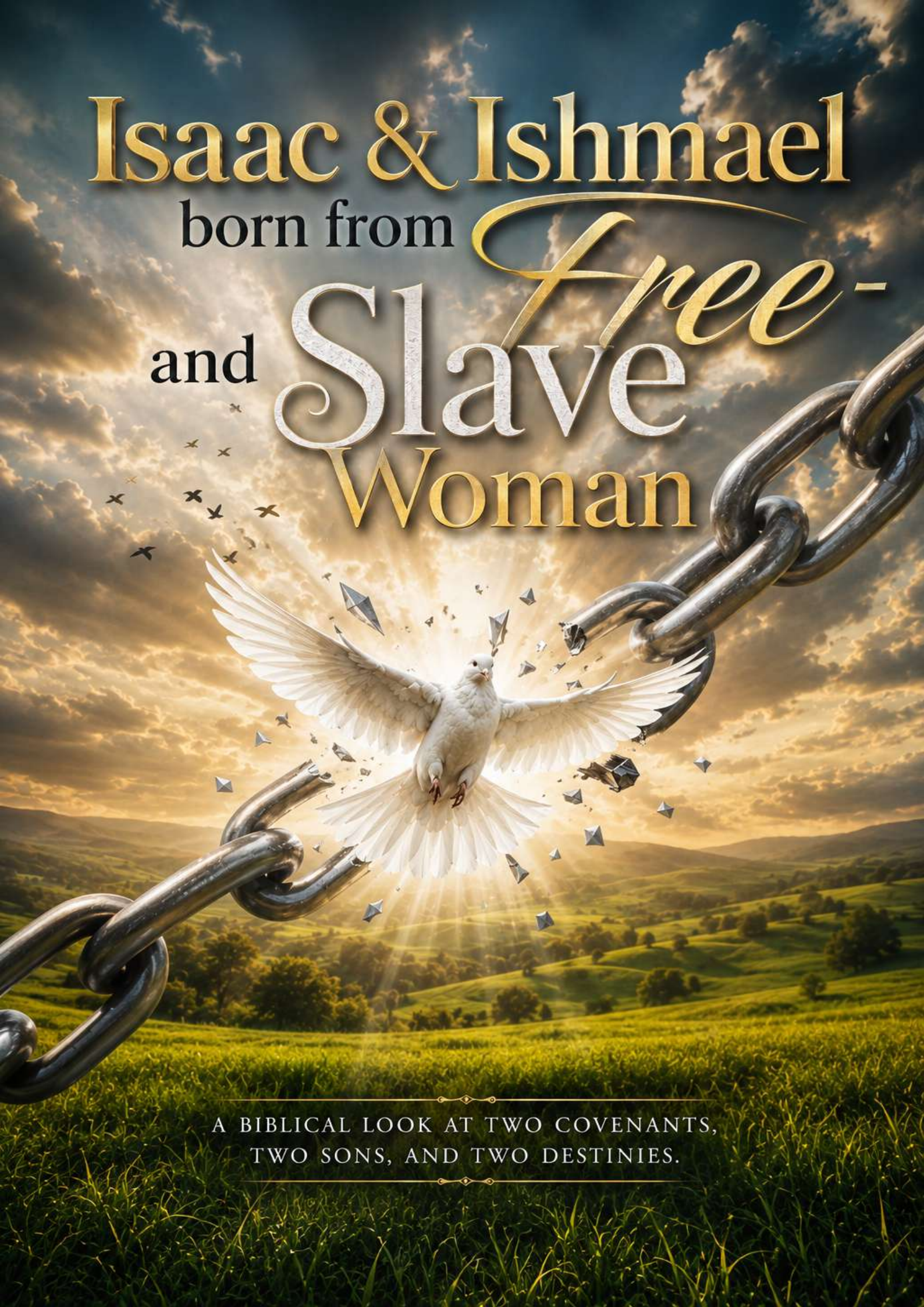


The background of the entire image is a lush, green landscape with rolling hills under a dramatic, sunset-colored sky. A large, heavy metal chain is draped across the scene, with one link broken and a white dove flying out from the opening. The dove is surrounded by a burst of light and small, dark, crystalline fragments. The title text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

Isaac & Ishmael

born from

Free- and Slave Woman

A BIBLICAL LOOK AT TWO COVENANTS,
TWO SONS, AND TWO DESTINIES.

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Isaac and Ishmael:

Born from Free and Slave

Woman

INTRODUCTION

The story of Isaac and Ishmael in Genesis 16-21 introduces us to Abram and Sarai. Notice the spelling of their names, which God later changed to Abraham and Sarah in Genesis 17. The “**h**” added to both their names points to the “**hey**” in the Jewish alphabet that represents Elohim’s breath – His Ruach! It was as though Elohim breathed His breath over them, and a new life began for each of them.

Abraham and his family moved to Canaan from Mesopotamia. They had been married for 75 childless years because Sarah was physically incapable of having children. Being old and childless, she gave her Egyptian maid, Hagar, to Abraham, hoping that the couple would have a child with the maid. Hagar indeed became pregnant, but her continued presence in their home became intolerable to Sarah, and she constantly complained to Abraham. He told her to do with Hagar as she wished. Sarah then mistreated Hagar, and she escaped into the wilderness. There she was met by an angel of the Lord, who told her to return to her mistress

and submit to her authority. He said the Lord would greatly multiply her descendants so they would be innumerable for their multitude. God confirmed that she was pregnant and would bear a son. She was to call him Ishmael because the Lord had given heed to her affliction. He said Ishmael would be a wild ass of a man; his hand against every man, and every man's hand against him, and he would dwell over against all of his kinsmen (Genesis 16:9-12).

In Genesis 17:7-27, God appeared to Abraham and instructed him to circumcise himself and all the males of his household. God further commanded that they should circumcise every newborn male on the eighth day of his life as a sign of the "eternal covenant" between God and the seed of Abraham. God then informed Abraham that, in one year, he and Sarah would have a son, Isaac. Abraham was nearing his hundredth year, and Sarah was approaching the age of ninety. By then, Abraham already had a son, Ishmael, born thirteen years earlier from Sarah's maidservant Hagar.

And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed, and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.

Genesis 17:19 KJV

Abraham's reaction to this divine promise was to proclaim: "*If only Ishmael would live before You*" (Genesis 17:18). Abraham seemed to wish that Ishmael would be his heir to continue his life's work and perpetuate his special relationship with God. God rejected Abraham's proposal. He reassured him that Ishmael would indeed become a great people, "**but**

my covenant I shall establish with Isaac” (Genesis 17:21). Only Isaac, the son he would have with Sarah, could be his true heir, and could father the people with whom God would enter into a covenant as His “kingdom of priests and a holy nation”.

More than ten years after God’s initial promise in Genesis 15, Sarah became pregnant and gave birth to Isaac. When he was weaned, Abraham feted his weaning with a great celebration. During this celebration, Sarah saw “*the son of Hagar, the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing [metzachek] with her son Isaac*” (Genesis 21:9). “**Metzachek**” is defined as “mocking and scoffing”.

Ishmael was making fun of Isaac. Being the son of Hagar, the Egyptian, Ishmael was a servant making fun of his master. Some rabbinical explanations claim that Ishmael spoke a language of idolatry, illicitness, or murder. But Abraham would not tolerate such acts in his house since they were punishable by death or lashing.

Rather, Ishmael was challenging Isaac's right to the inheritance. Sarah was focused on the inheritance and was adamant that he would not inherit with Isaac. She demanded from Abraham that both Ishmael and Hagar should be sent away (Genesis 21:10), ensuring Ishmael's survival because he would have been tenuous without his mother.

God told Abraham to do as Sarah wished. He unhappily consented, provided them with bare provisions and the two were cast into the wilderness where Hagar cried before God. A spring of water miraculously welled up in the desert and revived them. An angel appeared to confirm God’s previous message that Ishmael would be the father of a great nation

to Hagar (Genesis 21:14-21). The next time we read of Ishmael is when he and Isaac buried their father. The Bible lists Ishmael's twelve sons who survived him after his death at 137 years of age (Genesis 25:13-16). The number twelve represents a sign of nationhood.

God's insistence on Isaac as the progenitor of His chosen people tells us something very fundamental about the nature of the believer's relationship with Him, for Ishmael and Isaac differed in two significant respects:

- Ishmael came into the world by natural means, while Isaac's birth was a supernatural event.
- Ishmael was circumcised at thirteen, the age of *daat* (awareness), whereas Isaac entered the covenant of circumcision as an eight-day-old infant—an age at which a baby is not even aware of his surroundings, much less of his significance.

Ishmael represents a rational relationship with God based upon nature and understanding. Isaac represents a supernatural, suprarational bond.

Abraham discerned many positive qualities in Ishmael and was prepared, and even desirous, to see him as his heir. Yet God insisted that His covenant with Abraham be perpetuated specifically through Isaac and Isaac's descendants—a people whose commitment to God would transcend the natural and the rational.



SLAVE AND FREE WOMAN

Over 2000 years later, Paul writes:

*For it is written: Abraham had **two sons, the one out of the slave-woman, and one out of the free woman.*** ²³ *But, indeed, he out of the slave-woman has been born according to flesh, and he out of the free woman through the promise;* ²⁴ *which things are being allegorized; for these are the **two covenants**, one indeed from Mount Sinai bringing forth to slavery, which is Hagar.* ²⁵ *For Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and answers to Jerusalem which now is, and is in slavery with her children.* ²⁶ ***But the Jerusalem from above is free, who is the mother of us all.*** ²⁷ *For it is written, "Rejoice, barren one not bearing; break forth and shout, you not travailing; for more are the children of the desolate than she having the husband."* ²⁸ ***But brothers, we, like Isaac, are children of promise.*** ²⁹ *But then even as he born according to flesh persecuted him born according to the Spirit, so it is also now.* ³⁰ *But what does the Scripture say? "**Cast out the slave-woman and her son; for in no way shall the son of the slave-woman inherit with the son of the free woman.**"* ³¹ *Then, brothers, we are not children of a slave-woman, but of the free woman. Galatians 4:22-31 MKJV*

What is Paul talking about? Throughout his Epistle to the Galatians, Paul repeats the fact that there are two covenants, namely the Old and the New Covenants. These two covenants are allegorised in Isaac and Ishmael, the two sons of Abraham. Ishmael, the first son of Abraham with Hagar, represents the Old Covenant and the Ten Commandments given to the nation on Mount Sinai.

These two women and their sons express an allegory and become symbols of two covenants. The first covenant was born on Mt. Sinai, birthing children into slavery—children born to Hagar. ²⁵ For “Hagar” represents the law given at Mt. Sinai in Arabia. The “Hagar” metaphor corresponds to the earthly Jerusalem of today which is currently in bondage. Galatians 4:24-25 TPT

We all came into the world through and by natural means (we all have a father and a mother) and are born under the curse of slavery. Elohim requires a born-again experience to make us free.

*So it is with us. When we were juveniles we were **enslaved under the hostile spirits of the world.** ⁴ But when that era came to an end and the time of fulfillment had come, **God sent his Son, born of a woman,** [Every child has a mother; but for Jesus to be “born of a woman” meant there was no human father, no male counterpart. Jesus’ true Father is the Father of Eternity. No other child has had a virgin birth, “born of a woman,” except him. All the rest of us are born from a father and a mother.] *born under the written law {Torah}. Galatians 4:3-4 TPT**

The Hebraic Root Bible translated verse 4 as: “*But when the fullness of the time came, Elohim sent forth His Son, having come into being out of a woman, being subject to the Torah.*”

While they were there, the time came for her to have her baby, ⁷ and she gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a feeding trough, because there was no place for them in the guest quarters. Luke 2:6-7 ISV

After eight days had passed, the infant was circumcised and named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. ²² When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, ²³ as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn son is to be designated as holy to the Lord." Luke 2:21-23 ISV

Yet all of this was so that he would redeem and set free all those held hostage to the written law so that we would receive our freedom and a full legal adoption as his children. Galatians 4:5 TPT

The Hebraic Root Bible translated verse 5 as: *"That He might redeem the ones under (the penalty of breaking) the Torah, that we might receive the adoption of sons."*

Amazing that Sarah's pregnancy was a foreshadowing of Christ, who was born supernaturally by the Spirit! As Sarah was barren and became pregnant with Isaac, so Mary became pregnant with Jesus Christ.

Paul explains that Isaac, the son of the free woman, Sarah, was born supernaturally by the Spirit. In contrast, Ishmael, the son of the slave girl, was a child of the natural realm (Galatians 4:23). It seems like most of us have the same Father, but we do not have the same mother. This contains a mystery. We need to be born from above, from the heavenly Jerusalem, which is our true mother. She is the free woman, birthing children into freedom. But there is also a mother who is birthing children into slavery – Hagar. She represents the Law given at Mount Sinai and the earthly Jerusalem of today. Out of the slave woman children have been born

according to the flesh and they are currently in bondage (Galatians 4:23-25).

Both Mary and Sarah were barren women bursting forth with gladness to give birth to **free** children.

For it is written:

“Burst forth with gladness,

O barren woman with no children!

Break through with the shouts of joy and jubilee,

for you are about to give birth!

*The one who was once considered desolate and barren
now has more children than the one who has a husband!”*

Galatians 4:27 TPT

This is a typology fulfilled by the birth of Christ Jesus.

