

## **“Two Sons – Which Are You?”**

**Galatians 4:21-31**

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*The lesson of the two sons – Isaac and Ishmael*

*Pointedly addressed to those attracted to the law-keeping teaching of the Judaizers.*

### **1. The Vast Difference between the Two Sons**

**vv. 21-27**

#### **(1) A Difference of Birth and Identity**

*“For it is written that Abraham had two sons,  
one by a slave woman and one by a free woman.*

##### **- Ishmael**

*“the son of the slave was born according to the flesh”*

- Born of Hagar, the slave woman
- Born naturally (“that which is born of the flesh is flesh”)

##### **- Isaac**

*“the son of the free-woman was born through promise.”*

- Born of Sarah, the free woman
- Born supernaturally – through promise; through the Spirit (v. 29)

#### **(2) A Difference of Spiritual Origin and Citizenship** (24-27)

##### **- The two women represent two covenants**

*“Now this may be interpreted allegorically:  
these two women are two covenants.*

*One is from Mount Sinai,  
bearing children for slavery...”*

**Hagar: The covenant in its barest ‘law-keeping’ feature**

This feature was never intended as a way of justification!  
The covenant thus misused and abused bears children for slavery!

**Sarah: The covenant of promise** The gracious feature and the heart of the covenant

##### **- The two women represent two cities, Two places of origin**

*“Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia;  
she corresponds to the present Jerusalem,  
for she is in slavery with her children.”*

**Hagar: Mount Sinai and the present Jerusalem**

Making law-keeping the means of justification  
Displacing the ancient gospel promise!

**Sarah: the Jerusalem that is above**

*“But the Jerusalem above is free,  
and she is our mother.”*

- “above” = in heaven, where Christ is
- The spiritual birth place of all true believers, from which they are nourished and governed.  
Phil. 3:20; Heb. 12:22

- Isaiah 54:1 fulfilled in the church!

### **2. The Inevitable Conflict between the Two Sons**

**vv. 28-31**

*“Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise.*

#### **(1) The Ancient Pattern**

*But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh  
persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit,  
so also it is now.”*

##### **- Ishmael’s persecution of Isaac!**

- Gen. 21:8-9 Mocking, taunting; jealous of Isaac’s privileges; disturbing the household peace!

#### **(2) Its Present Form**

##### **- The Judaizers’ persecution of the true children of promise!**

- Sowing discord; disturbing the peace of the church, the household of God!

#### **(3) The Scripture Remedy**

*“But what does the Scripture say?*

*‘Cast out the slave woman and her son,  
for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit  
with the son of the free woman.’*

##### **- Sarah’s words** Gen. 21:10

##### **- Approved of by God!** Gen. 21:12

“do as (Sarah) tells you, for through Isaac your offspring shall be named.”

##### **- Applied here by the Apostle**

### **Further Application**