

What follows represents the unedited lecture notes of Pastor Merritt's teaching of the Book of Galatians. Please feel free to reproduce all or part for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians Lesson

8-13-2017

1. Last week I taught Gal 4:27 and when time expired we were reviewing the *Doctrine of Ishmael*.

2. Let's first use the provisions of 1Jo 1:9 by silently naming sin to God and then we will see how Gal 4:21-27 looks by way of an expanded translation.

Expanded Translation

Gal 4:21 What? Are you telling me you want to be under the Mosaic Law? Have you not been listening to what the law says?

Gal 4:22 For you see it has been written in Gen 16:1-16 that Abram fathered two sons, one by his slave and the other by his wife Sarai.

Gal 4:23 But most assuredly indeed the son of the slave was born after the flesh in the ordinary way; but the other son, Isaac was born as a direct result of God's promise.

Gal 4:24 What we have here must be taken figuratively, for the women represent two testimonies; One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves to the law: These are the followers of Hagar and her son Ishmael.

Gal 4:25 And now Jerusalem is just like Mount Sinai, because she and her children live in slavery to the law.

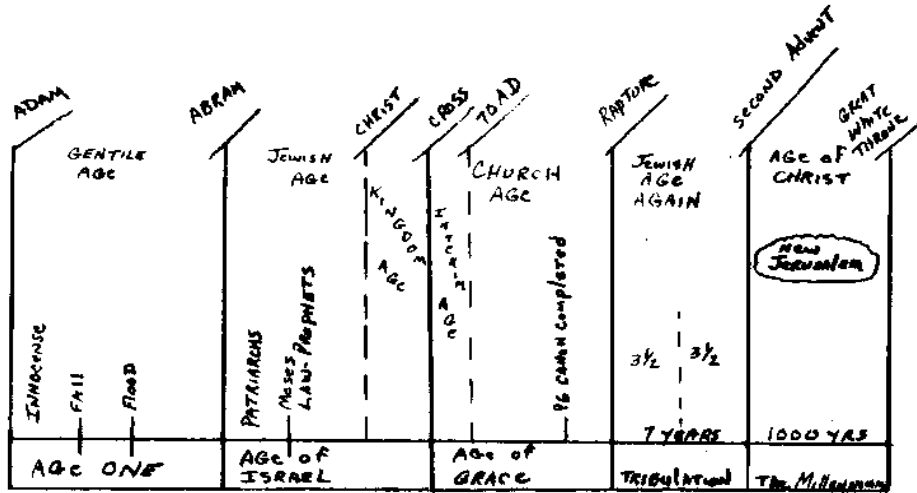
Gal 4:26 But the heavenly Jerusalem from above, the mother of us all represents our freedom as members of God's forever family both in time and eternity.

Gal 4:27 For it has been written in Isa 54:1, Be happy and rejoice, O barren woman who at first bore no children; break forth and cry out loud princess, you who also bore no labor pains as did Hagar; Why rejoice? Because when Christ returns at the Second Advent you will have more children than Hagar.

3. At the time of Paul's writing of the book of Galatians the descendants of Ishmael (unbelievers) far exceeded the descendants of Isaac (believers). This continues even today. In a world of 6.9 billion people, Christians total only 2.18 billion leaving 4.22 billion unbelievers. In Isa 54:1 and Gal 4:27 a celebration will occur because when Christ returns at the 2nd Advent the scoreboard will read "Christians Trillions" --- "Unbelievers Zero."

