

4. Who did, and still does, persecute him that was born after the Spirit? (Galatians 4:29) _____

We who are Christians are the children of the promise and of the new covenant like Isaac and are being persecuted as he was (v 28-29). ¹

Men in Old Testament days were justified by faith in the coming of the Messiah. Their problem now, is: they don't believe He has already come, and are still looking for Him. But God made a system through the sacrifices of animals to remove the guilt of sin and reconcile themselves to God: the annual Day of Atonement, in particular, in which the people would confess their sins to God and offer their sacrifices. God did not expect perfection, but He did require obedience. He judged them for willful disobedience, rebellion, and idol worship.

The Scripture is clear. *Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with son of the freewoman* (Galatians 4:30).

Quoted from Gen. 21:10. This represents the Old Covenant being cast out as having no part in the Christian program. ¹

So this is clear, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free (Galatians 4:30,31).

Jesus is the One who instituted the new covenant, or New Testament, and His heavenly minis-

1. Dake, p. 205.

try is far superior to the ministry of the O.T. earthly priests. The new covenant is an agreement, promise, last will and testament, and a statement of intention to bestow divine grace and blessing on those who respond to God in obedient faith. Specifically, it is a covenant of promise for those who by faith accept Christ as God's Son, receive His promises, and commit themselves personally to Him and to the obligations of the new covenant. ¹

With the institution of the new covenant through Christ, the old covenant became obsolete (Heb. 8:13). The new covenant, however, does not render the entire body of Scripture in the O.T. obsolete, but only the Mosaic covenant whereby salvation was obtained by obedience to the law and by the sacrificial system. The O.T. is not obsolete; much of it's revelation points toward Christ and, as God's inspired Word, is still profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteous living. ²

1. The Full Life Study Bible, p. 1954.

2. The Full Life Study Bible, p. 1955.