

Galatians Study Questions

Galatians 4:21-31

²¹ Tell me, you who want to be under law, do you not listen to the law?²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the bondwoman and one by the free woman.²³ But the son by the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and the son by the free woman through the promise.²⁴ 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.²⁵ Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children.²⁶ But the Jerusalem above is free; she is our mother.²⁷ For it is written, "Rejoice, barren woman who does not bear; Break forth and shout, you who are not in labor; For more are the children of the desolate Than of the one who has a husband." ²⁸ And you brethren, like Isaac, are children of promise.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 also.³⁰ 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." ³¹ So then, brethren, we are not children of a bondwoman, but of the free woman.

1. *What does Paul identify these false teachers as desiring to be under; to what does he say they need to be listening?*
2. *Which Old Testament person represents the bondwoman and In what way was her son born (verses 23 & 25)?*
3. *Which Old Testament person represents the free woman and In what way was her son born (verses 22 & 23)?*
4. *According to verse 24, what do these two women allegorically represent?*
5. *From where did the first covenant proceed; to what "present" place does it correspond and what is the state of her children (verse 25)?*
6. *To what place does the second covenant correspond and what is the state of her children (verse 26)? For further study, read also Heb. 12:18-24; Rev. 3:12; Rev. 21:2, 10)*
7. *To whom does Paul compare the Galatian Christians and what point does he make regarding them (verse 28)?*
8. *In what way does Paul specifically compare Ishmael and Isaac to Jews and Christians in verse 29?*
9. *In the context of this allegory of the two covenants, what is the clear implication of the "bondwoman and her son" being "cast out" and not being heirs with the son of the free woman (verse 30)?*
10. *What is Paul's conclusion in this allegory and what is the clear implication for those who desire to be under the Law?*