

## Galatians 4:21-31

- 21** Tell me, those desiring to be under Law, do you not hear the Law?  
**22** For it is written: Abraham had two sons, the one out of the slave-woman, and one out of the free woman.  
**23** But, indeed, he out of the slave-woman has been born according to flesh, and he out of the free woman through the promise;  
**24** which things are being allegorized; for these are the two covenants, one indeed from Mount Sinai bringing forth to slavery, which is Hagar.  
**25** For Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and answers to Jerusalem which now is, and is in slavery with her children.
- 21** Dites-moi, vous qui voulez être sous la loi, n'entendez-vous point la loi?  
**22** Car il est écrit qu'Abraham eut deux fils, un de la femme esclave, et un de la femme libre.  
**23** Mais celui de l'esclave naquit selon la chair, et celui de la femme libre naquit en vertu de la promesse.  
**24** Ces choses sont allégoriques; car ces femmes sont deux alliances. L'une du mont Sinai, enfantant pour la servitude, c'est Agar, -  
**25** car Agar, c'est le mont Sinai en Arabie, -et elle correspond à la Jérusalem actuelle, qui est dans la servitude avec ses enfants.

**26 But the Jerusalem from above is free, who is the mother of us all.**  
**27 For it is written, "Rejoice, barren one not bearing; break forth and shout, you not travailing; for more are the children of the desolate than she having the husband."**  
**28 But brothers, we, like Isaac, are children of promise.**  
**29 But then even as he born according to flesh persecuted him born according to the Spirit, so it is also now.**  
**30 But what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the slave-woman and her son; for in no way shall the son of the slave-woman inherit with the son of the free woman."**  
**31 Then, brothers, we are not children of a slave-woman, but of the free woman.**

**26 Mais la Jérusalem d'en haut est libre, c'est notre mère;**  
**27 car il est écrit: Réjouis-toi, stérile, toi qui n'enfantas point! Éclate et pousse des cris, toi qui n'as pas éprouvé les douleurs de l'enfantement! Car les enfants de la délaissée seront plus nombreux Que les enfants de celle qui était mariée.**  
**28 Pour vous, frères, comme Isaac, vous êtes enfants de la promesse;**  
**29 et de même qu'alors celui qui était né selon la chair persécutait celui qui était né selon l'Esprit, ainsi en est-il encore maintenant.**  
**30 Mais que dit l'Écriture? Chasse l'esclave et son fils, car le fils de l'esclave n'hériterait pas avec le fils de la femme libre.**  
**31 C'est pourquoi, frères, nous ne sommes pas enfants de l'esclave, mais de la femme libre.**

- Gen 16:1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, did not bear. And she had a female **slave**, an **Egyptian**, and her name was Hagar.
- Gen 16:2 And Sarai said to Abram, Behold now, Jehovah has kept me from bearing. I pray you, go in to my slave woman. It may be that I may be built by her. And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.
- Gen 16:3 And **Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar her slave woman, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife** (after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan).
- Gen 16:10 And the Angel of Jehovah said to her, I will multiply your seed exceedingly, so that it shall not be numbered for multitude.
- Gen 16:11 And the Angel of Jehovah said to her, Behold, you are with child, and shall bear a son. And you shall call his name Ishmael, because Jehovah has heard your 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 live in the presence of all his brothers.

- Gen 17:1 And when Abram was ninety-nine years old, Jehovah appeared to Abram and said to him, **I am the Almighty God! Walk before Me** and be perfect.
- Gen 17:2 And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.
- Gen 17:3 And Abram fell on his face. And God talked with him, saying,
- Gen 17:4 As for Me, behold! **My covenant is with you**, and you shall be a father of many nations.
- Gen 17:5 Neither shall your name any more be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham. For I have made you a father of many nations.
- Gen 17:6 And I will make you exceedingly fruitful, greatly so, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come out of you.
- Gen 17:7 **And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your seed after you in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God to you and to your seed after you.**
- Gen 17:8 **And I will give the land to you in which you are a stranger, and to your seed after you, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession. And I will be their God.**

- Gen 17:17 And Abraham fell upon his face and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born to him that is a hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear?
- Gen 17:18 And Abraham said to God, Oh that Ishmael might live before You!
- Gen 17:19 And God said, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son indeed. And you shall call his name Isaac. And I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.
- Gen 17:20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall father twelve chiefs, and I will make him a great nation.
- Gen 17:21 **But I will establish My covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time in the next year.**

- Gen 21:8 And the child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast the day that Isaac was weaned.
- Gen 21:9 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian (whom she had borne to Abraham) mocking.
- Gen 21:10 And she said to Abraham, Cast out this slave woman and her son. For the son of this slave woman shall not be heir with my son, with Isaac.
- Gen 21:11 And the thing was very evil in Abraham's sight, because of his son.
- Gen 21:12 And God said to Abraham, Let it not be grievous in your sight because of the boy and because of your slave woman. In all that Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice. For in Isaac your Seed shall be called.
- Gen 21:13 And also, I will make a nation of the son of the slave woman, because he is your seed.

