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AN ALLEGORY, OR A PARABLE!

By Gordon F. Nelson

"For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid (female maid slave), the other by a free woman... Which things are an allegory." Gal. 4:22,24.

According to Webster, the word "allegory" means "the setting forth of a subject, or the telling of a story in figurative or symbolic language requiring interpretation." In the context of the text of Galatians 4:22-31, the allegory is about law and grace. The difference between an allegory and a parable is in the quantity. It is termed a parable when it is a short allegory!

Apostle Paul first introduces his allegory with the question, *"I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice (Gk.-opinion, mind); for I stand in doubt of you. Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?" Gal. 4:20-21.*

After Paul expresses his desire to change his mind relative to the Galatians, he introduces this allegory. *"Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law? For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid (Gk.-female slave or servant), the other by a freewoman (unrestrained [to go at pleasure] totally exempt from obligation or liability)." Gal. 4:21-22.* Do you fully comprehend what "justification by the law" means? This is the question Paul is always addressing throughout this allegory.

"But he (Ishmael) who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he (Isaac) of the freewoman was by promise." Gal. 4:23. What promise? The promise given to Abraham, the father of these two sons, Ishmael and Isaac. *"For the promise, that he should be the HEIR OF THE WORLD, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect." Rom. 4:13-14.*

Dear Christian friend, you cannot have it both ways! It is either PROMISE or LAW! It is not a "Duke's mixture." *"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." Jas. 2:10.* Abraham was not justified because he kept the law. He did not!

Sin #1 – Abraham was a liar - *"And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, She is my sister: and Abimelech king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah. But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and*

said to him, *Behold, thou art but a dead man, for the woman which thou hast taken; for she is a man's wife.*" Gen. 20:2-3.

Sin #2 – Disobedient – “Hearkening unto his wife,” instead of God. Gen. 16:2.

Sin #3 – Prostitution or “pimping” – Giving of his wife, Sarah, to the king to preserve his own life. Gen. 20:2.

Sin #4 – Fornication – *“And he (Abraham) went in unto Hagar, and she conceived.”* Gen. 16:4.

Sin #5 – “Wife swapping” – Swapped his own wife’s life to save himself. – Gen. 20:2.

Sin #6 – Desertion – Gave his wife to the king! Gen. 20:2.

Sin #7 – Hardness of heart – Did not love his wife as Christ loved the church. Eph. 5:25.

Sin #8 – Unbelief – Laughed when God said Sarah *“shall be a mother of nations.”* Gen. 17:16.

“Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar (Hagar). For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.” Gal. 4:24-25.

These two sons both came from the loins of Abraham. The parable is this—Hagar, the mother of Ishmael, represents the law as given to Moses on Mount Sinai. The Jews to this day, *“now is,”* answereth to the law of Moses, thus keeping her children (Israel) and the Holy City, Jerusalem, under bondage.

Daniel speaks of the coming Antichrist as being of the loins of Abraham. *“Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers.”* Dan. 11:37. The Jews would never accept as their Messiah anyone who did not come from the loins of Abraham. Antichrist could accomplish this feat through the loins of Ishmael. The only true God is the God of Abraham. Many biblical scholars are of the opinion that Antichrist will have been raised in the Holy Land as a Muslim, but will rule from Rome.

“But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband.” Gal. 4:26-27.

“For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.” Gal. 4:25. Hagar, the Egyptian slave-servant of Sarai, is Mount Sinai. Now this is an allegory! Can you really grasp what the Apostle Paul is saying? Hagar is a type of the law from Mount Sinai, which answereth to Jerusalem that *“now is.”*

If you set up a religion with rulers, laws, by-laws and General Superintendents, you must have a

headquarters. In this allegory, as Paul is presenting it, the Jerusalem for the Assemblies of God is Springfield, Missouri. *“But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.”* Gal. 4:26. You were “born again” from the Jerusalem which is above. Jesus *“hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them...For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.”* Heb. 7:24-25,28. You are either bound by a Jerusalem that is below, or one that is above.

Those of Jerusalem’s below, already have a document, entitled, Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission in the Third Millennium. Dr. Jesse Miranda is one of the “participants,” along with Charles Colson and Fr. Richard John Neuhaus. Dr. Jesse Miranda signed this document on behalf of the Assemblies of God organization that they are in agreement with all the earthly Jerusalem’s that stem from Hagar’s Mount Sinai. Essentially, this document is requesting Protestants to stop converting Catholics to Christianity.