*So it is with us. When we were juveniles (young, teenage, immature, inexperienced) we were **enslaved** under the hostile spirits of the world.*

*⁴ But when the time of fulfillment had come, **God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law.** ⁵ Yet all of this was so that he would redeem and set **free those held hostage to the law** so that we would receive our freedom and a full legal adoption as his children.*

Galatians 4:3-5 TPT

The above passage is profound. We are now sons and daughters of adoption, by whom we cry out, “Daddy, Abba Father!” **We are heirs with Christ!**

Consequently, brothers, we are not—with respect to human nature, that is—under an obligation to live according to human nature. ¹³ For if you live according to human nature, you are going to die, but if by the Spirit you continually put to death the activities of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by God's Spirit are God's children. ¹⁵ For you have not received a spirit of slavery that leads you into fear again. Instead, you have received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with the Messiah—if, in fact, we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Romans 8:12-17 ISV

We are saved by grace through faith and not by doing anything. The nation of Israel is, however, still in bondage because they have not yet accepted the Messiah and come to salvation. They are still under the bondage of the Law, and this bondage will only end when the Messiah returns and redeems Jerusalem (Zechariah 14). What a privilege to accept the Messiah, receive our salvation and be born from above into freedom! This is indeed grace!

Now we're no longer living like slaves under the law, but we enjoy being God's very own sons and daughters! And because we're his, we can access everything our Father has—for we are heirs of God through Jesus, the Messiah! Galatians 4:7 TPT

When we are born from above, from the free woman, we not only immediately become His sons and daughters, but we also become His

heirs. Our heritage is through Jesus the Messiah, and not by keeping the Law! It is very important to understand what Paul is trying to tell us! We cannot add anything to the Blood of the Lamb! Everything we are and become, and everything we receive, is in Him and through Him.

Before we knew God as our Father and we became his children, we were unwitting {not aware of the full facts} servants to the powers that be, which are nothing compared to God. ⁹ But now that we truly know him and understand how deeply we're loved by him, why would we, even for a moment, consider turning back to those weak and feeble principles of religion, as though we were still subject to them? {Footnote in HRB: "These were people who were before patterning pagan cultic practices and now came to faith in YHWH and are now known by YHWH and were turning back to the former pagan practices."} Galatians 4:8-9 TPT

Paul instructed the people of Thessalonica.

*You know what **instructions** we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³ For it is God's will that you be sanctified: You must abstain from sexual immorality. ⁴ Each of you must know how to control his own body in a holy and honorable manner ⁵ not with passion and lust like the gentiles who do not know God. 1 Thessalonians 4:2-5 ISV*

Why would we want to scrupulously observe rituals like special days, (Or "Sabbaths"), celebrations of the new moon, annual festivals, and sacred years? [There is no requirement for Gentiles to become like Jews and observe Jewish ordinances to draw closer to God. Our approach to God is always based on grace and faith in the Blood of

Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Sabbath.] Galatians 4:10 TPT {The Hebraic Root Bible refers to the false worship of verse 8.}

I AM YOUR SABBATH REST – Yashuah HaMashiach

Paul was the apostle who preached the Good News to the Gentiles. His message announced their freedom in Christ Jesus. Throughout his epistles, he emphasised this and was adamant that they should not allow anyone to mislead them into going back into slavery.

I'm so alarmed about you that I'm beginning to wonder if my labor in ministry among you was a waste of time! Galatians 4:11 TPT

Paul's Personal Appeal

Beloved ones, I plead with you, follow my example and become free from the bondage of religion. I once became as one of you, [Or "imitated you". Paul is using sarcasm when he says, "I imitated you; now you should imitate me!"] a gentile, when I lived among you—now become free like me. When I first came to minister to you, you did me no wrong. I can't believe you would do wrong to me now! Galatians 4:12 TPT

AN OLD TESTAMENT ALLEGORY

Paul explains to the Galatian congregation that Christ came to fulfil the Law. Our freedom is now in Him, Christ Jesus, the Anointed One. Why would we want to go back to the Law?

Tell me, do you want to go back to living strictly by the law?

Galatians 4:21 TPT

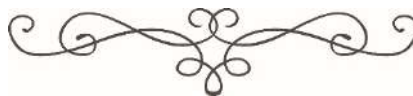
The HBR translated this verse as: *“I say to you, those that desire to let themselves be under (the penalty of) the Torah, do you not hear the Torah?”*

*Haven’t you ever listened to what the law really says? Have you forgotten that Abraham had two sons; one by the slave girl, and the other by the free woman? {See Genesis 16:15; 21:2} ²³ Ishmael, the son of the slave girl, was a child of the natural realm. But Isaac, the son of the free woman, was born supernaturally by the Spirit—a child of the promise of God! ²⁴ **These two women and their sons express an allegory and become symbols of two covenants.** The first covenant was born on Mt. Sinai, birthing children into slavery—children born to Hagar. {Genesis 21:10-14} ²⁵ For “Hagar” represents the law given at Mt. Sinai in Arabia. The “Hagar” metaphor corresponds to the earthly Jerusalem of today which is currently in bondage. (This is because the nation has not accepted salvation yet. This bondage will end when Messiah returns and redeems Jerusalem, as written in Zechariah 14.) ²⁶ In contrast, there is a heavenly Jerusalem above us, {Revelation 21:1-2} which is our true “**mother.**” She is the free woman, birthing children into freedom! Galatians 4:22-26 TPT*

Paul is showing that the Law is a **system of works** that brings **bondage** and that the promise is a **system of grace** that brings **true freedom**. He quotes Isaiah's prophecy:

"Sing, you barren woman, even the one who never bore a child! Burst into song and shout for joy, even you who were never in labor! For the children of the desolate woman will be more than the children of her that is married," says the LORD. Isaiah 54:1 ISV

Paul discusses this in 2 Corinthians 3. The reason the Sinai covenant brought bondage was that it had no avenue by which sins could be paid for and removed. Sin was only covered from year to year on Yom Kippur. It has nothing to do with the validity of the Torah, which is binding in both covenants (Hebrews 8:10).



MINISTERS OF THE NEW COVENANT

Are we beginning to recommend ourselves again? Unlike some people, we do not need letters of recommendation to you or from you, do we.

² You are our letter, written in our hearts and known and read by everyone. ³ You are demonstrating that you are the Messiah's letter, produced by our service, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

*⁴ Such is the confidence that we have in God through the Messiah. ⁵ By ourselves we are not qualified to claim that anything comes from us. Rather, our credentials come from God, ⁶ **who has also qualified us to be ministers of a new covenant**, which is not written but spiritual, because the written text brings death, but the Spirit gives life. ⁷ Now if the ministry of death that was inscribed in letters of stone came with such glory that the people of Israel could not gaze on Moses' face (because the glory was fading away from it), ⁸ will not the Spirit's ministry have even more glory? ⁹ **For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, then the ministry of justification has an overwhelming glory.** ¹⁰ In fact, that which once had glory lost its glory, because the other glory surpassed it. ¹¹ For if that which fades away came through glory, how much more does that which is permanent have glory? ¹² Therefore, since we have such a hope, we speak very boldly, ¹³ not like Moses, who kept covering his face with a veil to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of what was fading away. ¹⁴ **However, their minds were hardened, for to this day the same veil is still there when they read the old covenant. Only in union with the Messiah is that veil removed.** ¹⁵ Yet even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil*

covers their hearts. ¹⁶ But whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Lord's Spirit is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ As all of us reflect the glory of the Lord with unveiled faces, we are becoming more like him with ever-increasing glory by the Lord's Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:1-18 ISV

These words of Paul are deep. The true meaning can only be revealed through the Holy Spirit. The Greek word for mystery, “**mystērion**”, is found twenty-eight times in the New Testament. It means a sacred secret, something that God has hidden from ancient times and can only be revealed by God. Jesus teaches that these mysteries are meant for us to perceive as part of our kingdom birthright (The Passion Bible, P442 quoting Romans 11:25).

It is indeed a mystery. Only when we are in union with Christ, the Messiah, can it be revealed to us that we are now living under a new covenant. Because He is a spirit, we now find our freedom in Him, because we are also spiritual beings after our born-again experience. We have been transformed from human beings to spiritual beings.

Dear friends, just like Isaac, we're now the true children who inherit the kingdom promises. ²⁹ And just as the son of the natural world at that time harassed the son born of the power of the Holy Spirit, so it is today. ³⁰ And what does the Scripture tell us to do? Galatians 4:28-30 TPT

“Expel the slave mother with her son!” (Genesis 21:10)

This is proof that the two sons are not meant to live together.

You cannot mingle **law and grace**, for only grace is based upon the promise of new life (Galatians 1:7 TPT).

The son of the slave woman will not be a true heir, for the true heir of the promises is the free woman's son (See Genesis 21:10-12; John 8:35).

But what says the Scripture? "Cast out the slave woman and her son, for in no way shall the son of the slave woman inherit with the son of the free woman." Galatians 4:30 HRB

God Protected Hagar and Ishmael

The child grew and eventually was weaned, so Abraham threw a tremendous banquet on the very day Isaac was weaned. ⁹ Nevertheless, when Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian—whom Hagar had borne to Abraham—making fun of Isaac, ¹⁰ she told Abraham, "Throw out this slave girl, along with her son, because this slave's son will never be a co-heir with my son Isaac!" Genesis 21:8-10 ISV

According to Genesis 21:9, Ishmael made fun of Isaac in such a way that Sarah asked Abraham to expel Hagar, the slave girl. We can only conclude that Ishmael was not merely teasing Isaac innocently.

In the biblical sense, Ishmael was persecuting Isaac. God counted Ishmael's persecution of Isaac as the beginning of the four-hundred-year persecution of His people.

And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years. Genesis 15:13 KJV

And God spake on this wise, That his seed should sojourn in a strange land; and that they should bring them into bondage, and entreat them evil four hundred years. Acts 7:6 KJV

Ishmael's mocking of Isaac was a serious issue because Isaac was God's ordained seed and Ishmael the counterfeit. The counterfeit always hates the ordained. We, the ordained seed, are hated by the counterfeit.

But as then he that was born according to flesh persecuted him that was born according to Spirit, so also it is now. Galatians 4:29 KJV

When Isaac grew older, Ishmael was stirred up to persecute him. It is relevant in our lives as well. Many of us still boast about our natural goodness, saying, "Because I am doing A or B, I am worthy", or "I am not as proud as some brothers and sisters are. I thank God that I was born humble." The sisters may criticise others, saying, "I would never gossip like others. I was not born that way." Even some elders and so-called ministers of the Word cannot keep from boasting about their natural attributes. Perhaps they say to themselves, "Brother X is so quick to lose his temper. But I thank God that my natural birth is much better than his." Maybe you do not utter these words, but such attitudes are still hidden deep within all of us to a certain extent.

When the Christ who has been "born" in our Christian lives begins to "grow up", our natural goodness will mock Him. Then the grace within us should

say, **“Cast out the Law! Cast out the bondwoman and what she has produced within me by fleshly efforts!”**

ARE YOU WILLING TO DO SO?

Sometimes we do so outwardly, but secretly still hold onto Hagar and Ishmael, the Law and our natural attributes and goodness. Few Christians have the boldness to say as Sarah did: **“Cast out this bondwoman and her son!”** Few would say, “Cast out the Law, the efforts of the flesh, and all the success of my own efforts!”

Rather, we cling to our successes and hold onto our natural goodness. But eventually, God will force us to **abandon the Law**, our self-effort, and all we have produced out of the flesh. We will then begin to rise and say, “From now on there will be no more Hagar and Ishmael! They must go!” Like Abraham, we will send them away with only bread and water.

Eventually, we all have to make this decision. We must rise one morning, give the Law a skin of water, and say, “Law, go your way, and take with you the one you helped me produce. Don’t leave him with me, because I don’t want him anymore. I loved Ishmael in the past, but now I give him up.” The Law and the result of the effort of the flesh must be fully abandoned! We need to comprehend the spiritual significance of casting out Hagar and Ishmael!

Acknowledgement: Living Stream Ministry. Publisher of Watchman Nee &
Witness Lee.

<https://www.ministrysamples.org/excerpts/ISHMAELS-MOCKING-OF-ISAAC.HTML>

***It's now so obvious! We're not the children of the slave woman;
we're the supernatural sons of the free woman—sons of grace!***

Galatians 4:31 TPT

THE APOSTLE PAUL

Before Paul's conversion, he was known as Saul, which means "significant one" or "sought after". In contrast, the name Paul means "little".

What great transformation takes place when we experience a profound change, as Saul did! God transforms us from being "important" to being "small" in our own eyes. This attitude qualifies God's apostolic servants.

What is more significant is who this man was before his conversion. Understanding who he was and what he became after his encounter with the Messiah on the road to Damascus might give us a better understanding of what Paul tried to tell us in his Epistle to the Galatians.

How Paul Became an Apostle

Beloved ones, let me say emphatically that the gospel entrusted to me was not given to me by any man.¹² No one taught me this revelation, for it was given to me directly by the unveiling of Jesus the Anointed One.¹³ By now you have heard stories of how severely I harassed and persecuted Christians and did my best to systematically destroy God's church, all because of my radical devotion to the Jewish religion.¹⁴ My zeal and passion for the doctrines of Judaism distinguished me among my people, for I was far more advanced in my religious instruction than others my age. Galatians 1:11-14 TPT

Saul was a Jewish Orthodox Pharisee with a passion for the doctrines of Judaism. He grew up in the city of Jerusalem and was properly trained in the Mosaic law. He was tutored according to their ancestral customs by Rabbi Gamaliel. Paul was more advanced in this religious instruction than any other Pharisee of his age. He fervently kept the Law, the Sabbath and all other relevant customs.

