

"THE LAW'S RELATION TO THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT" GALATIANS 3:15-18

I. GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM, AS WAS THE CASE WITH ALL GENUINE COVENANTS, ONCE RATIFIED, COULD NEVER BE ALTERED (3:15)

- A. Not Unilaterally
- B. Not with A Codicil

II. GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM EXTENDED BEYOND THE PATRIARCH (3:16)

- A. The Abrahamic Covenant Was A Covenant Of "Promise"
- B. The Abrahamic Covenant Was Made With Abraham And A Distant, Future Descendant (i.e. The Lord Jesus Christ).
 - 1. Paul Emphasizes The Singular "Seed"
 - 2. Paul Is Highlighting The Longevity Of The Covenant

III. GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM COULD NOT AND WAS NOT INVALIDATED BY THE LAW (3:17-18)

- A. The Chronological Sequence Argument (3:17)
- B. The Incompatibility Argument (3:18)

**SIX ARGUMENTS FROM GALATIANS THREE & FOUR
DESIGNED TO UPHOLD THE FAITH PRINCIPLE IN
JUSTIFICATION AS OPPOSED TO ATTAINMENT BY THE
WORKS OF THE LAW**

I. THE PERSONAL ARGUMENT (GALATIANS 3:1-5)

The Apostle Asks The Galatians Five Questions From Their Own Initial Personal Experience With The True Gospel Of Christ.

II. THE OLD TESTAMENT ARGUMENT (GALATIANS 3:6-14)

Paul Quotes No Less Than Six Key O.T. Passages In This Section From Four Different O.T. Books [3:6,8,10,11,12,13 From Genesis (2) Leviticus (1) Deuteronomy (2) & Habbakuk (1)].

III. THE LOGICAL ARGUMENT (GALATIANS 3:15-29)

In This Section Paul Reasons With The Galatians On The Basis Of What A Covenant Is And How A Covenant Works.

IV. THE HISTORICAL ARGUMENT (GALATIANS 4:1-11)

Here, The Apostle Explains The Place Of The Law In The History Of Israel.

V. THE SENTIMENTAL ARGUMENT (GALATIANS 4:12-18)

At This Point, Paul's Love For His Converts Comes To The Surface. He Appeals To Them To Remember His Love And Their Happy Relationship At An Earlier Time.

VI. THE ALLEGORICAL ARGUMENT (GALATIANS 4:19-31)

Paul Returns To the Life Of Abraham, Only This Time As It Pertains To The Patriarchs Relationships To Sarah & Hagar.

THE ISSUE OF THE 430 YEARS: WHEN DID THEY BEGIN? GALATIANS 3:17

- **FROM ABRAHAM'S CALL (Genesis 12) TO JACOB'S ARRIVAL IN EGYPT (Genesis 46) IS 215 YEARS**
 - Abraham Was 75 Years Old When God Called Him (Genesis 12:4)
 - Abraham Was 100 Years Old When Isaac Was Born (Genesis 21:5)
 - This Gives Us 25 Years.
 - Isaac Was 60 Years Old When Jacob Was Born (Genesis 25:26)
 - Jacob Was 130 Years Old When He Arrived In Egypt (Genesis 47:9)
 - This Gives Us A Total Of 215 Years.

- **BUT MOSES TELLS US THAT ISRAEL SOJOURNED IN EGYPT FOR 430 YEARS (Exodus 12:40)**
 - So The Total Number Of Years From Abraham's Call To The Giving Of The Law Is 645 Years, Not 430 Years.
 - The Length Of The Stay In Egypt Is Recorded Also (Genesis 15:13; Acts 7:6) Using The Round Number Of 400 Years.

- **THE COVENANT WHICH GOD MADE WITH ABRAHAM WAS REPEATED AND CONFIRMED IN IDENTICAL LANGUAGE IN THE SPECIFIC PROMISE ADDRESSED TO BOTH ISAAC & JACOB: ...AND IN THY SEED SHALL ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED (Genesis 22:18; 26:4; 28:14)**
 - Paul Begins His Count From The Time Jacob Went Into Egypt, When God Appeared To Him And *Reaffirmed* The Covenant He Had Originally Made With Abraham (Genesis 46:1-4)
 - The 430 Years Then, Is The Time From God's Final Confirmation Of His Promise To Jacob Until The Giving Of The Law At Sinai (From The End Of One Era [The Age Of Promise] To The Beginning Of Another [The Age Of Law])
 - This Fits Best With The Timing Of The Sojourn In Egypt As Stated In (Exodus 12:40)