

## GALATIANS 4

In an attempt to free the Galatians from the terrible yoke of legalism, Paul appeals to their Reason and their Sentiments.

I. **PAUL'S APPEALS TO THEIR REASON** (4:1-7, 21-31): He offers two illustrations.

### A. **A legal illustration (4:1-7)**

1. *The Roman father and his son (4:1-2)*
  - a. The frustration ([4:1](#)): Until he comes of age, the son can enjoy very little of his father's estate.
  - b. The freedom ([4:2](#)): Upon coming of age, the son can enjoy all of his father's estate.
2. *The redeemer's Father and the Father's children (4:3-7)*
  - a. The frustration ([4:3](#)): While under the law, they enjoyed very little of the Father's estate.
  - b. The freedom ([4:4-7](#)): Upon coming of age (effected by Christ's death), they can enjoy all of their Father's estate.

B. **An Old Testament illustration (4:21-31):** Paul uses the example of Hagar and Sarah, two Old Testament women, to allegorize the law of Moses and the grace of God.

1. *Hagar (an allegory of the law)* (4:21-22a, 23a, 24-25, 29a, 30-31a)
  - a. She was a slave ([4:21-22a](#)).
  - b. Her marriage to Abraham was fleshly directed ([4:23a](#)).
  - c. Her son, Ishmael, was naturally born ([4:24](#)).
  - d. Their son persecuted Abraham's second son, Isaac ([4:29a](#)).
  - e. Her child was not considered Abraham's rightful heir ([4:30-31a](#)).
  - f. She corresponds to earthly Jerusalem ([4:25](#)).

2. *Sarah (an allegory of grace)* (4:22b, 23b, 26-28, 29b, 31b)
  - a. She was a free woman ([4:22b](#)).
  - b. Her marriage to Abraham was spirit directed ([4:23b](#)).
  - c. Her son, Isaac, was supernaturally born ([4:27](#)).
  - d. This son was persecuted by Ishmael ([4:29b](#)).
  - e. Her child was considered Abraham's rightful heir ([4:28](#)).
  - f. Sarah represents the new covenant ([4:27](#)).
  - g. She corresponds to the heavenly Jerusalem ([4:26](#)).

## II. PAUL'S APPEALS TO THEIR SENTIMENTS (4:8-20)

- A. **The rebuke** ([4:8-11](#)): Again he faults them for their return to legalism.
- B. **The review** ([4:12-18](#))
  1. *Paul reminds them that they once were his friends* ([4:12-15](#)).
  2. *Paul wants to know if they are now his foes* ([4:16-18](#)).
- C. **The rebirth** ([4:19-20](#)): Paul will again suffer the pains of childbirth until Christ is fully developed in them.