

Study of Galatians
Pleasant View Church of Christ

Lesson 5 (Galatians 4:1-31)
Fall 2024

I. Sons and Heirs

Coming of Age

Jews - Became "Son of the Law" shortly after 12th birthday.

Greeks - Around 18th birthday at festival of *Apatouria*. Child passes from care of father to care of state.

Romans - Father had discretion in setting the time of his son's maturity...Occurred at a sacred family festival called *Liberalia*. At that time the son was formally adopted by the father as his acknowledged son and heir.

Gal 3:29 - "heirs according to the promise"

¹I mean that the heir, as long as *he is a child*, is no different from a *slave*, though *he is the owner of everything*,

²but he is under *guardians and managers* until the date set by his father. <- *Ga1 3:22-26*

³In the same way we also, *when we were children*, were *enslaved to the elementary principles* of the world. <- *Ga1 3:10; 22-24*

⁴But when the *fullness of time* had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,

⁵to redeem those who were *under the law*, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <- *Rom 8:12-17; Eph 1:5*

Adopted sons

⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "*Abba! Father!*"

Natural Son

⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. <- *Rom 8:17*

For the final time Paul contrasts the condition in which believers found themselves before Christ's coming with the position they enjoy now.

How is a Son like a Slave?

When a child was a minor in the eyes of the law, his status was not much different than that of a slave, even though he might be the future heir to a vast estate. He could make no decisions and had no freedom. This is the same as a person under the law.

Fullness of Time

- Acts 2:23
- Rom 5:6; 15:8
- Gal 3:8
- Eph 1:3-14

Rom 8:15 - We now have the privilege of calling God our "Father," because of the relationship we have through Christ by the giving of His Spirit.

The word "Abba" is from Aramaic, and a little more intimate than the word "Father."

II. Slaves Again

Their previous slavery and ignorance is not surprising to Paul. His astonishment is that they are willing to go back to slavery after having been set free!

-Gal 1:6-9; 3:1

⁸Formerly, when you did not know God, you were *enslaved* to those that by *nature are not gods*.

⁹But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, *how can you turn back* again to the weak and *worthless elementary principles* of the world, whose *slaves you want to be once more*?

¹⁰You observe *days* and *months* and *seasons* and years! <- *Lev 23:5, 16, 28; 25:4 - Special observances under the law of Moses*.

¹¹I am afraid I may have *labored over you in vain*. <- *See Phil 2:16; 1Th 3:5*

Not only were they slaves, but they were ignorant of the one, true God. Obvious reference to the pagan worship of the Gentiles.

**Past and Present
Relationship**

Received me...

-An incredible sign of respect
-Receiving him this way was right, because he was an approved messenger of God to deliver the message of Jesus Christ.

***Gal 1:1**

-Paul still knew that he was a sinner and was not worthy of worship.

***Acts 14:8-18**

***1Co 15:8-11**

Paul is astonished by the change in their relationship -1:6-9; 3:1; 4:9

Make Much of You

- ζηλόω (zēloō): 2

Possible Meanings

(1) Jealous / Envy

(2) Concern / Eagerness

*2Co 11:2

Galatians 4:17 (NASB95)

¹⁷ They **eagerly seek** you, not commendably, but they wish to shut you out so that you will seek them.

Galatians 4:17 (NIV84)

¹⁷ Those people are **zealous to win** you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you from us, so that you may be zealous for them.

In what ways would Paul want the Galatians to be like him? - Phil 4:9

¹²Brothers, I entreat you, *become as I am*, for *I also have become as you are*. You did me no wrong.

¹³You know it was *because of a bodily ailment* that I preached the gospel to you at first,

¹⁴and though my condition was a *trial to you*, you did not scorn or despise me, but received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus. <- They received him this way even though he had not been at his best.

¹⁵What then has become of your blessedness? For I testify to you that, if possible, *you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me*.

