

### **AN ALLEGORY OF TWO COVENANTS**

**(Gal.4:24)** is the only time the word **allegory** is mentioned in Bible. It is a compound Greek word (allegoreo/ allos [another of same kind] and agoreuo [to speak in the place of assembly] (agora) [market place].

“An allegory has a spiritual meaning that transcends the literal sense of a sacred text.” (Collegiate Dictionary)

“The ‘allegorical’ meaning does not do away with the literal meaning of the narrative. There may be more than one ‘allegorical’ meaning through, of course, only one literal meaning.” (Vine’s Expository Dictionary of

“The allegory needs not, as the parable, an interpretation to be brought to it from without, since it contains its interpretation within itself.” (Unger Bible Dictionary, pg.37)

**We will study five aspects of Paul’s Allegory of Two Covenants recorded in Gal.4:21-31.**

#### **1. Paul’s allegory contrasted the Mosaic Law Covenant of the Judaizers with the Abrahamic Promise Covenant of Paul.**

Paul wrote the Book of Galatians with this mind. In our lesson text, Paul allegorized the covenant life of Abraham as it related to the plan of God (Gen.12-25).

Paul introduced this allegory in (Gal.4:22) with “For it is written” (Gal.4:22, 27) and with “the Scriptures” (Gal.4:30).

#### **2. We will examine Paul’s allegory of these two covenants and belief systems in ten points.**

1. **Two women:** Bondwoman vs free woman (Gal.4:22)
2. **Two sons:** Son of bondwoman vs son of free woman (Gal.4:22)
3. **Two births:** Son of bondwoman vs son of free woman (Gal.4:23)
4. **Two covenants:** Law and slavery vs Promise and freedom (Gal.4:24-26)
5. **Two places:** Mt.Sinai - Present Jerusalem vs heavenly Jerusalem (Gal.4:24-26)
6. **Two mothers:** Fertile Hagar vs barren Sarah (Gal.4:27-28)
7. **Two descendants:** Slave children of Law vs free children of Promise (Gal.4:24-28)
8. **Two sources of salvation:** Law according to flesh vs Promise according to the Spirit (Gal.4:29)
9. **Two sides to angelic conflict:** Law persecutor vs Promise persecuted (Gal.4:29) (So it is now!)
10. **Two destinies:** Law (no inheritance vs Promise) heir and inheritance (Gal.4:30)

**To the Church Age Believer (CAB):** “So then, brethren, we are **not** children of a bondwoman, **but** of the free woman.” (Gal.4:31)

#### **3. It is interesting that Paul gave spiritual status to the sons and to their descendants on the basis of the spiritual status of these two mothers and not on the father.**

**QUESTION:** Which of these two women (Hagar or Sarah) represent (Gen.3:15)? “And I will put enmity between you (satan) and the woman, and between your seed and **her seed; He (Christ)** shall bruise you (satan) on the head, and you (satan) shall bruise him on the heel.” **ANSWER:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Rom.16:20) “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.”

**Doctrinal principle:** The Promise of the seed of Christ was given equally to Sarah as it was to Abraham (Gen.17:15-22; 18:9-15).

(Heb.11:11) “By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised.”

(Gal.3:16) “Now **the promises** were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, ‘And to seeds,’ as referring to many, but rather to one, ‘And to your seed,’ that is, **Christ.**”

**4. Paul used this allegory to show the Galatians the danger of leaving New Covenant grace teachings for pharisaical legalism taught by the Judaizers.**

(Circumcision for Salvation) (Acts 15:1, 5, 11) **Jesus (Matt.16:6, 11-12).**

“Salvation by works is popular among the unsaved because it flatters the ego by suggesting to the sinner that although he may be a sinner, he is not so bad but that he can save himself.” (Renaissance of NT, vol.13, pg.103)

**5. Paul is also reminding the Galatians they have become persecutors of the children of promise.**

(Gal.4:29) “But as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so it is now.”

Paul reminds us to study the whole realm of Scriptures for truth and not just a few selected verses.

**Paul reminds us the purpose of the Law:**

(Gal.4:24-25) “Therefore the Law has become our **tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.** But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.”

(Gal.3:29) “And **if you belong to Christ**, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to promise.” (Gal.3:8)

(Gal.4:21) “**Tell me, you who want to be under the Law, do you not listen to the Law?**”