



The Epistle to the Galatians

Introduction



The Epistle to the Galatians

Freedom Through the Gospel

- Authenticity of the Gospel 1, 2
 - Genuine as to its origin 1
 - Genuine as to its nature 2
- Superiority of the Gospel 3, 4
 - The new relation it effects 3
 - The privileges it releases 4
- The True Liberty of the Gospel 5, 6
 - Love-service ends Law-bondage 5:1-15
 - Spirit ends flesh-bondage 5:16-6:18

In Defense of the Gospel

- Chapter 1: Paul's Personal Witness
 - *“But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ”. (1:11-12)*
- Chapter 2: The Witness of the Apostles
 - *“And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship” (2:9)*
- Chapter 3: Paul's appeal to conscience

Six Arguments

- 1) The Personal Argument 3:1–5
- 2) The Scriptural Argument 3:6–14
- 3) The Logical Argument 3:15–18
- 4) The Dispensational Argument 4:1–11
- 5) The Sentimental Argument 4:12–18
- 6) The Allegorical Argument 4:19–31



The Epistle to the Galatians

Paul's Arguments for the
Gospel vs The Law

Paul's Personal Argument

○ foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you

This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Galatians 3:1-5

Paul's Personal Argument

Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain.

He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Galatians 3:1-5

Paul's Personal Argument

- Paul asks them to look at his life and ministry, and see that he had not ministered the Holy Spirit to them on the basis of their works, but on the basis of faith in the Grace of God.
- Likewise, the miracles done among them had not been on the basis of who was the most deserving, but once again, they were done on the basis of faith in the Grace of God!
- Furthermore, Paul's 'power' had not come from the Law of Moses but from his faith in Jesus
- Paul had not preached Moses but Jesus!

Paul's Scriptural Argument

Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

Galatians 3:6-14

Paul's Scriptural Argument

So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

Galatians 3:6-14

Paul's Scriptural Argument

But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.

Galatians 3:6-14

Paul's Scriptural Argument

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law,
being made a curse for us: for it is written,
Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:
That the blessing of Abraham might come on the
Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might
receiue the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Galatians 3:6-14

Paul's Scriptural Argument

- Paul quotes from:
 - Genesis 15:6
 - *“And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness”.*
 - Isaiah 49:22
 - *“ Thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders”*
 - Genesis 12:3
 - *“And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed”.*

Paul's Scriptural Argument

- Paul quotes from:
 - Deuteronomy 11:26-28
 - *“Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known”.*
 - Deuteronomy 27:26
 - *“Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them”.*
 - Habakkuk 2:4
 - *“The just shall live by faith”.*

Paul's Scriptural Argument

- Paul quotes from:
 - Leviticus 18:5
 - *“Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD”.*
 - Right of Redemption
 - *Leviticus 25:10-28 / Ruth 4:3-4*
 - Deuteronomy 21:23
 - *“His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance”.*

Paul's Scriptural Argument

- The scripture clearly taught that no-one could be made righteous by keeping the Law
- The scripture also taught that the Gentiles would be 'grafted' into the blessings of Israel
- ...and that blessing was not promised to Abraham on the basis of works, but simply on the basis of faith!
- Paul now builds on this...

Paul's Logical Argument

Brethren, I speak after the manner of men;
Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be
confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth
thereto.

Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises
made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many;
but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

Galatians 3:15-18

Paul's Logical Argument

And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.

For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: **but** God gave it to Abraham by promise.

Galatians 3:15-18

Paul's Logical Argument

- 1) God made a covenant with Abraham that cannot be disannulled or added to
- 2) The Law did not superseded the covenant of Grace made with Abraham
- 3) If therefore that covenant still stands – and includes the Gentiles – we can be beneficiaries of it!
- The promised inheritance can only therefore be obtained by faith!
- The Gospel of Grace precedes and is superior to the Law!

A historical map of the Roman Empire, showing various provinces and regions. The map is rendered in a dark, muted color palette with some yellow and red highlights. The text 'The Epistle to the Galatians' is overlaid in large, bold, yellow letters with a black drop shadow. The word 'Galatians' is significantly larger than the other words. Below the main title, the text 'Verse-By-Verse Study' is written in a smaller, orange font.

