

Reading Scripture with Paul

For Reproof...

The Allegory of Galatians 4

Abraham

The Allegory of Galatians 4

Abraham

Son 1

Son 2



The Allegory of Galatians 4

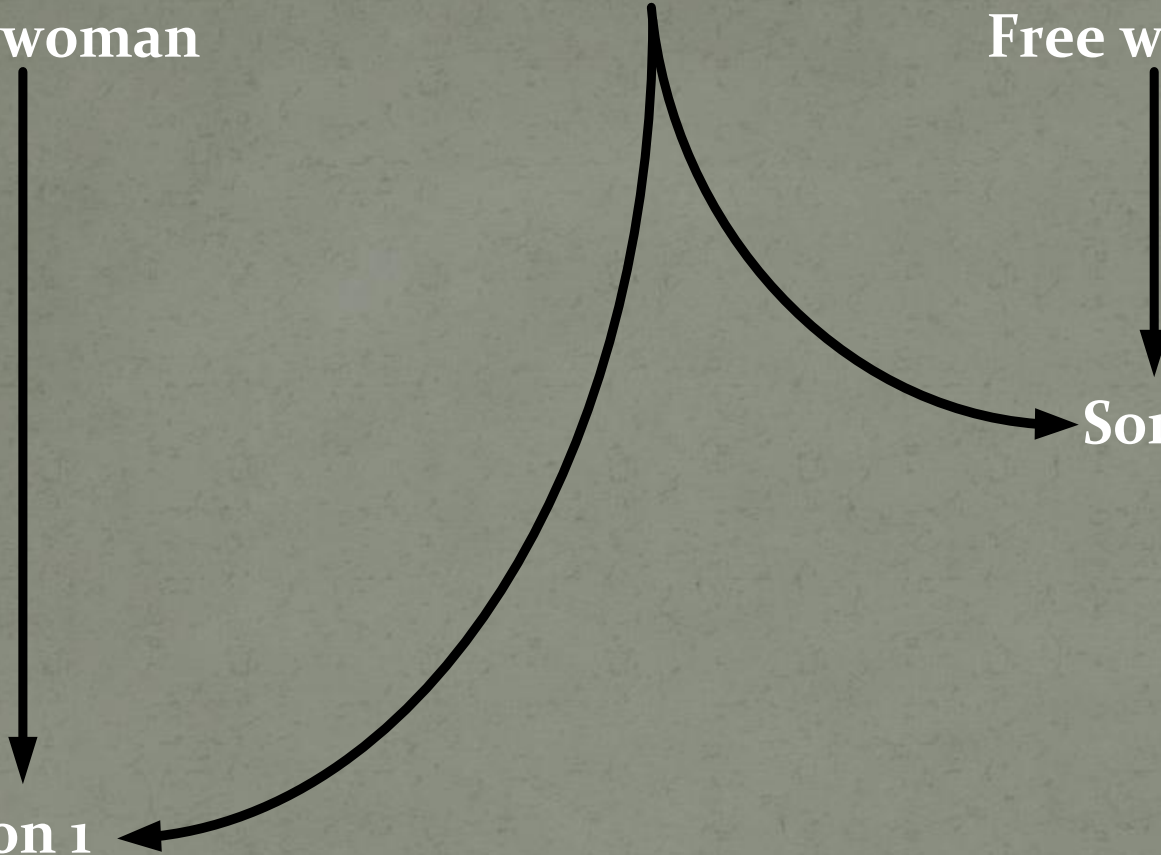
Abraham

Slave woman

Free woman

Son 1

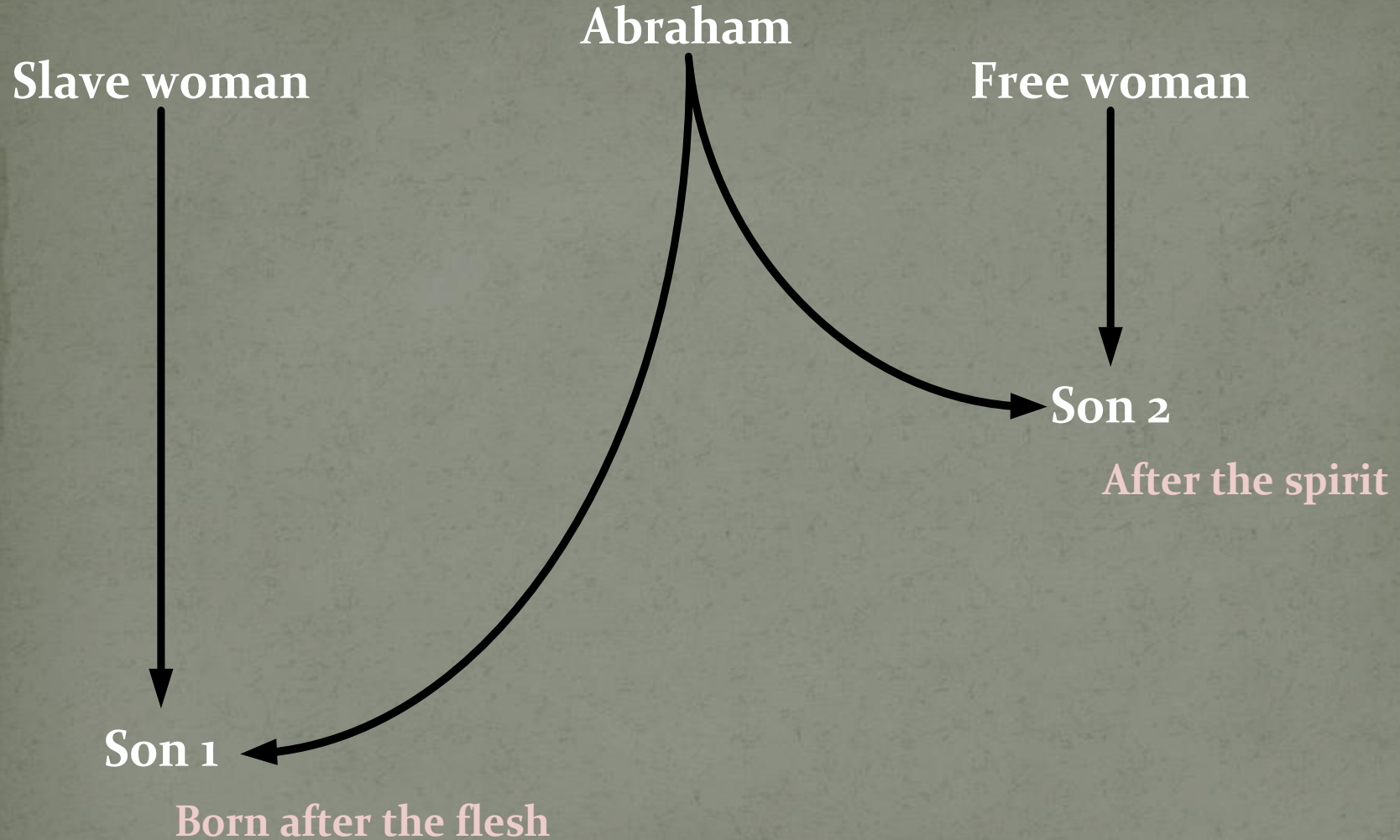
Son 2



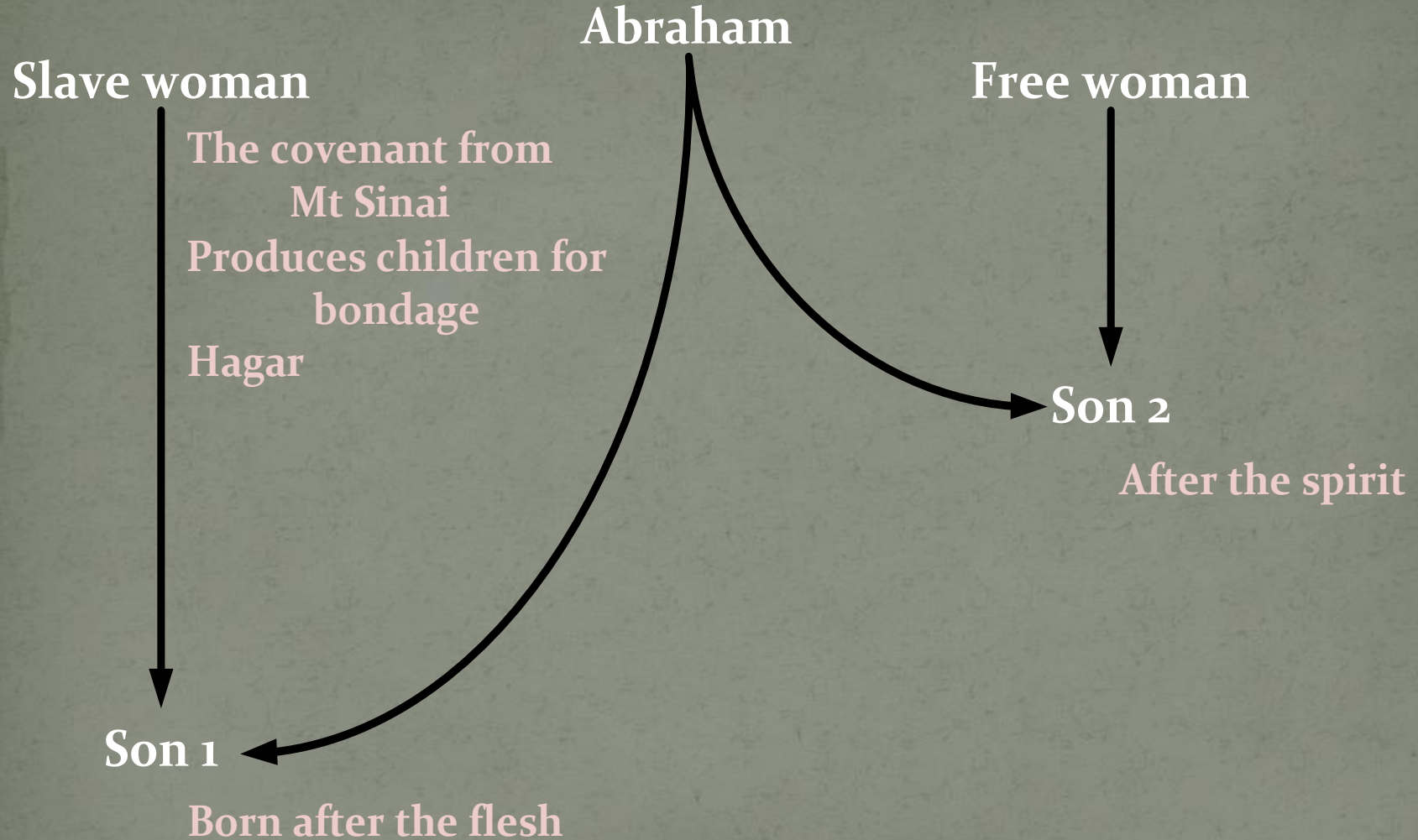
The 2 women

- The bondmaid
 - Greek “*paidiskē*”
 - Means ‘*slave girl*’ or ‘*female servant*’
 - Hagar is always referred to in Genesis 16 and Genesis 21 as the “*slavegirl*”
- The freewoman
 - Greek “*eleutheros*”
 - Means ‘*not a slave*’
 - Sarah is never referred to as the freewoman but that’s what she was