*Then Paul said, “I am a Jewish man who was born in Tarsus, a city of Turkey. However, I grew up in this city and was properly trained in the Mosaic law and tutored by Rabbi Gamaliel according to our ancestral customs. I’ve been extremely passionate in my desire to please God, just as all of you are today. ⁴ I’ve hunted down and killed the followers of this Way. I have seized them and thrown them into prison, both men and women. ⁵ All of this can be verified by the high priest and the Supreme Council of Elders. For they even wrote letters to our fellow Jews of Damascus, authorizing me to arrest them and bring them back to Jerusalem as prisoners to be punished. ⁶ “As I was on the road approaching Damascus, about noon, a brilliant heavenly light suddenly appeared, flashing all around me. ⁷ As I fell to the ground I heard a voice say, ‘Saul, Saul . . . why are you persecuting me?’ ⁸ **“I answered, ‘Who are you, my Lord?’ “He said to me, ‘I am Jesus, the Victorious. I am the one you are persecuting.’ ⁹ “Those who were with me saw the brilliant light, but they didn’t hear the voice of the one who spoke to me. ¹⁰ “So I asked, ‘Lord, what am I to do?’ “And the Lord said to me, ‘Get up and go into Damascus, and there you will be told about all that you are destined to do.’ ¹¹ “Because of the dazzling glory of the light, I couldn’t see—I was left blind. So they had to lead***

me by the hand the rest of the way into Damascus. ¹² “A Jewish man living there named Ananias came to see me. He was a godly man who lived according to the law of Moses and was highly esteemed by the Jewish community. ¹³ He stood beside me and said, ‘Saul! My brother, Saul—open your eyes and see again!’ At that very instant I opened my eyes and I could see! ¹⁴ Then he said to me, ‘The God of our ancestors has destined you [The Aramaic is “raised you up”] to know his plan and for you to see the Holy One and to hear his voice. ¹⁵ For you will be his witness to every race of people and will share with them everything that you’ve seen and heard. ¹⁶ **So now, what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized, and wash away your sins as you call upon his name.**’ ¹⁷ “Then I returned to Jerusalem. And while I was praying in the temple, I entered another realm ¹⁸ and saw him. He said to me, ‘Hurry and depart from Jerusalem quickly, for the people here will not receive the truths you share about me.’ ¹⁹ “ ‘But Lord,’ I argued, ‘they all know that I’m the one who went into our Jewish meetings to find those who believe in you and had them beaten and imprisoned. ²⁰ When the blood of your witness Stephen was shed, I stood nearby in full approval of what was happening. I even guarded the cloaks of those who stoned him to death.’ ²¹ “Then he said to me, ‘Go at once, for I am sending you to preach to the non-Jewish nations.’ Acts 22:3-21 TPT

It is important to capture that Paul came from this legalistic old covenant system. He was so fanatic about it that he tried to eradicate the church. He approved the killing of Stephen, the first martyr. Jesus made it very clear to Saul that he was persecuting Christ Himself! Within three days,

the Holy Spirit converted Saul and called him to preach the Good News of liberty to the non-Jewish people.

Now, I speak to you who are not Jewish, since I am an apostle to reach the non-Jewish people. And I draw attention to this ministry as much as I can when I am among the Jews, ¹⁴ hoping to make them jealous of what God has given to those who are not Jews, winning some of my people to salvation. Romans 11:13-14 TPT

The Lord called this Pharisee to reveal liberty in Christ and to preach this liberty to the non-Jewish people to make His people jealous of the Gentiles being heirs and descendants of Abraham and becoming part of the family without keeping any of their customs! They had to realise that Gentiles could become heirs of Abraham without being bound to any religious customs and duties and thus desire it also for themselves!

Paul received all these revelations and mysteries directly from God and realised that it was through God's grace that he was saved. Paul never contacted the disciples of Jesus to learn from them. They feared Paul because he had persecuted the Church of Christ before his conversion.

*God's grace unveiled his Son in me so that I would proclaim him to the non-Jewish people of the world. After I had this encounter, I kept it a secret for some time, sharing it with no one. ¹⁷ And I chose not to run to Jerusalem to try to impress those who had become apostles before me. Instead, I went away into the Arabian Desert for a season until I returned to Damascus, **where I had first encountered Jesus.** ¹⁸ **I remained there for three years** until I eventually went up to Jerusalem and met the apostle Peter and stayed with him for a couple of weeks so*

I could get to know him better ¹⁹ *The only other apostle I met during that time was James, the Lord's brother.* ²⁰ *Everything I'm describing to you I confess before God is the absolute truth.* ²¹ *After my stay in Jerusalem, I went to Syria and southeast Turkey,* ²² *but remained unknown to the Jewish believers in Judea.* ²³ *The only thing they heard about me was this: "Our former enemy, who once brutally persecuted us, is now preaching the good news of the faith that he was once obsessed with destroying!"* ²⁴ *Because of the transformation that took place in my life, they praised God even more!* Galatians 1:16-24 TPT

Fourteen years later, Paul returned to Jerusalem to make sure that the message he had preached to the non-Jews had not been based on a false understanding of the Gospel.

Fourteen years later I returned to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas [Barnabas is an Aramaic name that means "son of encouragement".] *and Titus,* [Titus was a Gentile convert to Christ and was a frequent companion of Paul's. Titus' name means "nurse".] *my coworkers.* ² *God had given me a clear **revelation*** [Although we don't know exactly what the "clear revelation" might have been, it is possible it came in the form of a dream, a vision, a prophecy, or an angel that appeared to Paul.] *to go and confer with the other apostles concerning the message of grace I was preaching to the non-Jewish people. I spoke privately with those who were viewed as senior leaders of the church. I wanted to make certain that my labor and ministry for the Messiah had not been based on a false understanding of the gospel.* [The Greek text states "running the race for nothing."] ³ *They even accepted Titus* [Titus was converted through Paul's ministry and was later sent out by

Paul as an apostolic church planter. The book of Titus was written by Paul to his spiritual son to give him encouragement and revelation for his ministry.] *without demanding that he follow strict Jewish customs before they would receive him as a brother since he was a Syrian* [Or “Aramean,” which is an Aramaic-speaking gentile. Syrians are Arameans, but Greeks are not. Most Greek manuscripts identify Titus as a Greek when, in fact, he was Syrian. It is believed that the Greek copies of the manuscript changed Titus’ ethnicity to Greek, but the Aramaic text correctly identifies him as a Syrian.] *and not a Jew.*
Galatians 2:1-3 TPT

A footnote in the Hebraic Root Bible explains that circumcision was the sign of the first covenant. If someone was circumcised to join the covenant, he would be joining the old covenant where there was no way to have the penalty of sins removed, only covered from year to year on Yom Kippur (Galatians 5:1; Romans 2:25-29).

*You trust in the covenant sign of circumcision, yet circumcision only has value if you faithfully keep the teachings of the law. But if you violate the law, you have invalidated your circumcision. [Or “your circumcision has become uncircumcision.”]*²⁶ *And if the uncircumcised one faithfully keeps the law, won’t his obedience make him more “Jewish” than the actual rite of circumcision?*²⁷ *And won’t the one who has never had the knife cut his foreskin be your judge when you break the law?*²⁸ *You are not a Jew if it’s only superficial—for it’s more than the surgical cut of a knife that makes you Jewish.*²⁹ *But you are Jewish because of the inward act of spiritual circumcision—a radical change that lays bare your heart. It’s not by the principle of law,* [Or “by the

letter”.] ***but by power of the Holy Spirit.*** *For then your praise will not come from people, but from God himself!* Romans 2:25-29 TPT

Paul, a Jew and a Pharisee who previously obeyed all the rituals and customs of the traditions of the Law, now motivates us to become heirs by faith and faith alone! Abraham was the father of faith and not of the Law. The Law and customs came later. Paul quoted David from Psalm 32 when he wrote, “*What happy progress comes to them when they hear the Lord speak over them, I will never hold your sins against you*” (Romans 4:8)_

Now, think about it. Does this happiness come only to the Jews, or is it available to all who believe? Our answer is this: Faith was credited to Abraham as God’s righteousness! ¹⁰ How did he receive this gift of righteousness? Was he circumcised at the time God accepted him, or was he still uncircumcised? Clearly, he was an uncircumcised gentile when God said this of him! ¹¹ It was later that he received the external sign of circumcision as a seal to confirm that God had already transferred his righteousness to him by faith, while he was still uncircumcised. So now this qualifies him to become the father of all who believe among the non-Jewish people. And like their “father of faith,” Abraham, God also transfers his righteousness to them by faith. ¹² Yes, Abraham is obviously the true father of faith for the Jewish people who are not only circumcised but who walk in the way of faith that our father Abraham displayed before his circumcision.

Romans 4:9-12 TPT

Sometimes we do not follow the deeper meaning of this. Our human nature, that child born from the slave woman, always seeks humanity's fleshly desires to make us righteous. Righteousness refers to our right standing before Christ. We believe that when we do certain things, we become righteous. Even before the Law, Abraham received his righteousness because of his faith. Therefore, we know Abraham as our father of FAITH. Our righteousness, our right standing before Christ, is a gift through faith by the Blood of the Lamb. You cannot add anything to make yourself more righteous than you already are. You cannot have a better standing in front of the throne based on what you did, how you performed, or how hard you try to keep the laws and rules.

I have recently discovered another deep scripture in the Book of Hebrews regarding this topic. God is the Righteous Judge and by breaking one law, you make yourself guilty of all of them. In the Old Testament, disobeying the Law of Moses could cause your death when there were two or three witnesses. Now, Paul explains that when we have contempt for God's Son and scorn the Blood of the New Covenant that made us holy, we thus outrage the Spirit of grace and deserve to be judged much more severely.

Anyone who disobeyed Moses' law died without mercy on the simple evidence of two or three witnesses. ²⁹How much more severely do you suppose a person deserves to be judged who has contempt for God's Son, and who scorns the blood of the new covenant that made him holy, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? ³⁰For we know him who said, "I have the right to take revenge and pay them back for their evil!" And also, "The Lord God will judge his own people!"

Hebrews 10:28-30 TPT

It is as though the Holy Spirit is saying, “If My judgment on the Old Testament saints came through the Law and even put people to death, how severe will My judgment be on the New Testament saints who ignore, contempt, violate, set aside and dilute the Blood of My Son, or consider My Son and the Holy Spirit as peripheral.”

It is the most terrifying thing of all to come under the judgment of the Living God!

Hebrews 10:31 TPT

We become children of YHWH, heirs of Abraham [and Jews so to speak] “because of the inward act of spiritual circumcision—a radical change that lays bare your heart. ***It’s not by the principle of law, but by power of the Holy Spirit.*** For then your praise will not come from people, but from God himself” (Romans 2:29 TPT).

*...false “brothers” had been secretly smuggled into the church meetings. They were sent to spy on the wonderful liberty and freedom that we have in Jesus, the Anointed One. Their agenda was to bring us back into the legalistic bondage of religion.⁵ But you must know that we did not submit to their religious shackles [Or in Aramaic “their efforts to enslave us” or “their oppression”] not even for a moment, so that we might **keep the gospel of grace unadulterated for you.***
Galatians 2:4b-5 TPT

Nothing to be added

Even the most honoured and esteemed among the brothers were not able to add anything to my message. Who they are before men makes no difference to me, for God is not impressed by the reputations of men.

⁷ So they concluded that I was entrusted with taking the gospel to the non-Jewish people just as Peter was entrusted with taking it to the Jews. ⁸ **For the same God who anointed Peter to be an apostle to the Jews also anointed me as an apostle to those who are not Jewish.** ⁹ When they all recognized this grace operating in my ministry, James, Peter, and John, the esteemed followers of Jesus, extended to me the warmth of Christian fellowship and honoured [The Aramaic can be translated “they gave me the right to proceed.”] my calling to minister to the non-Jewish people ¹⁰ They simply requested one thing of me: that I would remember the **poor** and needy, which was the burden I was already carrying in my heart. Galatians 2:6-10 TPT

What a statement from Paul that he kept the **gospel of grace** unadulterated for us! Fourteen years after his conversion, he went to the disciples in Jerusalem, and they could add nothing to the Gospel of Liberty he was teaching. Paul put his life on the line to keep this Gospel of Freedom unadulterated [“pure, unmixed, unsullied, untainted, unpolluted, uncontaminated, virgin, untouched”].

At some point, Paul saw that Peter and some other apostles were inconsistent with the revelation of grace and he confronted Peter in front of everyone.

“You were born a Jew and yet you’ve chosen to disregard Jewish regulations and live like a gentile. Why then do you force those who are not Jews to conform to the regulations of Judaism?”
Galatians 2:14b TPT

He asked him why he wanted to force others to keep the Law, regulations of Judaism, and human traditions, since he knew they did not “*receive God’s perfect righteousness as a reward for keeping the law, but by the faith of Jesus, the Messiah! His faithfulness, not ours, has saved us, and we have received God’s perfect righteousness. Now we know that God accepts no one by the keeping of religious laws*” (Galatians 2:16 TPT).

The Hebraic Root Bible translated verse 16 as: “*Knowing that a man is not justified by works of (Levitical) Law, but that it is through faith in Yahshua Messiah, we also believed into Messiah Yahshua, that we may be justified by faith in Messiah and not by works of (Levitical) Law, because all flesh will not be justified by works of Law.*”

Many are twisting Paul’s words by suggesting that these scriptures permit us to sin wilfully since we are under grace. How absurd! Paul tore down the old religious system with his message of grace, and to reconstruct it would be to turn his back on the truth!