¹⁶Have I then **become your enemy** by telling you the truth?

¹⁷They *make much of you*, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out, that you may make much of them. <- Rom 10:1-4

¹⁸It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you,

¹⁹my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!

²⁰I wish I could be present with you now and *change my tone*, for I am *perplexed about you*.

Paul doesn't indicate that he would change his message, but his tone.

Why would he be able to change his tone if here were there?

1Co 9:19-23

"I have made myself a servant to all"

Bodily Ailment?

Stoned at Lystra

-Acts 14:19-23

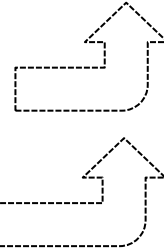
-2Ti 3:10-13

Thorn in the Flesh

-2Co 12:7-10

Eye Problems

-v. 15; 6:11



An Appeal from Allegory

Continued appeal to the Galatians to remain in that freedom to which God has called them.

Paul's turns for a final time to Abraham.
Gal 3:5-9; 15-29
Why is this so critical to Paul's defense?

Information
(21-23)

²¹**Tell me**, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law?

²²For it is written that **Abraham** had *two sons*, one by a *slave* woman and one by a *free woman*. <- Gen 16-17; 21

²³But the son of the slave was born *according to the flesh*, while the son of the free woman was born *through promise*.

²⁴Now this may be interpreted **allegorically**: these women are *two covenants*. One is from **Mount Sinai**, bearing children for *slavery*; she is **Hagar**. <- Exo 20 (Mt. Sinai)

²⁵Now **Hagar** is **Mount Sinai** in Arabia; she corresponds to the *present Jerusalem*, for she is in *slavery* with her children.

Rev 21:2 -> ²⁶But the **Jerusalem above is free**, and she is our mother.

²⁷For it is written, "**Rejoice, O barren one** who does not bear; *break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband.*" <- Isa 54:1; Gen 11:30

²⁸Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise.

²⁹But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh **persecuted him** who was born according to the Spirit, so **also it is now**. <- Gen 21:9

³⁰But what does the Scripture say? "**Cast out the slave woman** and her son, for the son of the slave woman **shall not inherit** with the son of the free woman." <- Gen 21:10

³¹**So**, brothers, **we are not children of the slave but of the free woman**.



Very likely the Judaizing teachers had implored the Galatians to become "sons of Abraham" when insisting they follow circumcision. (Matt 3:9; John 8)

Allegorically
- ἀλληγορέω (allēgoreō)
-Take Figuratively
-"These things may be taken figuratively" (NIV84)
-Paul is **NOT** saying that the **FACTS** are allegorical, but the application for this illustration!

Illustration
(24-27)

Importance
(28-31)

- Persecuted him...
-Matt 5:10-12
-Phil 1:29
-1Th 3:1-4
-2 Tim 3:12
-1Pe 4:12-13

Judaism		Christianity	
The slave, Hagar	v. 22	The freewoman, Sarah	v. 22
Son of the slave, Ishmael	v. 22	Son of the freewoman, Isaac	v. 22
Natural birth	v. 23	Supernatural birth by promise	v. 23
Mount Sinai, The Old Covenant	vv. 24-25	The New Covenant	v. 24
The earthly Jerusalem	vv. 24-25	The heavenly Jerusalem	v. 26
Enslaved	vv. 24-25	Free	v. 26
Fruitful	v. 27	Barren (at first)	v. 27
No spiritual offspring	v. 27	Large spiritual offspring	v. 27
Persecuting	v. 29	Persecuted	v. 29
Expulsion	v. 30	Inheritance	v. 30

This handout can be downloaded in PDF format from: (teamagee.com/galatians2024)

Heirs According to the Promise

Galatians 3:29 (ESV)

²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Guardians and Managers / Elementary Principles

Galatians 3:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them."