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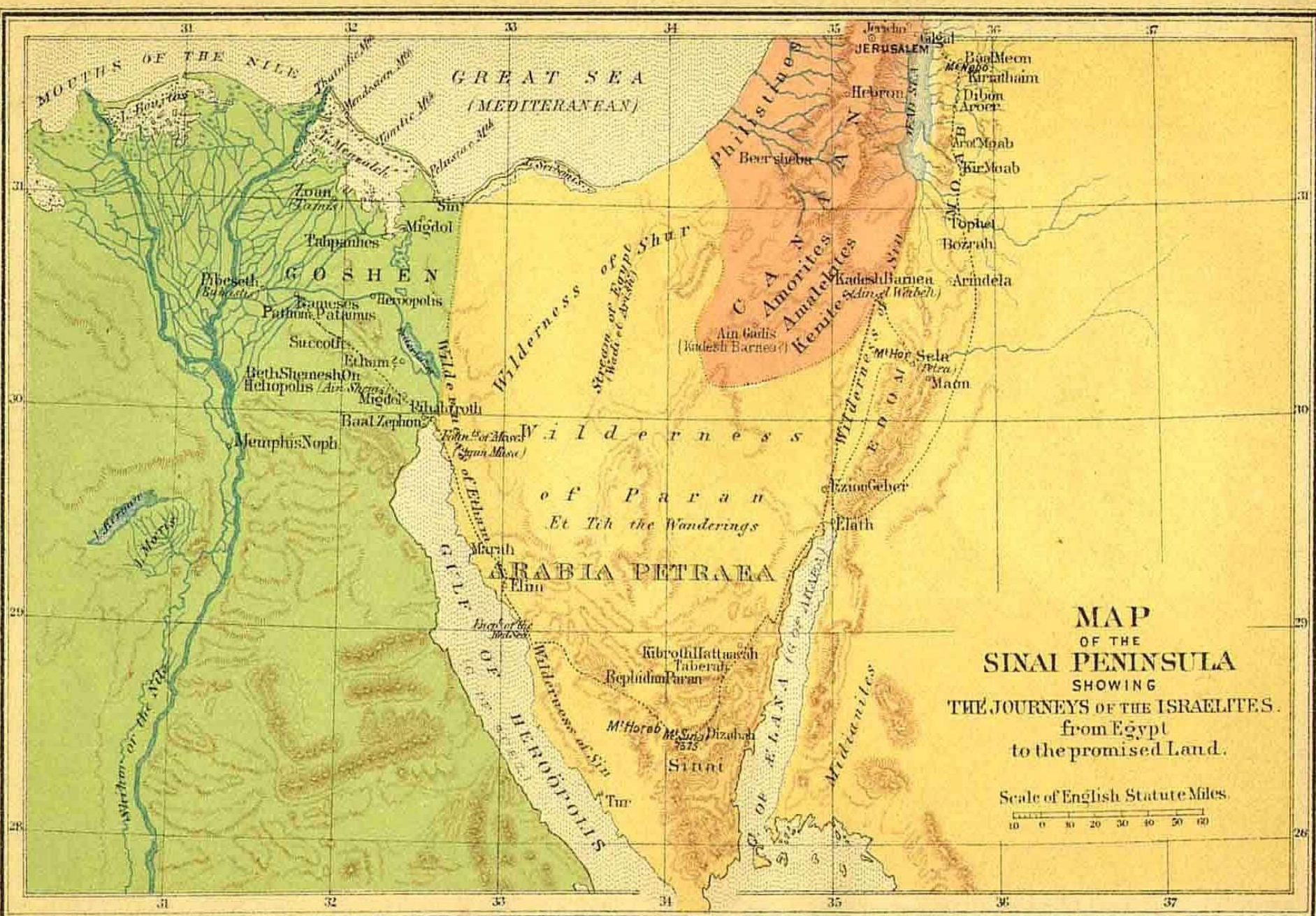


The allegory of the bondswoman

- A picture of the covenant that originated from Mt Sinai
- Produces children destined for slavery
- “*This is Hagar*”

Slavery and freedom

- Romans 7v14 Jerusalem Bible “*The Law, of course, as we all know, is spiritual; but I am unspiritual; I have been sold as a slave to sin.*”
- Galatians 4v3-10
- Slavery and freedom are metaphors found all through Scripture



MAP
OF THE
SINAI PENINSULA
SHOWING
THE JOURNEYS OF THE ISRAELITES.
from Egypt
to the promised Land.

Scale of English Statute Miles.
10 0 20 30 40 50 60

Woman Cities

- Babylon – Isaiah 47^{v1}
- Tyre – Isaiah 23
- Damascus – Isaiah 17
- Sodom – Ezekiel 16^{v53}
- Samaria – Ezekiel 23
- Nineveh with her children - Nahum 3^{v10}
- Jerusalem with her children – Matthew 23^{v37}

The allegory of the bondswoman

- A picture of the covenant that originated from Mt Sinai
- Produces children destined for slavery
- *“This is Hagar”*
- Represents *“Jerusalem that now is, and is in bondage with her children”*
- She represents the system of Judaism, seen at its most glorious in the political and religious institutions centered in the Jerusalem of that time
- Her slave children are all those Jews who are the offspring of that Mosaic covenant

