

Galatians: The Letter that Saved the Church

Why the Torah?



Galatians 3:19-4.11

Blackhawk Church 2021

The Letter So Far



Gal 1:11-2:14

- Paul's gospel is superior. It is directly received from Jesus Christ.
- It's not connected to Jerusalem. But Jerusalem confirmed it.
- "Those guys" get their authority from the Jerusalem leaders.
- The Jerusalem leaders are hypocrites who are teaching things they know are wrong.

Gal 2:15-21

- Why follow the Torah, if it can't fix what's wrong with us and the world?
- Only being united with Jesus can make us right (justify).

The Letter So Far

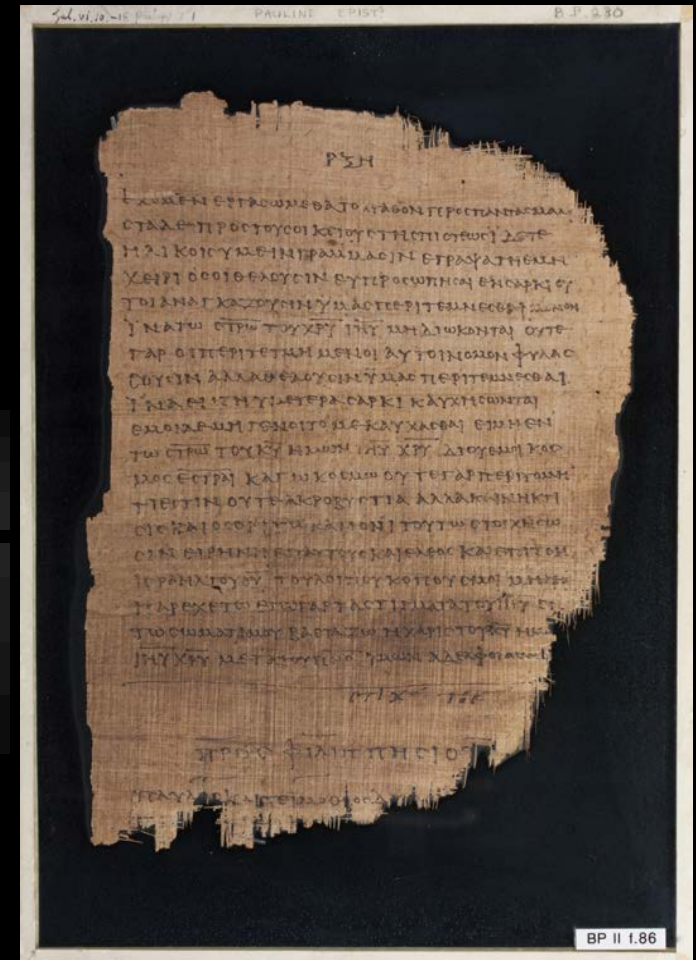


Gal 3:1-18

- Abraham was defined by his faith in God's plan to make a multicultural kingdom.
- Those who share this faith are the true children of Abraham.
- The Torah comes with a curse, the curse of exile.
- Jesus, as the faithful Jewish Messiah, lived out the mission of Israel and bore the curse on the cross. As the new Israel. He's the "one seed" of Abraham, through whom we become children of Abraham and receive the blessing of Abraham, the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 3:19-22

¹⁹ Why, then, was the law given at all? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was given through angels and entrusted to a mediator. ²⁰ A mediator, however, implies more than one party; but God is one. ²¹ Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law. ²² But Scripture has locked up everything under the control of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.



A Covenant of Love (Deut 6:4-5)

- 4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.
- 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.



Leningrad Codex (Manuscript B19a). Job Chapter 1 is shown.

Torah as Covenant Obligation (Deut 7:7-12)

⁷ The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. ⁸ But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹ Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments. ¹⁰ But those who hate him he will repay to their face by destruction; he will not be slow to repay to their face those who hate him....



Leningrad Codex (Manuscript B19a). Job Chapter 1 is shown.

Torah as Covenant Obligation (Deut 7:7-12)

¹¹ Therefore, take care to follow the commands, decrees and laws I give you today. ¹² If you pay attention to these laws and are careful to follow them, then the LORD your God will keep his covenant of love with you, as he swore to your ancestors.



Leningrad Codex (Manuscript B19a). Job Chapter 1 is shown.

Torah as Mission (Deut 4:5-8)

⁵ See, I have taught you decrees and laws as the LORD my God commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering to take possession of it. ⁶ Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.” ⁷ What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? ⁸ And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?



Old Testament Celebration of the Torah

⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

(Psalm 19:7-8)



Leningrad Codex (Manuscript B19a). Job Chapter 1 is shown.