*If we are those who desire to be saved from our sins through our union with the Anointed One, does that mean our Messiah promotes our sins if we still acknowledge that we are sinners? How absurd! ¹⁸ For if I start over and reconstruct the old religious system that **I have torn down with the message of grace**, I will appear to be one who turns his back on the truth. ¹⁹ But because the Messiah lives in me, I’ve now **died to the law’s dominion over me** so that I can live for God.*

Galatians 2:17-19 TPT

The Hebraic Root Bible says: “*For by the Torah I am dead, that I might live to Elohim.*”

*My old identity has been co-crucified with Messiah and no longer lives; for the nails of his cross crucified me with him. And now the essence of this new life is no longer mine, for the Anointed One lives his life through me—we live in union as one! **My new life is empowered by the faith of the Son of God** who loves me so much that he gave himself for me, and dispenses his life into mine! Galatians 2:20 TPT*

Paul made it clear that there were people who wanted to bring the Body of Christ back into the legalistic bondage of religion. He did not submit to their religious shackles or their efforts to enslave them again. This way, the gospel of grace was kept unadulterated for us. Now, that is why we cannot view God's grace as something minor or peripheral.

For if keeping the law could release God's righteousness to us, the Anointed One would have died for nothing. Galatians 2:21b TPT

Grace is not something minor or "peripheral". "**Peripheral**" means secondary or of minor importance. The full meaning of the word gives us further insight into what Paul says.

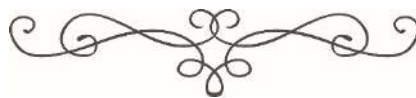
The term "peripheral device" refers to all hardware components that are attached to a computer and controlled by the computer system, but they are not the core components of the computer, such as the CPU or power supply unit. Peripherals can also be defined as devices that can be easily removed and plugged into a computer system.

Therefore, GRACE is not something added to or plugged into the core. Grace is not added to the Law, but it is the CORE, the CPU of our FAITH! Without it, nothing else can function.

I do not set aside the grace of Elohim; for if righteousness came through (the Levitical) Law, then Messiah died without cause.

Galatians 2:21 HRB

If we could be justified (made right before YHWH) by an animal sacrifice, there would be no necessity for the Messiah to come to earth. Likewise, if we could be justified before YHWH by obeying the Levitical Law and Torah, there would be no need for the Messiah to make atonement for the sin of the human race.



BEWITCHED

Why did some act so foolishly by adding religion to grace?

*You must have been under some evil spell! **Didn't God open your eyes to see the meaning of Jesus' crucifixion?** Wasn't he revealed to you as the crucified one? Galatians 3:1b TPT*

Evil Spell: The Greek word here means "to cast a spell using the evil eye". Paul uses a pun in the Greek text. "Didn't God *open* your eyes?"

The great revelation of the cross was supernaturally given to us, but we are diluting the glorious work of the cross by adding works of religion.

"To dilute" means:

To make (a liquid) thinner or weaker by adding water or another solvent to it: *bleach can be diluted with cold water*. To make (something) weaker in force, content, or value by modification or by the addition of other elements: *the reforms have been diluted*. To reduce the value of (a shareholding) by issuing more shares in a company without increasing the values of its assets.

Let me be frank. Anything that we are adding to the Blood of the Lamb is diluting it. It makes the Blood thinner and weaker and reduces its value. It is the pure Blood that cleanses, saves, heals and resurrects!

The Hebraic Root Bible use the word "bewitched". "O *you lacking exile Galatians, who **bewitched** you not to obey the truth, to whom before your eyes Yahshua Messiah was portrayed before among you crucified?*"

The complete meaning of “bewitched” is:

To cast a spell on, put a spell on, enchant; possess, **curse**. It includes North American hex, hoodoo; to captivate, enchant, entrance, enrapture, charm, beguile, delight, fascinate, seduce, ravish, spellbind, hold spellbound, mesmerise, hypnotise and transfix.

Paul is using very strong words when he asks the Galatians, “Who bewitched you? Who cursed a spell on you, causing you to not see the true, deep meaning of the cross?”

*So answer me this: **Did the Holy Spirit come to you as a reward for keeping all the Jewish laws?** No, you received him as a gift because you believed in the Messiah.³ Your new life in the Anointed One began with the Holy Spirit giving you a new birth. Why then would you so foolishly turn from living in the Spirit by trying to finish by your own works? Galatians 3:2-3 TPT*

The works of the Law, as also defined in the Dead Sea Scrolls, included the animal sacrifices and the Jewish oral and ceremonial laws that accompanied them. Are you still valuing these Jewish laws and ceremonies? If so, what is the purpose of doing so?

Have you endured all these trials and persecutions for nothing?⁵ Let me ask you again: What does the lavish supply of the Holy Spirit in your life, and the miracles of God’s tremendous power, have to do with you keeping religious laws? The Holy Spirit is poured out upon us through the revelation and power of faith, not by keeping the law!⁶ Abraham, our father of faith, led the way as our pioneering example.

*He believed God and the substance of his faith released God's righteousness to him. [See Genesis 15:6] ⁷ So those who are the true children of Abraham will have the same faith as their father! ⁸ God's plan all along was to bring this message of salvation to the nations through the revelation of faith. Long ago God prophesied over Abraham, as the Holy Scriptures say: **"Through your example of faith all the nations will be blessed!"** [See Genesis 12:3] ⁹ And so the blessing of Abraham's faith is now our blessing too! ¹⁰ But if you choose to live in bondage under the legalistic rule of religion, you live under the law's curse. For it is clearly written: "Utterly cursed is everyone who fails to practice every detail and requirement that is written in this law!" [See Deuteronomy 27:26] ¹¹ For the Scriptures reveal, and it is obvious, that no one achieves the righteousness of God by attempting to keep the law, for it is written: "Those who have been made holy will live by faith!" [See Habakkuk 2:4] ¹² **But keeping the law does not require faith, but self-effort.** For the law teaches, "If you practice the principles of law, you must follow all of them." [See Leviticus 18:5] ¹³ **Yet, Christ paid the full price to set us free from the curse of the law. He absorbed it completely as He became a curse in our place. For it is written: "Everyone who is hung upon a tree is doubly cursed."** [See Deuteronomy 21:23] ¹⁴ **Jesus, our Messiah, was cursed in our place and dissolved the curse from our lives so that all the blessings of Abraham can be poured out upon even non-Jewish believers. And now God gives us the promise of the wonderful Holy Spirit who lives within us when we believe in him. Galatians 3:4-14 TPT***

The Law versus God's Promises

Paul takes the reader back to the promise God made to Abraham. He makes a case that it is God's promise to Abraham that brings us liberty. The promise was made to pass onto Abraham's seed, a specific "child", and not "children".

Remember the royal proclamation [It can also mean "covenant"] God spoke over Abraham and to Abraham's child? God said that his promises were made to pass on to Abraham's "Child," [or seed] not children. And who is this "Child?" It's the Son of promise, Jesus, the anointed Messiah! Galatians 3:16 TPT

That child points us to the Messiah. He is the One who brings freedom. After the fall, God put enmity between His seed and the seed of the woman (Genesis 3:15). God confirmed that His seed would be in Isaac and not Ishmael (Genesis 21:12) and that in Abraham's seed, all the nations of the earth shall be blessed (Genesis 22:18).

While we were waiting for this "Son", the Messiah, God had to put in place an interim arrangement, namely the Law. Paul motivates it as follows.

Beloved friends, let me use an illustration that we can all understand. Technically, when a contract is signed, it can't be changed after it has been put into effect; it's too late to alter the agreement. Galatians 3:15 TPT

The most ancient Aramaic manuscript reveals a different meaning for this verse. It could also be translated as: "The covenant of the Son of Man that I reference should never be **denigrated** or changed by men in any way."

The meaning of denigrate is:

To belittle, diminish, deprecate, cast aspersions on, decry, criticise unfairly, attack, speak ill of, speak badly of, blacken the character of, blacken the name of, give someone a bad name, sully the reputation of, spread lies about, defame, slander, libel, calumniate, besmirch, run-down, abuse, and insult.

This means that the covenant between God and Abraham was fulfilled in the Messiah and cannot be altered. Yet the written law was not even given to Moses until 430 years later, after God had “signed” his contract with Abraham! The Law, then, doesn’t supersede the promise, since the royal proclamation was given before the Law. [The concept of the “promise” is that all we need is faith to believe it. This is the revelation of grace that saves us, for the “promise” is enough.] If that were the case, it would have nullified what God said to Abraham. We receive all the promises because of the Promised One, not because we keep the Law (Galatians 3:17-18 TPT).

The Hebraic Root Bible translated the above verses as: *“And this I say, that the covenant which was previously confirmed by Elohim in Messiah cannot be rejected and the promise nullified by the (Levitical) Law that came four hundred and thirty years later. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance is through the (Levitical) Law then it would not be as the fulfillment of promise; but Elohim gave it to Abraham by promise.”*

Paul explains in Romans:

*Clearly, God has not failed to fulfill his promises to Israel, for that will never happen! **But not everyone who has descended from Israel***

belongs to Israel. ⁷ *Physical descent from Abraham doesn't guarantee the inheritance, because God has said: "Through Isaac your descendants will be counted as part of your lineage."* ⁸ *This confirms that it is not merely the natural offspring of Abraham who are considered the children of God; rather, the children born because of God's promise are counted as descendants. [The Aramaic can be translated as: "the children of the kingdom." By implication, it is those who can be traced back to a supernatural birth who are regarded as the children of God.]* ⁹ *For God promised Abraham: "Now is the time! For in nine months your wife, Sarah, will have a son!"* Romans 9:6-9 TPT

God's Freedom of Choice

Now, this son was our ancestor, Isaac, who, with his wife, Rebekah, conceived twins. ¹¹⁻¹² *And before her twin sons were born, God spoke to Rebekah and said: "The oldest will serve the youngest." God spoke these words before the sons had done anything good or bad, which proves that God calls people not on the basis of their good or bad works, but according to his divine purpose.* ¹³ *For in the words of Scripture: "Jacob I have chosen, but Esau I have rejected."* Romans 9:10-13 TPT

Again, this proves that God's choice doesn't depend on how badly someone wants it or tries to earn it, but it depends on God's kindness and mercy. Romans 9:16 TPT

Even for us, whether we are Jews or non-Jews, we are those He has called to experience His glory. ²⁵ *Remember the prophecy God gave in Hosea: "To those who were rejected and not my people, I will say to*

them: 'You are mine.' And to those who were unloved I will say: 'You are my darling.' ”²⁶ And: “In the place where they were told, “You are nobody,’ this will be the very place where they will be renamed ‘Children of the living God.’ ”²⁷ And the prophet Isaiah cries out to Israel: Though the children of Israel are as many as the sands of the seashore, only a remnant will be saved. ²⁸ For the Lord will act and carry out his word on the earth, and waste no time to accomplish it! ²⁹ Just as Isaiah saw it coming and prophesied: If the Lord God had not left us a remnant, we would have been destroyed like Sodom and left desolate like Gomorrah! Romans 9:24-29 TPT (Isaiah 1:9)

Why then was the Law given?

Why then the (Levitical) Law? It was placed beside (The Torah) for the sake of transgressions, until the SEED should come, to whom it had been promised, being given by promise in a mediator's hand. It was an intermediary agreement added after God gave the promise of the coming One! Galatians 3:19 HRB

It was given to show men how guilty they are, and it remained in force until the Seed was born to fulfil the promises given to Abraham. When God gave the law, he didn't give it to them directly, for he gave it first to the angels; they gave it to Moses, His mediator, who then gave it to the people. ²⁰ Now, a mediator does not represent just one party alone, but God fulfilled it all by himself! Galatians 3:19-20 TPT

We find the following explanation in the Hebraic Root Bible for the above scriptures:

- Paul cannot possibly be talking about the complete Torah here, as he plainly states that whatever law was added, it was not there 430 years before when YAHWEH made a covenant with Abraham.
- But Genesis 26:4-5 reveals that the reason YAHWEH made a covenant with Abraham was that Abraham obeyed and preserved His statutes, commandments, and Torah.

And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; ⁵ Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws. Genesis 26:4-5 KJV

- The only law that was added to the Torah at Mount Sinai was the Levitical priesthood with its sacrifices, which was temporarily set next to the Torah for the Levitical priesthood to be a temporary mediator for Israel until the reality of the Melchizedek priesthood would come through Yashuah.
- The Levitical sacrifices could not take away the penalty of sin, but merely reminded them of it (Hebrews 10).
- This was also the purpose of the ceremonial law, which, being part of the Levitical system, was also fulfilled and no longer binding (Hebrews 9).

We can see that the blessing is coming through Christ Jesus and not because of keeping any laws.

Christ's Sacrifice Once for All

*For the Law, being only a **reflection of the blessings to come** and not their substance, can never make perfect those who come near by the same sacrifices repeatedly offered year after year. ² Otherwise, would they not have stopped offering them, because the worshipers, cleansed once for all, would no longer be aware of any sins. ³ **Instead, through those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year after year,** ⁴ for it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.*
Hebrews 10:1- 4 ISV

*This illustration for today indicates that the gifts and sacrifices being offered could not clear the conscience of a worshiper, ¹⁰ since they deal only with food, drink, and various washings, which are required for the body **until the time when things would be set right.***
Hebrews 9:9-10 ISV

We can see that the Law was an interim arrangement until the Messiah would come to set it right. Christ came as our High Priest and settled everything with His precious Blood.

Redemption Through the Blood of Christ

But when the Messiah came as a high priest of the good things that have come, he went through the greater and more perfect tent that was not made by human hands and that is not a part of this creation. ¹² Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood he went into the Most Holy Place once for all and secured our eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are unclean purifies them physically, ¹⁴ how much more

will the blood of the Messiah, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from dead actions so that we may serve the living God! Hebrews 9:11-14 ISV

It is a pity that so many born-again believers constantly try adding works to the Blood of Christ. Adding anything will end in very subtle self-boasting. This opens a door for pride and self-exaltation, which was the precise downfall of both Lucifer and the human race. Adding Pharmakeia to the Blood of Christ, delivers the result of witchcraft and sorcery. Many misunderstand this concept. Paul warns us that the written law is NOT contrary to the promise of the new life! Every law and promise has its own function.

