

Theme: The true seed of Abraham are those born of the Spirit and promise, while those trusting in law and flesh are merely slaves.

I. Intro – Differing Interpretations

- A. My background as a history major
- B. Sometimes argue over the facts
- C. Often agree on facts; disagree what they mean
- D. Paul & Judaizers: agree on facts
- E. Paul & Judaizers: disagree on meaning of facts!

II. Some Initial Observations

- A. An unusual passage – allegory?
 - 1. Seems allegorical – nothing else in NT like it
 - 2. Paul probably responding to Judaizer method
- B. Two differing columns; two differing outcomes
 - 1. Show table of two columns
 - 2. All agree on top rows; disagree on bottom rows

III. A True Interpretation of the Facts

- A. Two women – Hagar and Sarah – slave & free
 - 1. Hagar - slave woman - v22, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31
 - 2. Sarah - free woman – v22, 23, 30, 31 (27)

- B. Two sons – Ishmael & Isaac – slave and free
 - 1. Ishmael – child of slavery – v22, 23, 24, 29-31
 - 2. Isaac – child of freedom – v22, 23, 28-30
- C. Two sons – Ishmael & Isaac – flesh & promise/Spirit
 - 1. Ishmael – child of flesh – v22, 23, 24, 29-31
 - 2. Isaac – child of promise, Spirit – v22, 23, 28-30
 - 3. Abraham’s seed – 3:6-7, 29; Rom 9:6-8; John 8:33-44; Rom 2:28-29
- D. Two covenants – Sinai & Abraham – law & promise
 - 1. Sinai – Hagar – law & slavery – vv24-25
 - 2. Abrahamic – Sarah – promise & freedom – vv 23,24,26,28
- E. Two cities – earthly and heavenly Jerusalem
 - 1. Earthly Jerusalem – slavery – vv24-25
 - 2. Heavenly Jerusalem – freedom – vv24-27; Is 54:1; Ps 87
- F. The true inheritors: children of promise
 - 1. The two sons struggle – v29
 - 2. The inheritance given to faith – not flesh – v30

IV. Conclusion & Summary

- A. Application: Israel today
 - 1. Many evangelicals blindly support Israel

2. They think physical Jews inherit Abrahamic covenant
3. Flesh does not inherit – faith does!
4. Key issues: freedom, justice, terrorism, Gospel

B. Application: two opposing paths to inheritance

1. Slavery, flesh, law vs. freedom, Spirit, promise
2. God's gift is a **gift** – it comes by faith
3. Look to God in faith - & receive!

Children of Slavery, Children of Promise

Galatians 4:21-31

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????????????

Aaronic blessing

Hagar – slave woman -	Sarah - Free woman –
Ishmael – child of flesh	Isaac – child of promise, Spirit –
Sinai covenant – law –	Abrahamic covenant – promise –
Earthly Jerusalem – Judaism	Heavenly Jerusalem – Church –

⁶ Consider Abraham: "He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."⁷ Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. Galatians 3:6-7

²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:29

It is not as though God's word had failed. **For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel.** ⁷ **Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children.** On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned."⁸ **In other words, it is not the natural children who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring.** Romans 9:6-8

They answered him, "We are **Abraham's descendants** and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"...³⁷ **I know you are Abraham's descendants.** Yet you are ready to kill me, because you have no room for my word....³⁹ "Abraham is our father," they answered. **"If you were Abraham's children," said Jesus, "then you would do the things Abraham did....** ⁴⁴ **You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire.** He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. John 8:33,37,39,44

A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. ²⁹ No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God. Romans 2:28-29