Torah with a Sell-by Date (Deut 30:1-6)

1 When all these blessings and curses I have set before you come on you and you take them to heart wherever the LORD your God disperses you among the nations, 2 and when you and your children return to the LORD your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today, 3 then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you. 4 Even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens, from there the LORD your God will gather you and bring you back.... 6 The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.

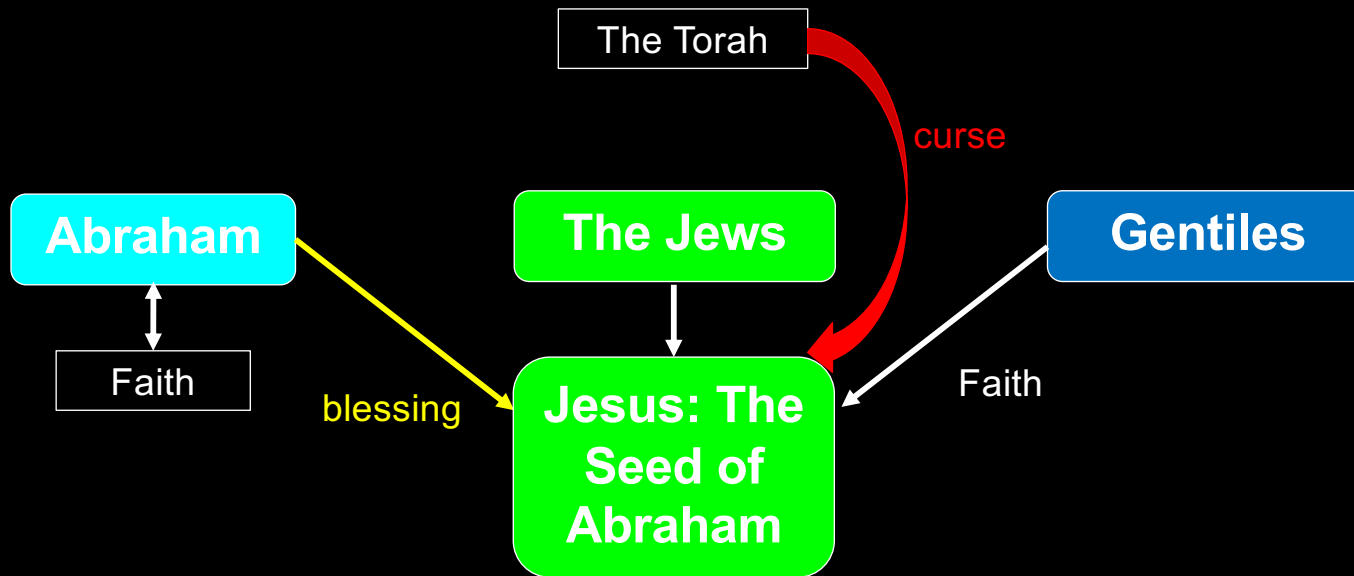


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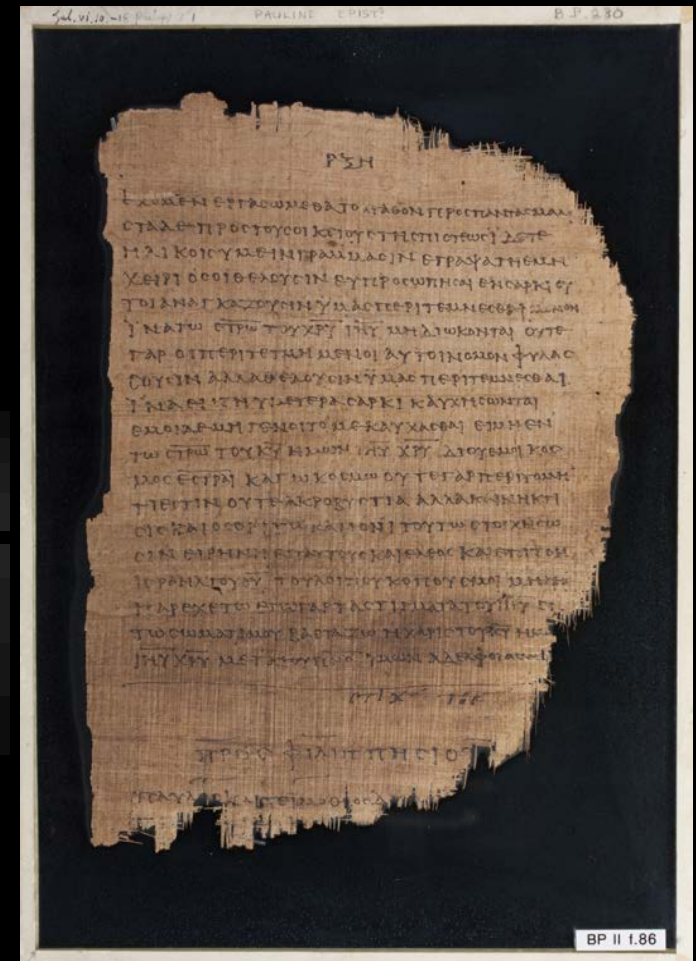
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The Promise to Abraham



Galatians 3:19-22

19 Why, then, was the law given at all? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was given through angels and entrusted to a mediator. **20** A mediator, however, implies more than one party; but God is one. **21** Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law. **22** But Scripture has locked up everything under the control of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.



