



Children of Promise

Galatians 4:21-31



Galatians 3-4 Overview

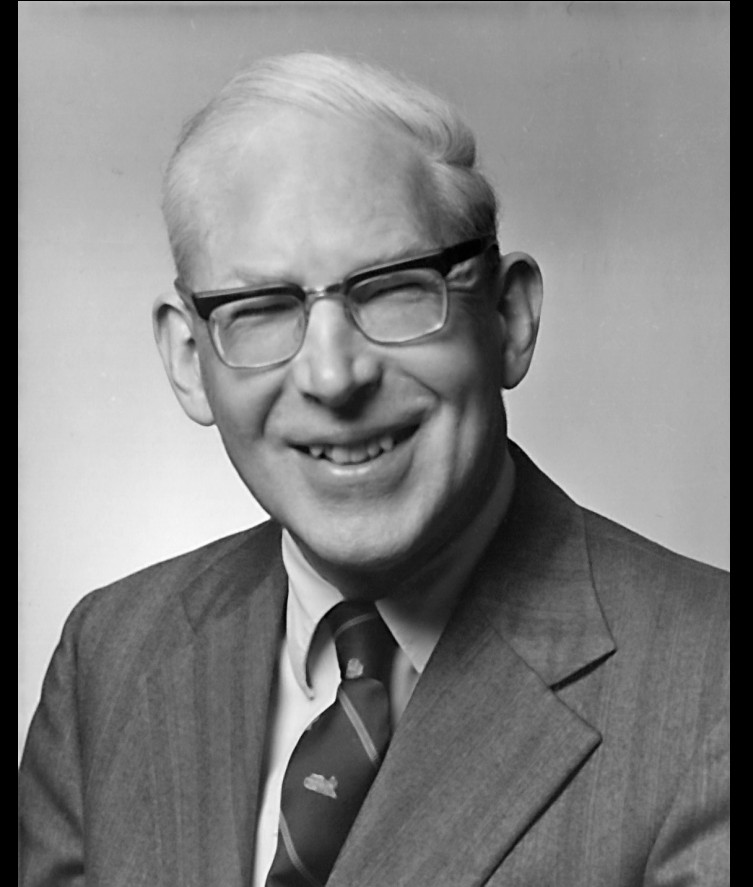
Justified/Spirit received
by faith not law
(3:1-14)

Inheritance comes thru
promise not law
(3:15-29)

Adoption/Spirit validate
no longer slaves
under law (4:1-20)

Allegory Argument
(4:21-31)

“If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God’s child, and having God as his Father...”



J.I Packer

**Like the Galatians, we'll best recognize
and avoid legalistic tendencies by more
deeply knowing our gospel adoption
identity: children of promise.**



Read
Galatians 4:21-31

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Galatians 4:21-31 Structure

Argument Intro +
Background
(vs 21-23)

Allegory Argument
(vs 24-27)

Galatian Application
(vs 28-31)

Argument Intro + Background (vs 21-23)

Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise.

(Galatians 4:21-23)



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(Galatians 4:21-23)



Allegory Argument (vs 24-27)

Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother.

(Galatians 4:24-26)