Galatians 3:22–26 (ESV)

²² But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

²³ Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. ²⁴ So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

Fullness of Time

Acts 2:23 (ESV)

²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

Romans 5:6 (ESV)

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

Romans 15:8 (ESV)

⁸ For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs,

Galatians 3:8 (ESV)

⁸ And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed."

Ephesians 1:3–14 (ESV)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us

the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Adoption as Sons

Romans 8:12–17 (ESV)

¹² So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Ephesians 1:5 (ESV)

⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

Paul’s Astonishment

Galatians 1:6–9 (ESV)

⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— ⁷ not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

Galatians 3:1 (ESV)

¹ O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified.

Days, Months, Seasons, Years

Leviticus 23:5 (ESV)

⁵ In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight, is the LORD’s Passover.

Leviticus 23:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath. Then you shall present a grain offering of new grain to the LORD.

Leviticus 23:28 (ESV)

²⁸ And you shall not do any work on that very day, for it is a Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God.

Leviticus 25:4 (ESV)

⁴ but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a Sabbath to the LORD. You shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard.

Labored in Vain

Philippians 2:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

1 Thessalonians 3:5 (ESV)

⁵ For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain.

Become as I Am

Philippians 4:9 (ESV)

⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Become as You Are

1 Corinthians 9:19–23 (ESV)

¹⁹ For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

Bodily Ailment

Acts 14:19–23 (ESV)

¹⁹ But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. ²⁰ But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe. ²¹ When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, ²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. ²³ And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

2 Timothy 3:10–13 (ESV)

¹⁰ You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, ¹¹ my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. ¹² Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

2 Corinthians 12:7–10 (ESV)

⁷ So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹ But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Galatians 6:11 (ESV)

¹¹ See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand.

Received Me

Galatians 1:1 (ESV)

¹ Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—

Acts 14:8–18 (ESV)

⁸ Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. ⁹ He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well, ¹⁰ said in a loud voice, “Stand upright on your feet.” And he sprang up and began walking. ¹¹ And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, “The gods have come down to us in the likeness

of men!"¹² Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.¹³ And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds.¹⁴ But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out,¹⁵ "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them."¹⁶ In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways.¹⁷ Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness."¹⁸ Even with these words they scarcely restrained the people from offering sacrifice to them.

1 Corinthians 15:8–11 (ESV)

⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Paul's Astonishment

Galatians 1:6–9 (ESV)

⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—⁷ not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

Galatians 3:1 (ESV)

¹ O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified.

Galatians 4:9 (ESV)

⁹ But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?

Make Much of You

Galatians 4:17 (NASB95)

¹⁷ They eagerly seek you, not commendably, but they wish to shut you out so that you will seek them.

Galatians 4:17 (NIV84)

¹⁷ Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you from us, so that you may be zealous for them.

Galatians 4:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ They zealously court you, *but* for no good; yes, they want to exclude you, that you may be zealous for them.

Galatians 4:17 (KJV 1900)

¹⁷ They zealously affect you, *but* not well; yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect them.

2420 ζηλόω (*zēloō*): vb.; ≡ DBLHebr 7861; Str 2206—**1.** LN 25.76 **set one's heart on**, be deeply committed to something (1Co 12:31); **2.** LN 25.46 **have deep concern for** (Gal 4:17); **3.** LN 25.21 **covet**, desire another's possessions (Jas 4:2), for another interp, see next; **4.** LN 88.163 **be jealous**, be envious (Ac 7:9; 17:5; 1Co 13:4; Jas 4:2), note there may be overlap with the verses and entries¹

ζηλόω *zēloō*; from 2205*b*; *to be jealous*:—am jealous(1), becoming jealous(1), desire earnestly(2), eagerly seek(1), eagerly sought(1), earnestly desire(1), envious(1), jealous(2), seek(1).²

2 Corinthians 11:2 (ESV)

² For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

Romans 10:1–4 (ESV)

¹ Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. ² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. ⁴ For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Abraham in Galatians

Galatians 3:5–9 (ESV)

⁵ Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— ⁶ just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”?

