

Christ Set Us Free:

A Study through the Book of Galatians

An Allegory: Two Women and Two Mountains, Galatians 4:21-5:1

Parables: A simple story from everyday life with a spiritual truth

Lost Sheep, Prodigal Son, Good Samaritan, The Two Debtors, The Rich Fool

Allegories: A complex story from everyday life or history with various spiritual truths derived from various elements within the story

Allegories in the New Testament

When Jesus teaches by using an allegory he explains the allegorical elements

Four Soils, Wheat and the Tares, The Tenants

Allegorical Preaching on Parables:

Augustine and the Good Samaritan

A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho; Adam himself is meant; Jerusalem is the heavenly city of peace, from whose blessedness Adam fell;

Jericho means the moon, and signifies our mortality, because it is born, waxes, wanes, and dies.

Thieves are the devil and his angels. Who stripped him, namely; of his immortality; and beat him, by persuading him to sin; and left him half-dead, because in so far as man can understand and know God, he lives, but in so far as he is wasted and oppressed by sin, he is dead;

He is therefore called half-dead. The priest and the Levite who saw him and passed by, signify the priesthood and ministry of the Old Testament which could profit nothing for salvation.

Samaritan means Guardian, and therefore the Lord Himself is signified by this name. The binding of the wounds is the restraint of sin. Oil is the comfort of good hope; wine the exhortation to work with fervent spirit.

The beast is the flesh in which He deigned to come to us. The being set upon the beast is belief in the incarnation of Christ. The inn is the Church, where travelers returning to their heavenly country are refreshed after pilgrimage.

The two pence are either the two precepts of love, or the promise of this life and of that which is to come. The innkeeper is the Apostle.

Biblical History as Allegory/Typology

Romans 5: Adam and Christ

Romans 9: Jacob and Esau

The Allegory in Galatians 4:21-31

Galatians 4:21-24 Tell me, you who want to be under law, do you not listen to the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the bondwoman and one by the free woman. But the son by the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and the son by the free woman through the promise. This is allegorically speaking...

Story of Abraham and Sarah;
Abraham and Hagar

Genesis 15:1-2 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great." Abram said, "O Lord God, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

Genesis 15:3-4 And Abram said, "Since You have given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir." Then behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "This man will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir."

Genesis 15:5-6 And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." Then he believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 16:1-2 Now Sarai, Abram's wife had borne him no children, and she had an Egyptian maid whose name was Hagar. So Sarai said to Abram, "Now behold, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Please go in to my maid; perhaps I will obtain children through her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.

Galatians 4:24 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.

Galatians 4:25-26 Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free; she is our mother.

The hope of the New Jerusalem, not the earthly Jerusalem of Jesus or Paul, but the promised heavenly one

Isaiah 2:1-2 The word which Isaiah...saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. Now it will come about that in the last days the mountain of the house of the Lord will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; And all the nations will stream to it.

Isaiah 2:3 And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; That He may teach us concerning His ways and that we may walk in His paths." For the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

Isaiah 2:4 And He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples; And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war.

Revelation 21:1-2 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. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21:3-4 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

Revelation 21:5 And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."

Galatians 4:27-29 For it is written, "Rejoice, barren woman who does not bear; Break forth and shout, you who are not in labor; For more numerous are the children of the desolate Than of the one who has a husband." And you brethren, like Isaac, are children of promise. But as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so it is now also.

Galatians 4:30 But what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the bondwoman and her son, For the son of the bondwoman shall not be an heir with the son of the free woman."

Galatians 4:31 So then, brethren, we are not children of a bondwoman, but of the free woman.

Galatians 5:1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore, keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

Avoid the yoke of slavery

Avoid thoughts, motives, words, and behaviors that steal our joy of our adoption into the family of God

Avoid thoughts, motives, words, and behaviors that steal the joy of our heavenly destiny

Avoid thoughts, motives, words, and behaviors that distract from Christ as Lord and the Good News of salvation by faith in Him

Instead, keep standing firm in our freedom

Standing firm on who we are in Christ

Standing firm on our adoption into the family of God

Standing firm on our destiny in the New Jerusalem, the heavenly city