

# GALATIANS

The Gospel & True Freedom

Study 11. The Choice of Two Sons

Galatians 4:21-31





# STRUCTURE

1. The True Gospel (Gal 1-2)
2. The Inclusive Gospel (Gal 3-4)
3. The Liberating Gospel (Gal 5-6)





## Levitical Laws

Food laws  
Sacrifices

Circumcision





**Given God's Spirit**

**Children of  
Abraham**

**Adopted Sons of God**



# THE INCLUSIVE GOSPEL

Study 8 Galatians 4:1-7 Sonship in Christ

Study 9 Galatians 4:8-11 The folly of returning to the Law

Study 10 Galatians 4:12-20 Gospel Centered Ministry

Study 11 Galatians 4:21-31 The Choice of Two Sons



# FALSE TEACHERS

$$\text{Faith} + \text{Obey Law} = \text{Salvation}$$

## PAUL

Galatians 3:29 (ESV) And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.





## **JEWISH PRIVILEGE**

John 8:39-44 (ESV) 39 They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works Abraham did





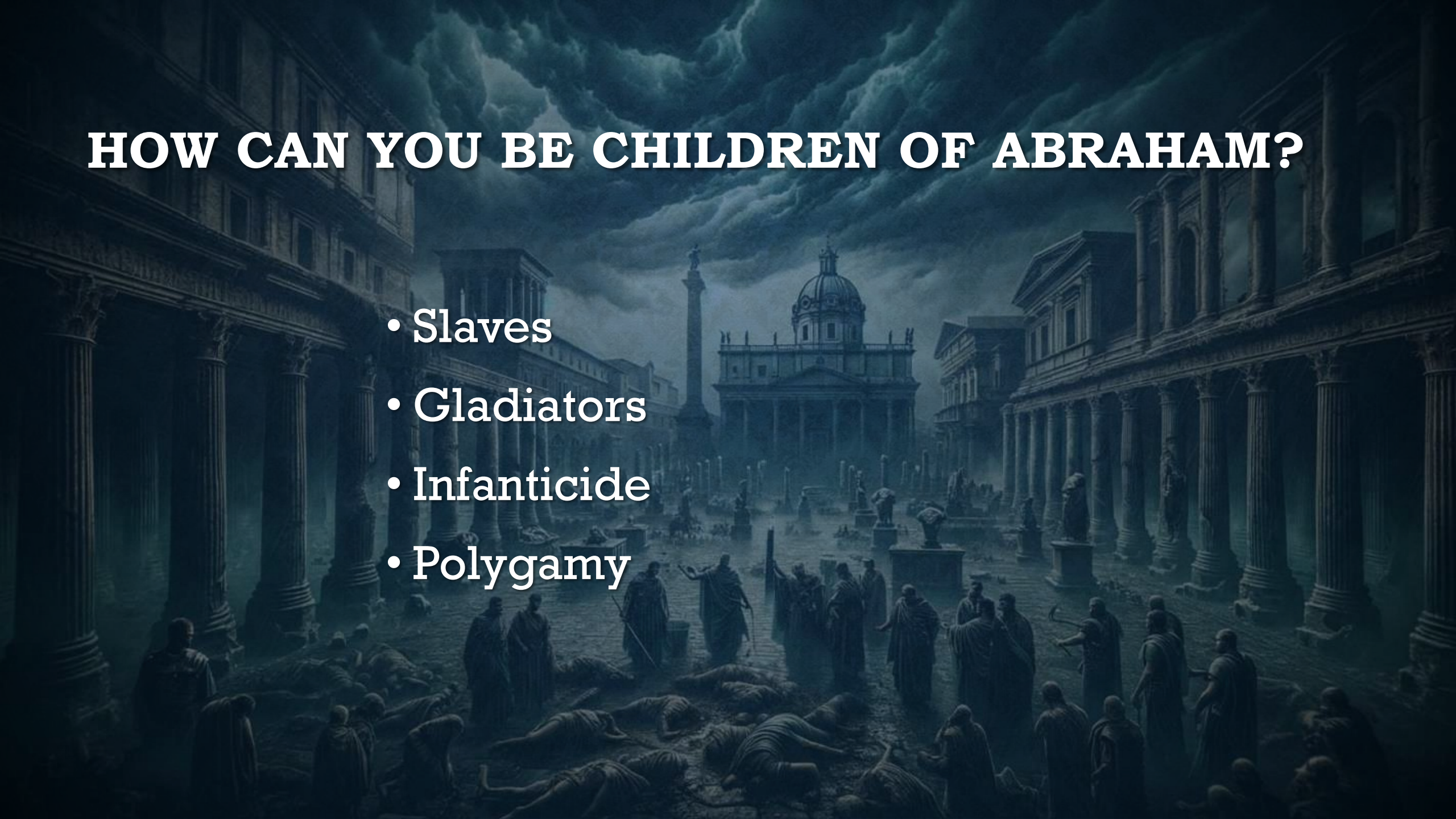
## JEWSIH FALSE TEACHERS

- Paul called you children of Abraham but you have a long way to go
- Not even circumcised
- Don't even Obey Law like all Jews
- Purify self from all pagan evils
- You are not authentic children of Abraham
- Think about what you have done



# HOW CAN YOU BE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM?

- Slaves
- Gladiators
- Infanticide
- Polygamy





Galatians 4:21-24 (ESV) 21 Tell me, you who desire to

be under the law, do you not listen to the law? 22

For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a  
slave woman and one by a free woman. 23 But the son

of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the  
son of the free woman was born through promise. 24

Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these

women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai,

bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar.



# ALLEGORY

*a story in which the characters and events are  
symbols that stand for ideas about human life or  
for a political or historical situation  
Miriam Webster Dictionary*





Surface level

Deeper real meaning



# GOOD SAMARITAN



The Prophet

The Law

Christ

Dongkey –Christ physical body—  
bearing sins of the world  
Jerico –the world  
The inn –church  
Samaritans promise to return -2<sup>nd</sup>  
coming of Christ

Adam



# DANGER

Disregards Author intent (Gods) and applies unconstrained imaginations and presuppositions of the reader (interpreter)