¹ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

² Thomas, R. L. (1998). *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : updated edition*. Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc.

⁷ Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. ⁸ And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." ⁹ So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Galatians 3:15–29 (ESV)

¹⁵ To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. ¹⁶ Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ. ¹⁷ This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.

¹⁹ Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary. ²⁰ Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one.

²¹ Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. ²² But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

²³ Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. ²⁴ So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Two Sons

Genesis 16 (ESV)

¹ Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. ² And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. ³ So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife. ⁴ And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. ⁵ And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the LORD judge between you and me!" ⁶ But Abram said to Sarai, "Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her.

⁷ The angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. ⁸ And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are

you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai." ⁹ The angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress and submit to her." ¹⁰ The angel of the LORD also said to her, "I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude." ¹¹ And the angel of the LORD said to her,

"Behold, you are pregnant
and shall bear a son.
You shall call his name Ishmael,
because the LORD has listened to your affliction.

¹² He shall be a wild donkey of a man,
his hand against everyone
and everyone's hand against him,
and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen."

¹³ So she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You are a God of seeing," for she said, "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me." ¹⁴ Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered.

¹⁵ And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. ¹⁶ Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

Genesis 17 (ESV)

¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, ² that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly." ³ Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, ⁴ "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. ⁵ No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ⁸ And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God."

⁹ And God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. ¹⁰ This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹ You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. ¹² He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring, ¹³ both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴ Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."

¹⁵ And God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶ I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless

her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”¹⁷ Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, “Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?”¹⁸ And Abraham said to God, “Oh that Ishmael might live before you!”¹⁹ God said, “No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.”²⁰ As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation.²¹ But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year.”

²² When he had finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham.²³ Then Abraham took Ishmael his son and all those born in his house or bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham’s house, and he circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very day, as God had said to him.²⁴ Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.²⁵ And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.²⁶ That very day Abraham and his son Ishmael were circumcised.²⁷ And all the men of his house, those born in the house and those bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.

Genesis 21 (ESV)

¹ The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised.² And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him.³ Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac.⁴ And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him.⁵ Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.⁶ And Sarah said, “God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me.”⁷ And she said, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

⁸ And the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.⁹ But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, laughing.¹⁰ So she said to Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not be heir with my son Isaac.”¹¹ And the thing was very displeasing to Abraham on account of his son.¹² But God said to Abraham, “Be not displeased because of the boy and because of your slave woman. Whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for through Isaac shall your offspring be named.¹³ And I will make a nation of the son of the slave woman also, because he is your offspring.”¹⁴ So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.

¹⁵ When the water in the skin was gone, she put the child under one of the bushes.¹⁶ Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, “Let me not look on the death of the child.” And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept.¹⁷ And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is.¹⁸ Up! Lift up the boy, and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make him into a great nation.”¹⁹ Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. And she

went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. ²⁰ And God was with the boy, and he grew up. He lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. ²¹ He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

²² At that time Abimelech and Phicol the commander of his army said to Abraham, "God is with you in all that you do. ²³ Now therefore swear to me here by God that you will not deal falsely with me or with my descendants or with my posterity, but as I have dealt kindly with you, so you will deal with me and with the land where you have sojourned." ²⁴ And Abraham said, "I will swear."

²⁵ When Abraham reproved Abimelech about a well of water that Abimelech's servants had seized, ²⁶ Abimelech said, "I do not know who has done this thing; you did not tell me, and I have not heard of it until today." ²⁷ So Abraham took sheep and oxen and gave them to Abimelech, and the two men made a covenant. ²⁸ Abraham set seven ewe lambs of the flock apart. ²⁹ And Abimelech said to Abraham, "What is the meaning of these seven ewe lambs that you have set apart?" ³⁰ He said, "These seven ewe lambs you will take from my hand, that this may be a witness for me that I dug this well." ³¹ Therefore that place was called Beersheba, because there both of them swore an oath. ³² So they made a covenant at Beersheba. Then Abimelech and Phicol the commander of his army rose up and returned to the land of the Philistines. ³³ Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba and called there on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God. ³⁴ And Abraham sojourned many days in the land of the Philistines.

