

# “Galatians 4:1-31” – sermon 1

## All Scripture is KJV: Galatians 4:1-31

### INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY?

Today we continue with the preaching series on the **Book of Galatians 4**.

Galatians addresses following.

Paul refutes and exposes the false way of salvation. He exposes the Jews for their lies and rebukes them for trying to get Christians to return to the way of the mosaic & moral laws which was never able to save.

- **In the 6 Chapters of Galatians, 3 themes of rebuke run through each and every chapter.**
  1. False- Works based salvation - Salvation is by faith alone.
  2. Exposes the Jews for their lies about the law saving. Jews, trying to get Christians to follow Jewish customs, feasts days, circumcision for salvation.
  3. And people trying to please people rather than pleasing God.
- Galatians is a letter of stern rebuke, to anyone who thinks that by reentering into Judaic laws or customs that they can somehow make themselves more spiritual, and turn them into a Christian believer.
- There is no such thing as a Christian Jew, or a Jewish Christian. You are either a Jew or a Christian. Because each one of them is a religion.

In Mark 7 we see Jesus scolding and rebuking the Jews even to a greater degree.

[Mark 7:8](#) For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the **tradition** of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. (9) And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own **tradition.** (13) Making the word of God of none effect through your **tradition,** which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

- ❖ So according to Jesus they knew full well that they were rejecting God.

[Matthew 15:9](#) But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

1. Then you read in Acts 15:1 And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, **Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.**

1. Well Jesus as well as Paul calls the Jews liars. Because they do not have Abraham as their father. (John 8:42)
2. And if they did have Abraham as their father then they would be saved in Jesus Christ. Because that is what the scripture teaches.
3. The Jews do not believe in Jesus at all.

## Genesis 12:2-3 King James Version (KJV)

<sup>2</sup> And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: <sup>3</sup> And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

## Romans 4:12-14 King James Version (KJV)

<sup>12</sup> And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised. <sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:

<sup>16</sup> Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all.

<sup>17</sup> (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

<sup>18</sup> Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

<sup>19</sup> 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 Sarah's womb:

<sup>20</sup> He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

✚ And so again.....

**Romans 9:7** Neither, because they are the **seed** of Abraham, are they all children: **but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.**

### **Romans 9:8**

**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.**

✚ Again more verses proving Gods chosen are in Christ. Not the unbelieving Jews.

### **Galatians 3:16**

**Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.**

### **Galatians 3:19**

Wherefore then serveth the law? **It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made;** and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

## Galatians 3:29

**And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

✚ Again this verse proves that if you are Christ's.....then are you Abrahams seed.

## Hebrews 2:15-17 (KJV) – Jesus takes on the seed of Abraham

<sup>15</sup> And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

<sup>16</sup> For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; **but he took on him the seed of Abraham.** <sup>17</sup> Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a **merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.**

- ✓ Firstly to understand the Book of Galatians we should have a good knowledge also of the OT; without which we would not be able to interpret the NT correctly.
- Galatians 4 today: So what is Galatians 4 going to tell us?

Lets break down these verses into manageable sections of scripture to try and understand what rebuke was all about.

- ✚ Let's take a look for ourselves. (Genesis 12:1-3 ff and Genesis 22:17ff.)
- ✚ To understand this scripture let's look at the OT in Genesis 12:1-3 and also Genesis 22:17-18.

## Genesis 12 King James Version (KJV)

<sup>1</sup> Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: **<sup>2</sup> And I will make of thee a great nation,** and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: **<sup>3</sup> And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.**

## Genesis 22:17-18 King James Version (KJV)

**<sup>17</sup> That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;** **<sup>18</sup> And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;** because thou hast obeyed my voice.

1. So according to God in these verses in Genesis **who is God going to bless?**
2. He is going to bless **"all families of the earth?"** Not the Jews – **right or wrong?**
3. He is going to bless **"all the nations of the earth?"** Not the Jews **right or wrong?**
4. Because how can all nations or all families of the earth be talking about the Jews?
5. Not only that, we have the NT to clarify this for us again.

- ✚ The greatest commentary to the bible is the bible itself, please remember that. And please also remember that the NT has priority over the OT revelation. Especially when you see Jesus or the Apostles teaching the revelation.
- ✚ So let's look at the balance of the scriptures in Galatians 4 to understand Genesis 12 and 22.

### Galatians 3:6-14

<sup>6</sup> Even as **Abraham believed God**, and it was **accounted to him for righteousness**.

<sup>7</sup> **Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.**

<sup>8</sup> **And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.**

<sup>9</sup> **So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.**

<sup>10</sup> 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 3:11-14 continued.....

<sup>11</sup> **But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God**, it is evident: for, **The just shall live by faith.** <sup>12</sup> **And the law is not of faith:** but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.

1. Those that try and live by the law cannot and will not ever be saved.
2. The Jews cannot be saved by the law either.
3. For by the Law can no flesh be saved. (Galatians 2:16) also (Romans 3:20ff)

<sup>13</sup> **Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law**, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: <sup>14</sup> **That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.**

1. The Jews are NOT the children of God, or the children of the promise as the bible puts it.
2. **No, the children of the promise are those that believe in Jesus.**
3. **The children of Abraham, are not the Jews, the children of Abraham are those that believe in Jesus.**

### Galatians 3:16-26

- ✚ Now that he has used an example of a covenant Paul goes onto to give us that real covenant confirmation in Galatians 3:16. Let's check it out.....

