

# The Spirit of Prophecy

## Abraham and His Two Sons

### Lesson #3

**Galatians 4:21-31 (NASB)** Tell me, you who want to be under law, do you not listen to the law? <sup>22</sup> For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the bondwoman [Hagar] and one by the free woman [Sarah]. <sup>23</sup> But the son [Isaac] by the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and the son [Ishmael] by the free woman through the promise. <sup>24</sup> This is allegorically speaking, for these *women* are two covenants: one *proceeding* from Mount Sinai bearing children who are to be slaves; she is Hagar. <sup>25</sup> Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. <sup>26</sup> But the Jerusalem above is free; she is our mother. <sup>27</sup> For it is written, "Rejoice, barren woman who does not bear [Sarah]; Break forth and shout, you who are not in labor; For more numerous are the children of the desolate [Sarah] than of the one who has a husband [Hagar]." <sup>28</sup> And you brethren, like Isaac, are children of promise [Christians]. <sup>29</sup> But as at that time he who was born according to the flesh [1<sup>st</sup> century Jews] persecuted him *who was born according to the Spirit* [Isaac], so it is now also [The Judaizers]. <sup>30</sup> But what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the bondwoman and her son [Hagar/Ishmael], For the son of the bondwoman [Ishmael] shall *not* be an heir with the son of the free woman [Isaac]." <sup>31</sup> So then, brethren, we are not children of a bondwoman [Hagar], but of the free woman [Sarah].

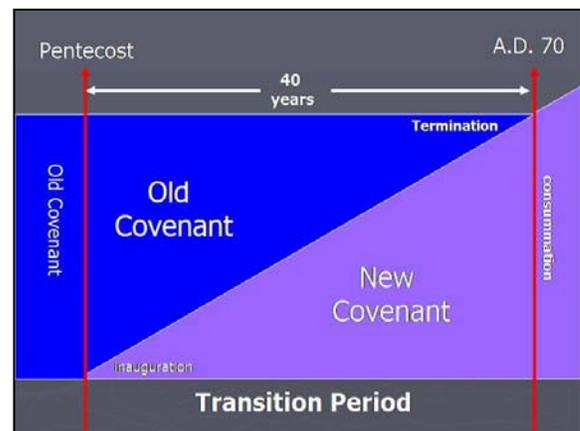
### Temporal vs. Spiritual

Hagar – Ishmael (first born) - Flesh – Slavery – Mount Sinai - Mosaic (Old Covenant) – Old Jerusalem (first century) – Nature – Old Jewish world – Present Age

Sarah – Isaac (born after Ishmael) - Spirit – Free – New Jerusalem from above – New Covenant - Children of Promise – Gift from God – The World to come – Age to Come

The transition period has been made clear between the two covenants. Paul takes a literal story and works a spiritual application. The two sons coexisted in the house together. They are types of the two Israel's of God – One after the flesh and the other after the spirit. Ishmael was first born and should have received the inheritance. However, without Ishmael being disinherited Isaac can't receive the firstborn's portion. Do you see the picture of the NT setting more clearly?

The ramification is not good for those looking for more future fulfillment regarding Israel's prophecies and promises today. This would mean that either Isaac (believers) has not received the adoption or Ishmael (Old Covenant system) has not yet been cast out. There is no in-between position for us today.



Judaizers – Jews holding to the law. These were the persecutors typified by Ishmael. Attempting to persuade the early Church that gentile converts needed to be circumcised and follow the Jewish law. These Jews were born after the flesh (Old Covenant) and they sought an inheritance through the Old Covenant realm. Seeking life after the flesh vs. seeking life after the spirit.

**Romans 4:13 (NASB)** For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith.

What world would Abraham inherit?

1. This present material world?
2. A new material world to come in our future?

Abraham's hope was on the new heavens and new earth as was typified by the land of Canaan. We've got to stick with the pattern or we will be lost without it.

Hebrews 12:22 (NASB) But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels,

The New Heaven and New promised to Abraham and his seed.

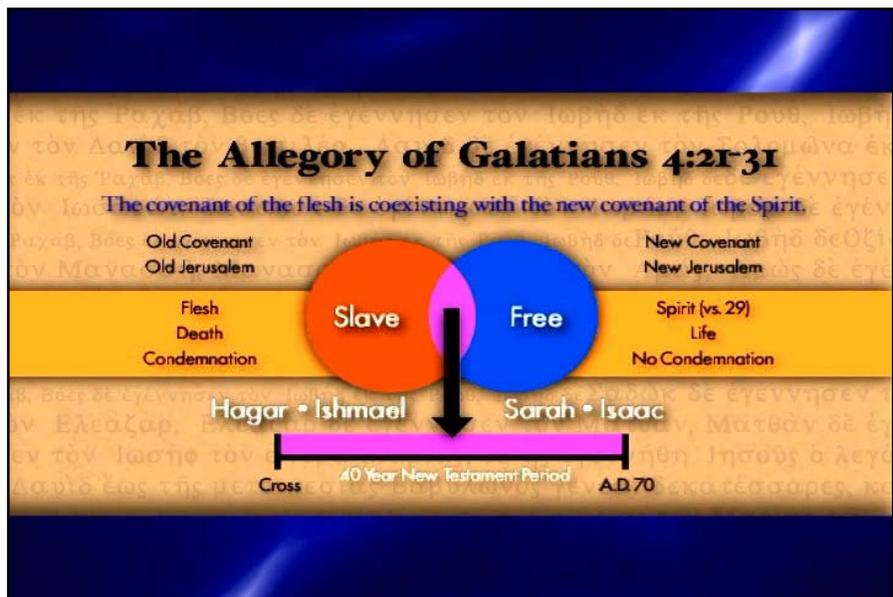
2 Peter 3:13 (NASB) But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

Looking for this new world to come in anticipation of Ishmael being cast out or when the old heaven and earth would pass away.