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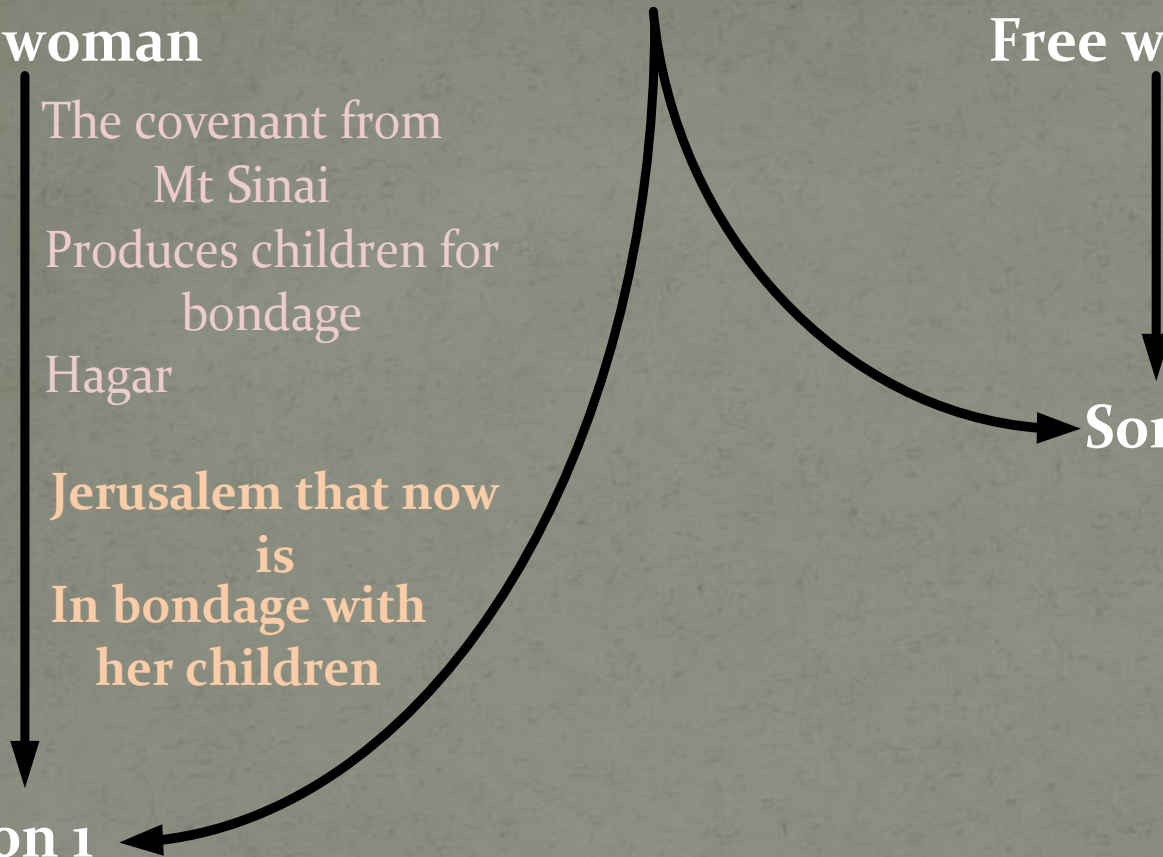
Jerusalem that now
is
In bondage with
her children

Son 2

After the spirit

Son 1

Born after the flesh



The allegory of the freewoman

- If Paul explained the freewoman like he'd explained the bondwoman

“The one bearing children into freedom, is the covenant that's from all over the place – Ur, Haran, Shechem, the plain of Mamre, but particularly from Mt Moriah; that is Sarah. Mt Moriah or Zion is a mountain in Israel and it represents the Jerusalem from above, for she and her children are free.”

- Instead all we get is

“Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.”