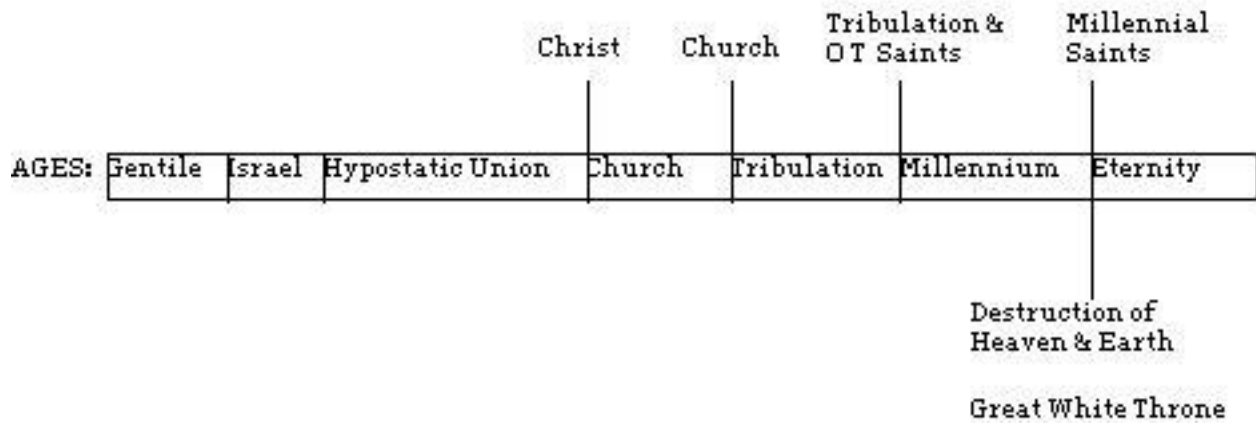
4. At the Second Advent, God regathers all believers from the Gentile Age, the Age of Israel and the Tribulation and destroys all unbelievers thus fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah chapter 54. It is at this time the barren woman is ordered to sing.

5. Let's see how this looks in chart form.



6. There is an order to the resurrection: Christ is first –Battalion One; then the Church Age believer-Battalion Two and then Battalion Three at the end of the Millennium.

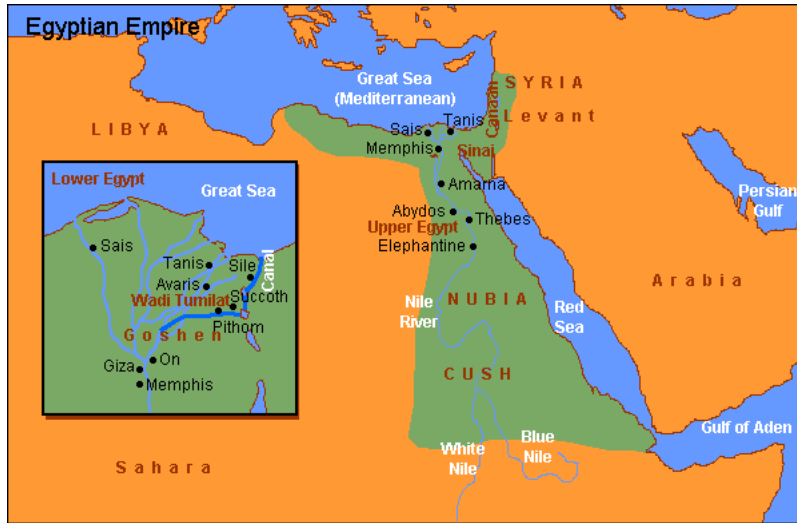
ORDER OF THE RESURRECTIONS



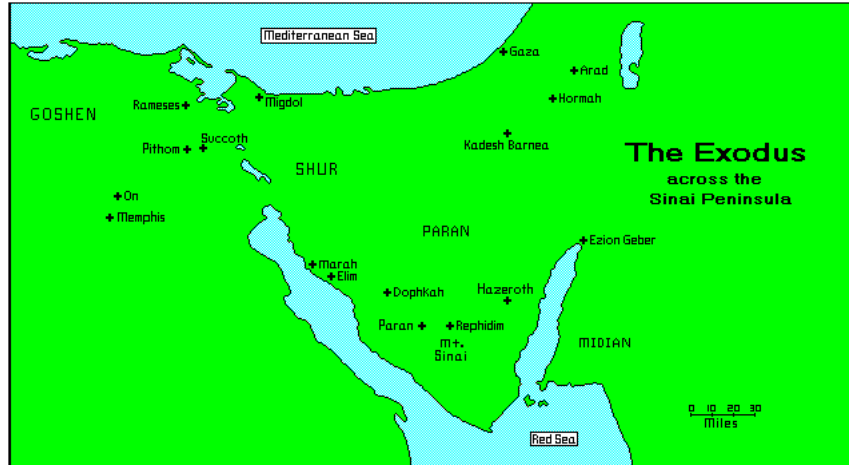
7. I want to review some of that done last week and then we will resume an analysis of the *Doctrine of Ishmael*.