Sons of Abraham

Matthew 3:9 (ESV)

⁹ And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.

John 8 (ESV)

¹ but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ² Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. ³ The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst ⁴ they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" ⁶ This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. ⁷ And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "**Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.**" ⁸ And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹ But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰ Jesus stood up and said to her, "**Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?**" ¹¹ She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "**Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.**"

¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "**I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.**" ¹³ So the Pharisees said to him, "You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true." ¹⁴ Jesus answered, "**Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am**

going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going.¹⁵ You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one.¹⁶ Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me.¹⁷ In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true.¹⁸ I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.”¹⁹ They said to him therefore, “Where is your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.”²⁰ These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

²¹ So he said to them again, “I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come.”²² So the Jews said, “Will he kill himself, since he says, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come’?”²³ He said to them, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.²⁴ I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.”²⁵ So they said to him, “Who are you?” Jesus said to them, “Just what I have been telling you from the beginning.²⁶ I have much to say about you and much to judge, but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him.”²⁷ They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father.²⁸ So Jesus said to them, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.²⁹ And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.”³⁰ As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”³³ They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.³⁷ I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you.³⁸ I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.”

³⁹ They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works Abraham did,⁴⁰ but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did.⁴¹ You are doing the works your father did.” They said to him, “We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God.”⁴² Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me.⁴³ Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word.⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.⁴⁵ But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me.⁴⁶ Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me?⁴⁷ Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”

⁴⁸ The Jews answered him, “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?”⁴⁹ Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor

me.⁵⁰ Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge.⁵¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.”⁵² The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’”⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?”⁵⁴ Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’”⁵⁵ But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word.⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.”⁵⁷ So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?”⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”⁵⁹ So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

Allegorically

251 ἀλληγορέω (*allēgoreō*): vb.; ≡ Str 238; TDNT 1.260—LN 33.18 **speaking allegorically**, take figuratively, make an allegory (Gal 4:24+)³

Galatians 4:24 (NIV84)

²⁴ These things may be taken figuratively, for the women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar.

Mount Sinai

Exodus 20 (ESV)

¹ And God spoke all these words, saying,

² “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

³ “You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me,⁶ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

⁸ “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.⁹ Six days you shall labor, and do all your work,¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates.¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth,

³ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹² “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ “You shall not murder.

¹⁴ “You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ “You shall not steal.

¹⁶ “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷ “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

¹⁸ Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off ¹⁹ and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.” ²⁰ Moses said to the people, “Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.” ²¹ The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

²² And the LORD said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the people of Israel: ‘You have seen for yourselves that I have talked with you from heaven. ²³ You shall not make gods of silver to be with me, nor shall you make for yourselves gods of gold. ²⁴ An altar of earth you shall make for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In every place where I cause my name to be remembered I will come to you and bless you. ²⁵ If you make me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of hewn stones, for if you wield your tool on it you profane it. ²⁶ And you shall not go up by steps to my altar, that your nakedness be not exposed on it.’

New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:2 (ESV)

² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Barren One

Isaiah 54:1 (ESV)

¹ “Sing, O barren one, who did not bear;
break forth into singing and cry aloud,
you who have not been in labor!

For the children of the desolate one will be more
than the children of her who is married,” says the LORD.

Genesis 11:30 (ESV)

³⁰ Now Sarai was barren; she had no child.

Persecuted Him

Matthew 5:10–12 (ESV)

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Philippians 1:29 (ESV)

²⁹ For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,

1 Thessalonians 3:1–4 (ESV)

¹ Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, ² and we sent Timothy, our brother and God’s coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, ³ that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. ⁴ For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know.

2 Timothy 3:12 (ESV)

¹² Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

1 Peter 4:12–13 (ESV)

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.