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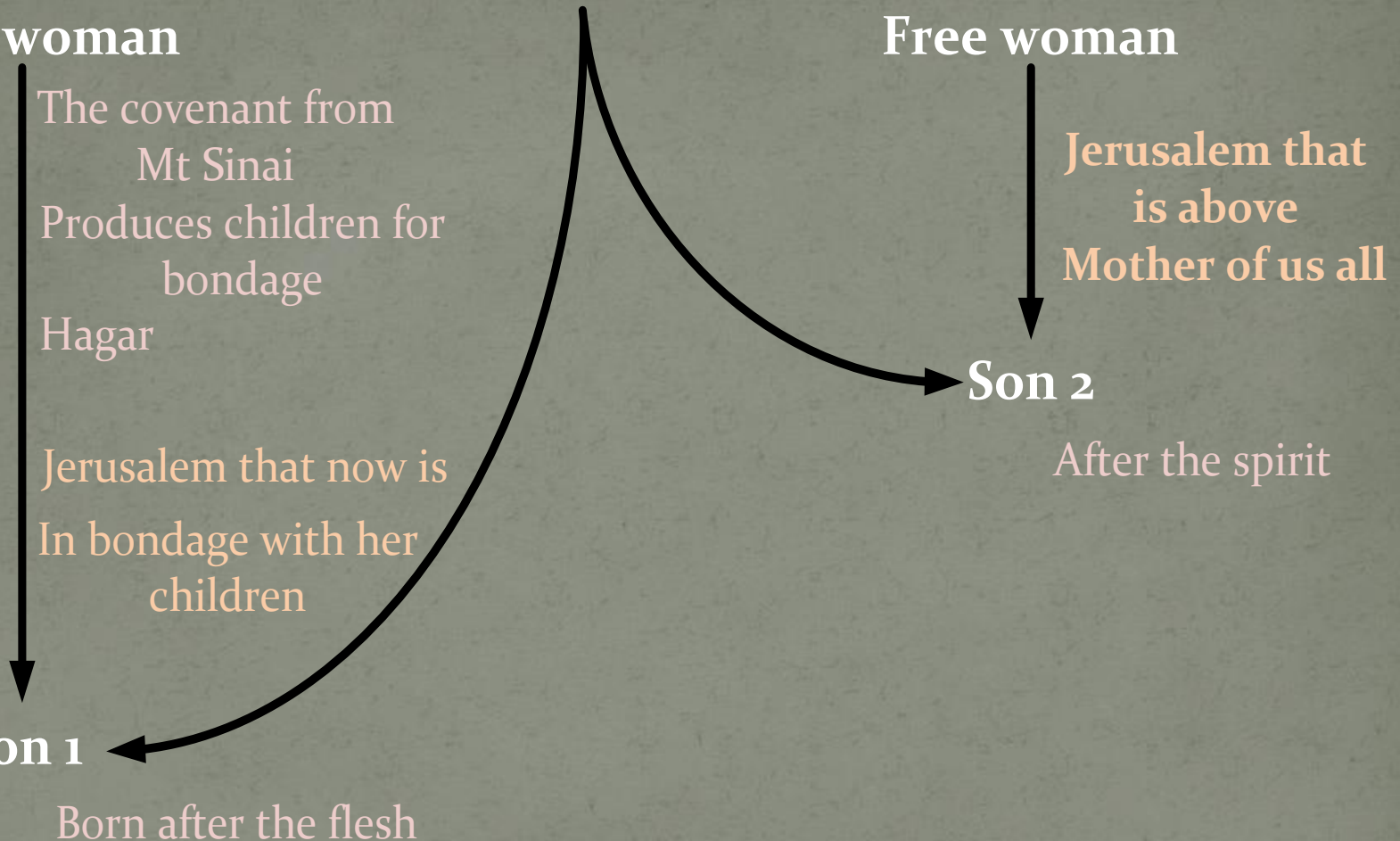
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