

Genesis 21 - Lesson 31

Cast Out the Bondwoman

1. **21:1-7 - Isaac's Birth, Ishmael mocks**
 - a. *"visited Sarah ... and did"* - God did a work by grace - Heb 11:11, Rom 4:19
 - b. *"set time"* - God sets time for his purposes: in this case - Gen 17:21, 18:10, 18:14
 - c. Isaac is a type of Christ in his birth (the promised seed) - Gal 4:4
 - d. God changed Sarah's laughter of disbelief, to a laughter of joy
 - e. God's fulfillment of his word is manufactured by his hands, not man's

2. **21:8-21 - Cast out the Bondwoman**
 - a. Ishmael despised Isaac, just as Hagar despised Sarah - Gen 16:4,12
 - b. Sarah is the first to say *"cast out"* so as to divorce them from inheritance
 - c. A house divided cannot stand: grace and works cannot mix
 - d. *"in Isaac shall thy seed be called"* - according to the promise - Gal 3:16, Heb 11:17
 - e. 21:17 - Apparently, Ishmael cried out to God and he heard his prayer.

3. **21:22-34 - Covenant with Abimelech at Beersheba**
 - a. Once Hagar and Ishmael leave we see a reminder of the promise
 - b. *"God is with thee in all thou doest"* - Shows Abimelech's faith, and God's intervention
 - c. 21:23 - Abimelech asks Abraham to bless him according to the promise God made
 - d. They made a covenant regarding this, and the well Abraham dug at Beersheba
 - e. Abraham called on the *"everlasting God"* for his faithfulness to his promise

4. **The Allegory of the Two Covenants - Gal 4:21-31**
 - a. Paul explains the events in Genesis 21 to teach the place of grace in God's purpose
 - b. *"do ye not hear the law"* - a reference to Moses' book of Genesis
 - i. Which means he is not explaining the mystery of Christ, but prophecy
 - c. Compare Ishmael to Isaac - which son are you? Are you under bondage or free?
 - i. How are you Abraham's seed? Through the faith or flesh?
 - ii. Paul just finished explaining we are Abraham's seed in Christ - Gal 3:29
 - d. *"father of us all"* - How is Abraham your father? A: By faith - Gal 3:7,
 - i. (Abraham was not under the law, not Israel, not circumcised Rom 4:11-15)
 - e. *"mother of us all"* is not the city, it is Sarah. Sarah is your mother by grace - Gal 4:27
 - f. Gal 4:28 does not make us sons of Jacob, but children of promise - Rom 8:16,17,21
 - i. The opposite of a child of promise is a child of the flesh, works, law
 - ii. Israel's promises will be fulfilled with children of promise - Rom 9:6-9
 - iii. We are children of promise, but we do not fulfill Israel's promises.
 - g. Gal 4:30 - *"what saith the scripture?"* - Cast out the bondwoman! We are not under the law, our inheritance is liberty, and it is freedom in Christ, stand fast! Gal 5:1

The Allegory of the Covenants

Abraham had two sons (Gal 4:21-31). Paul is explaining what the law said, which means he is not explaining what the mystery says.

*“But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested,
being witnessed by the law and the prophets” – Rom 3:21*

Ishmael	Isaac
Born of a bondmaid	Born of a freewoman
Born after the flesh (works)	Born by promise (grace)
Covenant of the Law (Sinai)	Covenant of Promise
Born in bondage	Born in freedom / liberty
Hagar	Sarah
Jerusalem here is under the law	Jerusalem above is free (Rev 21:1-6)
Children of the flesh	Children of the promise
Children of Hagar (law/flesh)	Children of Sarah (grace/promise)