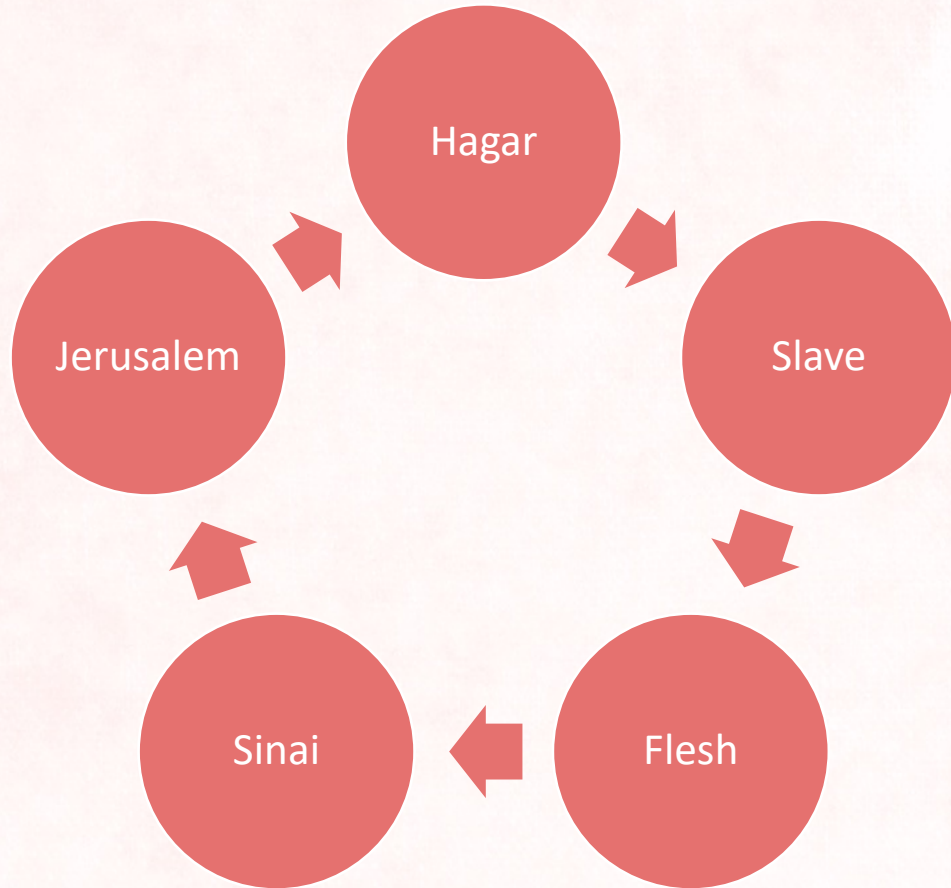
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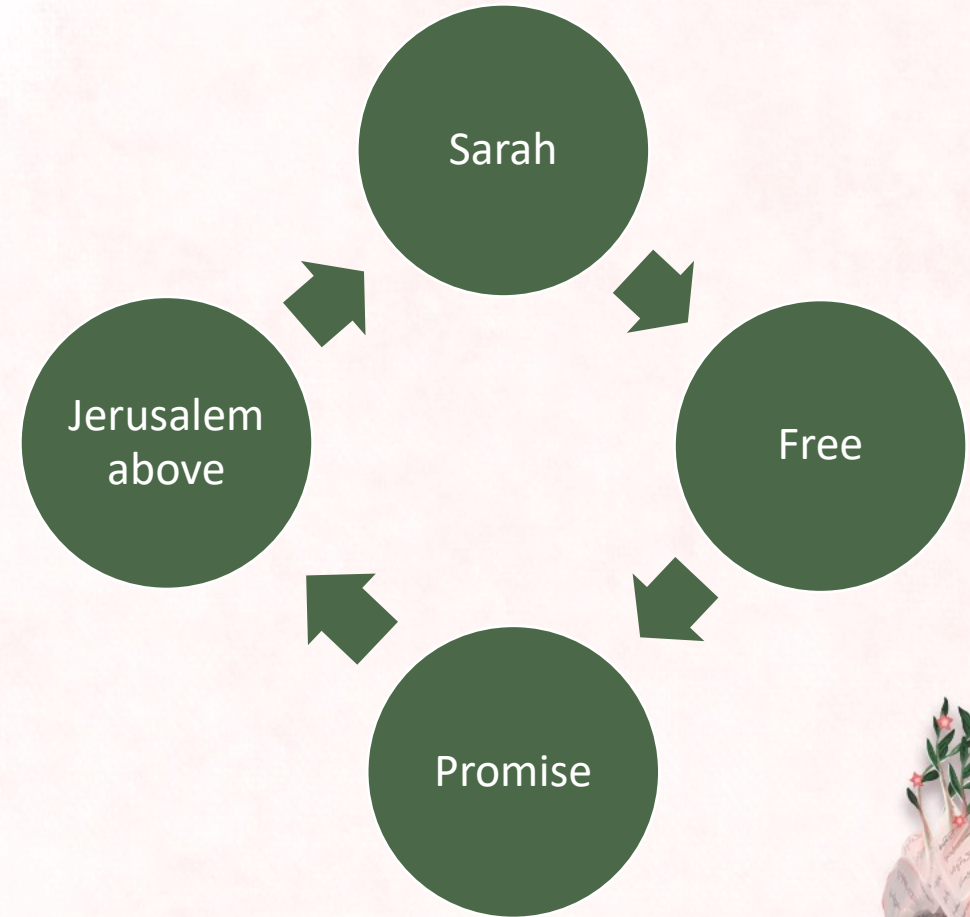
(Galatians 4:24-26)



Covenant of Works (legalism)



Covenant of Promise (grace)



Allegory Argument (vs 24-27)

For it is written,

“Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear;

break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor!

For the children of the desolate one will be more

than those of the one who has a husband.”

(Galatians 4:27)



Galatian Application (vs 28-31)

Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise...But what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman.” So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

(Galatians 4:28-31)



Galatians 4:4-5

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.



The nowness of our adoption!

And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but [you are] a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

(Galatians 4:6-7)



The nowness of our adoption!

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are...Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared...

(1 John 3:1-2)



The nowness of our adoption!

...You have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God...

(Romans 8:15-16)





Adoption lack reveals legalistic tendencies

1. Acceptance

2. Affection

3. Inheritance



Praying for others in groups of 2-3

- To more deeply know their gospel adoption identity.
- Based upon this scripture:

Romans 8:16

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God...