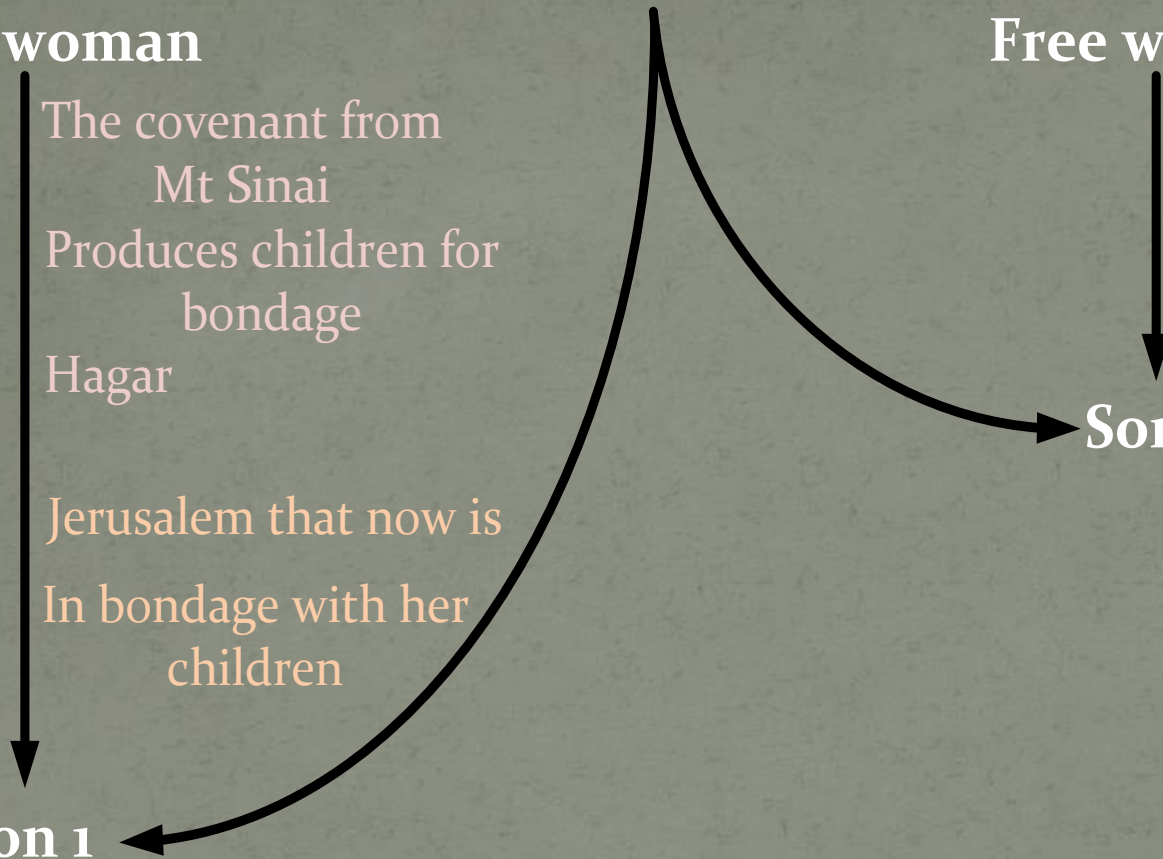
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Isaac
Paul and the
Galatians