<sup>16</sup> Now to Abraham and **his seed** were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to **thy seed**, which is Christ. <sup>17</sup> And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. (Gen 12 & Gen 22)

<sup>18</sup> For **if the inheritance** be of the law, it is **no more of promise**: but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

<sup>19</sup> Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator. <sup>20</sup> Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one.

<sup>21</sup> Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: **for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.**

<sup>22</sup> But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, **that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.**

<sup>23</sup> But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. <sup>24</sup> Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup> But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

<sup>26</sup> For ye are all the **children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.**

<sup>27</sup> For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup> **There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.**

<sup>29</sup> **And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

1. To understand who Abrahams seed is, Galatians 3:16-29 clearly demonstrates that to us.
2. It is very clear from these scriptures that Abraham's seed is **ONLY** those that believe in Jesus Christ.
3. **The Jews are not Abraham's seed spiritually**, even though they are physical decedents of Abraham by flesh. Jesus acknowledged their physical descent but not their spiritual.

**John 8:37** I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

**John 8:39** They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.

**John 8:44** <sup>44</sup> Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no

truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

4. So to confirm what Genesis 12 and Genesis 22 is talking about is spoken of here in Galatians 3:29.

The unbelieving Jews are not Gods people. They are unbelievers, just like every other person who is not a believer.

✚ Why would the Jews be Gods people if they are Christ rejecting Jews?

**Matthew 21:42-46 – taken and given to another people.**

<sup>42</sup> Jesus saith unto them, **Did ye never read in the scriptures,** The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

<sup>43</sup> Therefore say I unto you, **The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.**

PRAYER.....CLOSE

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## INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY?

Today we continue with the preaching series on the Book of Galatians 4.

### Galatians 4:1-31 King James Version (KJV)

**<sup>1</sup> Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;**

<sup>2</sup> But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.

<sup>3</sup> Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:

**<sup>4</sup> But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,** <sup>5</sup> To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

<sup>6</sup> And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

**<sup>7</sup> Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.**

<sup>8</sup> Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods.

**<sup>9</sup> But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?**

**<sup>10</sup> Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.**

**<sup>11</sup> I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.**

<sup>12</sup> Brethren, I beseech you, be as I am; for I am as ye are: ye have not injured me at all.

<sup>13</sup> Ye know how through infirmity (*ill-health*) of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you at the first.

<sup>14</sup> **And my temptation** (*persuasion, attraction, or appeal*) which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; **but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.**

**<sup>15</sup> Where is then the blessedness ye spake of?** for I bear you record, **that, if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me.**

**16 Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?**

<sup>17</sup> They zealously (*fanatically*) affect (*involve*) you, but not well; yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect (*involve*) them.

- They are trying to play hard to get so that you might draw you in.....

<sup>18</sup> But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you.

1. Paul says it's good to be zealous but only for the right reasons.
2. Like it would be a good thing to be zealous for Jesus even though we are not reminded to be so.

**19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you.**

1. Paul addresses the church at Galatia as "My little children", because he realizes that they have not "grown spiritually".
2. So they are still "babes in Christ".
3. He also says that it reminds him as if he was witnessing "child birth" all over again. Referring to them as if they needed to be "born again" spiritually.
4. The words "Christ be formed in you" is in reference to their true salvation in Christ.

**20 I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you.**

1. But would that be possible?
2. Paul was in much doubt as to whether it would be possible for them to believe again?
3. Paul was doubtful that these people were even saved?
4. He said "**I stand in doubt of you**"?

**21 Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?**

1. Paul asked them to answer this question that he was going to ask of them?
2. **ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?**
3. In other words he was saying "do you not know what the law stood for"?
4. Do you not know the limitations of the law?
5. Do you not know what the OT wrote about the law?
6. Then Paul goes on to explain the OT scriptures concerning the law which is found in Genesis 16 & Genesis 17, and Genesis 21:9-12, and Genesis 22:17-18.

**22 For it is written**, that **Abraham had two sons**, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman.

**23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise.**

**24 Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants;** the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar.



An allegory's meaning:

1. A work in which the characters and events are to be understood as representing other things and symbolically expressing a deeper, often spiritual, moral, or political meaning.
2. A symbolic representation of something.

<sup>25</sup> For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.

<sup>26</sup> But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.

<sup>27</sup> **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.

### **Genesis 21:9-12 (KJV)**

<sup>9</sup> And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking. <sup>10</sup> **Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac.**

<sup>11</sup> And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son. <sup>12</sup> And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; **for in Isaac shall thy seed be called.**

1. So Gods calling of his people would be a spiritually calling in Isaac.
  2. The children of the flesh would be those who would not call upon the Lord Jesus for salvation. These unbelievers would be known as the children of the flesh who would be the physical fleshly descendents of Abraham but they would not be the children of God. They would be known as the children of Ishmael.
  3. The bondwoman's child (Ishmael) would not be the heir to Abraham.
  4. The freewoman's child would be the heir to Abraham.
- Just as the scriptures said that "in Isaac shall thy seed be called".

### **Genesis 17:19**

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 21:12**

And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; **for in Isaac shall thy seed be called.**

### **Romans 9:7**

**Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children:** but, **In Isaac shall thy seed be called.**

### **Hebrews 11:18**

**Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:**







 **Now as we finish in Galatians 4.....verse.....28**

**<sup>28</sup> Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.**

**<sup>29</sup> But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.**

**<sup>30</sup> 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.**

**<sup>31</sup> So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.**

-  Believers are the children of God.
-  Believers are the son of God.
-  Believers are those that are of the promise of Isaac.
-  Believers are those that are in Christ.
-  Believers are those that are of the freewoman.
-  Believers are those that are of the seed of Christ.

CLOSE IN PRAYER.....