow Judaism are in bondage to the law
    - c. The slave covenant will produce slave children, and the free covenant will produce free children.
- B. Jerusalem above = Sarah
  1. Symbol of the church - Is free in contrast to bondage
  2. Mother of us all = Sarah = the church is the mother of all Christians

**V. V. 27-28 NKJV** "For it is written: "Rejoice, O barren, You who do not bear! Break forth and shout, You who are not in labor! For the desolate has many more children Than she who has a husband." 28 Now we, brethren, as I saac was, are children of promise.."

A. Barren

1. Sarah was barren at first but she would have many more
2. Written in I sa. 54:1 NKJV "Sing, O barren, You who have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, You who have not labored with child! For more are the children of the desolate Than the children of the married woman," says the LORD."
3. Children of promise as I saac was the child of promise
4. Followers of Christ are the children of promise

B. The new Jerusalem will surpass in glory the old Jerusalem

**VI. V. 29 NKJV** "But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now.."

A. Ishmael persecuted I saac

1. The one born of flesh - Ishmael
2. Mocked the prospects of I saac and his spiritual destiny
3. Ishmael was older but he was not the child of promise

B. Even so it is now

1. Jews born of flesh
2. Were now persecuting those following the gospel - Christians
3. The Jews were the great instigators of persecution during the first century.

**VII. V. 30 NKJV** "Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman."."

- A. Scripture - Gen. 21:10 "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."
1. Sarah demanded they cast out Hagar and Ishmael-Would not be heirs with Isaac
  2. The inheritance was to go to Isaac -- not to Ishmael, and not to Isaac and Ishmael.
- B. The covenant was to be cast out
1. The old is to be cast away - New covenant remains
  2. We are not under the law with its bondage.
  3. Those in Christ are delivered from bondage
  4. The new covenant remains, after the old is done away.

**VIII. V. 31 & 5:1 NKJV** "So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free. 5:1. Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.."

- A. Not children of Bondwoman
1. We are not under the law
  2. But we are offspring of the freewoman - law of Christ
  3. For those in Christ to seek to hold on to the law makes no more sense than for a freeman to seek to become a slave.

## B. Stand fast in liberty

1. The law was a system of bondage, in Christ we are freed from bondage
2. Law has been replaced -
3. Christ is the great spiritual liberator
4. We have freedom because we are the children of the freewoman
5. Don't get entangled again in that old yoke of bondage
  - a. Acts 15:10 "Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?"
  - b. Entangled - to be held, ensnared - like a mesh or a net

## C. A child is more zealous to obey his father than a slave his master

1. The child acts from love, the other from fear.
2. Love is a joyful service, the heart and feelings are in it.
3. Fear is a burdensome, unwilling service.

## ALLEGORY OF HAGAR AND SARAH

Abraham

### Hagar

1. Handmaid
2. In bondage, a slave woman
3. Ability to bear children
4. Had a son - Ishmael
5. Son born according to flesh
6. The Covenant from Sinai
7. This Covenant produced children unto bondage
8. This covenant, being given in Arabia, had no connection with the promise.
9. This is "the Jerusalem that Now is."
10. The "Jerusalem that now is" is in bondage with her children
11. The "Jerusalem that now is" is the mother of those involved in Judaism.
12. Produced children unto bondage.
13. Son persecuted the other son
14. Handmaid and Son were cast out
15. Inherited only a small portion, physical inheritance.

### Sarah

1. Real Wife
2. A freewoman
3. Was barren
4. Had a son - Isaac.
5. Son born according to promise
6. The Covenant of Christ, the new Covenant
7. This covenant produces children unto freedom.
8. This covenant does relate to the promise
9. This is the "Jerusalem that is above." Heb. 12:22
10. "The Jerusalem that is above" with her children, is free.
11. "The Jerusalem that is above" is the mother of those in Christ - Christians.
12. Produced children unto freedom.
13. Son received persecution.
14. Freewoman and Son were retained.
15. Was the rightful heir.

## CONCLUSION

1. Misunderstanding the covenants continues to cause problems:
  - a. Premillennialism [1000 year reign] is based on a misunderstanding of the covenants. They think that the old covenant has not been fulfilled.
  - b. Seventh Day Adventist groups want to keep the Sabbath because they misunderstand the covenants.
  - c. Many religious groups go to the Old Law and try to bring parts of it into the new law of Christ. = instrumental music, tithing
2. Three dispensations = Patriarchy, Judaism, Christianity - the old covenant is gone
3. Old Covenant is gone
  - a. 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;" "having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross." NKJV
  - b. Eph. 2:14-16 "For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; 15. Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; 16. And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:"
  - c. Jews are not heirs today and are lost

## 4. New Covenant remains

- a. 11 Cor. 3:6 "Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life."
- b. 2 Cor. 3:7. "But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:"
- c. 2 Cor. 3:11. "For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious."
- d. Gal. 3:26-29 "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."
- e. Christians are heirs and are saved.

## 5. We are not longer living under the law, but under Christ !!

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Bibliography

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Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Night March 16, 2008  
 Evans Church of Christ  
 515 Gibbs Road  
 Evans, Ga. 30809  
 706-855-1249  
 evanscoc@bellsouth.net  
 www.evansgachurchofchrist.org