

# THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD

**A Journey Through the  
Old Testament**

Romans 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope.

## Galatians 4

4 But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, 5 to redeem those under the Law, that we might receive our adoption as sons.

6 And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”

7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, you are also an heir through God.

## John 1

11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

12 But to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God—

13 children born not of blood, nor of the desire or will of man, but born of God.

## Ishmael

**Born first**

**Born by human decision**

**Born of human effort**

**Born naturally**

**Born of Hagar**

**Born of an Egyptian slave woman**

**Was not an heir to the covenant**

**The first of the Islamic Nation**

**Born before circumcision**

**Persecutor**

## Isaac

**Born second**

**Born by God's decision**

**Born of God's effort**

**Born supernaturally**

**Born of Sarah**

**Born of a Jewish free woman**

**Was heir to the covenant**

**The first of the Jewish Nation**

**Born after circumcision**

**Persecuted**

# 6 Lenses Through Which to See the Birth of Isaac and Ishmael

## 5. The “Illustration” Lens

Paul says that “these things serve as illustrations”:

## Galatians 4

**21** Tell me, you who want to be under the Law, do you not understand what the Law says?

**22** For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman.

**23** His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born because of the promise.

**24** These things serve as illustrations,  
for the women represent two covenants.

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## Galatians 4

One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children into slavery: This is Hagar.

25 Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present-day Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children.

26 But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother.

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**Galatians 4:28** Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise.

**29** At that time, however, the son born by the flesh persecuted the son born by the Spirit. It is the same now.

**30** But what does the Scripture say? “Expel the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman’s son.”

**31** Therefore, brothers, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.



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Paul says that “these things serve as illustrations”:

**Law vs. Grace → Mosaic Covenant vs. New Covenant (in Christ)**

## Hebrews 9

15 Therefore Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, now that He has died to redeem them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

**Galatians 3: 10 All who rely on works of the Law are under a curse.**

**For it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.”**

**11 And it is clear that no one is justified before God by the Law, because, “The righteous will live by faith.”**

**12 The Law, however, is not based on faith; on the contrary, “The man who does these things will live by them.”**

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## Galatians 3

13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law by becoming a curse for us.

For it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”

14 He redeemed us in order that the blessing promised to Abraham would come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

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**Slave vs. Free** → **Slave to sin vs. Free to obey God**

**Works vs. Faith** → **Human-powered vs. God-powered**

**Flesh vs. Spirit** → **First birth (natural) vs. Second birth (spirit)**

## Ephesians 1

13 And in Him, having heard and believed the word of truth—the gospel of your salvation—you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

14 who is the pledge of our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession, to the praise of His glory.

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**Hostility toward those blessed by God**



## 1 Peter 1

**23** For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

**1 Peter 2:9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;**

**10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.**

**11 Beloved, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from the desires of the flesh, which war against your soul.**

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# 6 Lenses Through Which to See the Birth of Isaac and Ishmael

## 6. The “Abrahamic Covenant” Lens

1. **God’s covenant with Abraham is foundational to the new covenant we have through Christ**

## Galatians 3

14 He redeemed us in order that the blessing promised to Abraham would come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

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**Land** → **A New Heaven and New Earth**

**Offspring** → **A family of God**

**Blessing** → **A Blessing of eternal life with God**

# 6 Lenses Through Which to See the Birth of Isaac and Ishmael

## 6. The “Abrahamic Covenant” Lens

1. **God’s covenant with Abraham is foundational to the new covenant we have through Christ**
2. **The Abrahamic covenant was unconditional**

**Genesis 15:9** And the LORD said to him, “Bring Me a heifer, a goat, and a ram, each three years old, along with a turtledove and a young pigeon.”

**10** So Abram brought all these to Him, split each of them down the middle, and laid the halves opposite each other. The birds, however, he did not cut.

**11** And the birds of prey descended on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

**12** As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and suddenly great terror and darkness overwhelmed him.



**Genesis 15:13** Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not their own; they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years.

14 But I will judge the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will depart with many possessions.

15 You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a ripe old age.

16 In the fourth generation your descendants will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

## Genesis 15

17 When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, behold, a smoking firepot and a flaming torch appeared and passed between the halves of the carcasses.

18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram

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3. **The Abrahamic covenant had a sign (circumcision)**

## Genesis 17

9 God also said to Abraham, “As for you, you must keep My covenant, you and your descendants for the generations to come.

10 This is My covenant with you and your descendants after you, which you are to keep: Every male among you must be circumcised.

11 You are to circumcise the flesh of your foreskin, and this will be a sign of the covenant between Me and you.

## Genesis 17

12 Generation after generation, every male must be circumcised when he is eight days old, including those born in your household and those purchased from a foreigner—even those who are not your offspring.

13 Whether they are born in your household or purchased, they must be circumcised. My covenant in your flesh will be an everlasting covenant.

14 But if any male is not circumcised, he will be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant.”

**Genesis 17:23** Then Abraham took his son Ishmael and all those born in his household or purchased with his money—every male among the members of Abraham’s household—and he circumcised them that very day, just as God had told him.

**24** So Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised, **25** and his son Ishmael was thirteen;

**26** Abraham and his son Ishmael were circumcised on the same day.

**27** And all the men of Abraham’s household—both servants born in his household and those purchased from foreigners—were circumcised with him.

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**New birth of a spiritual man – regeneration**

## Romans 2

28 A man is not a Jew because he is one outwardly, nor is circumcision only outward and physical.

29 No, a man is a Jew because he is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise does not come from men, but from God.



## Isaiah 9

**25** “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will punish all who are circumcised yet uncircumcised:

**26** Egypt, Judah, Edom, Ammon, Moab, and all the inhabitants of the desert who clip the hair of their temples.

All these nations are really uncircumcised, and even the whole house of Israel is uncircumcised in heart.”

## Psalms 51

5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
and in sin did my mother conceive me.

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**Separation of the flesh and the Spirit**

## Colossians 2

11 In Him you were also circumcised in the putting off of your sinful nature, with the circumcision performed by Christ and not by human hands.

12 And having been buried with Him in baptism, you were raised with Him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead.

13 When you were dead in your trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ.

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3. **The Abrahamic covenant had a sign (circumcision)**
  - New birth of a spiritual man – regeneration**
  - Separation of the flesh and the Spirit**
  - New race of beings set apart for God**

## 1 Peter 2

9 But you are **A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION**, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

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