

Elder Vernon Johnson

Numbers

Two

Sarah and Hagar

Gal. 4:21 "Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law? 22 For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. 23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. 24 Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. 25 For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. 26 But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. 27 For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband. 28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. 29 But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. 30 Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman. 31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free."

Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondwoman, Hagar. The other son was by the freewoman, Sarah. We are told that these two women are an allegory. An allegory is a natural truth that points to a spiritual truth. Sarah was the actual wife of Abraham and was a free woman. Hagar was an Egyptian bondmaid of Sarah. She was in bondage and not free. She was Sarah's servant.

Hagar represented the covenant that God made in Mount Sinai with the children of Israel. This covenant, like Hagar, brought those who were under it into bondage. As the scriptures read, "Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things that are written in the book of the law to do them." Every one that was under the law was under the curse of the law and become bondservants to the law. The scripture says that Hagar answers to Jerusalem, which now is and is in bondage with her children. Thus, the law was a works system and brought those under it into bondage and a curse.

In contrast, Sarah represented the covenant of grace, under which we worship God in Spirit and in truth. Sarah, or the covenant of grace, is also described as Jerusalem which is above and is said to be free and to be the mother of us all. We who worship God in Spirit and in truth under the covenant of grace are free from the bondage of the law as Christ was made to be a curse for us, thus freeing us from the bondage of the law. We do not go about trying to establish our own righteousness, but rather understand and believe that Christ is the end of the law for righteousness and by his righteousness and sacrificial atonement we have been made righteous in the eyes of a just and holy God.

In summary, the Old Testament sets forth the Old Covenant of worship which was made with the children of Israel on Mount Sinai. We worship God in Spirit and in truth in the New Testament or under the New Covenant, giving all praise, honor, and glory unto God for our salvation from sin.

We are told to cast out the bondwoman and her son for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the free. We are free and not made heirs by the works of the law. We should not desire to worship under the law or to bring in parts of the law into our worship. If we bring in parts of the law into our worship, we just bring ourselves under the bondage of the law. Most who claim to worship Christ today have brought in elements of a works system into their worship and have delivered themselves into bondage. God forbid that we should do so.