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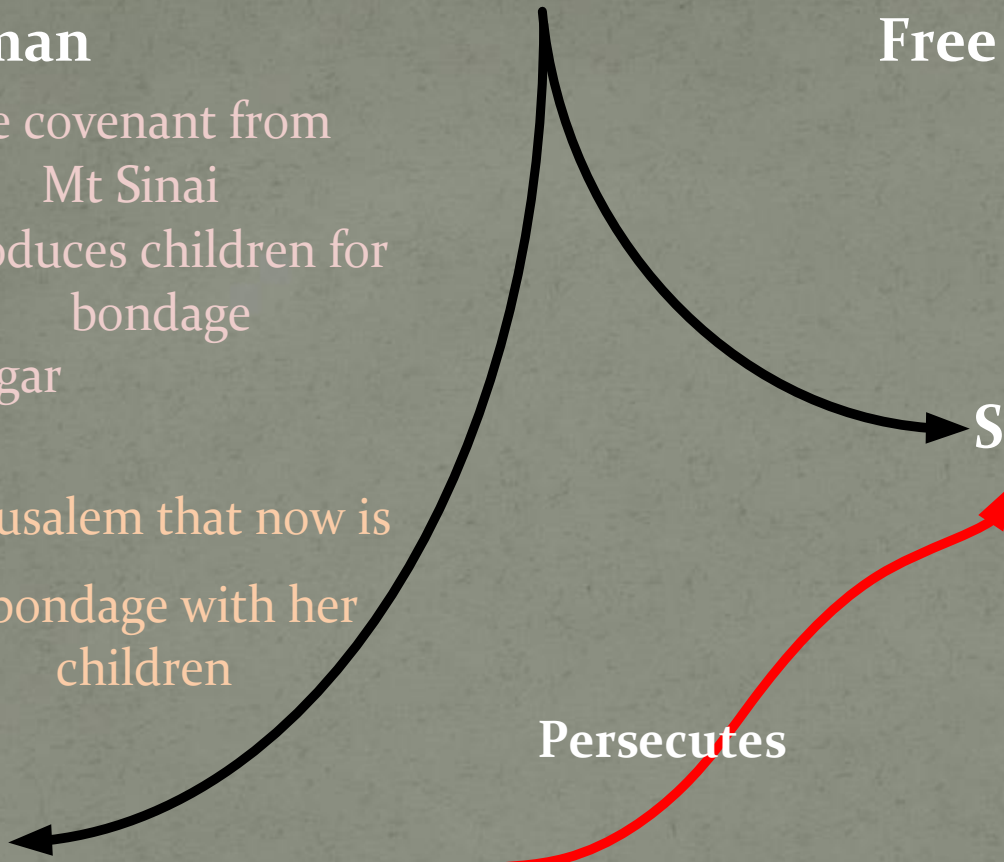
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Persecutes

Son 1

Born after the flesh



Flesh persecuting spirit

“*persecuting*” - Galatians 4v29

- Greek “*diōkō*”, means “*to pursue, to follow after, to chase; and by implication, to persecute*”.
- Perhaps the “persecution” was like that of Corinth
 - 2 Corinthians 11v19-20 (JB Philips) “*Oh you're tolerant all right! You don't mind, do you, if a man takes away your liberty, spends your money, takes advantage of you, puts on airs or even smacks your face? I'm almost ashamed to say that I never did brave strong things like that to you.*”