“Today, in this country and elsewhere, Evangelicals and Catholics attempt to win converts from one another’s folds.” <u>Evangelicals and Catholics Together</u>
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Personally, I believe this document came into existence because of a great move of God in Brazil. Some of the largest Pentecostal churches in the world are not in Cho’s “positive confession” church in Korea, but in Brazil; entire churches with upwards of 15,000–20,000 members. Not one word hits the secular news media in America, nor in our Christian publications, as Christianity Today, Christian Research Institute or The Voice of the Martyrs. Why? Because all the converts have come out of Romanism and have been converted to Jesus Christ. *“And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints.”* Rev. 17:6. The persecution of Christians by the Roman Catholic Church is a complete blackout in our own news media. A converted Catholic priest lost his Saturday radio program in Sacramento.

Protestants in America were given a choice. “Do you want a repeat of Brazil in America? If not, then sign this document!” It was like a sword of Damocles hanging over the heads of Protestants. Either/or.

“For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband.” Gal. 4:27. This scripture is an actual quote from Isaiah 54:1, which reads, *“Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the LORD.”*

Like I said, this is an allegory, or parable. It is constantly being addressed to, *“Tell me, ye that desire*

to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?" Gal. 4:21. This is the question that Paul attempts to answer. To keep these very strange scriptures in context, we must recall the question being asked.

Hagar, under the law, having a husband, Abraham, had bore a son, Ishmael. But God is telling the church that bearest not, *"Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child."* Isa. 54:1. Why are you singing when thou bearest not? Because you become a type of Sarah who could not give birth. She too was barren, but God said, *"And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her. Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear?"* Gen. 17:16-17. (Sin #8 – unbelief) Let's be reasonable, God. I have a twelve-year-old son that is walking around now in the flesh! Let us be practical, *"O that Ishmael might live before thee!"* Gen. 17:18.

"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." Gen. 17:19.

After Abraham heard the name of the child in Sarah's womb, he never again staggered with unbelief. Up until he heard the name, Isaac, he thought the promises would come through Ishmael. When God gave a name to the seed implanted in the *"deadness of Sarah's womb,"* never again would Abraham's faith ever falter.

"And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: he staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness." Rom. 4:19-22.

We've seen how that Hagar is Mount Sinai, or the giving of the law by Moses. *"And Sarai said unto Abram, My wrong be upon thee: I have given my maid into thy bosom; and when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes."* Gen. 16:5.

Remember, this is an allegory! God is trying to get you to understand why the war goes on ever since Abraham went into Hagar. Antichrist will have to come of the seed of Hagar, as well! No one on earth is as capable of hating Jews as these offspring of Ishmael! *"They hatch cockatrice' eggs"* (Isa. 59:5), and can't wait until they're eight years old to hurl rocks at the Israelites!

You've heard of the Hatfield's and the McCoy's, the mountaineer boys! A family feud begins in

these hillbilly Appalachian Mountains, and no one remembers why they are fighting! Of course, the war in Israel goes back to whenever Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt. It is a family feud, I guess, that will eventually produce Armageddon.

I pastored a church in Hayward, California. God was good and blessed a few people. Many of whom are avid readers of the RBN for the past seven years. The idea of this allegory is that you are never to look back! *“Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the LORD.”* Isa. 54:1.

The *“children of the married wife”* are limited. I could liken my outreach to my local church in Hayward, taking care of a few sheep. *“For more are the children of the desolate.”* I could never go back to what I came from. Folks read my *RIVERBANK NEWS* that would never attend my church—you, for instance! I check up on some of the readers of *RBN*. “Oh, yes, I read every word from cover to cover.” I could never jam down as many scripture into people’s heart preaching, as I do with the printed page. It’s been said, “The pen is mightier than the sword.” This promise I stand on with each issue of *RBN* sent out. *“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”* Isa. 55:11.

