

- this letter stays with one topic pretty much throughout
(This is because the Galatians were in danger of falling into apostasy)
- the Judaizers apparently spoke a lot of Abraham and his life as he was the patriarch of the Jews and it was he that God made the original covenant with
 - *instead of avoiding the subject, Paul reveals the truth about Abraham that was overlooked
 - Paul uses the story of Ishmael and Isaac to show how they foreshadowed 2 covenants
- vs.24- "allegory"- a story that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning
 - "these are the two"- here, the meaning is the mothers
 - Hagar represents the Law and bondage as she was a slave and is the mother of the "child of the flesh"
 - Sarah represents the covenant of grace as there would be no promise without her and she is the mother of the "child of promise"

Truth- Ishmael's descendants do not belong to the covenant people

- "gendereth"- to be born
- *Remember, Paul is speaking allegorically here and not literal
 - Ishmael is not an actual covenant (but its what they resemble)
 - the one resembles the condition of bondage in which Hagar and her son were
 - Sarah and her son resemble the condition of freedom as neither of them were servants
- vs.25- "mount Sinai"- the place where the Law was given- Ex.19:23-20:17
 - "answereth to"- (sustoicheo) to march in the same row, to be the same, or to correspond
 - "Jerusalem which is now"- meaning the present condition in Paul's day
- in that day Paul is referring, Jerusalem (Jews) were still subject to laws, rites, and customs
(This is a state of servitude and fear, just as the time when the Law was given- Ex.19:16)

vs.26- "which is above"- the New Jerusalem (Look at Rev.21:1-7)

- while the inhabitants of earthly Jerusalem were still under the bondage of the Law, the inhabitants of heavenly Jerusalem are free with a promise of inheritance
- "mother of us all"- meaning of the redeemed (this is not a universal statement)
- Truth- the supernatural birth of Isaac is a picture of the supernatural 2nd birth of every believer
(Those who have had this 2nd birth are free from law, bondage, and trying endlessly to please God by works of the flesh)

vs.27- Paul quotes Is.54:1 as a promise which relates to the conversion of the Gentiles (desolate)

- *he's staying with the thought of the New Jerusalem and its citizens as being mostly Gentile
- "she that hath a husband"- a reference here to Israel as the mother of the Jews and was "married" to God under a former covenant

vs.28- Paul reaffirms them that they, like Isaac, were born(saved) according to promise and not according to the flesh as Ishmael

Truth- just as Isaac inherited the promises of his father (Gen.26:1-3), those that have obtained salvation by grace are the recipients of God's redemptive promises

(vs.29-30)- "persecuted"- Paul is referring to Gen.21:9 where Ishmael mocks Isaac

- "it is now"- the similarity here is that the Judaizers (children of Hagar) were basically belittling Paul (child of Sarah) the the Galatians

30- After he quotes Gen.21:9, he then goes on to quote the next verse in Genesis

- *Hagar and Ishmael are sent away as they have no part in the promise or the inheritance
(Remember- Ishmael only came to be out of a lack of faith in the promise of God)

*the message Paul is sending here is that this belief of trying to keep the Law should be sent packing as it contains no promise or inheritance

vs.31- those that have been birthed supernaturally are free from bondage- Rom.8:21