

Hearing Galatians

with Moses

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Veritas Class

College Church

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#3

Who did Paul think Israel was?



Mystic Mill Capital, *Benedictine Abbey*
Church of Sainte-Marie-Madeleine (Vézelay, France (12th cent. AD))

A. First Testament Roots of the Concept of “Israel of God”

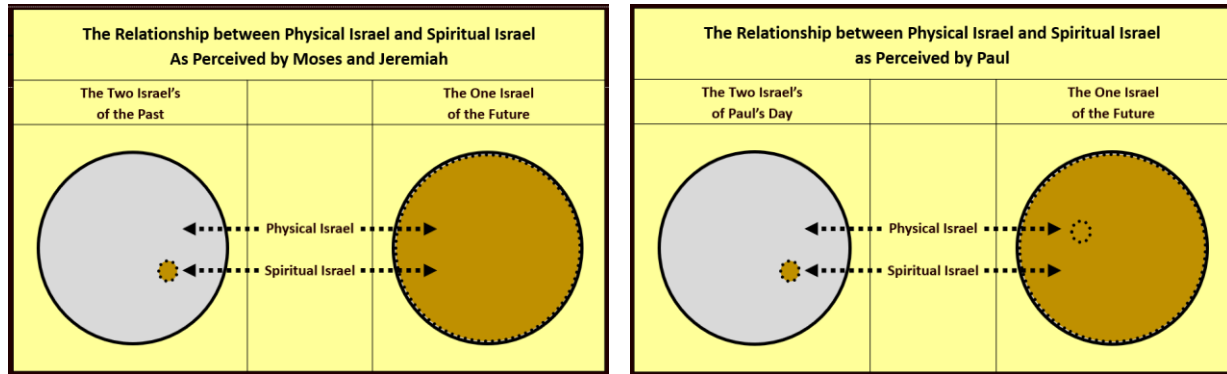
B. What awareness did Paul express about Israel’s history in Galatians?

1. The nation’s history began with the proclamation to Abraham that through him all nations would be blessed (3:8).
2. Instead of focusing on the relationship between YHWH and Abraham as covenantal, Paul referred to “the blessing of Abraham” (ἡ εὐλογία τοῦ Ἀβραάμ, 3:14).
3. Paul did indeed speak of covenant (3:17) and two covenants specifically (4:24) but he used the word positively only of YHWH’s relationship to Abraham, in contrast to the Sinai covenant
4. Paul recognized that Abraham had two wives, Sarah and Hagar, who presented Abraham with two sons.
5. Paul recognized two eras of Israel’s history, “the period of “promise” (430 years) and the period of “law” (from Sinai to the coming of Christ).
6. To Paul, Sinai was the low point of Israel’s history—the moment when they became slaves to the law, which held them in bondage until the coming of Christ.
 - a. God has called them out of this slavery to freedom in Christ (καλέω; 1:6; 5:8, 13).
 - b. Redemption: Christ has redeemed Israel from the law and the curse of the law.3:12

c. Salvation (הוֹשִׁיעַ)

C. What awareness did Paul express about the status of Israel in his day?

1. There are two Israel's.
 - a. The Israel that is under the law.
 - b. The Israel that is rescued from the law and enjoys freedom “in Christ.”



2. But what was a Jew in Paul's day?
 - Ethnically: a descendant of the tribal ancestor Judah.
 - Geographically: a resident of a territory called “Judah.”
 - Sociologically: a member of the people group known as *yěhûdîm*.
 - Religiously: an adherent of the religious system with roots in the covenantal revelation (Mosaic) as practised in Second Temple times.