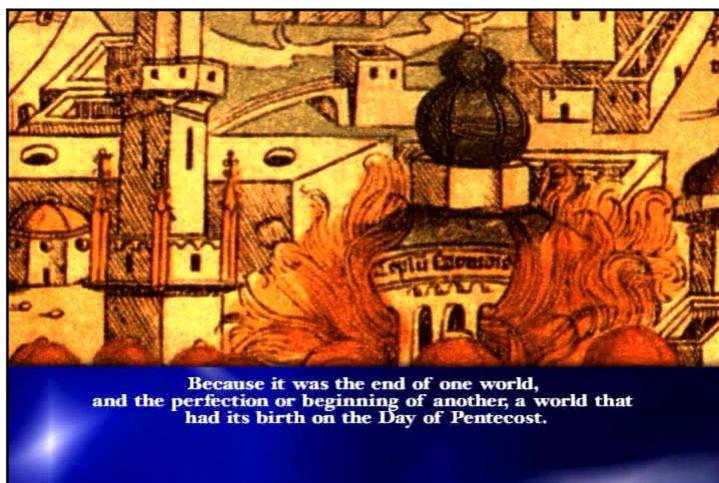
Hebrews 8:13 (NASB) When He said, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

2,000 years ago the Old Covenant was ready to vanish away.

Hebrews 12:25-28 (NASB) See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven. <sup>26</sup> And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven." <sup>27</sup> This expression, "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. <sup>28</sup> Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;



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The destruction of Jerusalem was a crucial point in God's scheme of redemption.

There had to be a process of maturing just like what children go through. The New Covenant world had its birth on Pentecost but its maturity would not come for 40 years.

Isaiah 65:17-18 (NASB) "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former things will not be remembered or come to mind. <sup>18</sup> "But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem for rejoicing

And her people *for* gladness. (Heb 12:22)

Peter was looking for the promise knowing that Ishmael was about to be cast out. **1 Peter 4:7 (NASB)** The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober *spirit* for the purpose of prayer. And this is the same as **Revelation 21:1-2 (NASB)** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

How did the first heaven and earth pass? If the New Heaven and Earth is the language of the New Covenant, then what do you do with the language of passages like 2Pet 3:10-13; Rev 6:12-18 and Acts 2:16-21?

**2 Peter 3:10-13 (NASB)** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. <sup>11</sup> Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, <sup>12</sup> looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! <sup>13</sup> But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

### Three Worlds

1. The world that perished in the flood (if was the world of the ungodly, not the planet earth)
2. Reserved for a fiery judgment
3. One in which the righteousness of Christ would dwell

None of these worlds refer to our universe or time/space world. So then what about the elements that melt with fervent heat?

**Gal. 4:3, 9** - *"So also we, when we were babes, under the elements of the world were in servitude...and now, having known God -- and rather being known by God -- how turn ye again unto the weak and poor elements to which anew ye desire to be in servitude?"*

The Greek word for elements used here is "stoicheia," and it appears in the NT only seven times. When you see the terms like "elements," ask yourself what this means? In Young's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, the literal meaning of the word is "*element, rudiment, principle.*" In other words, these are the elements of religious training, or the ceremonial precepts that are common to the worship of Jews and of Gentiles. We will look into it and you may find out.

**Col. 2:8, 20-22** - *"See that no one shall be carrying you away as spoil through the philosophy and vain deceit, according to the deliverance of men, according to the rudiments of the world, and not according to Christ, ...If, then, ye did die with the Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances? -- thou mayest not touch, nor taste, nor handle -- which are all for destruction with the using, after the commands and teachings of men."*

**Heb. 5:12** - *"For even owing to be teachers, because of the time, again ye have need that one teach you what [are] the elements of the beginning of the oracles of God, and ye have become having need of milk, and not of strong food."*

These passages describe the elementary principles of Judaism/Mosaic Covenant. Understanding these symbols of judgment should help us grasp the meaning of passages like 2Peter 3.

**1 Corinthians 7:29-31 (NASB)** <sup>29</sup> But this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, so that from now on those who have wives should be as though they had none; <sup>30</sup> and those who weep, as

though they did not weep; and those who rejoice, as though they did not rejoice; and those who buy, as though they did not possess; <sup>31</sup> and those who use the world, as though they did not make full use of it; for the form of this world is passing away.

**1 John 2:17-18 (NASB)** The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. <sup>18</sup> Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

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This lesson was derived from “The Spirit of Prophecy” DVD produced by Tim King of Presence Ministries