

Based on Galatians 4:21-31.

A The covenant with Adam and Eve.

- ❖ Before sin (Genesis 2), the covenant included at least the following clauses for mankind:
 - Keep the Sabbath (v. 3).
 - Take care of creation (v. 15).
 - Do not eat the forbidden fruit (v. 17).
- ❖ It was very clear: Obey and you shall live! Of course, Adam and Eve could fulfill that covenant, they were perfect beings.
- ❖ Since they disobeyed, God introduced a new covenant of grace based in the promise of a Savior (Genesis 3:15)

B The covenant with Abraham.

- ❖ God wanted to guarantee Abram that he would have his own descendants, so He made a firm covenant with him by walking between the divided bodies of sacrificed animals (Genesis 15:9-21).
- ❖ By doing so, God guaranteed His covenant with His own life. He finally gave His own life in Calvary to fulfill the promise.

C Sarah and Hagar.

- ❖ Abram's first mistake was to leave the promised land and go to Egypt. Some Egyptian slaves that Pharaoh gave to Sarah joined Abram's entourage. Hagar was one of them.
- ❖ Sarai was sterile, so after waiting for ten years, she thought she could have a son by using her slave as a "surrogate mother" to give birth to her child.
- ❖ Therefore, Ishmael was the result of human effort ("according to the flesh") while Isaac was the son of Sarah and the result of faith ("through promise", Galatians 4:23).

D Hagar and Sinai.

- ❖ The people couldn't keep the Sinai covenant, since they tried to fulfill it by their own means and relegated faith to a secondary position (Hebrews 4:2; Exodus 19:8).
- ❖ ***In the same way that Abraham and Sarah tried to help God fulfill His promises, the Israelites sought to turn God's covenant of grace into a covenant of works. Hagar symbolizes Sinai in that both reveal human attempts at salvation by works.***

E Ishmael and Isaac.

- ❖ Salvation by works and salvation by faith are totally incompatible. We need to "cast out" one of those two means of salvation (Galatians 4:30).
- ❖ Ishmael made fun of Isaac to take his inheritance. The "sons of the flesh" also make fun of the "sons of the Spirit."

“in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.” (Genesis 26:4)

ABRAM

Hagar was a gift from Pharaoh, a slave. Sarah was Abram’s lawful wife.

HAGAR

SARAH

Ishmael was violent. Isaac was peaceable.

ISHMAEL

ISAAC

Some people look at Sinai and try to be saved by their works. We look at Christ and we are saved by faith.

MOUNT SINAI

THE PROMISE

Some people trust what they can do in this life. We trust what God has already done for us.

WORLDLY JERUSALEM

NEW JERUSALEM

Some people are slaves of his works. We are free in Jesus Christ our Savior.

SLAVES

FREE