Since that's true, should we consider the written law {Levitical Law} to be contrary to the promise of new life? How absurd!
Galatians 3:21 TPT

The Law and the promise (grace) each has a distinct function. **The Law brings conviction of sin**, which unveils grace as the way to salvation. The Law moves us, even compels us, to reach for grace. And grace will cause one to soar even higher than the demands of the Law (Romans 7:7-25).

As a child, I felt condemned by the Law every Sunday in church. My spirit cried out, *"Lord, it is impossible to keep the Ten Commandments!"*

May I ask those who boast about keeping the commandments, how they manage to do it? The requirements of the New Covenant of the New Testament are at a much higher standard

than the Old Testament law which required an adulterer to be stoned to death. Jesus says in the New Testament that when you look at a woman, you have already committed adultery with her in your heart. **(Pornography qualifies as adultery!)**

*Whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment and whosoever shall say to his brother, **Raca**, shall be in danger of the council, but whosoever shall say **thou fool** shall be in danger of hell fire.* Matthew 5:22 KJV

As a deliverance minister, I am daily working with believers, and I have not yet found a single person without anger, unforgiveness, bitterness and resentment against a brother or sister. How ridiculous to think we can keep the Ten Commandments! Our cry should be, “I need a Saviour to save me from the miserable man that I am! *Who will rescue me from this body of death?*” (Romans 7:24 TLV).

Paul wrote six chapters to the Galatians about this concept.

*Through my experience of this principle, I discover that even when I want to do good, evil is ready to sabotage me. ²² Truly, deep within my true identity, I love to do what pleases God. ²³ But I discern another power operating in my humanity, waging a war against the moral principles of my conscience and bringing me into captivity as a prisoner to the “law” of sin—this **unwelcome intruder** in my humanity. ²⁴ What an agonizing situation I am in! So who has the power to rescue this miserable man from the unwelcome intruder of sin and death? ²⁵ I give all my thanks to God, for his mighty power has finally provided a way out through our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One! So if*

left to myself, the flesh is aligned with the law of sin, but now my renewed mind is fixed on and submitted to God's righteous principles.

Romans 7:21-25 TPT

This is quite a mouthful! Paul knew he was indeed a miserable man. He discovered that there was another power warring within him – an **unwelcome intruder!**

Solomon also discovered these unwelcome intruders when he wrote Song of Songs.

You must catch the troubling foxes, those sly little foxes that hinder our relationship. For they raid our budding vineyard of love to ruin what I've planted within you. Will you catch them and remove them for me? We will do it together. Song of Songs 2:15 TPT

Paul cried out: ***“Who has the power to rescue this miserable man from the unwelcome intruder?”*** Solomon gave the answer after our Bridegroom asked us to catch the sly little foxes (intruders) that hinder our relationship with Him: ***“We will do it together”***.

Only Yashuah HaMashiach, our First Love and Bridegroom, can deliver us. We can boast only about what Christ has done for us. Nothing more and nothing less!

Truly, if there was a law that we could keep which would give us new life, then our salvation would have come by law-keeping. ²² *But the Scriptures make it clear that since we were all under the power of sin, we needed Jesus! And he is the Savior who brings the promise to those who believe.* Galatians 3:21b-22 TPT

God's Sons will Inherit the Promises

So until the revelation of faith for salvation was released, the law was a jailer, holding us as prisoners under lock and key until the "faith," which was destined to be revealed, would set us free. ²⁴ The law {Levitical Law} becomes a gateway to lead us to the Messiah so that we would be saved by faith. ²⁵ But when faith comes the law is no longer in force, since we have already entered into life. Galatians 3:23-25 TPT

In a nutshell, this is what it is all about. God gave us the Law to bring us into captivity, and the key to setting us free is our faith. We first must walk through the gateway of bondage that leads us to our Messiah. Through His grace and our faith, we find our freedom unto salvation.

For by grace you have been saved by faith. Nothing you did could ever earn this salvation, for it was the love gift from God that brought us to Christ! ⁹ So no one will ever be able to boast, for salvation is never a reward for good works or human striving.

Ephesians 2:8-9 TPT

The Hebraic Root Bible translated Galatians 3:24-25 as follows: "So that the (Levitical) Law has become a trainer of us until Messiah, that we might be justified by faith."

The Levitical law was added due to Israel's sin when they worshipped the golden calf, but it was only a trainer to remind them daily of their sinful nature until the Messiah would appear to replace the temporary Levitical order with the eternal order of Melchizedek. But since faith has come, we are no longer under trainers. Paul is using a play on words here. The Aramaic word for tutor, "taraa", contrasts that although the Torah is still binding and

necessary for the New Covenant believers, the oral traditions of the Pharisees are not.

You have all become true children of God by the faith of Jesus the Anointed One! [It is the “faith of Jesus,” or what he believes about you, that makes you his very own.] ²⁷ It was faith that immersed you into Jesus, the Anointed One, and now you are covered and clothed with his anointing. ²⁸ And we no longer see each other in our former state—Jew or non-Jew, rich or poor, [“enslaved or free”] male or female—because we’re all one through our union with Jesus Christ with no distinction between us. ²⁹ And since you’ve been united to Jesus the Messiah, you are now Abraham’s “child” and inherit all the promises of the kingdom realm! Galatians 3:26-29 TPT

Because of our faith, we are immersed into Christ and united to the Anointed One, the Messiah, Yashuah HaMashiach. Faith, and not actions, makes us children and heirs of Abraham. If we want to claim that we are children of the covenant, we dare not claim it because of self-effort. No, my beloved reader! Claim it because it is a precious love gift from our Heavenly Father that brought us to our Bridegroom!

Abram received the promise of his covenant with God long before the Lord released the Law. No wonder he is known as the father of faith. He had to walk by faith, as he had not yet had an offspring, and Sarah was still barren.

God's Covenant with Abram

*Sometime later, a message came from the LORD to Abram in a vision:
"Don't be afraid, Abram. I am your shield; your reward will be very*

great." ² But Abram replied, "Lord GOD, what can you give me since I continue to be childless, and the heir of my household is Eliezer from Damascus?" ³ Look!" Abram said, "You haven't given me any offspring, so a servant born in my house is going to be my heir" ⁴ A message came from the LORD to him again: "This one will not be your heir. Instead, the child who will be born to you will be your heir" ⁵ Then the LORD took him outside. "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if you can!" he said. "Your descendants will be that numerous." ⁶ Abram believed the LORD, and it was credited to him as righteousness. ⁷ The LORD spoke to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land as an inheritance." ⁸ But he replied, "Lord GOD, how will I know that I will inherit it?" ⁹ The LORD responded, "Bring me a three year old cow, a three year old female goat, a three year old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ So Abram brought him all these animals and cut each of them in half, down the middle, placing the pieces opposite each other, but he did not cut the birds in half. ¹¹ When birds of prey swooped down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. Genesis 15:1-11 ISV

No human being can make a covenant. Only God can make a covenant. God put Abram to sleep and then made a covenant with him. It was the same sleep he put on Adam when he made a woman out of his rib.

As the sun began to set, Abram was overcome with deep sleep, and suddenly a frightening and terrifying darkness descended on him. ¹³ Then the LORD told Abram, "You can be certain about this: Your descendants will be foreigners in a land that isn't theirs. They will be slaves there and will be oppressed for 400 years. ¹⁴ However, I will

*judge the nation that they serve, and later they will leave there with many possessions. ¹⁵ Now as for you, you'll die peacefully, join your ancestors, and be buried at a good old age. ¹⁶ Your descendants will return here in the fourth generation, since the iniquity of the Amorites has not yet run its course." ¹⁷ When the sun had fully set and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a fiery torch passed between the animal pieces. ¹⁸ **That very day the LORD made this covenant with Abram: "I'm giving this land to your descendants, from the river of Egypt to the great Euphrates River—¹⁹ including the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, ²⁰ the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, ²¹ the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.***

Genesis 15:12-21 ISV

Despite this covenant, unbelief came to Abraham because Sarai could not give him a child. He slept with Hagar, the slave girl, and she bore him a child that he thought would fulfil God's promise for a seed. But that was not God's plan!

Sarai and Hagar

Now Abram's wife Sarai had not borne a child for him. She had an Egyptian servant girl whose name was Hagar. ² So Sarai told Abram, "You are well aware that the LORD has prevented me from giving birth to a child. Go have sex with my servant, so that I may possibly bear a son through her." Abram listened to Sarai's suggestion, ³ so Abram's wife Sarai took her Egyptian servant, Hagar, and gave her as a wife to her husband Abram. This took place ten years after Abram had settled in the land of Canaan. ⁴ He had sex with Hagar, and she became pregnant. When she realized that she was pregnant, she looked with

contempt on her mistress. ⁵ Then Sarai told Abram, "My suffering is your fault! I gave you my servant so you could have sex with her, and when she discovered that she was pregnant, she looked on me with contempt. May the LORD judge between you and me!" ⁶ Abram answered Sarai, "Look, your servant is under your control, so do to her as you wish." So Sarai dealt so harshly with Hagar that she ran away from Sarai. ⁷ The angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the desert on the road to Shur. ⁸ "Hagar, servant of Sarai," he asked, "Where are you coming from and where are you going?" She answered, "I am running away from my mistress Sarai." ⁹ The angel of the LORD told her, "You must go back to your mistress and submit to her authority." ¹⁰ The angel of the LORD also told her, "I will greatly multiply your offspring, who will be too many to count. ¹¹ "Look, you are pregnant and will give birth to a son," the angel of the LORD continued to say to her. "You will name him Ishmael, because the LORD has heard your cry of misery. ¹² He'll be a wild donkey of a man. He'll be against everyone, and everyone will be against him. He will live in conflict with all of his relatives." ¹³ So she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You are 'God who sees,' because I have truly seen the one who looks after me." ¹⁴ That's why the spring was called, "The Well of the Living One who looks after me." It was between Kadesh and Bered. ¹⁵ Hagar eventually gave birth to Abram's son. Abram named his son whom Hagar bore Ishmael. ¹⁶ Abram was 86 years old when Hagar gave birth to Ishmael for Abram.

Genesis 16:1-16 ISV

This is a typology of the flesh and the spirit which cannot live together. Children born from Hagar are all enslaved, but those born from the free woman, Sarah, are free indeed.

FROM SLAVERY TO SONSHIP

We all come from slavery, and through faith, we eventually make it to sonship (although not all make it). We are all born from the slave woman, from a corruptible seed. But after our born-again experience, this time from an incorruptible seed, we progress towards sonship.

Satan enslaved the world after the fall in the Garden of Eden. Since then, it has given the Father great pleasure to see His long-term restoration plan unfold. After His death, Jesus descended into Hades and preached to all the souls held captive by Satan. He then ascended above the heights of heaven to begin the restoration and fulfilment of all things (Ephesians 4:10).

What an amazing statement by the prophet Isaiah when he wrote:

Yet it pleased Jehovah to crush Him; to grieve Him; that He should put forth His soul as a guilt-offering. He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the will of Jehovah shall prosper in His hand. Isaiah 53:10 MKJV

As a typology and part of this restoration plan, the Lord Almighty brought His people out of slavery. They brought with them silver and gold, and none among the tribes of Israel even stumbled or was “feeble”

(Psalm 105:37 KJV). But when His only begotten Son came, it was not a ransom payment of silver and gold which eventually perished, as with Israel, but the **precious Blood of Christ!** Like a spotless, unblemished lamb He was sacrificed for us (1 Peter 1:18-19 TPT). Can you imagine that this painful act of obedience gave the Father great pleasure? He was willing to crush His Son and make Him suffer.

Although you make his soul an offering for sin, He will see his offspring, and he will prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will triumph in his hand. Isaiah 53:10 ISV

You were God's expensive purchase, paid for with tears of blood, so by all means, use your body to bring glory to God! 1 Corinthians 6:20 TPT

Paul explains:

In a similar way, God has promised our ancestors something better, but as long as an heir is a minor, he's not really much different than a servant, although he's the master over all of them ² *For until the time appointed by the father when he comes of age, the child is under the domestic supervision of the guardians of the estate.* ³ *So it is with us. When we were juveniles (children) we were enslaved under the hostile spirits of the world.* ⁴ *But when that era came to an end and the time of fulfillment had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, [Every child has a mother; but for Jesus to be "born of a woman" meant there was no human father, no male counterpart. Jesus' true Father is the Father of Eternity. No other child has had a virgin birth, "born of a woman," except him. All the rest of us are born from a father and a mother.]* *born under the written law {Torah}.* Galatians 4:1-4 TPT

The Hebraic Root Bible translated the above verse as: *“But when the fullness of the time came, Elohim sent forth His Son, having come into being out of a woman, being subject to the Torah.”*

It was only in the fullness of time that God the Father could send His Son, not only born under the written law (Torah) but born of a woman. This is significant to understand, as the Son had to be born under the Law to set free those under the Law.

While they were there, the time came for her to have her baby, ⁷ and she gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a feeding trough, because there was no place for them in the guest quarters. Luke 2:6-7 ISV

After eight days had passed, the infant was circumcised and named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. ²² When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, ²³ as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn son is to be designated as holy to the Lord." Luke 2:21-23 ISV

Yet all of this was so that he would redeem and set free all those held hostage to the written law so that we would receive our freedom and a full legal adoption as his children. Galatians 4:5 TPT

The Hebraic Root Bible says: *“That He might redeem the ones under (the penalty of breaking) the Torah, that we might receive the adoption of sons.”*

It is fundamental to understand that we are all children of adoption. Yashuah HaMashiach redeemed us all, for none of us could keep the Law!

