

Defining Moments: Sarah and Hagar

1. Sarah

Genesis 18.

"If I have found favour in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant." (Vv. 3-5)

"Where is your wife Sarah?" "There, in the tent," he said. Then one of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son." (v. 9-10)

"After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?" (Vs. 12)

"Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son." (Vs.14)

'xeece' - "marvellous, wonderful".

"Died He for me, who caused His pain, for me, who him, to death pursued. Amazing love, how can it be, that thou my God should die for me."

2. Hagar

Genesis 16.

"So she said to Abraham, the Lord has kept me from having children. Go sleep with my maidservant Hagar, perhaps I can build a family through her." (Genesis 16.2)

"He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers." (Vs. 12)

"Abraham agreed to what Sarah said" (Vs. 2)

Word should be 'hearken'

"You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my slave in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the LORD judge between you and me." (Vs. 5)

"Your slave is in your hands. Do with her whatever you think best." (Vs. 6)

“Go back and submit to your mistress. I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count.” (Vv. 9-10)

What is missing?

- o There is no promise of salvation!
- o No promise that through her son all the nations of the earth will be blessed!

Galatians 4:21-31

Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman.

His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a divine promise. These things are being taken figuratively: The women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written:

“Be glad, barren woman, you who never bore a child;
shout for joy and cry aloud, you who were never in labour;
because more are the children of the desolate woman
than of her who has a husband.”

Now you, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise. At that time the son born according to the flesh persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now. 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.” Therefore, brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.

What is Paul getting at?

A Gospel according to Hagar and a Gospel according to Sarah.

One is a Gospel of works, the other a Gospel of grace.