

Genesis 21:1-31 • Testing Family Relationships

1. (v.1-8) Without true **faith**, there is no true **righteousness**. The fulfillment of God's promises come at the **appointed** time in order to allow a greater work of **faith** producing **righteousness** in our life.
2. (v.9-13) When one side of a relationship is hopelessly rooted in the **flesh** and the other steadfast in the **Spirit**, **separation** is required that God may properly work on both **independently**.
3. (v.14-21) God had his own **plan** and **appointed** time for Hagar, which was not compatible with Abraham's. Hagar and Ishmael were also **chosen** by God, but had to pursue their own **choices** by faith.
4. (Gal. 4:21-31)

- Hagar represents the Old Covenant of the **law**, associated with the earthly **Jerusalem** of Paul's day.
- Sarah represents the New Covenant of **grace**, associated with the heavenly **Jerusalem**.
- Ishmael, the son of a **slave**, was born of the **flesh**.
- Isaac, the son of a **freewoman**, was born of the **Spirit**.
- Ishmael is a picture of Old Testament Israel under **slavery** to the **Law**.
- Isaac is a picture of the New Testament Church under the **liberty** of **grace**.

Just as the old nature is **incompatible** with the new nature and **separation** needs to take place, so we are no longer under the **Law** so that the New Covenant of **promise** is to be exclusively pursued.