The Jewish Religion will not Save You

*Now, you claim to be a Jew because you lean upon your trust in the law and boast in your relationship with God. ¹⁸ And you claim to know the will of God, and to have the moral high ground because you've been taught the law of Moses. ¹⁹ You are also confident that you are a qualified guide to those who are "blind," a shining light to those who live in darkness. ²⁰ You are confident that you are a true teacher of the foolish and immature, [or little children, a metaphor for the untutored or the immature], all because you have the treasury of truth and knowledge in the law of Moses. ²¹ **So let me ask you this: Why don't you practice what you preach?** You preach, "Don't steal!" but are you a thief? ²² You are swift to tell others, "Don't commit adultery!" but are you guilty of adultery? You say, "I hate idolatry and false gods!" but do you withhold from the true God what is due him? ²³ Even though you boast in the law, you dishonour God, the Lawgiver, when you break it! ²⁴ For your actions seem to fulfill what is written: "God's precious name is cursed among the nations because of you." ²⁵ You trust in the covenant sign of circumcision, yet circumcision only has value if you faithfully keep the teachings of the law. But if you violate the law, you have invalidated your circumcision. ²⁶ And if the uncircumcised one faithfully keeps the law, won't his obedience make him more "Jewish" than the actual rite of circumcision? ²⁷ And won't the one who has never had the knife cut his foreskin be your judge when you break the law? ²⁸ You are not a Jew if it's only superficial—for it's more than the*

surgical cut of a knife that makes you Jewish. ²⁹ But you are Jewish because of the inward act of spiritual circumcision—a radical change that lays bare your heart. It's not by the principle of the written code, but by power of the Holy Spirit. For then your praise will not come from people, but from God himself! Romans 2:17-29 TPT

By the power of the Holy Spirit, our hearts are laid bare, and because of His grace and mercy and by faith, we receive a spiritual circumcision, and a radical change takes place. Both Jews and Gentiles are under the bondage of sin. There is none righteous, no, not one (Romans 3:9-10).

We cannot receive our right standing before God by doing anything. And the Scriptures agree, for it is written:

There is no one who always does what is right, no, not even one! ¹¹ There is no one with true spiritual insight, and there is no one who seeks after God alone. ¹² All have deliberately wandered from God's ways. All have become depraved and unfit. Kindness has disappeared from them all, not even one is good. ¹³ Their words release a stench, like the smell of death—foul and filthy! Deceitful lies roll off their tongues. The venom of a viper drips from their lip. ¹⁴ Bitter profanity flows from their mouths, only meant to cut and harm. ¹⁵ They are infatuated with violence and murder. ¹⁶ They release ruin and misery wherever they go. ¹⁷ They never experience the path of peace. ¹⁸ They shut their eyes to the awe-inspiring God! ¹⁹ Now, we realize that everything the law says is addressed to those who are under its authority. This is for two reasons: So that every excuse will be silenced, with no boasting of innocence. And so that the entire world

will be held accountable to God's standards.²⁰ For by the merit of observing the law no one earns the status of being declared righteous before God, for it is the law that fully exposes and unmask the reality of sin. Romans 3:10b-20 TPT

The Law was given to silence the entire humanity, so no one can boast!

NO ONE CAN EARN THE STATUS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS BEFORE
GOD BY OBSERVING THE LAW!

The Gospel Reveals God's Righteousness

*But now, independently of the law, the righteousness of God is tangible and brought to light through Jesus, the Anointed One. This is the righteousness that the Scriptures prophesied would come. **It is God's righteousness made visible through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ.** And now all who believe in him receive that gift. For there is really no difference between us,²³ **for we all have sinned and are in need of the glory of God.**²⁴ Yet through his powerful declaration of acquittal, God freely gives away his righteousness. His gift of love and favor now cascades over us, all because Jesus, the Anointed One, has liberated us from the guilt, punishment, and power of sin!²⁵ Jesus' God-given destiny was to be the sacrifice to take away sins, and now **he is our mercy seat because of his death on the cross. We come to him for mercy, for God has made a provision for us to be forgiven by faith in the sacred blood of Jesus.** This is the perfect demonstration of God's justice, because until now, he had been so patient—holding back his justice out of his tolerance for us. So he covered over the sins of those who lived prior to Jesus' sacrifice.²⁶ And when the season of tolerance*

*came to an end, there was only one possible way for God to give away his righteousness and still be true to both his justice and his mercy—to offer up his own Son. So now, because we stand on the faithfulness of Jesus, God declares us righteous in his eyes! ²⁷ **Where, then, is there room for boasting? Do our works bring God's acceptance? Not at all! It was not our works of keeping the law but our faith in his finished work that makes us right with God.** Romans 3:21-27 TPT*

So our conclusion is this: God's wonderful declaration that we are righteous in his eyes can only come when we put our faith in Christ, and not by keeping the law.

Romans 3:28 TPT

Heirs with Christ

*Consequently, brothers, we are not—with respect to human nature, that is—under an obligation to live according to human nature. ¹³ For if you live according to human nature, you are going to die, but if by the Spirit you continually put to death the activities of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ **For all who are led by God's Spirit are God's children.** ¹⁵ **For you have not received a spirit of slavery that leads you into fear again. Instead, you have received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba! Father!"** ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with the Messiah—if, in fact, we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.* Romans 8:12-17 ISV

We become heirs, not by keeping any laws, but by living a life led by the Holy Spirit. Only then can we cry out, “ABBA FATHER!”, that is “Daddy”, adopted by our loving Father in the heavens. You can only cry out, “Daddy”, when you know for sure you are a true child. Our Heavenly Father releases the Holy Spirit into our hearts to convince us we are indeed His children!

And so that we would know for sure that we are his true children, God released the Spirit of Sonship into our hearts—moving us to cry out intimately, {ABBA} “My Father! You’re our true Father!”

Galatians 4:6 TPT

When that happens, we are no longer slaves under the Law, but free in Christ Jesus!

Now we’re no longer living like slaves under the law, but we enjoy being God’s very own sons and daughters! Galatians 4:7 TPT

Because we are His, we can **access everything our Father has**, for we are **heirs of God** through Jesus, the Messiah! This is huge! Because we are His children and heirs, we inherit everything our Dad owns!

*Before we knew God as our Father and we became his children, we were unwitting {not aware of the full facts} servants to the powers that be, which are nothing compared to God. ⁹ But now that we truly know him and understand how deeply we’re loved by him, why would we, even for a moment, **consider turning back to those weak and feeble principles of religion**, as though we were still subject to them?*

Galatians 4:8-9 TPT

The true spiritual meaning of the above scripture can only come through revelation. Only the Holy Spirit can reveal it. When you are a true child of the Most High God and inherit everything owned by your Dad, why would you even consider turning back to the weak principles of religion? Why do you want to put yourself under slavery again? We are born from above – from the Free Woman, the true Heavenly Jerusalem!

*You know what **instructions** we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³ For it is God's will that you be sanctified: You must abstain from sexual immorality. ⁴ Each of you must know how to control his own body in a holy and honorable manner, ⁵ not with passion and lust like the gentiles who do not know God. 1 Thessalonians 4:2-5 ISV*

*Why would we want to go backwards into the bondage of religion—scrupulously observing rituals like special days, [Or “Sabbaths”. It is important to remember that there is no requirement for Gentiles to become like Jews and observe Jewish ordinances to draw closer to God. Our approach to God is always based on grace and faith in the Blood of Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Sabbath.] **celebrations of the new moon, annual festivals, and sacred years?** ¹¹ ***I’m so alarmed about you that I’m beginning to wonder if my labor in ministry among you was a waste of time!*** Galatians 4:10-11 TPT*

Never in the New Testament did Yashuah require the Gentiles to keep the Sabbath. On the contrary, the Pharisees constantly accused Him and His disciples of not keeping the ordinances of the Sabbath. They did not sleep on the Sabbath day, but served the sick, the unclean, and the wicked, and restored them all on the Sabbath!

Paul's ministry to bring freedom to the people appeared to have almost been a waste of time, as if the people did not understand his speech.

I pray sincerely that you will understand Paul's speech and the explanation of our freedom in Christ Jesus!

Paul's Personal Appeal

Paul appeals to us to follow his example. Remember that he was a Pharisee, and he kept the Law to the letter. But he came free from it the moment Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus. Paul longs for us to be just as free in Christ Jesus.

Beloved ones, I plead with you, follow my example and become free from the bondage of religion. I once became as one of you, [or “imitated you”. Paul is using sarcasm and saying, “I imitated you; now you should imitate me!”] a gentile, when I lived among you—now become free like me. When I first came to minister to you, you did me no wrong. I can't believe you would do wrong to me now! ¹³ You are well aware that the reason I stayed among you to preach the good news was because of the poor state of my health. Galatians 4:12-13 TPT

Paul's ministry in Antioch began when he became sick and had to delay his missionary journey to other regions. He may have been afflicted with an illness that normally aroused disgust because of its repulsive nature. Many surmise that Paul contracted an ophthalmic disorder (an eye disease), which was prevalent in the region. The illness could cause a

repugnant appearance. Others believe he was very ill because of the abusive treatment by his enemies on his first missionary journey.

Yet the Galatians did not reject him. They welcomed him with open arms and welcomed his gospel message with open hearts.

*And yet you were so kind to me and did not despise me in my weakness, [sickness] even though my physical condition put you through an ordeal while I was with you. Actually, you received me and cared for me as though I were an angel from God, as you would have cared for Jesus, the Messiah himself! ¹⁵ Some of you were even willing, if it were possible, to pluck out your own eyes to replace mine! Where is that kindhearted and free spirit now? ¹⁶ **Have I really become your enemy because I tell you the truth?** Galatians 4:14-16 TPT*

I often experience how people who are told the truth about their bondage are offended and most often reject the message. They withdraw to stay in their comfort zone and see the one who offers them the truth as their enemy. They feel exposed because someone invades their privacy and comfort. Paul experienced the same when he asked the Galatians if he had become their enemy after telling them the truth.

Can't you see what these false teachers are doing? They want to win you over so you will side with them. They want you divided from me so you will follow only them. Would you call that integrity? ¹⁸ Isn't it better to seek excellence and integrity always, and not just only when I'm with you? Galatians 4:17-18 TPT

It is still the case today. Many in the church are wolves in sheep's clothing, leading the flock astray with deception. I believe deception is the most dangerous spirit that we must deal with in this season we are living in.

You are my dear children, but I agonize in spiritual "labour pains" once again, until the Anointed One will be fully formed in your hearts!

²⁰ How I wish I could be there in person and change my tone toward you, for I am truly dumbfounded over what you are doing!

Galatians 4:19-20 TPT

Nothing is more discouraging than seeing a free person falling back into captivity again. Note Paul's spiritual labour pains to establish the Anointed One in their hearts. Once He is established in your heart, you will be guided under the influence of the Holy Spirit. Satan, however, will constantly try to draw you away by sending his messengers to confuse you and lead you astray.

ANOTHER OLD TESTAMENT ALLEGORY

*Tell me, do you want to go back to living strictly by the law? Haven't you ever listened to what the law really says? **Have you forgotten that Abraham had two sons; one by the slave girl, and the other by the free woman?*** Galatians 4:21-22 TPT

The Hebrew Roots Bible says: *"Tell me, do you want to go back to living strictly by the law? I say to you, those that desire to let themselves be under (the penalty of) the Torah, do you not hear the Torah?"*

For many years, I simply could not fully comprehend the significance of Hagar and Sarah – a slave girl and a free woman. But in this context, it makes sense. This is a revelation Paul had received. Remember, he was a Bible scholar, and he knew the Old Testament very well. He took the Covenant of God, which started with Abraham, and brought it into context with our bondage and freedom.

Ishmael, the son of the slave girl, was a child of the natural realm. But Isaac, the son of the free woman, was born supernaturally by the Spirit—a child of the promise of God! ²⁴ These two women and their sons express an allegory and become symbols of two covenants.

Galatians 4:23-24 TPT

Likewise, we are all children of the natural realm. We are born from a corruptible seed because of the fall in the Garden of Eden. All are born into slavery to sin. As Isaac was born supernaturally of the Spirit out of Sarah, the free woman, so was Jesus born supernaturally of the Spirit. Not only was the birth of Isaac a typology of the birth of the Messiah, but these two events also express an allegory and become symbols of the two covenants. Amazing!

The first covenant was born on Mt. Sinai, birthing children into slavery—children born to Hagar [Gen 21:10-14]. ²⁵ For “Hagar” represents the law given at Mt. Sinai in Arabia. The “Hagar” metaphor corresponds to the earthly Jerusalem of today who are currently in bondage. Galatians 4:24b-25 TPT

Those who have not yet accepted salvation are still in bondage and slavery as they are born of a corruptible seed. Likewise, Israel is still in

physical bondage because they have not yet accepted salvation. This bondage will end when the Messiah returns and redeems Jerusalem (see Zechariah 14) after the seven-year Tribulation when Yashuah HaMashiach will establish His Kingdom on Earth, as Jesus explained to four of his disciples on the Mount of Olives in a private meeting (Matthew 24). It will be the fulfilment of the Feast of Tabernacles, the only feast that will remain to be kept by all the nations. Yashuah will then tabernacle with the inhabitants of the earth. Hallelujah!

And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. Zechariah 14:16 KJV

*In contrast, there is a **heavenly Jerusalem** above us, [Revelation 21:1-2] which is our true “mother.” She is the free woman, birthing children into freedom! Galatians 4:26 TPT*

The Law is a system of works that brings bondage, but the promise is a system of grace that brings true freedom!

