

'Right Mouse Click' on the word **audio** (below) and select 'Open Link in New Tab' to listen to audio while viewing Study Notes

Doctrinal Studies Bible Church
PT: Ron Adema
Series: Book of Galatians

www.doctrinalstudies.com
[audio](#)

Date: 05/28/14
Galatians.4:1-5
File: D140528

HELD IN BONDAGE

The title of today's lesson comes from (Gal.4:3) "So also we, while we were children, **were held in bondage** under the elementary things of the world."

The phrase, "were held in bondage," is a unique Greek periphrastic. It consists of **the main verb eimi** (impf.a.ind.1pl) **plus the** (perf.p.ptc.nplm of douloo) [bondage as slave] (Gal.4:1).

This lesson will study three aspects of what Paul meant by HELD IN BONDAGE as a slave.

1. Once again, Paul is using the Greek grammar to teach theology of Bible doctrine.

Therefore, it will require us to put on our THINKING CAP. The pluperfect periphrastic clause is one of these unique Greek grammatical moments with Paul.

Eimi is an absolute status quo verb of existence used as the main verb in a periphrastic clause. When you add the imperfect tense, it refers to continuous past time existence of bondage of slave. It takes us back to Adam's Original Sin (AOS) (Gen.2:16-17; 3:1-7, 15; Rom.5:12; 1 Cor.15:22).

When the imperfect indicative of eimi is added to a perfect participle of douloo, it elevates the perfect tense to pluperfect meaning.

- **Perfect tense** is completed action in past with completed results in present.
- **Pluperfect** is completed action in past with completed results in past time.

Paul used the Greek grammar to over-emphasize or high-light an important theological point regarding the **absolute hopelessness of mankind in bondage as slave to AOS** ("so also we"⁰ (Gal.4:3 to 4:1).

2. Paul says we were held in bondage by two authoritative powers:

"under (hupo+accusative of authority) the elementary things (ta stoicheia/ apln/ abc's) of the world" (Gal.4:3/ 1 John 4:4) **and** "under (same hupo) the Law (nomos/ asm) (1 Jn.4:4b)."

Every member of the human race is under dominion of Satan (1 John 5:19; John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; Rom.12:2) and under the 13 judicial charges of AOS as the father of the human race (1 Cor.15:45, 22).

Only Jesus Christ has the authority to redeem us from out from under these two authorities of AOS. How were people saved before the **historical gospel**; before Jesus actually died, was buried and was raised from the dead on third day? (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).

The Prophetic gospel: "The Scriptures, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, 'All the nations will be blessed in You.'" (Gal.3:8, 16)

3. After painting a bleak picture of the lost status of man under AOS, Paul offers the good news of the gospel of redemption through God's Son. The spiritual solution to the pluperfect Held in Bondage.

(Gal.4:3) “So also we, when (hote+ind) [time] we were children, were held in bondage under (hupo+acc of authority) the elementary things of the world.”

(Gal.4:4-5) “**But** (adversative/ de) when (hote+ind/ time) **the fullness of time** came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order that (hina+subj) [1st divine purpose] He might redeem those who were under the Law, that (hina+subj) [2nd divine purpose] we might receive the adoption as sons.”

God had a date for the “fullness of time” or the Incarnation of His Son into world (**First Advent**)

“Until (archi+genitive of time) the date set (tes prothesmia) (Eph.1:3-5) [The Eternal Life Conference] (ELC) by the Father.” (Gal.4:2)

The same doctrinal principle applies to the **Second Advent**:

(Matt.24:36) “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.”

What was the divine purpose for God sending His Son?

Paul mentioned two:

First:

“**that** (hina+subj) (God's purpose in sending His Son) He might redeem (exagorazo) [purchased out of slave market of sin]; (Gal.3:13-14) [The Lord's freedman] (1 Cor.7:22-23) (a.a.subj) [Redemption] those who were under the Law,”

Second:

“**that** (hina+subj) [Divine Purpose of Redemption] we might receive (apolambano/ a.a.subj) the adoption as sons.”