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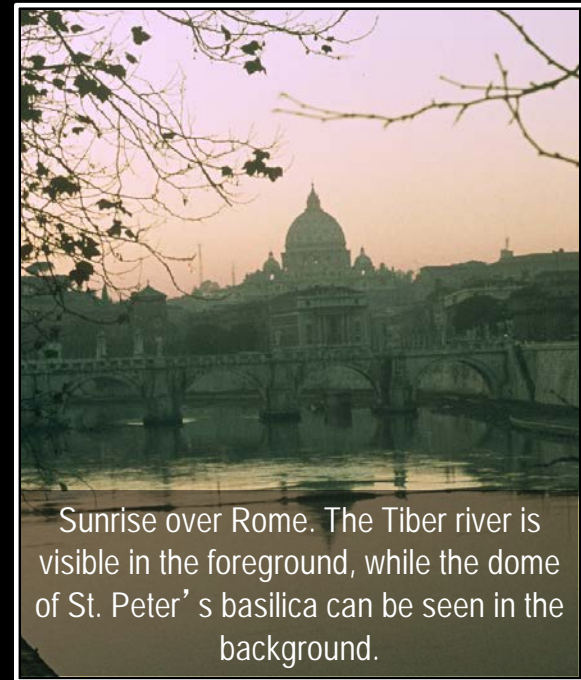
The Torah in the Letter to the Romans

4:15 because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

5:13 To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law.

5:20 The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more,

7:7 What shall we say, then? Is the law sinful? Certainly not! Nevertheless, I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." ⁸ But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of coveting. For apart from the law, sin was dead.

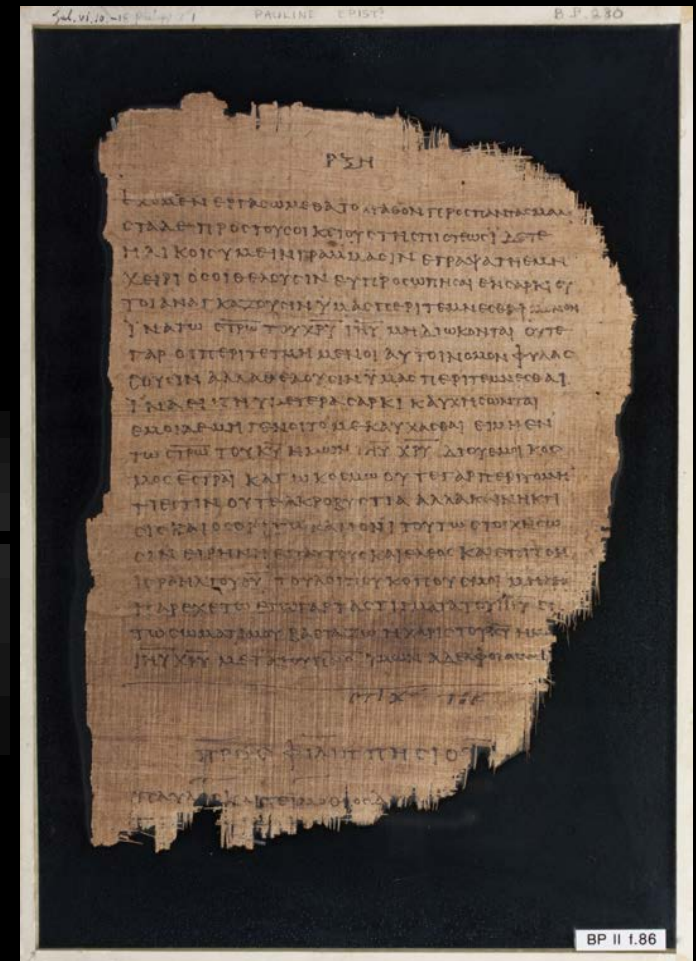


Sunrise over Rome. The Tiber river is visible in the foreground, while the dome of St. Peter's basilica can be seen in the background.

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Galatians 3:19-22

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The Torah as Guardian

^{3:23} Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. ²⁴ So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith.

