

#1423 The United States of America as the New Jerusalem/New Israel – At its founding, the land of America was looked upon by many as representing a New Jerusalem and/or a City Upon a Hill and/or a New Israel, part 6, Distinguishing between an *earthly* new Jerusalem and the *heavenly* New Jerusalem (continued)

Key Understanding #1: *Earthly Jerusalem vs. heavenly Jerusalem.* In the passage of Galatians 4:21-31, the Apostle Paul easily distinguishes the difference between the fallen *earthly* Jerusalem, Israel, and the *heavenly* New Jerusalem. [This passage will help to further reveal the manner in which the Lord views the freeing of Jerusalem by the Allies in World War I, the reestablishment of the nation of Israel, and the nature of the Middle East peace-making process in Palestine between the Arabs and Israelis.]

Galatians 4:21-31 (KJV) Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law? [NIV . . . Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says?]

22 For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. [NIV . . . For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman.]

23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. [NIV . . . His son by the slave woman was born in the ordinary way; but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a promise.]

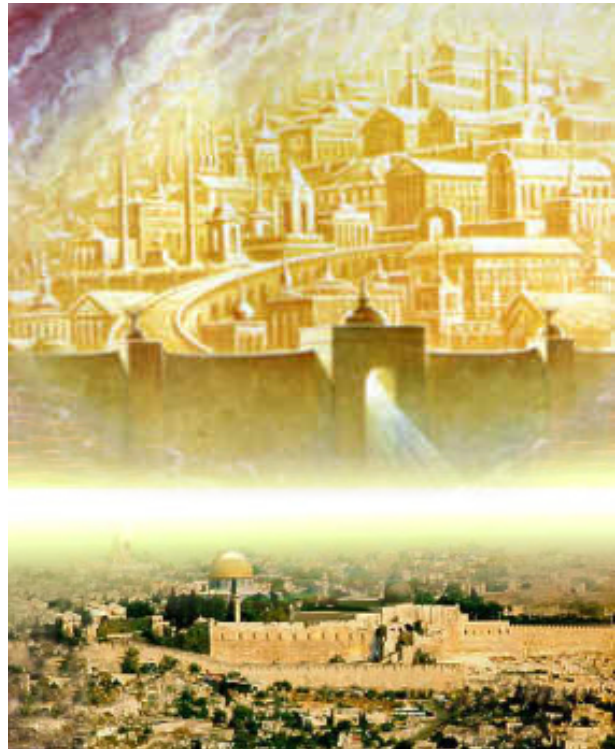
24 Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. [NIV . . . These things may be taken figuratively, for the women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar.]

25 For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to JERUSALEM WHICH NOW IS, AND IS IN BONDAGE WITH HER CHILDREN. [NIV . . . Now Hagar stands for {the law of} Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children.]

26 But JERUSALEM WHICH IS ABOVE IS FREE, WHICH IS THE MOTHER OF US ALL. [NIV . . . But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother.]

[Note: This is speaking of the *heavenly* New Jerusalem of which true Christians who have forsaken in their hearts their *earthly* kingdom citizenships are citizens.]

27 For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou



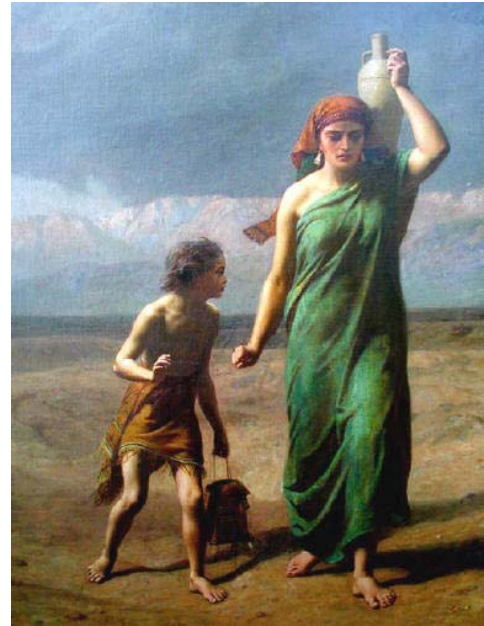
that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband. [NIV . . . For it is written: “Be glad, O barren woman, who bears no children; break forth and cry aloud, you who have no labor pains; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband.”]

28 *Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.* [NIV . . . Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise.]

29 *But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.* [NIV . . . At that time the son born in the ordinary way persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now.]

30 *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.* [NIV . . . But what does Scripture say? “Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman’s son.”]

31 *So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.* [NIV . . . Therefore, brothers, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.]



Key Understanding #2: Jerusalem is in spiritual bondage with her children. Paul makes it very clear that the Jerusalem “that now is” – Jerusalem, Israel – is in spiritual bondage with her children, no matter what the political status of Jerusalem. What’s more, whether Jew or Arab, the citizens of the *earthly* Jerusalem, Israel, are of Hagar in the Lord’s eyes. It is only the Christian whose citizenship is truly in heaven – and thus in the *heavenly* city of New Jerusalem – who is born of Sarah, that is, who is born of the promise, and who is spiritually free.

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