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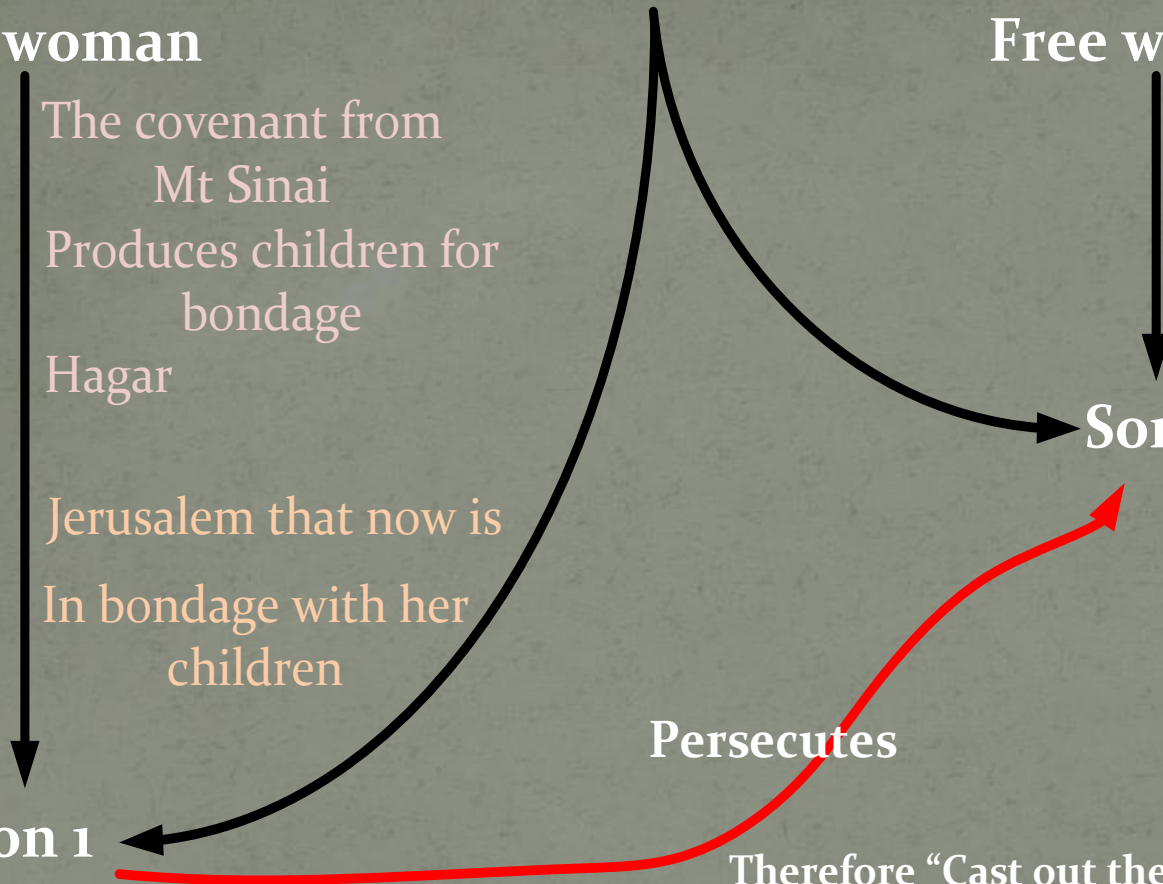
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Persecutes

Therefore "Cast out the bondwoman and her
son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not
be heir with the son of the freewoman."



What does Sarah say?

- Genesis 21v10 *“She [Sarah] said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac.”*
- Galatians 4v30 *“what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.”*

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The Circumcision Party

Therefore "Cast out the bondwoman and her
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The Circumcision Party must go!

Who was the son of the bondwoman?

2 possibilities

1. The local Jews outside the ecclesia

- They persecuted the ecclesia
- But how were the ecclesia to cast them out?
- The ecclesia could do nothing about the son of the bondwoman on the outside

2. The Circumcision Party

- They persecuted the ecclesia
- They could be cast out of the ecclesia
- The ecclesia must do something about the son of the bondwoman on the inside

Why do such challenges gain support?

They do so because they are being promoted as if they reflect scripture teaching. This is only achieved because the word of God is being expounded unfaithfully and referenced selectively: Bible quotations are attached to conclusions that arise from human thinking, rather than from carefully reasoned considerations of Bible teaching. Instead of allowing the word of God to shape the understanding, verses or phrases are taken out of context to match preconceived ideas. The word of God is not being rightly divided in taking a balanced view of the whole counsel of God, or in accurately interpreting individual passages in their context. There is a rejection of principles that are found throughout scripture – Old Testament as well as New – despite the clear evidence that all scripture is inspired by God and tells a consistent story.