

Galatians 4:26

"But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all."

After approaching Jehovah's Witnesses on the street, and speaking to them, they try and "trip up" Christians by claiming if one is born again, we must have a spiritual mother as well as a father. The Jehovah's Witnesses will use the above verse to claim that their mother is their organisation, showing from the above verse they have a spiritual mother, and that God has a wife. God's wife, according to the Jehovah's Witnesses, is not a physical wife, but a spiritual wife.

However, when you dig deep into the scriptures, you will discover that the verse above is not referring to a spiritual mother, but in fact a spiritual allegory which Paul is mentioning to get his point across. Let me explain.

First of all, with all verses, you have to look at the context of the writing to see what Paul is meaning.

The above verse can go back as far as the last chapter in Galatians, and as far back as Genesis, as Paul is referring to the seed of Abraham and God's promise to him. For quickness, let us look at verse 22 of the same chapter.

Galatians 4:22

"For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman."

If we read the story in Genesis, Abraham had a wife, Sarah who was barren. Sarah was the freewoman in this account, and the bondmaid was Hagar. As Sarah got desperate for children she advised Abraham her husband to go to Hagar in order to have children, and rather than listening to God's voice, Abraham listened to his wife's voice and obeyed her. Abraham then went into Hagar and she conceived and bared Ishmael, which was Abraham's first son. Later in time, the pre-incarnate Lord Jesus visited Abraham and Sarah in Genesis 17 and promised Sarah that she would have a son, both of course laughed at His promise, doubting His word and provision for them. After a period of time, Sarah conceived and bared a son, and she called him Isaac, this was Abraham's second son. Therefore, the scripture which Paul writes to the church at Galatia was indicating that Abraham had two sons from two women, Sarah who was the freewoman, and Hagar which was the bondmaid.

Let us look at the next verse.

Galatians 4:23

"But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise."

When Abraham visited Hagar, she conceived and bared Ishmael, and as the scripture states above, this was done through the flesh, as God did not command Abraham to do this. Therefore, Ishmael was the one born after the flesh. However, before Sarah conceived, the Lord promised both Abraham and Sarah that they would have a child, and the Lord was faithful to His promise, as He is in them all, and when Isaac was born he was the one born by promise.

Galatians 4:24

"Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar."

As Paul is reaching out to the church, he is using this example as an allegory for two covenants. He refers to Hagar as mount Sinai in this verse and expresses that Hagar was the bondwoman.

Galatians 4:25

"For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children."

The verse above Paul is now referring to Sarah as Jerusalem, as Hagar had to answer to Sarah being in bondage to Sarah as her maid. Therefore, going back to the final verse in v26 which the Jehovah's Witnesses use to claim that Born-Again Christians "ought" to know their spiritual mother, we can see that Paul is referring to Sarah and not a spiritual wife that God has in heaven.

Galatians 4:26

"But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all."

Paul is referring to Sarah in this allegory as Jerusalem and positions Sarah above Hagar who was only a maid. The allegory that Paul is trying to put across to the church in Galatia is that Arabia is under the law which people who keep to the law are under bondage, however because the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins, we are not under the law today but are made free and as Christians we come from the line of Sarah who is the mother of all nations, those who accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour. Jerusalem is above positionally because it supersedes Arabia which is under the law.

Genesis 17:16

"And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her."

The term "above" here which Paul uses in verse 26, is not referring to the heavens above, but above positionally. For example, the Lord positionally is above all nations as mentioned in the Psalm below, and there is no one higher than the Lord.

Psalm 113:4

"The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens."

By rightly dividing the scriptures, we can see that Paul is speaking about those who are Christians are made free and are not under the law or in bondage today. This verse does not refer to Born-Again Christians having to have a spiritual mother, or God having a spiritual wife. This shows how deceived the Jehovah's Witnesses are when they take this verse out of context and not comparing scripture with scripture to back up their theory.