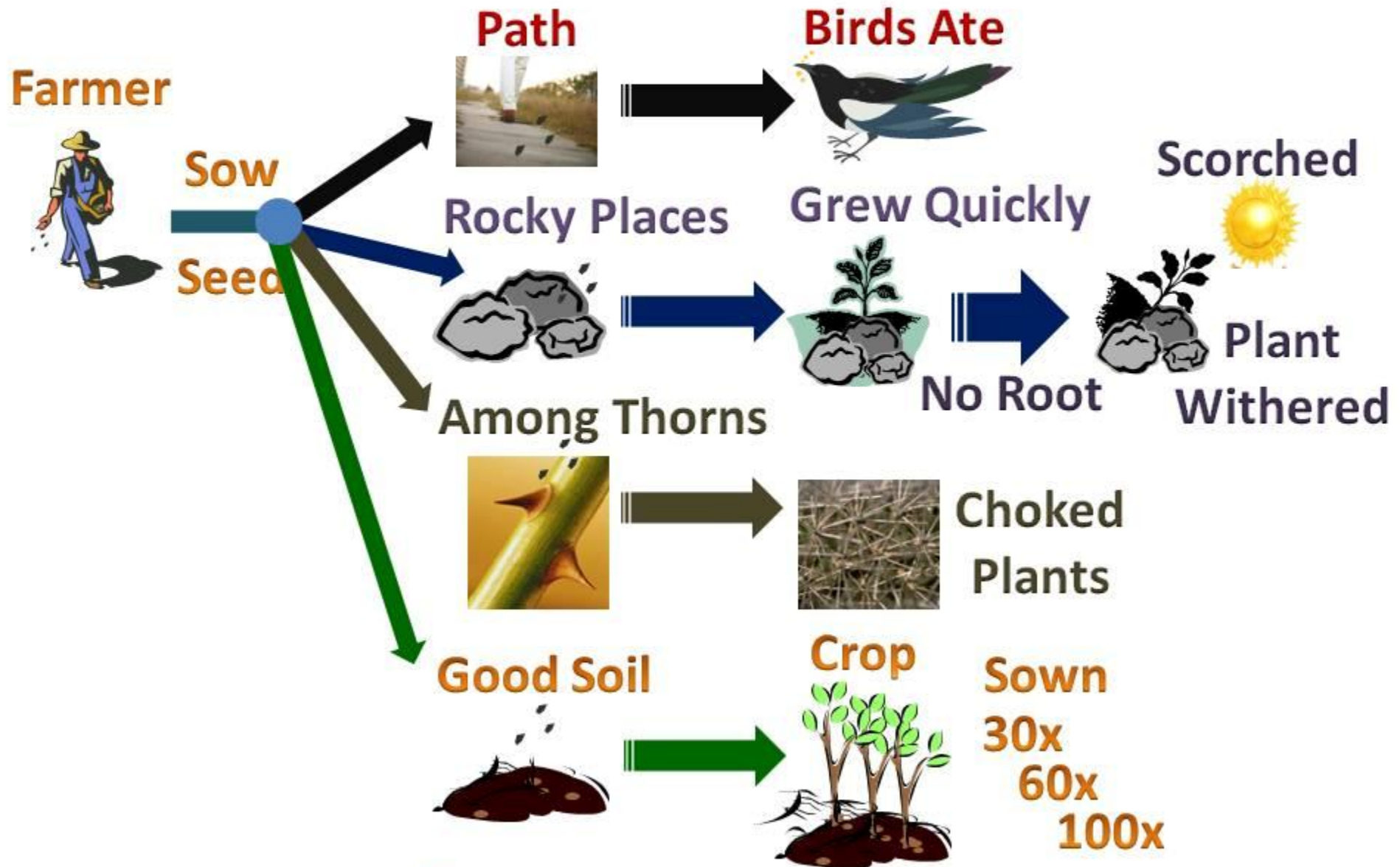
Allegorical interpretation has no way of communicating anything meaningful



# PRINCIPLES OF LEGITIMATE USE OF ALLEGORY

- The meanings is always explained
- Details are not symbolised
- Limited use
- Cannot use for interpretation without explanation

# The Parable of the Sower





## **JESUS EXPLAINS**

Matthew 13:20-21 (ESV) 20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away



Galatians 4:21-24 (ESV) 21 Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. 23 But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. 24 Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar.



# THE TWO SONS



Hagar

Flesh

Promise



Sarah

Human effort,  
ingenuity,  
works



The impossible  
Unimaginable  
Beautiful  
Bountiful





## **ABRAHAM HAD A CHOICE HUMAN OR DIVINE MEANS**

Genesis 16:1-2 (ESV) Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. 2 And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her."



# Old Covenant



# New Covenant



# **TWO COVENANTS**

## **TWO SONS BORN BASED ON TWO APPROACHES TO GOD**

**Earn**  
**Human ability**

I act  
I have control

**Depend**  
**His Ability**

He acts ---I wait  
He has control



**YOU BECOME A SLAVE**

Hagar

Flesh

Promise

**YOU BECOME FREE**



Genesis 16:4  
(ESV) And when  
she saw that she  
had conceived,  
she looked with  
contempt on her  
mistress.



Unloved

Galatians 4:28-29 (ESV) Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. 29 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.

