

Galatians 4.21-4.31

Instructions

Carefully read all of chapter 4 and then attempt to answer the questions which follow:

Interpretative Focus (Chapter 3 v Chapter 4)

In chapter 3, Paul is focused on the Jews preoccupation with the law of Moses. In chapter 4 he reiterates his argument for the Gentiles who are more concerned with religious syncretism and pagan idolatry

In chapter 3 his main topic is **justification**, while in chapter 4 it is **sanctification**

Verses 4.21-23 The Two Women and the Two Sons

1. Abraham had 2 sons. Their mother's names were Hagar and Sarah. What were the names of the sons?

Hagar's son:

Sarah's son:

2. Paul refers to the bondwoman and freewoman in verse 22. Who are they?

Bondwoman:

Freewoman:

3. What do you think the following mean?

Born of the flesh:

Born by promise:

4. Which son was born by promise?

5. Who made the promise and who was the promise made to?

The promise was made by:

The promise was made to:

6. What was the promise that was made that Paul is referring to?

Verses 4.24-27 The Allegory/Analogy

A little interpretive help.

What is an allegory? What is an analogy?

As a literary device, an **allegory** is a narrative in which a character, place, or event is used to deliver a broader message about real-world issues and occurrences.

What is an analogy?

An **analogy** is a literary technique in which two unrelated objects are compared for their shared qualities. Unlike a simile or a metaphor, an **analogy** is not a figure of speech, though the three are often quite similar.

Examples of allegories

The surface story might be about two neighbors throwing rocks at each other's homes, but the hidden story would be about war between two countries.

Pilgrims Progress is a story which is an allegory of the Christians journey through life

Examples of analogies

Mary had a little lamb / Her fleece was white as snow.
As light as a feather
As dead as a doornail
As busy as a bee

The word "allegory" is used in 4.24, but a better translation would be analogy. The reason is simple; an allegory is a story whose events are not historical, while an analogy involves historical events.

7. In verse 24 Paul says that these two sons are an analogy of two covenants.

The son of bondwoman is analogous of which covenant?

The son of the freewoman is analogous of which covenant?

8. In verse 25, why is Mt Sinai mentioned?

9. Who is Paul speaking about in verse 27?

Verses 4.28-31 The Practical Application

10. How are Christians similar to Isaac;

In their birth

In the promise of God

11. In verse 30 Paul says “Cast out the bondwoman and her son.....” What instruction is Paul giving the Galatian Christians by using this analogy?

12. What is Paul’s conclusion in verse 31?