Once Lazarus heard his name, “Lazarus come forth!” he considered not the “deadness of his body.” His real spirit came alive! Who are you? What is your name? Many of you are held captive in the deadness of the body that envelops your spirit like a tomb. Like Lazarus, you need to know why you were ever born. During the 1960’s, the hippies were trying to find themselves. You need to find your calling and abide in it. *“Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called.”* 1 Cor. 7:20.

Once Abraham heard the name, Isaac, his faith became unshakable! He staggered not from that instant. There is power in a name! I had prophesied over Randy B. some 30 years ago when he was flat broke from Lake Tahoe. The car he drove was borrowed. It was at this time I announced to my congregation about Randy, “You are looking at one of God’s future millionaires.” I didn’t have a clue as to how God would bring it to pass.

Once I named Randy’s spirit as that of Lot, supernatural things began to happen, commencing with the death of his own attorney. Almost immediately, his spirit (held captive in a dead body) suddenly came alive. From the time he heard his spirit name, he no longer staggered through unbelief. He gained a confidence that God would bless him in anything he’d attempt to do! In addition, Randy strangely *“obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his own gift: and by it he (the lawyer) being dead yet speaketh.”* Heb. 11:4.

Randy had a pending pretrial that was only one week away. He was totally unprepared (his own counsel was partially at fault) for the pending pretrial date. This pretrial would spell disaster rather than benefit. You must believe positively once you know what your calling is. Your faith is based on what you believe God has called you to do. Jesus said, *“Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which HE SAITH shall come to pass; he shall have WHATSOEVER HE SAITH. Therefore I say unto you, What things so ever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that you receive them, and ye shall have them.”* Mk. 11:22-24.

Randy’s mountain just so happened to be his own lawyer representing him in counsel. As long as that mountain (the lawyer) remained alive, Randy would lose the coming pretrial to take place in one week. Hence, Randy prayed for his removal. *“Be thou removed and be thou cast into the sea.”*

Have you ever spoken to a mountain that was about to destroy you? like drugs, alcoholism, cancer, gambling and smoking? God promises to give us the desires of our heart. And, many times these desires are placed in our heart by the Holy Spirit and become our calling in Christ Jesus. I’m sure this is what transpired in the heart of Randy some thirty years ago. This instance of answered prayer and witnessing the death of his own lawyer so increased Randy’s faith that what God said, He will bring it to pass. Randy will never again stagger at the promise through unbelief that he is to be one of God’s millionaires.

I spoke to my mountain, which happened to be my own wife of 25 years. I told her, “I am divinely called by God for a very end time ministry.” So confident was I of this “calling” that I warned her “If you ever get in the way, God will remove you out of the way.” But it was the spoken word in relationship to a divine calling. By witnessing the fall of Tom Patten I knew I was divinely called of God. To protect that calling, I spoke to my mountain. She died shortly after at age 48. *“Wherefore the rather, brethren, (You) give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if YE DO (there is that nasty word again; C.I. Scofield) THESE THINGS, YE SHALL NEVER FAIL.”* 2 Pet. 1:10. *“Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called.”* 1 Cor. 7:20.

Don’t you ever try to put the “C. Thomas Patten’s” of this world in San Quentin prison! It is not your calling. Don’t you start praying for the death of anyone unless they are interfering with your “divine call” from God. Most Christians think they’ve been divinely called to warm a church bench and just pay their tithes. *“For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.”* Rom. 11:29. They are not given because you are perfect. We are all sinners saved by grace. But, *“these signs shall follow them (which are in their calling) that believe.”* Mk. 16:17. God works to vindicate “His calling”, not your personal ambitions. Are you in your calling?

“Enlarge the place of thy tent...for thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left...Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame...For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name.” Isa. 54:2-5.

Jimmy Swaggart is breaking out on the left and the right. He is believing God to be on 200,000 television stations worldwide. Hagar and an earthly Jerusalem thought they had finished him. *“For more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the LORD.” Isa. 54:1.* While Jimmy Swaggart was married to the Assemblies of God, he was in a legalistic box with a degree of success. He was defrocked by the Assemblies of God, and hence delivered over to the desolate.

Oh, Hallelujah! *“For more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife (The Assemblies of God).”* The desolate children can more easily sustain Jimmy Swaggart on 200,000 television stations than the children of a married wife. Did you laugh when he repented? Was it a joke because a man repented of his sin? How about you? You probably married the ungodly. Your hilarious laughter should be turned into repentance.

“Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.” Gal. 4:28. How can you claim to be *“the children of promise,”* and never received *“the promise of the Father”*? Supposing the disciples had refused to go to Jerusalem. *“And, behold, I send the PROMISE OF MY FATHER upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.” Lk. 24:49.* Would these dissident disciples be called *“children of promise,”* that refused to have anything to do with the PROMISE OF THE FATHER?

After Peter preached his great sermon on the day of Pentecost, accusing the Jews of crucifying Jesus Christ (Acts 2:36), they cried out, *“Men and brethren, what shall we do (to be saved)? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized (immersed in water) every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. FOR THE PROMISE IS UNTO YOU, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call.”* Acts 2:37-39. You cannot be a *“child of promise”* and never want the promise. *“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.” Eph. 4:30.* In the parable of the five wise and five foolish virgins (Matt. 25:1-13), five of these virgins, unspotted from the world, were sealed, and five were not. Are you sealed?

“But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.” Gal. 4:29.

“Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed

be called. That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the CHILDREN OF THE PROMISE are counted for the seed. For this is the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sarah shall have a son. And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac; (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) it was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.” Rom. 9:6-16.

Imagine having God on record as saying, “I hate you,” while you were yet in your mother’s womb? Jacob and Esau were not just a “blob” of tissue. They had names and personalities before they were ever born. Planned Parenthood and your sex education teacher have lied to you. Abortion is murder!

“And the LORD said unto her (Rebecca), Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.” Gen. 25:23.

When God called Jeremiah, Jeremiah said, “*Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.*” Jer. 1:6. The Lord said to Jeremiah, “*Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee (set thee apart), and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.*” Jer. 1:5. God knows all about us, and He never made a mistake!

“Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.” Gal. 4:30. The bondwoman’s child, Ishmael, may have the same father as Isaac, but we have different Jerusalem’s. The new Jerusalem in heaven is a free city, and the mother of us all. Jerusalem is where God lives who adopts us into His family. But this earthly Hagar and her son represent the old covenant. They were to be kicked out of Abraham’s home and receive no inheritance with Isaac. It is two different contracts, and they cannot mix. Christians are not under any ordinance of the law of Moses. Only the children of the flesh revive the law. The children of the promise deny all claims of the law.

The allegory was the exposure of these two covenants, and we must decide to “cast out Hagar and Ishmael” as a type of the law of Moses and the old covenant.

In C.I. Scofield theology, there is no “doing,” for Christ did it all. It was up to Sarah, a type of the church, to “cast out the bondwoman, Hagar, and her son.” Do it!

Many genuine Christians never get beyond what the Bible says is “schoolmaster’s religion.” They know “the schoolmaster” led them to Christ with her long pointer stick. She could point right at your sin. *“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ”* (Gal. 3:24), by her pointing out all the “Thou shalt not’s!” This is where the average Christian remains, as a pupil. They never graduate from the schoolmarm’s classroom. You can recognize her pupils because they have taken up the “schoolmaster’s religion”, and have become experts in “pointing out” a Christian’s imperfections. These are never cognizant of their own imperfections; only yours! God help us all whenever we run into one of these pupils that have never graduated from the “schoolmaster’s religion”!

In religious circles you had better teach the new convert all you know quickly, because one month later he or she will be teaching you from books they have read about Christ. Scripturally, new converts are to be *“under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.”* Gal. 4:2. We get occasional phone calls that resent authority, except from the schoolmaster (the law). They want to be dropped from our mailing list. As a pastor, I could feel rejection of my message. As a publisher, I have saved a 33¢ stamp to send an *RBN* to one who will appreciate receiving our *RIVERBANK NEWS*.

If we can’t grow up and graduate from the “schoolmaster’s religion,” we will seek a “Doctorate of Divinity” in post-graduate work in her school called “justification by the law.” We’ll die and go to hell, for *“ye are (now) fallen from grace.”* Gal. 5:4. You have now become captive to Hagar and her child. Do as Sarah commanded you to do; *“Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac.”* Gen. 21:10. No one is going to do this for you! You must put the old covenant and the law of Moses out of your house because, as a believer, you are justified by faith alone, *“and not by the works of the law.”* Gal. 2:16.

“And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then it is no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.” Rom. 11:6