

Teaching Aids in the Levitical Ritual System: Sacrifices, Feast Days, Sabbaths, & Tabernacle; Fulfilled by Christ; Judaism Is Retired but Oral Law Prevails, Mark7:5-9; Hagar Compared to Sinai, Mosaic Law, & Legalism

1. Doctrine was taught through:
 - I. The Levitical sacrifices (**1. salvation** and **2. rebound**).
 - II. Feast days (**1. Passover**: Redemption, **2. Unleavened Bread**: Fellowship with God in phase two, **3. First Fruits**: Resurrection, **4. Pentecost**: Fifth Cycle of Discipline introduced to Israel and the beginning of the Church Age, **5. Trumpets**: Regathering of Israel at Second Advent, **6. Atonement**: Fulfillment of the four unconditional covenant to Israel, **7. Tabernacles**: the Millennial Kingdom.
 - III. Sabbaths: **1. Weekly**: meditation on and recollection of doctrine, **2. Sabbatical**: every seventh year no work done in order to practice faith-rest, **3. Jubilee**: grace orientation by starting over — every fiftieth year all property was returned to their original owners.
 - IV. The structure & contents of the Tabernacle. Each item taught through types the doctrines of Christology, soteriology, or hamartiology: **1. the brazen altar**: the substitutionary sacrifice of the Messiah's true humanity, **2. the brazen laver**: Sanctification and purification (Rebound), **3. the golden lampstand**: (a) gold: the deity of Christ, (b) light: Christ as the light of the world, and (c) the oil: the Holy Spirit Who indwelt and filled the true humanity of Christ, **4. the table of showbread**: (a) the table was made of acacia wood covered with gold: the hypostatic union, (b) the bread was unleavened: the perfection of Christ, as the staff of life symbolized eternal life through Him, and ...
 (c) the bread and the wine symbolized fellowship with God through union with Christ, **5. the altar of incense**: made of acacia wood covered with gold it symbolized Christ as our intercessor and advocate through whom prayers are offered to God. **6. the veil**: made of white linen (impeccability and righteousness) portrayed the body of Christ as our qualified substitute; only through Him do humans have access to God; **7. the ark of the covenant**: made of acacia wood covered with gold typifying the hypostatic union contained (a) the Law which Christ fulfilled, (b) Aaron's rod that budded symbolizing eternal life, and (c) a pot of manna as a reminder of divine provision. The mercy seat was (a) transformed from a throne of judgment to a throne of grace by the blood of atonement sprinkled upon it and (b) the two guardian cherubs represented the integrity of God and the principle "what righteousness demands, justice must execute."

2. The sacrifices, feast days, Sabbaths, and the tabernacle all taught divine categories of theology but which had been distorted over the centuries to produce an oral law.
3. In our verse we find that the “present” Jerusalem, i.e., first- century, is in slavery to the oral law’s misinterpretations of the Mosaic Law. Salvation was assumed to be accomplished through keeping the Sabbaths, performing the sacrifices, and honoring the feast days.

Galatians 4:25 - Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children.

4. The teaching aids of the Mosaic Law had been distorted into a system of works thus transforming Judaism from a legitimate system of worshipping God into a legalistic religion.
5. In Galatia the Judaizers are recommending that Gentile believers in cities such as Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe be circumcised, an expression of their belief that faith in Christ and adherence to the Mosaic Law were imperatives for salvation.
6. The Judaizers were unbelievers. Nothing can be added to “faith alone.” It is either “faith alone in the Mosaic Law alone,” or “faith alone in Christ alone.” No combos!
7. First-century Judaism was an anachronism since it had transferred Sinai to Zion. Jerusalem although situated on Mount Zion was spiritually removed back to Mount Sinai.
8. So what have the Galatians done? As believers they are citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem but who have chosen to revert to a life in slavery to religion.
9. The basis for Judaism was sound and authentic when based on the Mosaic Law. But by the time the Lord appeared in His true humanity Judaism had been transformed into a religion by means of the oral law.
10. Dominant among the enforcers of the oral law were the Pharisees and scribes who on one occasion quizzed the Lord, “Why do Your disciples not walk according to the traditions of the elders, but eat their bread with impure hands?” (Mark 7:5). The Lord’s response reveals the source of their legalism:

Mark 7:6 - And He said to them, “Rightly did Isaiah prophesy to you hypocrites, as it is written, [**Isaiah 29:13**] ‘This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me.

v. 7 - ‘But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.’

v. 8 - “Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men.”

v. 9 - He was also saying to them. “You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition.”

11. Unbelievers who characteristically elevate the traditions of men above the commandment of God are in slavery to religion; the believers in Galatia who deviated from grace and went back to legalism returned to the slavery they had previously escaped.
12. In verse 25, Hagar is characterized as Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem. In other words, the woman who was born a slave is symbolic of the slavery that post-Judaistic Jerusalem had become.
13. The phrase “corresponds to” is the present active indicative of the verb **συστοιχέω, sustoicheō**. “In connection with rapid advances and retreats it means that soldiers should stay in the same line or rank.”¹
14. It came to refer to keeping concepts together in a series. Hagar is allegorized as Mount Sinai, i.e., she “corresponds to” Sinai which was the source of the Mosaic Law which has not only been abandoned for the traditions of men but also it and the traditions are no longer valid in light of the resurrected Christ who fulfilled the Law.
15. Paul says that the Jews had moved Sinai to Zion and then provides an allegorical image of Hagar corresponding to the present Jerusalem.

¹ Gerhard Delling, “συστοιχέω,” in *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, eds. Gerhard Kittel and Gerhard Friedrich, trans. Geoffrey W. Bromiley (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1971), 7:669.