Two manners of  
living: growing  
from slaves to  
sons

Typified by two  
women (Sarah and  
Hagar) and their two  
sons (Isaac and  
Ishmael) as two  
covenants

These four people in  
the Old Testament  
are an allegory for  
us living in the New  
Testament

What is an allegory?

“The expression, by means of symbolic fictional figures and actions, of truths or generalizations about human existence; also : an instance (as in a story or painting) of such expression”

*Merrian Webster Dictionary On Line*

1. Do we hear the word of God and do we read the word of God?
2. Who is our husband and who is our source?
3. What is our true condition?
4. Do we rejoice in our condition and cry out and shout to the Lord?
5. What does it mean to be free, and what does it mean to be in slavery?
6. Are we persecuted, or do we persecute others?

1. Do we hear the  
word of God and  
do we read the  
word of God?

The Galatians  
desired to live  
under law, yet  
they needed to  
read the « law »

**Ironically, the very  
« law » that the  
Galatians boasted in  
records the giving of  
the promise before the  
law**

Do we live our  
Christian life by being  
told what to do, or do  
we live because God  
speaks to us?

**2. Who is our  
husband?**

# Who is our husband?

- What we rely on
- My ability
- I do not need the Lord, if I can trust in my ability
- Yes, I have Christ in theory, but in practicality, I still need my husband to lean on, my self with my ability and skill
- I would rather be doing things than praying and seeking the Lord
- I like to feel useful, as if I am earning favour with the Lord
- I feel justified by my serving and hard labor

# Who is our mother?

- Our source
- God must be our source, the One who initiates everything in our Christian life
  
- For Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and answers to **Jerusalem which now is**, and is in **slavery with her children** (v. 25)
- But the **Jerusalem from above is free, who is the mother of us all** (v. 26)

**3. What is our true  
condition?**

Desolate,  
fruitless, not  
travailing

For it is written,  
"Rejoice, barren one not  
bearing; break forth and  
shout, you not travailing;  
for more are the  
children of the desolate  
than she having the  
husband" (v. 27)

In our failures, not in  
our successes, we can  
know who we are really  
are, our true condition

Do I cry out to the Lord  
as a desolate person?  
This is faith

Do I live in the  
covenant of grace,  
dependent on the Lord  
for His supply and  
leading?

Or do I despise those who are  
weak and in desolation?

Gen 16:4 And he (Abram) went in to Hagar,  
and she conceived. And when she saw that she  
had conceived, her mistress (Sarah) was  
despised in her eyes.

4. Do we rejoice in  
our Christian life  
and cry out and  
shout to the Lord?

In my barrenness,  
I can cry out to  
the Lord and  
rejoice

I do not try to solve  
my problem on my  
own, but I can  
praise and rejoice  
in the Lord

**This is to live by  
grace, not by law**

5. What does it mean to be free, and what does it mean to be in slavery?

To be free is to  
live according to  
God's promise

To believe in God  
and His promise,  
not my ability and  
strength

To live a life under the  
love and authority of  
Jesus Christ

To be free does not  
mean to do what I want  
when I want, or not.  
That is slavery.

To be free is the most  
restricted life, not by  
our own laws and  
regulations, but by the  
loving and ruling life of  
Christ within us

6. Are we  
persecuted, or do  
we persecute  
others?

- But then even as he born according to flesh persecuted him born according to the Spirit, so it is also now (v. 29)

In my flesh, I will  
persecute those  
who live in spirit

When I am in  
spirit, I may be  
persecuted

Our being persecuted  
is for our growth in life,  
so we may know  
ourselves and know the  
Lord

One kind of living: of sons	Another kind of living: of slaves
Hears and reads the word of God	Does not hear and read the word of God, but tries to do things according to logic, habit, tradition and routine
Who is our husband? On whom do we rely? On Christ as our source	Relying on our ability, our strength, our wisdom
Who is our mother? Who is our source? If God is our source, we are free	If our ability or our own efforts are our source, then we may be trapped in religious duty
In desolation and barrenness (failure)	Boasting in the achievements of the flesh
Rejoicing and crying out to the Lord	Despising those who are desolate or weak
Free, restricted by the love and authority of Jesus Christ	Enslaved by regulations without an intimacy with Jesus Christ
Persecuted for living in spirit	Mocking or persecuting those who are in spirit