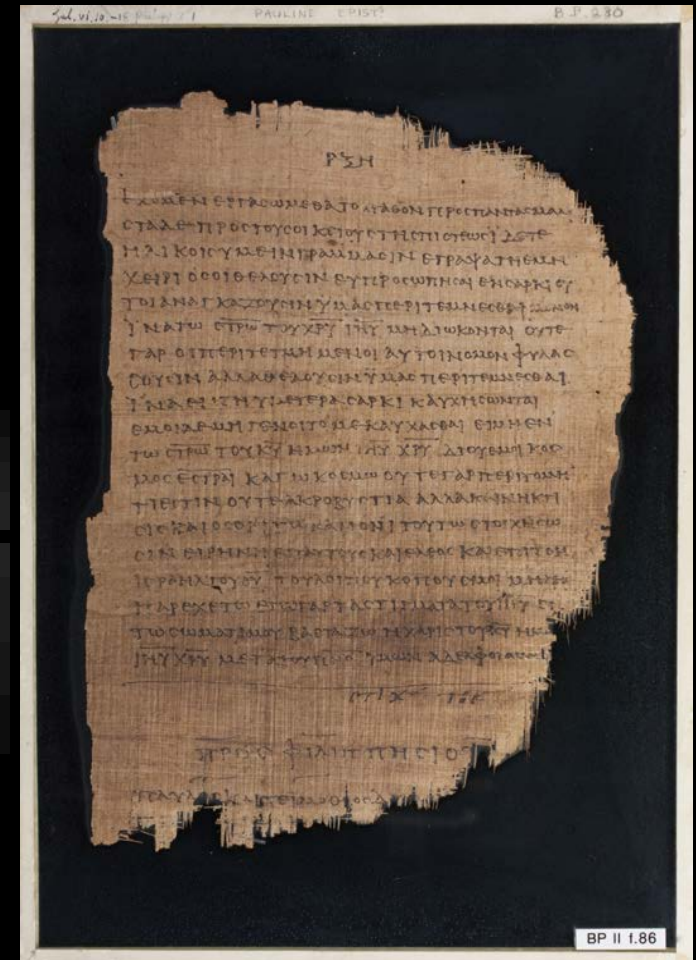
²⁵ Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian. ²⁶ So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

^{4:1} What I am saying is that as long as an heir is underage, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. ² The heir is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. ³ So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world.

⁴ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶ Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba , Father." ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

Galatians 4:8-11

- ⁸ Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods.
- ⁹ But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable forces? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?
- ¹⁰ You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! ¹¹ I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you.



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Why Go Back?

Time of Guardianship

The Curse of the Torah

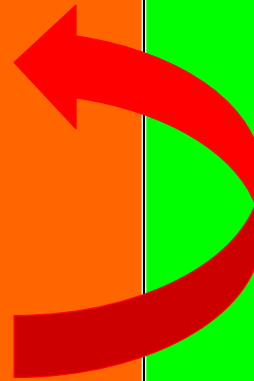
The Jews

Slavery to the Elemental
Spiritual Forces

The Gentiles

Children of God

Baptized into Christ
One in Christ with others
The end of group privilege
Seed of Abraham
Heirs to the promise
The spirit of the Son



A Conversation (Gal. 3:19-4:11)

Galatians: OK. I see that. But that just raises a huge problem. What is the Torah for? If all it does is curse people, why did God give it in the first place? What's the point?

Paul: The Torah served the purpose as the guardian of the people of God when they had not yet come of age. During this guardianship, the Torah revealed God's standards and values, but it had no power to actually transform God's people. The coming of the gospel of Jesus ends this guardianship.



A Conversation (Gal. 3:19-4:11)

Paul: In other words, Jewish ethnicity as entrance requirement to the Kingdom was always meant to be a temporary thing. In this new age, all peoples are invited to join into Christ and become adopted as children of God without becoming Jewish (i.e. go under the guardianship of the Torah).

That includes you Galatians. In fact, you all were under a guardianship of pagan gods and superstitions. Same thing there. They kept you under lock and key. So why would you go back? What's wrong with you?





A Conversation (Gal. 4:12-4:31)

Paul: Look, being united with Christ means we're one family. You took care of me when I got sick. I am now going take care of you. I am going to suffer (like a mother giving birth) until you guys figure this out.

Those guys are trying to break up the family. They're all gung-ho about this Torah things but they don't care what it's doing to us as a community. But if you want do the Torah, let's read the Torah:



A Conversation (Gal. 4:12-4:31)

Paul: Who are the true children of Abraham?
Abraham had two wives: Sarah and Hagar.
Two sons: Ishmael and Isaac. Both were
fathered by Abraham; both were circumcised.
Yet one is the true child, the other is not.

So, what's the difference between the two?

- Promise vs. human effort
- Freedom vs. slavery
- The barren one vs. the fertile one.

Which one are you? You belong to Sarah.