Persecute

Loved

Following his own efforts brought suffering into his own life



# Galatians

Jewish false teachers

Imposing their laws--persecution

Levitical Laws

Food laws  
Sacrifices

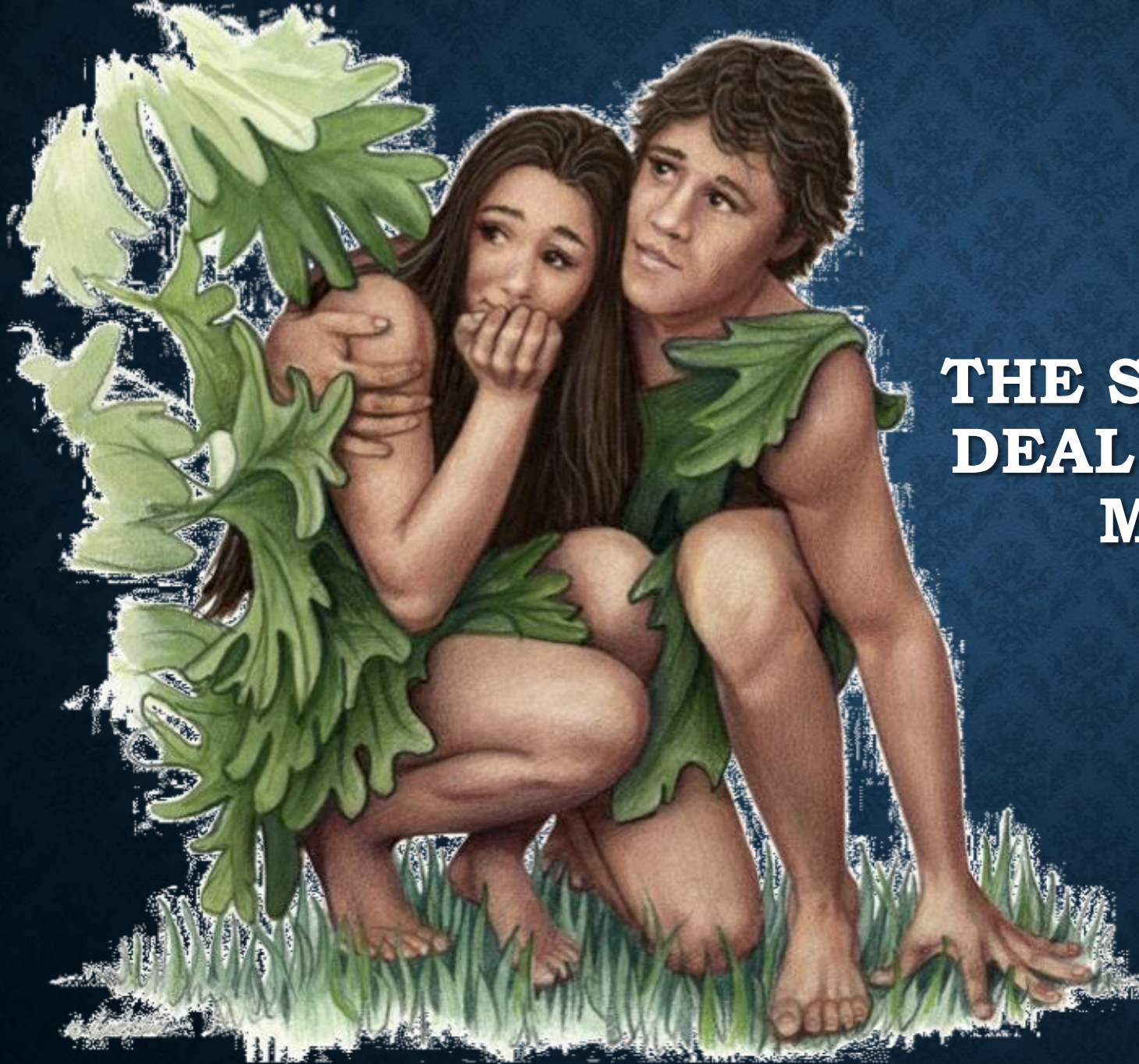
Circumcision



## **JUDAISERS ACTING LIKE ISHMAEL**

Galatians 4:29-31 (ESV) 29 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.





