
THE BOOK OF
GALATIANS
STAND
FIRM
IN THE GOSPEL
OF GRACE


GALATIANS 4:21-31
Lessons from an allegory
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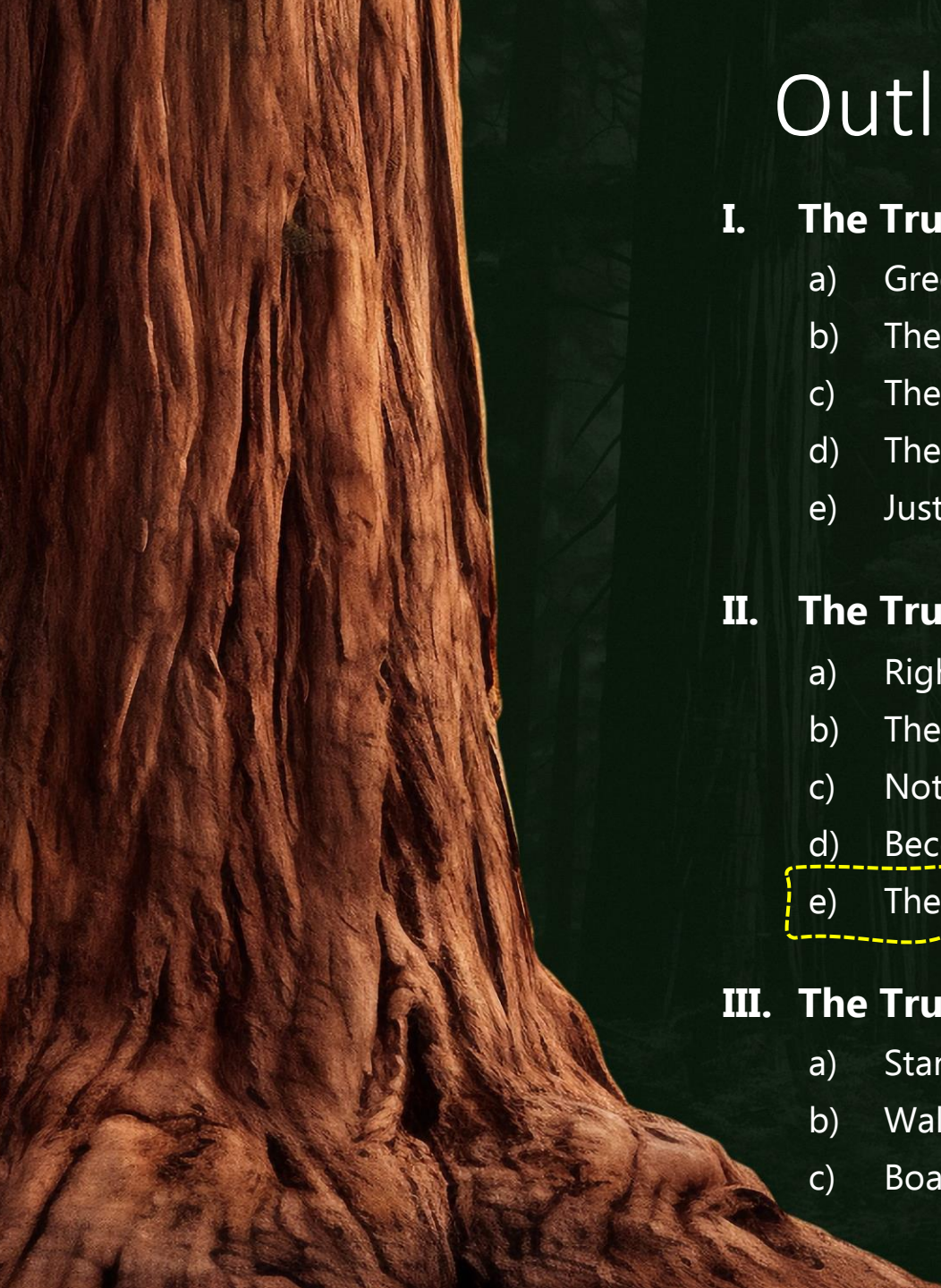
THE JOURNEY OF EVERY BELIEVER