The Epistle to the Galatians

Verse-By-Verse Study

O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you

Galatians 3:1

This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

Galatians 3:2-3

Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be
yet in vain.

Galatians 3:4

*He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit,
and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by
the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?*

Galatians 3:5

- Paul had ministered to them by grace, not because they had earned it
- They had received the Spirit by grace, not because they deserved it on account of their 'good works'
- Trying to keep the Law had done nothing for them!

Even as Abraham **believed God**, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the **children of Abraham**.

And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

Galatians 3:6-8

- Notice that Abraham did not 'repent' (in the traditional understanding of the word) before he believed. But consider the brokenness of the man when faced with the cost of the atonement for his sin!

Children of Abraham

- 5 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan,
- 6 And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.
- 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

Matthew 3:5-9

Children of Abraham

- 8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:
- 9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

Matthew 3:5-9

- What stones?
- Those that had come up out of the Jordan with Joshua as the nation entered by faith into the Promised Land

So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

Galatians 3:9

- Paul admonished the Corinthian believers to walk by faith, not by sight – **2 Cor 5:7**
- We are told in Hebrews that '*without faith it is impossible to please Him*' – **Hebrews 11:6**

For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

Galatians 3:10

- Paul now ups the ante!
- Not only will the Law not profit...
- If you want to be under the Law (lit. keep the Law) you place yourself under the curse of the Law!
 - (woe to those who try to keep the Sabbath!)

But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, **The just shall live by faith.**

And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.

Galatians 3:11-12

- **Habakkuk 2:4** has lead to a Trilogy of epistles in NT.
“The Just Shall Live by Faith”
- **The Just... (Who are they?)** **Romans** Rom 1:17
- **...Shall live (How?)** **Galatians** Gal 3:11
- **...By Faith!** **Hebrews** Heb 10:39
- Each of these epistles use **Hab 2:4** as cornerstone

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law,
being made a curse for us: for it is written,
Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:
That the blessing of Abraham might come on the
Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might
receiue the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Galatians 3:13-14

Brethren, I speak after the manner of men;
Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be
confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth
thereto.

Galatians 3:15

Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

Galatians 3:16

- Paul hangs his argument on Christ being the mediator of a new covenant on whether the word should be singular or plural
 - Beware of the erosion of God's Word in today's all embracing culture!
 - Today's NIV:
 - 3600 changes in the text (2000 from singular/plural)
 - Many of these changes remove the sense of personal responsibility

And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was **four hundred and thirty years** after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.

Galatians 3:17

- Paul tells us that the Law was given 430 years after God confirmed the covenant with Abraham.
- Q. When did God confirm the covenant?
- A. When he was 75 (Gen 12:4)

Biblical Integrity

- One of the greatest areas of attack has been on the Chronology of the Biblical record
- Biblical Chronology has suffered as much at the hands of its supporters as it has by its detractors
 - believers have been so quick to defend Scripture they have often inadvertently introduced the very errors they seek to eradicate!

The 430 Years Conundrum

- Most Bible commentators assume that the 430 years spoken of in Exodus 12:40-41 refer exclusively to the time spent in Egypt
- ...and that the 400 years of affliction for Abraham's seed was entirely at the hand of the Egyptians
- Sadly, in trying to 'justify' the text, they introduce a number of errors and contradictions.

The 430 Years Conundrum

- The principle errors they 'inadvertently' introduce are:
- 1) That Joseph must have fallen out of favour with Pharaoh
- 2) The Four generations spoken of to Abraham no longer are consistent from a chronological perspective
- 3) The affliction to Abraham's seed was only at the hands of the Egyptian's

The 430 Years

⁴⁰ Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was **four hundred and thirty years**

⁴¹ And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.

Exodus 12:40-41

- This passage talks of the sojourning of the Children of Israel being 430 years – that is, the time they were without a land of their own.
- At the close of the 430 years, Israel were by then living in Egypt, and the 430 years marked their release from slavery

The Sojourn of Israel

I3 And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them **four hundred years;**

I4 And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.

