

The Law Teaches Freedom through Promise

**Galatians 4:21-23** (NASB)

Tell me, you who want to be **under law**, do you not **listen to the law**? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the bondwoman and one by the free woman. But the son by the bondwoman was born according to the **flesh**, and the son by the free woman through the **promise**.

- Paul uses irony: they want to be under Law-works but do not want to listen to Scripture (Law)
- **listen+** is a good understanding of **hear+** (Greek)

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Paul illustrates slavery versus freedom

**Galatians 4:24-26** (NASB)

This is allegorically speaking, for these women are two covenants: one proceeding from Mount Sinai bearing **children who are to be slaves**; she is Hagar. Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the **Jerusalem above is free; she is our mother**.

- Those who implement law-works are associated with: Hagar-Sinai-Jerusalem (and slavery)
- Those who have gospel freedom are associated with the heavenly Jerusalem (and Sarah)

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Promise is a key theme in Galatians

**Galatians 4:27-28** (NASB)

For it is written, **Rejoice, barren woman who does not bear; Break forth and shout, you who are not in labor; For more numerous are the children of the desolate Than of the one who has a husband.+ And you brethren, like Isaac, are children of promise.**

- Sarah was barren and Isaac's birth was the result of God's promise and His faithfulness
- We are born again by God's mighty work and His gospel promise

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Born of the Spirit, Characterized by Freedom

**Galatians 4:29-31** (NASB)

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 also. But what does the Scripture say? **Cast out the bondwoman and her son, For the son of the bondwoman shall not be an heir with the son of the free woman.+So then, brethren, we are not children of a bondwoman, but of the free woman.**

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Implications and Applications

- > Are we willing to listen to God?
- > We must be people of the Promise
- > Those seeking true eschatological blessing are looking to the heavenly Jerusalem

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Are we willing to listen to God?

**Hebrews 12:25** (NASB)

See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape who turn away from Him who **warns from heaven.**

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We must be people of the Promise

**Romans 9:8, 9** (NASB)

That is, it is not the children of the **flesh** who are children of God, but **the children of the promise** are regarded as descendants. For this is the word of promise: **At this time I will come, and Sarah shall have a son.**

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We must be people of the Promise

**Acts 13:32, 33** (NASB)

**And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers, that God has fulfilled this promise to our children** in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, **You are My Son; today have begotten You.**

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Those seeking true eschatological blessing  
are looking to the heavenly Jerusalem

**Hebrews 11:8-9**

By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he lived as an alien in **the land of promise**, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of **the same promise**; for **he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.**

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