

I. The backstory

A. An amazing _____

"In you all the families of the earth shall be _____." [Genesis 12:3]

Ten years later, still without children, the fulfillment is looking _____.

B. A _____ plan

C. _____ all over again

1. Sarah's choices echoes Eve's

2. Like Adam, Abraham _____

3. Collateral damage

a. Hagar flaunts her new status: "She looked with _____ on her mistress."

b. Sarah openly regrets this decision – she knows envy and frustration

c. "Garden variety" blame _____

4. Hagar and Ishmael suffer _____

"Sarah dealt _____ with Hagar, and she fled from her." [Genesis 16:6]

D. Two clarifications with regard to Galatians 4

1. Paul purpose is not to _____ Hagar and Ishmael

a. It is easy to _____ with them

b. We see Hagar's sin as well as Sarah's

c. We see God's _____ to Hagar and Ishmael

When all hope seems gone, the Lord visits them in the _____

Hagar: *"Truly here I have seen him who looks after me."* [Genesis 16:13]

2. Paul uses this story as an _____ of a greater truth

A story that has two meanings – one a " _____ " meaning to be interpreted

II. Paul is extolling the _____ of the Gospel

A. Hagar and Ishmael represent salvation by works

"[Hagar] is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for _____" [Galatians 4:24b]

Abraham and Sarah are not content to _____ in the promise of God

Self-righteousness leads to _____ bondage

B. Sarah and Isaac represent salvation by _____

Isaac was born supernaturally--by grace and grace alone

Grace comes to those who know they are " _____ "

It is precisely in our _____ that we come to know grace!

C. Grace begets _____

1. Abraham laughs, overwhelmed

2. Sarah laughs in apparent _____

3. Later, at the fulfillment of the promise, Sarah laughs with _____!

*"God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me."***III. Isaac's joy-full birth anticipates the joy-full birth of Jesus**

A. Isaac's birth anticipates the Gospel

"We are justified by his grace as a _____, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" [Romans 3:24]

B. Grace and laughter are inseparable _____

"Now you, brothers, like Isaac ["Laughter"], are children of promise." [Gal. 4:28]