Genesis 15:13-14

- We know that the nation whom God judged was Egypt, so it is assumed that the 400 years were all spent in Egypt

The 430 Years

Without doing the Maths, commentators conclude:

- *The obvious intention of Moses is to state the duration of the sojourn in Egypt.* Barnes
- *The four hundred and thirty years mentioned here cover the total time that the Israelites spent in Egypt. It is an exact figure, to the very ... day.,* William MacDonald, Believer's Bible Commentary

The 430 Years

- *That four hundred and thirty years was the number of years from the time Jacob entered Egypt until Israel escaped at the Exodus* [KJV Bible commentary \(Nelson\)](#)

The 430 Years

Traditional Resolution for the 430 yrs:

- *'Sojourn in Egypt was 430 years'* X
- *'The time of affliction in Egypt was 400 years'* X
- Therefore....
- *'The 30 years of relative peace must have been the time at the beginning when Joseph was Prime Minister'*. X

Joseph's Chronology

- At 17 he was taken to Egypt
- At 30 he was made Pharaoh's No# 2
- At 39 he is reunited with his family
- Assuming 430 years = Total time of Israel in Egypt...
- *If* Israel spent 400 years in 'harsh treatment', it had to begin...
- 30 years after the Family came to Egypt

Joseph Forgotten?

- But this would mean that at 69 years old Joseph is forgotten, or removed from power?
- We know he lives a total of 110 years
- So 'our assumption' would mean he lived 41 years "out of favour" with the Pharaoh?
- Yet there is no mention of this in Scripture
- And we know that Joseph lived to see his great grandchildren – with no mention of persecution!
- When he died he was given a royal burial!

Four Generations

¹⁵ And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age.

¹⁶ But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.

Genesis 15:15-16

- From the point they leave the Promised Land, it would be just 4 generations until they returned!
 - Are we to assume each generation is to last 100 years?? (or 107.5 years!)

Lineage of Levi

16 And these are the names of the sons of Levi according to their generations; Gershon, and Kohath, and Merari: and the years of the life of Levi were an hundred thirty and seven years.

17 The sons of Gershon; Libni, and Shimi, according to their families.

Exodus 6:16-20

- Genesis 46 confirms that Kohath went down to Egypt

Lineage of Levi

¹⁸ And the sons of Kohath; Amram, and Izhar, and Hebron, and Uzziel: and the years of the life of Kohath were an hundred thirty and three years.

¹⁹ And the sons of Merari; Mahali and Mushi: these are the families of Levi according to their generations.

²⁰ And Amram took him Jochebed his father's sister to wife; and she bare him Aaron and Moses: and the years of the life of Amram were an hundred and thirty and seven years.

Lineage of Levi

- Levi
- Kohath ➤ at least 1 entering Egypt & died aged **133**
- Amram ➤ Amram born in last yr of Kohath? Amram d. **137**
- Moses ➤ Moses b. last yr of Amram? **80** @ conclusion of 430yrs
- Four generations as prophesied

- Total of 350yrs or... (80 short of the 430!)
- Moses was born 80 yrs after his father died??

Stephen's Comments

- 6 And God spake on this wise, That his seed should sojourn in a strange land; and that they should bring them into bondage, and entreat them evil four hundred years.
- 7 And the nation to whom they shall be in bondage will I judge, said God: and after that shall they come forth, and serve me in this place.

Acts 7:6-7

Stephen's Comments

- ⁶ And God decreed thus: that [Abraham's] seed would sojourn without their own land, (and even be brought into bondage), and be vexed for four hundred years
- ⁷ And the nation to whom they shall be in bondage will I judge, said God: and after that shall they come forth, and serve me in this place.

Acts 7:6-7 (Paraphrase)

Sojourn in a Strange Land

- Most assume this to be a reference to Egypt
- However...
- Canaan was also a strange land to Israel!
- They were promised the land...
- *But did not take possession until the time of Joshua!*

Sojourn in a Strange Land

- 4 Then came he out of the land of the Chaldaeans, and dwelt in Charran: and from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell.
- 5 And he gave him none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on: yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child.

Acts 7:4-5

Sojourn in a Strange Land

- As a stranger in the land, it was necessary for Abraham to purchase the cave of Machpelah from “*the people of the land, even to the children of Heth*” **Gen 23:7**, as a burial place for Sarah.
- Isaac moved a number of times, although he never had a permanent home in the land.