The Pilgrim's Progress

BASED ON JOHN BUNYAN'S
EPIC MASTERPIECE

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Outline

I. The True gospel defended (1:1-2:21)

a) Greetings (1:1-1:5)
b) The distortion of the true gospel (1:6-1:9)
c) The revelation and affirmation of the true gospel (1:10-2:10)
d) The hypocrisy of Peter (2:11-2:14)
e) Justification is by faith, not by works (2:15-2:21)

II. The True gospel explained (3:1-4:31)

a) Righteousness comes through faith, not works (3:1-14)
b) The relationship between the law and the promise (3:15-3:29)
c) Not slaves but heirs in Christ (4:1-4:11)
d) Become as I am: Paul's heartfelt cry (4:12-4:20)
e) The allegory of the bondwoman and the free woman (4:21-4:31)

III. The True gospel applied (5:1-6:18)

a) Stand firm in the freedom won by Christ (5:1-5:15)
b) Walk by the Spirit, not by the flesh (5:16-6:10)
c) Boast in the freedom of the cross (6:11-6:18)

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What's an allegory?

"to speak, not according to the primary sense of the word, but so that the facts stated are applied to illustrate principles. The 'allegorical' meaning does not do away with the literal meaning of the narrative. " **- Vine**

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Gal 4:21-31

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Gal 4:21-31

1. The historical setting (vv. 21-23)

2. The allegorical interpretation (vv.24-28)

3. The applicational approach (vv.29-31)

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Abraham

Hagar, bondwoman



According to the flesh

Sarah, free woman



According to the promise

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Gal 4:21-31

1. The historical setting (vv. 21-23)

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Abraham

Hagar, bondwoman

Sarah, free woman

Old Covenant

Proceeds from Mt. Sinai

Present Jerusalem



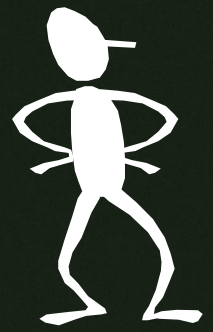
New Covenant

Jerusalem Above



According to the flesh

According to the Promise

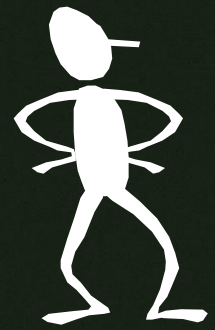


Ishmael

Flesh



Spirit



Isaac

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Jerusalem above

Rev 3:12

‘He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

Rev 21:2-3

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

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,

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Jerusalem above…. is free

Heb. 12:18-24

v.18 For you have not come to a mountain that can be touched and to a blazing fire, and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind,

v.19 and to the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words which sound was such that those who heard begged that no further word be spoken to them.

v.20 For they could not bear the command, "IF EVEN A BEAST TOUCHES THE MOUNTAIN, IT WILL BE STONED."

v.21 And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, "I AM FULL OF FEAR and trembling."

v.22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels,

v.23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,

v.24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.

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Jerusalem above…. She is our mother

Who is your mother?

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Three reasons why this section is important

Whenever God makes a promise, the flesh works against His plans

The Spirit and the flesh are in opposition to one another

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Galatians 5:17 *For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.*

Romans 7:23 *but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.*

Rom. 8:5 *For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.*

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Three reasons why this section is important

Whenever God makes a promise, the flesh works against His plans

The Spirit and the flesh are in opposition to one another

The flesh must be dealt with ruthlessly

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In dealing with the flesh…

1) Do it OBEDIENTLY

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Romans 6:12-14 *Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, 13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.*

2 Corinthians 6:14 *Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?*

1 Corinthians 6:18 *Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.*

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In dealing with the flesh…

1) Do it OBEDIENTLY

2) Do it HASTILY

3) Do it HARSHLY

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Romans 13:14 “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.”

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