**THE SIN OF IDOLATRY  
DEAL WITH SHAME IN  
MY OWN WAY**



# FIG LEAVES-DEAL WITH SHAME FEEL GOOD ABOUT MY SELF

Money

Looking good

Status

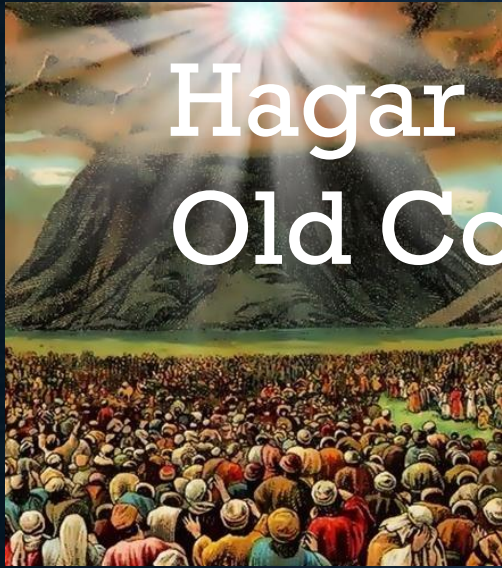
Achievement

Titles

Real estate

You become a slave  
because you have to  
have it





Hagar  
Old Covenant



Slavery to the Law



Sarah  
New Covenant



Current reality not  
future hope

Galatians 4:26 (ESV) 26 But  
the Jerusalem above is free,  
and she is our mother.



A vibrant, golden city of heaven with a rainbow arching over it. The city is built on a sea of white, fluffy clouds. The architecture is a mix of modern skyscrapers and traditional domes, all glowing with a golden light. In the background, green mountains are visible under a deep blue sky filled with stars. A large, multi-colored rainbow arches across the top of the scene, framing the city and the text.

