


**Slaves Under Guardians,
Stewards and the Stoecheia**

Galatians 4:1 - 3

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Heirs but Having Functional Slave Status

Galatians 4:1 (HCSB)

Now I say that as long as the heir is a child, **he differs in no way from a slave**, though he is the owner of everything.

- This means a ~~young~~ master+who is a minor, but stands in line for a rich inheritance
- This was our status while outside of Christ and under the law

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Under Caretakers . . . Until

Galatians 4:2 (HCSB)

Instead, he is under guardians and stewards **until the time set by his father**.

- The future heir is a ~~young~~ master+but is under supervision because he is a minor
- The Father determines the supervisors and sets the time when this arrangement ends

3



**Under the Hostile Powers
Slaves to the Stoicheia**

Galatians 4:3 (HCSB)

In the same way we also, when we were children, were in slavery under the elemental forces of the world

- > The elemental forces+(stoicheia) are spirit beings whose fickle and harmful influence was feared in Asia minor
- > Paul here refers to their pre-conversion state

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Implications and Applications

- > Those who come to Christ find freedom from the hostile spiritual forces
- > We need to understand how God rules His universe
- > To go back to law-works is to put oneself back under the bondage that God has freed us from

5

Inheritance Is an Important Theme

Ephesians 1:11 (NET)

In Christ we too have been claimed as God's own possession, since we were predestined according to the one purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to the counsel of his will.

- > We are His inheritance+ is in accord with Deut. 32:9
- > God uses gospel preaching (Ephesians 1:13) which is believed to accomplish this

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God's Inheritance Is His People

Deuteronomy 32:8, 9 (ESV)

When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples **according to the number of the sons of God**. But the LORD's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted heritage.

- > The (LXX & DSS) have %ons of God+or %angels of God.+
- > If we are not God's inheritance through faith, we are under the stoicheia who are hostile, spiritual powers

7

The Host of Heaven Are Wicked Spirit Beings According to Many Biblical Passages

Acts 7:42 (NASB)

But God turned away and delivered them up **to serve the host of heaven**; as it is written in the book of the prophets, **it was not to Me that you offered victims and sacrifices forty years in the wilderness, was it, O house of Israel?**

8

The Host of Heaven Are Wicked Spirit Beings According to Many Biblical Passages

1Kings 22:19-21 (NASB)

And Micaiah said, **Therefore, hear the word of the Lord. I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by Him** on His right and on His left. And the Lord said, **Who will entice Ahab to go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?** And one said this while another said that. Then a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord and said, **I will entice him.**

9

Christians Are Sons and Not Under the Stoicheia

Galatians 4:7, 8 (NASB)

Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God. However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods.

10

Only Jesus' Yoke Is Light; Serving the Hostile Powers Is Onerous

Matthew 11:28-30 (NASB)

Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

11

Either Jesus' Yoke or Yoke of Slavery

Galatians 5:1 (NASB)

It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

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