Doctrine of Ishmael

1. Ishmael was the firstborn son of Abraham by Hagar, an Egyptian maid of his wife Sarah. Abraham was 86 at the time and had lived in Canaan for 11 years. A map of the Egyptian Empire shows Canaan as part of that empire.



2. When Abraham was 99 God renewed His covenant with him and enjoined circumcision of Ishmael as a sign of his membership in the covenant community.
 3. God however, promptly announced that He would fulfill the divine promise through his wife Sarah.
 4. When Ishmael was circumcised, Abraham and his household (those born to the men and women who had grown up in his employ and newcomers to the household through purchase from foreigners) were also circumcised.
 5. Ishmael was 13 years old at the time of his circumcision. Many Arab tribes still circumcise their youths at the age of 13.
 6. Fourteen years after the birth of Ishmael, Isaac was born to Sarah and Abraham. The jealousy that had long separated Sarah from Hagar came to a breaking point at the time of the weaning of Isaac.
 7. Sarah insisted that Hagar and Ishmael leave to live in the wilderness of Beersheba, and later in the wilderness of Paran. (See the map on the next page for location of Paran).
 - 7.1 Abraham agreed though reluctantly. He was somewhat assuaged when God announced a blessing on the boy and his descendants.
- Gen 21:10 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.
- Gen 21:11 And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son.
- Gen 21:13 And also of the son of the bondwoman will I make a nation, because he is thy seed.



7.1 There is no record in the Scripture or elsewhere of animosity developing between Ishmael and Isaac. For example both sons tended to the burial of Abraham in the cave of Machpelah. Gen 25:9

Gen 25:9 And his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, which is before Mamre; *(a city two miles north of Hebron in the south of Canaan.)*

8. While Isaac was his sole heir, Abraham endowed the sons of his concubines (Hagar and Keturah) while he was still living. (Gen 25:6)

9. Therefore Ishmael received some of Abraham's material goods. Keturah's sons were sent away eastward toward Jordan and Iraq, whereas Ishmael went to the southwest toward Egypt and Saudi Arabia.



10. Ishmael is mentioned 44 times in the Old Testament but none in the New Testament.

11. Now let's see what we can learn from Gal 4:28.

KJV-New Sentence

Gal 4:28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.

NIV

Gal 4:28 Now you, brothers, like, are children of promise.

NOW WE, BRETHREN, ΔΕ ΣΥ, ΑΔΕΛΦΟΣ,

1. **De Su Adelphos** is better translated “Now you, my brothers and sisters in Christ ...”
2. **De** is a conjunction used as a continuative followed by the pronoun **Su** declined as a nominative plural and the noun **Adelphos** declined as a nominative plural.
3. **Adelphos** appears more than 200 times in Scripture where it is generally translated “brother, brothers” or “brethren.”

Gal 1:1 Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)

Gal 1:2 And all the **brethren** which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia:

Gal 1:3 Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,

Gal 1:4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

Gal 1:11 I want you to know, **brothers**, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. *I was taught not by man but by the Holy Spirit in the Arabian Desert.*

Rom 1:13 Now I would not have you ignorant, **brethren**, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but have been prevented from doing so until now) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.

1Co 6:7 The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated?

1Co 6:8 Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your **brothers**.