**You belong to heaven now  
Right and Priveleges**

Art by Carlos.S heavenstr

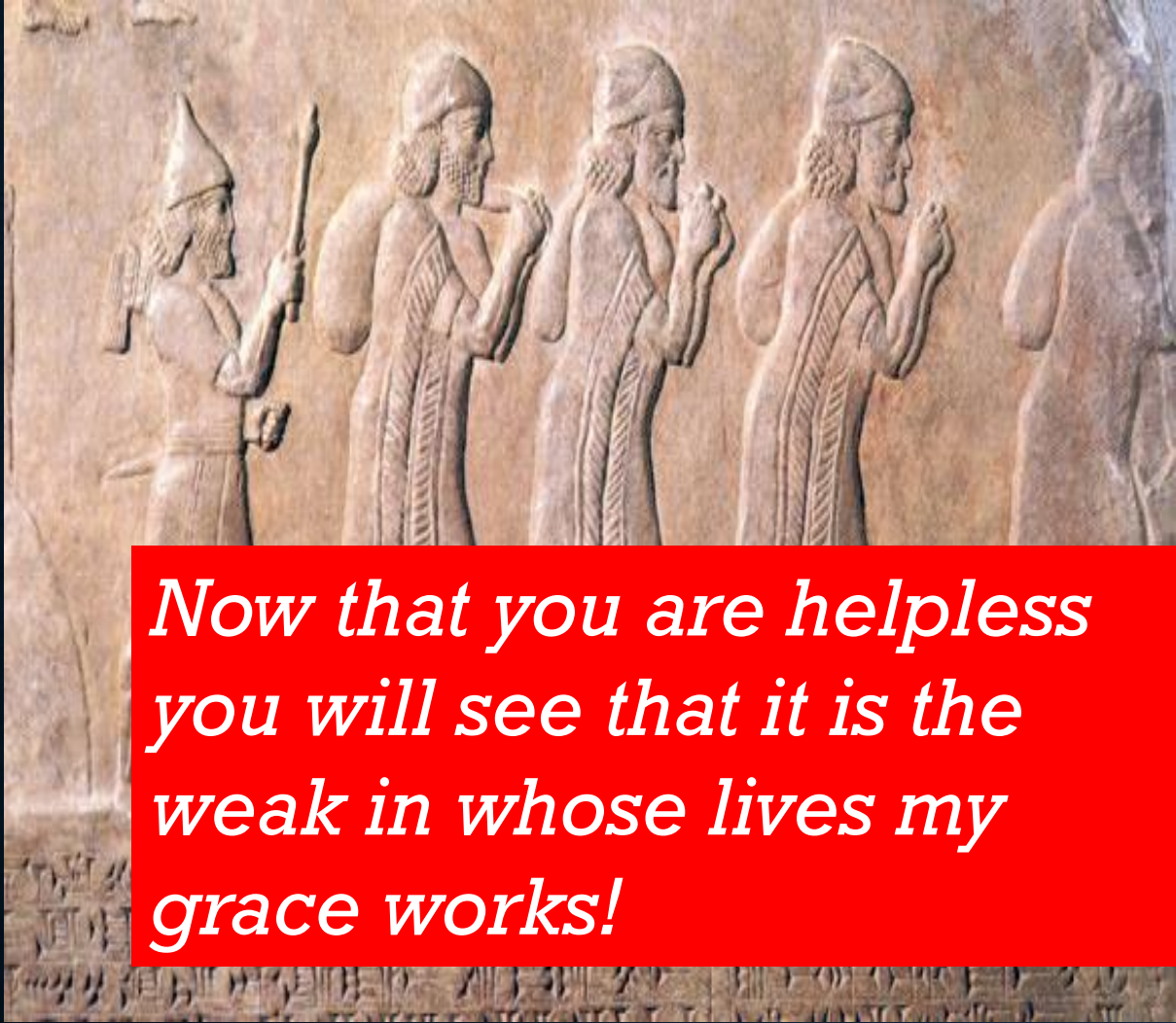


## ISAIAH 54:1

Galatians 4:27 (ESV) 27 For it is written,  
“Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear;  
break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor!  
For the children of the desolate one will be more  
than those of the one who has a husband.”



# Jewish Exiles



*Now that you are helpless  
you will see that it is the  
weak in whose lives my  
grace works!*

Exiled , Remnant , Weak

# Babylonians



Victors, Many, Powe  
rful rely on self





**Rejoice**

Old  
Infertile  
No potential



Young  
Fertile  
Full of potential



God's Promise  
Son of Freedom  
Faith



Choice

Own Effort  
Son of Slavery  
Works





# Galatians



Gentiles Unclean ,No potential

# Judaisers



Chosen Jews Clean,  
Privileged





Nepali.pagan nation  
Poor  
No potential



Middle class  
Professionals  
Potential  
Morally upright





## NEED TO CHOOSE

Our Effort—Slavery— No inheritance



His Effort—Freedom— Eternal Inheritance



## SOLUTION

Galatians 4:30 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.” 31 So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.



# BETHEL GOSPEL ASSEMBLY

BECOMING GOD'S ANSWER  
**BOOKSTORE**  
OPEN TO SERVE YOU! ALL ARE WELCOME!



**Bethel Gospel Assembly**  
A Loving Community of Faithful Believers

Worship Services: 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 6:00 PM  
Sunday School: 9:30 AM  
Bible Study: 10:00 AM  
Prayer Meeting: 7:00 PM  
Guests Welcome! All Are Welcome!