For it is written:

“Burst forth with gladness,

O barren woman with no children!

Break through with the shouts of joy and jubilee,

for you are about to give birth!

*The one who was once considered desolate and barren
now has more children than the one who has a husband!”*

Galatians 4:27 TPT

Here, Paul quoted the Prophet Isaiah.

"Sing, you barren woman, even the one who never bore a child! Burst into song and shout for joy, even you who were never in labor! For the children of the desolate woman will be more than the children of her that is married," says the LORD. Isaiah 54:1 ISV

As mentioned before, the reason the Sinai covenant brought bondage was that it had no avenue by which to have sins paid for and removed, only covered from year to year on Yom Kippur. It has nothing to do with the validity of the Torah, which is binding in both covenants (Hebrews 8:10).

Ministers of the New Covenant

Are we beginning to recommend ourselves again? Unlike some people, we do not need letters of recommendation to you or from you, do we?

² You are our letter, written in our hearts and known and read by everyone. ³ You are demonstrating that you are the Messiah's letter, produced by our service, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

⁴ Such is the confidence that we have in God through the Messiah. ⁵ By ourselves we are not qualified to claim that anything comes from us.

Rather, our credentials come from God, ⁶ who has also qualified us to be ministers of a new covenant, which is not written but spiritual, because the written text brings death, but the Spirit gives life. ⁷ Now if

*the ministry of death that was inscribed in letters of stone came with such glory that the people of Israel could not gaze on Moses' face (because the glory was fading away from it), ⁸ will not the Spirit's ministry have even more glory? ⁹ **For if the ministry of condemnation***

has glory, then the ministry of justification has an overwhelming glory. ¹⁰ *In fact, that which once had glory lost its glory, because the other glory surpassed it.* ¹¹ *For if that which fades away came through glory, how much more does that which is permanent have glory?* ¹² *Therefore, since we have such a hope, we speak very boldly,* ¹³ *not like Moses, who kept covering his face with a veil to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of what was fading away.* ¹⁴ ***However, their minds were hardened, for to this day the same veil is still there when they read the old covenant. Only in union with the Messiah is that veil removed.*** ¹⁵ *Yet even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts.* ¹⁶ ***But whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is removed.*** ¹⁷ ***Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Lord's Spirit is, there is freedom.*** ¹⁸ *As all of us reflect the glory of the Lord with unveiled faces, we are becoming more like him with ever-increasing glory by the Lord's Spirit.* 2 Corinthians 3:1-18 TPT

Moses' face was covered with a veil because the glory faded away. Likewise, we are also covered with the same veil because of our hardened minds. But accepting the Messiah as our Saviour makes us become one with Him and the veil eventually fades away because the Holy Spirit is working and bringing us to freedom.

Abraham represents the Father and Isaac represents the Son. The only difference is that the Father showed more mercy and grace towards Abraham, forbidding him to offer his only son, Isaac, but He offered His ONLY SON in our place to bring us to freedom.

Dear friends, just like Isaac, we're now the true children who inherit the kingdom promises. ²⁹ *And just as the son of the natural world at that time harassed the son born of the power of the Holy Spirit, so it is today.* ³⁰ *And what does the Scripture tell us to do? "Expel the slave mother with her son!"* {See Genesis 21:10. This is showing that the two "sons" are not meant to live together. You cannot mingle **law and grace**, for only grace is based upon the promise of new life.}

Galatians 4:28-30a TPT

This is crucial to understand. The man in the flesh and the man in the spirit cannot live together. Paul takes it a step further to tell us it is impossible to mingle the Law with grace. The promise of the new life is in the New Covenant, for by grace through faith we are all saved. The son of the slave woman will not be a true heir, for the true heir of the promises is the son of the free woman (see Genesis 21:10-12; John 8:35).

Remember that Abraham threw a tremendous banquet on the day that Isaac was weaned. During this feast, Ishmael made fun of Isaac. Some Bible scholars believe it was about the birthright, as Ishmael was the oldest. Maybe Ishmael was mocking Isaac about eventually becoming the heir and receiving the blessing. This was the reason for Sarah being so upset that she demanded Abraham to throw out Hagar the slave girl, because her son Ishmael, would never be a co-heir with son, Isaac! But God protected Hagar and Ishmael.

The child grew and eventually was weaned, so Abraham threw a tremendous banquet on the very day Isaac was weaned. ⁹ *Nevertheless, when Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian—whom Hagar had*

borne to Abraham—making fun of Isaac, ¹⁰ she told Abraham, "Throw out this slave girl, along with her son, because this slave's son will never be a co-heir with my son Isaac!" Genesis 21:8-10 ISV

*It's now so obvious! We're not children of the slave woman; **we're the supernatural sons of the free woman—sons of grace!***
Galatians 4:31 TPT

I hope you understand this, as it is crucial for your freedom. Sarah could not bear a son, for she was barren. It was a supernatural act of the Holy Spirit to conceive Isaac just as Mary later conceived Jesus. Paul explains that, likewise, we are sons of the free woman. We are sons of grace. This is also a supernatural act of the Holy Spirit and does not require any human effort - only faith.

So, don't return to slavery by obeying human traditions and religious duties!



STAND IN LIBERTY

Then stand firm in the liberty with which Messiah made us free and do not be harnessed again with a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1 HRB

Being harnessed to the yoke of slavery means being circumcised and joined to the Sinai covenant again. By doing so, they were obligated to keep every law of the Torah (Deuteronomy 27:26), and there would be no way to pay the penalty when guilty of breaking them.

I find it very interesting that people select some laws to obey and neglect the rest. Deuteronomy is clear that if you want to obey the Law, you must keep them all!

Cursed is the one who doesn't uphold the words of this Law and observe them. "Then all the people are to respond by saying, Amen!"
Deuteronomy 27:26 ISV

Paul explains this as he quotes Deuteronomy:

For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. Galatians 3:10 KJV

He continues:

I, Paul, tell you: If you think there is benefit in circumcision and Jewish regulations, then you're acting as though Jesus the Anointed One is not enough ³I say it again emphatically: If you let yourselves be

circumcised you are obliged to fulfill every single one of the commandments and regulations of the law! Galatians 5:2-3 TPT

The Hebraic Root Bible says it means to fulfil the whole Torah!

The Blood of the Messiah was only a future hope in the Sinai Covenant but a reality in the New Covenant. If they joined the Sinai covenant, they did not have the Blood of the Messiah to pay the penalty for their sins. Circumcision was the sign of that covenant but not the sign of the New Covenant. It is not only about circumcision but also about the Jewish regulations. As Gentiles, we are not obligated to obey a single Jewish regulation. This is where some put words in Paul's mouth by saying that we must keep all the Jewish Feasts! The Jewish Feasts are, however, not their Feasts, but they are Elohim's Feasts!

For a person is not a Jew because of his appearance, nor is circumcision something just external and physical. ²⁹ No, a person is a Jew inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, brought about by the Spirit, not by written law. That person's praise will come from God, not from people. Romans 2:28-29 ISV

No burden was put on the Gentiles to keep the Jewish customs or regulations as the traditional Jewish people had to do.

“For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to place on you any burden but these essential requirements: ²⁹ to keep away from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from anything strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you avoid these things, you will do well. Goodbye.”³⁰ So, the men were sent on their way and arrived in Antioch.

They gathered the congregation together and delivered the letter.

³¹ When the people read it, they were pleased with how the letter encouraged them. Acts 15:28-31 ISV

I can put myself in these ancient Gentiles' shoes. A huge debate took place between the apostles and Paul regarding the requirements for the Gentiles to become part of the covenant with Father Abraham.

Peter experienced this when the Holy Spirit sent him to the house of Cornelius. When he entered Cornelius' house, he made it very clear:

Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean. Acts 10:28 KJV

*While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. ⁴⁵ And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, **because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.** ⁴⁶ For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, ⁴⁷ Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? ⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days. Acts 10:44-48 KJV*

Peter thought that these Gentiles first had to be baptised before they could receive the Holy Ghost and speak in tongues. But even as Peter was speaking, the Holy Ghost fell on the Gentiles, and they all were astonished. It was with this background in mind that the apostles debated

the requirements for the Gentiles to become part of the covenant. They concluded and recorded it for us in Acts 15:28- 29. The only requirements were:

- to keep away from food sacrificed to idols,
- to keep away from blood,
- from anything strangled, and
- from sexual immorality.

That was it! Not even keeping the Sabbath was mentioned. You may resist this remark, but I am only attentive to what the scripture is saying. Keeping the Sabbath was never a requirement!

Therefore let no one sit in judgment on you in matters of food and drink, or with regard to a feast day or a New Moon or a Sabbath. ¹⁷ Such [things] are only the shadow of things that are to come, and they have only a symbolic value. But the reality (the substance, the solid fact of what is foreshadowed, the body of it) belongs to Christ.

Colossians 2:16-17 AMPC

The word “judge” is “**krinō**” in Greek and it means, by implication, to condemn, punish, damn, decree, determine, esteem, judge, go to sue at the law, ordain, call in question, sentence to, think. The Hebraic Root Bible explains it as “creating a disturbance”.

What Paul is saying here is to beware that nobody disturbs you, condemns you, questions you or sues you by any law for not keeping these feasts or the Sabbath! All these things are only the shadow of better

things to come. These were fulfilled by Christ Jesus, the Anointed One! In Him, everything has its completion.

Instead of embracing the shadow, embrace the real person. Why would you run up to a person and embrace his shadow? Christ Jesus is our Beloved! Embrace Him and be one with Him! This is the fulfilment of everything!

If you want to be made holy by fulfilling the obligations of the law {Torah}, you have cut off more than your flesh — you have cut yourselves off from the Anointed One and have fallen away from the revelation of grace! Galatians 5:4 TPT

These are very direct and sharp words spoken by Paul. Holiness is not the result of keeping the Law. By trying to do so, you cut yourself off from Yashuah HaMashiach, the Anointed One. Remember, the natural son can't live with the supernatural son of freedom, and henceforth you cannot mingle law and grace.

**Let us therefore not fall away from the revelation of
grace!**

In Galatians 3:10, Paul quotes Deuteronomy 27:26, which says that he who does not do every law of the Torah is cursed. The Torah is perfect, but humans are sinful. Paul is not speaking against the Torah, but merely shows that circumcision is the sign of the Old Covenant, in which there is no way to have the penalty of your sins removed but by death. Baptism, on the other hand, is the sign of the New Covenant where the Blood of Yashuah pays the penalty for the sins we committed. Therefore, if you

were circumcised to join the covenant instead of being baptised, you would join the Old Covenant where the Messiah's Blood was not yet available to forgive your sins. Paul condemns the circumcision of male children according to the Torah on the 8th day after birth.

Those of you who are trying to be justified by the Law have been cut off from the Messiah. You have fallen away from grace. Galatians 5:4 ISV

Ye are empty of the Christ, whosoever of you that justify yourselves by the law; ye are fallen from grace. Galatians 5:4 JUB

We have two choices. Either we choose to be under the Law and obey every single law, or we choose to be under grace, which sets us free from all the restrictions and obligations of those religious requirements. Under grace, the laws are written on our hearts. Circumcision was an Old Testament requirement!

Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiff-necked. Deuteronomy 10:16 KJV

And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live. Deuteronomy 30:6 KJV

Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings. Jeremiah 4:4 KJV

*But the Holy Spirit convinces us that we have received by faith the glorious righteousness of the Anointed One. ⁶ **When you're placed into the Anointed One and joined to him, circumcision and religious obligations can benefit you nothing. All that matters now is living in the faith that is activated and brought to perfection by love.***
Galatians 5:5-6 TPT

Your new life in the Anointed One began with the Holy Spirit giving you a new birth. Why then would you so foolishly turn from living in the Spirit by trying to finish by your own works? Galatians 3:3 TPT

Our new life begins with the Holy Spirit. He joins us with the Anointed One. Now we live in the Spirit and not in the flesh anymore.

*But the one who is **united** and joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.*
1 Corinthians 6:17 AMP

*For if we have become **united** with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.*
Romans 6:5 ISV

*Until all of us are **united** in the faith and in the full knowledge of God's Son, and until we attain mature adulthood and the full standard of development in the Messiah.* Ephesians 4:13 ISV

And he chose us to be his very own, joining us to himself even before he laid the foundation of the universe! Because of his great love, he ordained us, so that we would be seen as holy in his eyes with an unstained innocence. Ephesians 1:4 TPT

*Have you forgotten that your body is now the sacred temple of the Spirit of Holiness, who lives in you? You don't belong to yourself any longer, for the gift of God, the Holy Spirit, **lives inside your sanctuary.*** ²⁰ You were God's expensive purchase, paid for with tears of blood, so by all means, then, use your body to bring glory to God!
1 Corinthians 6:19-20 TPT

Before you were led astray, you were so faithful to Messiah. Why have you now turned away from what is right and true? Who has deceived you? ⁸ *The One who enfolded you into his grace is not behind this false teaching that you've embraced. Not at all!* ⁹ *Don't you know that when you allow even a little lie into your heart, it can permeate [spread through, fill, filter through, diffuse through, imbue, penetrate] your entire belief system? Literally "A little yeast goes through the whole lump of dough." The text uses a metaphor of "yeast" that has effects that cannot be hidden when it is folded into dough. The yeast is the lie of legalism.* ¹⁰ *Deep in my heart I have faith that the Lord Jesus the Anointed One, who lives in you, will bring you back around to the truth. And I'm convinced that those who agitate you, whoever they think they are, will be brought under God's judgment!* Galatians 5:7-10 TPT

Paul ends his Epistle to the Galatians by requesting that no one should any longer bring him trouble or criticism, for he was carrying the scars (death marks) of his sufferings and persecutions.