AS ISAAC WAS, ΚΑΤΑ ΙΣΑΑΚ,

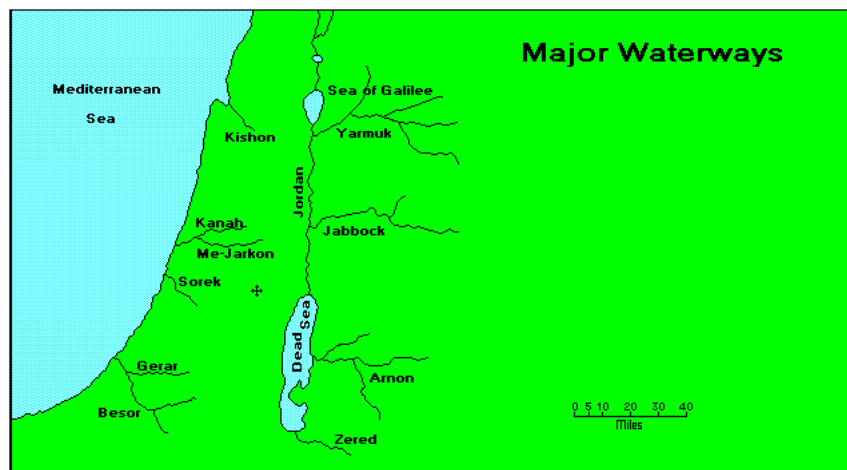
1. **Kata Isaak** is better translated “just as Isaak was ...”
2. **Kata** is a preposition followed by the indeclinable proper noun **Isaak**.
3. Isaac was the name, given by God before the birth of the child.

Gen 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.

3.1 Isaac means "he laughs" or "he who laughs." This name was given to the boy because Sarai laughed when God said at "in your old age you shall have a child." Abraham was also in a state of disbelief. Let me give you several points about Isaac.

Background

1. Isaac was born to Abraham and Sarah in Gerar when they were 100 and 90 years respectively. Gerar was located in what today we call the Gaza strip. (See map below)



2. Isaac was the first to be circumcised in the normal course, when eight days old. This was done in recognition of the covenant promise.

3. The presence of Hagar and her son Ishmael was a disturbing factor in the household, and by divine command they were dismissed. Ishmael at this time about 16 or 17 years old.

4. Little is known of the early boyhood of Isaac. We see him strong enough to carry the wood for the altar fire up the mountain slope, not knowing that he himself would be placed on that altar. The experience of being bound as a sacrificial victim and then delivered by divine intervention must have deeply affected his whole life.

5. Isaac was 37 years old when his mother died in Hebron. Three years later his marriage to Rebekah took place at Lahai-roi. This city is located about 50 miles SE of Gerar. Isaac accepted the marriage arrangement made by his father, as evidently ordered by the Lord; he had earlier been sent north to Mesopotamia to find a wife and that he successfully did at the city of Nahor near Haran.

6. Abraham would later father seven sons by a concubine name Keturah. Like Ishmael he would send her sons away, just as he had done with Ishmael thus making Isaac his sole heir. (Gen 25:1-6)

7. This would prevent any dispute about birthright. The death of Abraham at the ripe age of 175 brought Ishmael and Isaac together, probably for the last time.

8. Isaac was 40 years old when he married, and he waited another 20 years for an offspring. Then came the twins, Esau and Jacob, bringing new conflict into the home. The favoritism of the parents fostered the struggle for power in the children culminating in Jacob's deception by which he secured the patriarchal blessing from a then old and blind Isaac.

9. Isaac in an earlier sojourn in Gerar brought out behavior reminiscent of his father. (Gen 26:6-11)

Gen 26:6 So Isaac stayed in Gerar.

Gen 26:7 When the men of that place asked him about his wife, he said, "She is my sister," because he was afraid to say, "She is my wife." He thought, "The men of this place might kill me on account of Rebekah, because she is beautiful."

Gen 26:8 When Isaac had been there a long time, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked down from a window and saw Isaac caressing his wife Rebekah.

Gen 26:9 So Abimelech summoned Isaac and said, "She is really your wife! Why did you say, 'She is my sister'?" Isaac answered him, "Because I thought I might lose my life on account of her."

Gen 26:10 Then Abimelech said, "What is this you have done to us? One of the men might well have slept with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us."

Gen 26:11 So Abimelech gave orders to all the people: "Anyone who molests this man or his wife shall surely be put to death."

10. Isaac passed off Rebekah as his sister, reckoning that a brother would not be in the same danger as a husband. His prosperity in Gerar made him unpopular, so that not only did the Philistine chief invite him to leave, but the herdsmen disputed his right to use certain wells dug by Isaac's herdsmen.

10.1 Later Abimelech came to Isaac with his army. This was the same Philistine king who had sent Isaac and Rebekah away. Isaac was fearful of the king even though the King had ordered no one to hurt Isaac and his bride. The King again spoke words of peace and respect to Isaac.

End Lesson Taught 8-13-2017

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