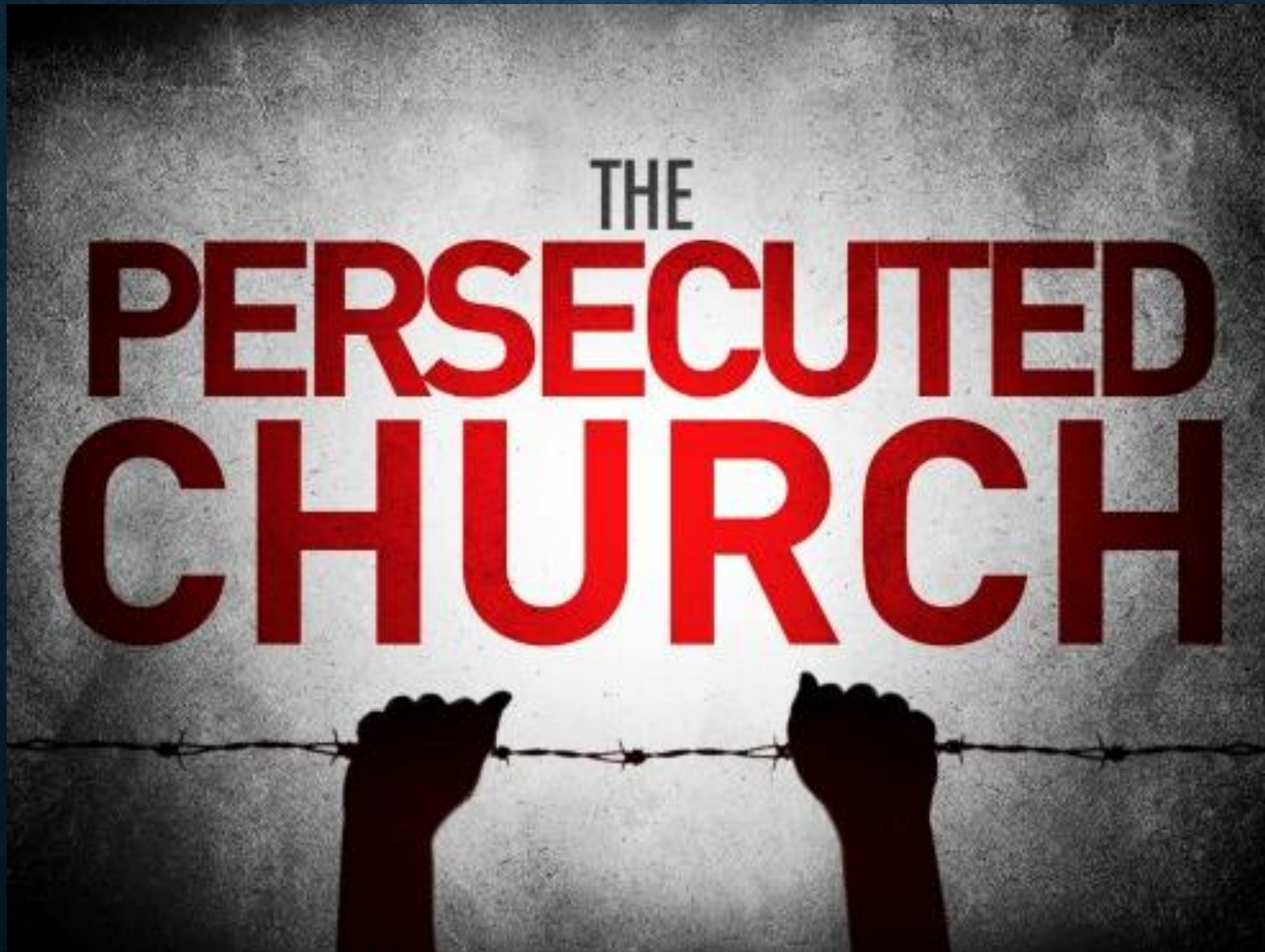
# Mae Allison and friend 1916



Lillian Kraeger  
Cottage meetings  
Fiancee Broke off



# REASON FOR PERSECUTION








**133 countries**  
**2/3 of world**  
**150,000 killed/year**



A young child with dark hair, wearing a blue jacket over a dark shirt with a red graphic and dark overalls, stands in front of a large, glowing white cross on a dark stone wall. The child is looking down at their hands, which are near their face. The cross is made of a bright, glowing material, possibly paper or fabric, and is mounted on the wall. The scene is dimly lit, with the cross being the primary light source.

**80% of religious  
discriminations  
are against Christians**



A photograph showing three men in orange jumpsuits being escorted by soldiers in camouflage uniforms. The men are looking forward, and the soldiers are holding their arms. The background is a bright, possibly outdoor setting.

. Mathew  
Ayairga

**Their God is my God**





# REASON FOR THE RAGE

Insecurity

Gospel tells them their best deeds are useless



**WHY DOESN'T GOD DO  
ANYTHING?**



## WHY IT TAKES TIME

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. 10 They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” 11 Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been (Revelation 6:9-11 ESV)



## HOW GRACE WORKS

10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. 11 And they have conquered him by **the blood of the Lamb** and by the **word of their testimony**, for they loved not their lives even unto death (Revelation 12:10-11 ESV)





## NEED TO CHOOSE

Our Effort—Slavery— No inheritance



His Effort—Freedom— Eternal Inheritance