***Why do you think the religious system persecutes me?** Is it because I preach the message of being circumcised and keeping all the laws of Judaism? Not at all! Is there no longer any offense over the cross?* ¹² *To*

tell you the truth, I am so disgusted with all your agitators—I wish they would go even further and cut off their legalistic influence [“castrate themselves”] from your lives!” Galatians 5:11-12 TPT

Paul suffered more than we can ever imagine for this message of freedom. Yet many gave him trouble for preaching liberty. This led to Paul's words of disgust:

I wish that those who are upsetting you would castrate themselves!
Galatians 5:12 ISV

Beloved ones, God has called us to live a life of freedom in the Holy Spirit. But don't view this wonderful freedom as an opportunity to set up a base of operations in the natural realm. Freedom means that we become so completely free of self-indulgence [excessive or unrestrained gratification of one's own appetites, desires, or whims; The act of allowing yourself to have or do the things that you enjoy very much, or to do something special that you like very much, often something that you should not have or do] that we become servants of one another, expressing love in all we do.¹⁴ For love completes the laws of God. The law can be summarized in one grand statement: “Demonstrate love to your neighbor, even as you care for and love yourself.”
Galatians 5:13-14 TPT [Leviticus 19:18]

A life of freedom in the Holy Spirit is not a licence to sin. It expresses love. That is what Paul is trying to tell us. The Pharisees, however, demanded obedience to their customs and laws, demonstrating no love. The Hebraic Root Bible points to the Torah when it translates this verse as: “*For the*

whole Torah is fulfilled in one word, in this, You shall love your neighbour as yourself.”

Every instruction in the Torah is to teach us how to love and worship Elohim and our neighbours as ourselves.

Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19:18 KJV

But if you continue to criticize and come against each other over minor issues, you're acting like wild beasts trying to destroy one another!

Galatians 5:15 TPT

Both Aramaic and Greek manuscripts read “**biting and devouring**”, which is a metaphor for critical attitudes that destroy fellowship. These terms were often found in classical Greek literature to describe wild animals fighting each other in deadly conflict.

The Holy Spirit, our Victory

As you yield freely and fully to the dynamic life and power of the Holy Spirit, you will abandon the cravings of your self-life. [Or “the natural realm”.] ¹⁷ For your self-life craves the things that offend the Holy Spirit and hinder him from living free within you! And the Holy Spirit's intense cravings hinder your old self-life from dominating you!

Galatians 5:16-17 TPT

The Hebrew Root Bible reads: *"But I say, if you walk in the Spirit, the lust of the flesh will not overtake you. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are opposed to one another; so you are not able to do as you desire."*

*So then, the two incompatible forces within you are your self-life of the flesh and the new creation life of the Spirit. [The concept of the "new creation life of the Spirit" is implied in the greater context of Galatians and is referred to explicitly in Chapter 6:15–16.]*¹⁸ *But when you are brought into the full freedom of the Spirit of grace, you will no longer be living under the domination of the law, but soaring above it!*
Galatians 5:17b-18 TPT

The Hebraic Root Bible: *"But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under (the penalty of breaking) the Torah."*

*The cravings of the self-life are obvious: Sexual immorality, lustful thoughts, pornography,*²⁰ *chasing after things instead of God, ["idolatry"] manipulating others, ["witchcraft". The Greek word for "witchcraft" can imply drug usage.] hatred of those who get in your way, senseless arguments, resentment when others are favored, temper tantrums, angry quarrels, only thinking of yourself, being in love with your own opinions,*²¹ *being envious of the blessings of others, murder, uncontrolled addictions, ["drunken binges"] wild parties, and all other similar behavior. Haven't I already warned you that those who use their "freedom" for these things ["those who devote themselves to these things"] will not inherit the kingdom realm of God!*
Galatians 5:19-21 TPT

Most people who criticise Paul's message of freedom, believe that freedom means to do whatever we want to, regardless of God's instructions for a holy life. Paul indicates that those who are guilty of such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

*But the fruit [harvest] produced by the Holy Spirit within you is divine love in all its varied expressions: [There is a clear textual inference that the "fruit" (singular) of the Holy Spirit is love, with the other virtues displaying aspects of the greatest quality of Spirit-life, agape love] joy that overflows, peace that subdues, patience that endures, kindness in action, a life full of virtue, faith that prevails, gentleness of heart, and strength of spirit. [Although the word self is not found in this verse, most translations render this as "self-control". The word is actually "lordship," or by implication "spirit-strength".] **Never set the law above these qualities, for they are meant to be limitless.** [Literally "there is no law set against these things" or "there is no conflict with Jewish laws"]. ²⁴ *Keep in mind that we who belong to Jesus, the Anointed One, have already experienced crucifixion, for everything connected to our self-life was put to death on the cross and crucified with Messiah.* ²⁵ ***We must live in the Holy Spirit and follow after Him.*** ²⁶ *So may we never be arrogant, or look down on another, for each of us is an original. We must forsake all jealousy that diminishes the value of others.* Galatians 5:22-26 TPT*

What fruit are you bearing? If it is the fruit of the flesh, then you will reap what you sow, but if the Holy Spirit is truly in you and you are surrendering yourself to Him, then the fruit of the Spirit will be evident to all. This is the crux of a true believer's calling.

This issue of the believer's freedom is of such importance that Paul spends six chapters explaining it to us. The veil can only be lifted through the work of the Holy Spirit. Not Paul nor anybody else can use better words to convince us. If a veil still blocks your understanding and keeps you from receiving this revelation, pray to Yehôvâh Elohim to send His Holy Spirit to fully reveal it to you.

Carry Each Other's Burdens

*My beloved friends, if you see a believer who is overtaken with a fault, may the one who overflows with the Spirit [“those who are in the Spirit”] seek to restore him. Win him over with gentle words, which will open his heart to you and will keep you from exalting yourself over him [or “keep you from being harassed by the enemy”]. ² **Love empowers us to fulfill the law of the Anointed One as we carry each other's troubles.** ³ **If you think you are too important to stoop down to help another, you are living in deception.** ⁴ **Let everyone be devoted to fulfill the work God has given them to do with excellence, and their joy will be in doing what's right and being themselves, and not in being affirmed by others.** ⁵ **Every believer is ultimately responsible for his or her own conscience.** Galatians 6:1-5 TPT*

My dear brother and sister in Christ Jesus. It is by God's grace that He took us out of this evil world system and set us free through our salvation, just as God desired (Galatians 1:3-4). This “**evil world system**” would include the religious system that is based on **duty and performance**, instead of **love and grace**.

The word “duty” can be defined as:

- A moral or legal obligation; a responsibility: *it's my duty to uphold the law*, done from a sense of moral obligation rather than for pleasure.
- A task or action that one is required to perform as part of one's job.

Many believers perform these legal obligations and rituals as a moral obligation, meaning that it is their duty to do it. It is not done as an act of love or pleasure. Our relationship with Abba Father is a love relationship, and because of His grace and mercy, we are wrapped in His presence. In that anointed presence we enjoy Him, and He enjoys us, just as husband and wife enjoy each other.

Note the difference in the meaning of the following concepts:

- **Mercy** is receiving what we do not deserve. We receive eternal life, although we deserve to go to hell.
- **Grace** is not receiving what we deserve. We deserve going to hell but are kept from going there.

We Harvest What We Sow

Many of us wonder why God allows bad things in our lives. I have discovered that whatever you harvest in your life results from the seeds sown earlier. If you have physical and emotional pain, suffer from sicknesses, diseases or depression, or if you are overcome by negative emotions, it is often because of the rotten seed you have sown in the past. God always puts life and death in front of us and allows us to choose. The choice is ours!

*And those who are taught the Word must share all good things with their teacher; a sharing of wealth takes place between them. ⁷ Make no mistake about it, God will never be mocked! **For what you plant will always be the very thing you harvest.** ⁸ **The harvest you reap reveals the seed that was planted.** Galatians 6:6-8 TPT*

If you plant the corrupt seeds of self-life into this natural realm, you can expect to harvest corruption. If you plant the good seeds of the Spirit-life, you will reap beautiful fruits of the everlasting life of the Spirit.

Let us learn to plant good seeds of a Spirit-life to reap a life of abundance. I am now speaking from my experience. There was a time in my life when I experienced people as unfit, mean and annoying. I always seemed to be in conflict with everyone because nothing went my way! But over many years, the Holy Spirit has been transforming me into a new creature. Piece by piece, little by little, Christ's personality broke through in my spirit. I then realised that the annoying people were pleasant and friendly. I was changed for the better, because my self-life was crucified and it was no longer I who lived, but Christ in me!

In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus. ⁶ Christ himself was like God in everything. But he did not think that being equal with God was something to be used for his own benefit. ⁷ But he gave up his place with God and made himself nothing. He was born to be a man and became like a servant. ⁸ And when he was living as a man, he humbled himself and was fully obedient to God, even when that caused his death -- death on a cross. ⁹ So God raised him to the highest place. God made his name greater than every other name ¹⁰ so that every knee

will bow to the name of Jesus -- everyone in heaven, on earth, and under the earth.¹¹ And everyone will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and bring glory to God the Father. Philippians 2:5-11 NCV

The moment I changed, and good seed went into the ground, my season arrived to reap a wonderful harvest that the Holy Spirit had planted within my spirit man.

And don't allow yourselves to be weary or disheartened in planting good seeds, for the season of reaping the wonderful harvest you've planted is coming!¹⁰ Take advantage of every opportunity to be a blessing to others, [The Greek text implies giving finances] especially to our brothers and sisters in the family of faith! Galatians 6:9-10 TPT



SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

I've written this letter to you with my own handwriting—see how large I have to make the letters? ¹² All those who insist that you be circumcised are recruiting you so they can boast in their own works. They are attempting to avoid the persecution that comes with preaching the liberating message of the cross of Messiah! Galatians 6:11-12 TPT

The scars on Paul's body resulted from his persecution because of his beliefs. If you perhaps believe in *keeping all the Jewish laws by the letter*, would you be willing to be taken into captivity, shackled and beaten almost to death for what you believe? Do you consider what you believe as worthy of punishment and death?

For Paul, it was! He never gave up preaching the message of liberty, regardless of punishment!

*Not even those who are circumcised keep every detail of the written law (Torah). Yet they push you to be circumcised so that they can boast that you have become like them. ¹⁴ **My only boast is in the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus, our Messiah!** In Him I have been crucified to this natural realm and the natural realm is dead to me. It no longer dominates my life. ¹⁵ Circumcision doesn't mean a thing to me. What matters is living by the transforming power of this wonderful new-creation life. Galatians 6:13-15 TPT*

The old life Paul had lived as a Pharisee under the bondage of all the Jewish customs didn't mean a thing to him anymore. He urges us to join him by also coming free and living a life of freedom.

*And all those who live in agreement with this standard will have true peace and God's delight, for they are the Israel of God. ¹⁷ **From now on, let no one bring me trouble or criticism,** for I am carrying the very scars [the Aramaic word for "scars" can also mean "death marks" or "stigmata"] of our Lord Jesus in my body ¹⁸ Finally my beloved ones— may the wonderful grace of our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One, be flowing in your spirit. So shall it be!*

In Messiah's love,

Paul

Galatians 6:16-18 TPT



Born from Free- and Slave Women

Ishmael and Isaac were both sons of Abraham. Ishmael was born from the slave women, Hagar, and Isaac was born thirteen years later from Abraham's wife, Sarah. Ishmael came into the world by natural means, while Isaac's birth was a supernatural event. Ishmael was circumcised at the age of thirteen, the age of "daat" (awareness), whereas Isaac entered into the covenant of circumcision as an eight-day-old infant, an age at which a baby is not even yet aware of its surroundings, much less of its significance.

Sarah thus demanded her husband, Abraham, to send Ishmael and his mother, Hagar, away. Paul refers back to this event in his epistle to the Galatians:

"Abraham had two sons, the one out of the slave-woman, and one out of the free woman. But, indeed he out of the slave-woman has been born according to flesh, and he out of the free woman through the promise; 24 which things are being allegorized; for these are the two covenants, one indeed from Mount Sinai bringing forth to slavery, which is Hagar. 25 For Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and answers to Jerusalem which now is, and is in slavery with her children. 26 But the Jerusalem from above is free, who is the mother of us all. 27 For it is written, "Rejoice, barren one not bearing; break forth and shout, you not travailing; for more are the children of the desolate than she having the husband. 28 But brothers, we, like Isaac, are children of promise. But then even as he born according to flesh persecuted him born according to the Spirit, so it is also now. But what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the slave-woman and her son; for in no way shall the son of the slave-woman inherit with the son of the free woman. **"Then, brothers, we are not children of a slave-woman, but of the free woman"** (Galatians 4:22-31 MKJV).

Throughout his epistle to the Galatians, Paul repeats the fact that there are two covenants, namely the Old- and the New Covenant. These two covenants are allegorized by the two sons of Abraham, namely Isaac and Ishmael. The first son of Abraham with Hagar, Ishmael, represents the Old Covenant and the ten commandments given to the nation on Mount Sinai. **Just as these two sons could not live together, it is also impossible to mingle the law with grace.** Paul explains to us that the law is a system of works that brings bondage and that the promise is a system of **grace that brings true freedom**. The truth will set us free to never again go back into bondage. Many believers have the same Father, but unfortunately only a few has the same mother. Some are born from the slave woman, Hagar, but those born from above, from Sarah, the new heavenly Jerusalem, find their freedom in Christ Jesus, the Messiah.