Sojourn in a Strange Land

² And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of:

³ Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swear unto Abraham thy father;

Genesis 26:2-3

Sojourn in a Strange Land

- For Jacob, when God reiterated the covenant with him when he was fleeing to Haran to escape Esau, we read:

¹³ And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, **to thee will I give it,** and to thy seed;

Genesis 28:13

Sojourn in a Strange Land

- Conclusion:
- Whilst Israel's dwelling in a strange (foreign) land *included* their stay in Egypt, it began in Canaan.
- The whole period was one of vexation for Abraham's seed

Vexation of Abraham's Seed

- Regarding the constant vexation in this strange land...

30 And Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, Ye have troubled me to make me to stink among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites: and I being few in number, they shall gather themselves together against me, and slay me; and I shall be destroyed, I and my house.

Genesis 34:30

Vexation of Abraham's Seed

19 And Isaac's servants digged in the valley, and found there a well of springing water.

20 And the herdmen of Gerar did strive with Isaac's herdmen, saying, The water is ours: and he called the name of the well Esek; because they strove with him.

21 And they digged another well, and strove for that also: and he called the name of it Sitnah.

Genesis 26:19-21

The 430 Years

- The Samaritan Pentateuch renders Ex 12:40 as follows:
- *"Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, and of their fathers, which they sojourned in the land of Canaan and in the land of Egypt, was 430 years."*

The 430 Years

41 And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.

Exodus 12:41

- Thus we can know with certainty when the 430yr epoch ended

430 Year Sojourn

¹⁷ And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.

Galatians 3:17

- The starting point is identified as the confirmation of the covenant with Abraham
- When was the covenant 'confirmed'?
- When Abraham began the sojourn age 75

⁶ And God spake on this wise, That his seed should sojourn in a strange land; and that they should bring them into bondage, and entreat them evil

four hundred years.

Acts 7:6

- What about the 400 years?
- The 400 years of 'vexation' began 30 years after Abraham entered Canaan when Isaac was weaned and the vexing of Abraham's seed began.
 - First of all at the hand of Ishmael

The Vexation Begins

- Isaac born when Abraham is 100
- Isaac is weaned at age 5 and the vexation of the seed begins!

8 And the child grew, and was weaned: and Abraham made a great feast the same day that Isaac was weaned.

9 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking.

Genesis 21:8-9

430 Year Sojourn

From Abraham's entry into Canaan to the birth of Isaac was 25 years, [Gen 12:4; 17:1-21](#); Isaac was 60 years old at the birth of Jacob, [Gen 25:26](#); and Jacob was 130 at his going down into Egypt, [Gen 47:9](#); which three sums make 215 years. And then Jacob and his children having continued in Egypt 215 years more, the whole sum of 430 years is regularly completed.

Adam Clarke

The Maths!

- Abraham was 75 when God made the promises to him Gen 12:3-4
- 25yrs between promise and the birth of Isaac, Gen 21:5
- + 60yrs between Isaac's birth and Jacob's birth, Gen 25:26
- + 130yrs age of Jacob when he went to Egypt, Gen 47:9
- = **215yrs** from Abraham to Jacob going to Egypt
- + 215 (years spent in Egypt)
- = **430 years!**

The Maths!

The Sojourn in Egypt

- The bondage lasted a minimum of 80 yrs
 - Moses was born during the time of bondage and 80 at the time of the Exodus
- Levi died 16 yrs after Joseph
 - Joseph died $110 - 39 = 71\text{yrs} + 16 = 87\text{yrs}$
 - The bondage did not begin until after all that generation had died (Exodus 1:6)
 - $215 - 87 = 128$
- The bondage actually lasted for less than 128 years!

Conclusion

- We can trust the Word of God
- We must be Berean's
- Study to show yourself approved!

For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

Galatians 3:18

The 'Why?' Question

Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one.

Galatians 3:15-29

The 'Why?' Question

Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.

But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

Galatians 3:15-29

The 'Why?' Question

But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

Galatians 3:15-29

The 'Why?' Question

For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Galatians 3:15-29



calvary
chapel
portsmouth

www.calvaryportsmouth.co.uk