

Galatians 4:26-28

26. But the **Jerusalem ABOVE is FREE, which is the MOTHER of us all.**

- **Hebrews 12:21-24** "And so _____ was the sight that _____ said, 'I am exceedingly _____ and _____. 'But you have come to Mount _____ and to the city of the _____ God, the _____, to an innumerable company of _____, to the general assembly (church) of the firstborn who are registered in _____, to God the Judge of _____, to the _____ of just (righteous) men made perfect, to _____ the Mediator of the _____ covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel."
- **Revelation 21:1-2** And I saw a new _____ and a new _____, for the first _____ and the first _____ had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New _____, coming _____ out of _____ from God, prepared as a _____ adorned for her husband."

Definition: "Jerusalem ABOVE is FREE, which is the MOTHER of us all" - The Bible tells us that we, as believers in Jesus Christ, are "citizens of heaven" and not of this world any longer. The **"Jerusalem ABOVE" refers to the heavenly Jerusalem**, not the city in the earthly nation of Israel. The earthly city of Jerusalem contained the temple, and was the center of Jewish religion. This heavenly Jerusalem is FREE in the sense that we, **as citizens of that city, are NO LONGER IN BONDAGE to the Law of Moses and the Old Testament commandments.** In this sense, the heavenly Jerusalem is our "mother city" and free, in contrast to the **children of the SLAVE woman**, Hagar. In Hebrews 12:20-24, there is also a comparison made between Mount Sinai (where Moses received the Law), and Mount Zion ("Zion" is another name for Jerusalem). It says that **Mount Sinai was "TERRIFYING" and that Moses was "AFRAID and TREMBLING", in complete contrast to our heavenly Jerusalem and mount Zion**, where we will dwell for all eternity with the angels and the saints of God ("the spirits of just men made perfect"), because we are under the New Covenant.

- **Philippians 3:20-21** "For our _____ is in _____, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will _____ our lowly _____ that it may be _____ to _____ glorious _____, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself."

Definition: "NEW JERUSALEM COMING DOWN from HEAVEN" - After the MILLENNIUM, the 1,000 Year Kingdom, God will create a completely new heaven and a new earth, and His city, the Heavenly Jerusalem, will come down from heaven and reside on the new earth for all eternity (Rev. 21). The Millennium will be for a **limited time** of 1,000 years; it is a **temporary** kingdom set up here on earth, where Jesus Christ will rule and reign after His return (Rev. 20:4, 6-7). There will be **unsaved people** in the kingdom (see Zechariah 14:16, Isaiah 65:18-25, Rev. 20:7-10), but some will be saved during that time (Zech. 8:2-23). The **earth will still be under the curse during the MILLENNIUM**, but Jesus will be imposing His reign over it, and subduing it (Rev. 20:1-6, Rev. 2:26-27, Isa. 65:25, Isa. 11:1-9). **When God creates the new earth, He will completely remove all effects of "The Curse," and bring down His holy city, the New Jerusalem.**

- **Revelation 21:10** "And he _____ me _____ in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great _____, the holy _____, descending out of _____ from God."
- **Revelation 22:3** "And there shall be _____ more _____, but the throne of _____ and of the Lamb (Jesus) shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him."
- **Revelation 21:22 - 27** "But I saw no _____ in it (the New Jerusalem), for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its _____. And the _____ had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the _____ of _____ illuminated it, and the Lamb (Jesus) is its _____. And the nations of _____ who are _____ shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. But there shall by _____ means _____ it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but _____ those who are _____ in the _____ book of _____."

Definition: "We also EAGERLY WAIT for the SAVIOR, the LORD JESUS CHRIST" - Why would it say we WAIT for our Savior Jesus Christ, when Jesus has already come to die on the cross and become our Savior? Because, in this context, it is referring to **the resurrection, when even our PHYSICAL BODIES will be conformed to the likeness of Christ's supernatural, resurrection body.** Our spirits have already been reborn, and we are constantly becoming more like Christ and being "conformed to His image" as we renew our minds with the word of God, but our bodies still remain the same until the blessed resurrection. Then, we will have perfect bodies just like Jesus!

- **II Corinthians 5:1-4** "For we know that if our _____ house, this tent (our PHYSICAL BODY), is destroyed, we have a building from _____, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we _____, earnestly desiring to be _____ with our _____ which is from _____, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent _____, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by _____."

Definition: "Only those who are WRITTEN in the LAMB'S BOOK of LIFE" - The Lamb's Book of Life is where **all the names of those who are saved** are recorded. The only inhabitants of **God's holy city** will be those who have believed in Jesus and had their names written in His Book of Life. The Bible says that the ones who are thrown into hell are those who are **NOT written in the Book of Life**, and whose book is it? Revelation 21:27 calls it "**The Lamb's Book of Life**", which means it belongs to Jesus, the Lamb of God. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, you need have **NO FEAR of the Judgment**, because **Jesus has already PAID for your SINS.** He took our sins upon Himself, so that WE will not be punished for them, and because we believe in Him, our names are written in His book. People who do not know Jesus must stand before God at the Final Judgment and PAY for their OWN SINS!! Romans 6:23 says "the wages of sin is death" (the "second death" in the Lake of Fire, Rev. 20:14). Eternal life in heaven, and **having your NAME WRITTEN in the Lamb's Book of Life, is simply a gift from God**, and you need to receive it. The gift of eternal life comes wrapped in the package, so to speak, of Jesus Christ, so if you have received Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have eternal life. "The gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). "As many as **RECEIVED Him**, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name" (John 1:12). We are all sinners and do not meet with God's standard of perfection, so no one can say they are too great a sinner for Jesus to be able to save them. Jesus

said that "whoever comes to Me I will by no means cast out" (John 6:37). Just come to Jesus and accept Him by faith - He will not cast you out or turn you away!

- **Revelation 20:11-15** "Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the _____, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another _____ was _____, which is the _____ of _____. And the _____ were _____ according to their _____, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead [bodies] who were in it, and Death (the grave) and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were _____, each one according to his works. Then death and Hades were cast into the _____ of _____. This is the second death. And anyone who was _____ found _____ in the _____ of _____ was cast (thrown) into the _____ of _____."
- **Romans 6:23** "For the wages of sin is death; but the _____ of _____ is _____ through _____ our Lord."

27. For it is written: "Rejoice, **O barren, you who do not bear!** Break forth and shout, you who do not travail! For **the DESOLATE has MANY MORE CHILDREN than she who has a HUSBAND.**"

- **Hebrews 11:11-12** "By faith _____ herself also received strength to _____ seed, and she _____ a _____ when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised."
- **Genesis 15:5-6** "Then He (God) brought him (Abraham) outside and said, 'Look now toward heaven, and _____ the _____ if you are able to _____ them.' And He said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he (Abraham) _____ in the Lord, and He (God) _____ it to him for _____."

Definition: "The DESOLATE has MANY MORE CHILDREN than she who has a HUSBAND" - This is still referring to the heavenly Jerusalem, and Paul quotes a verse in Isaiah that is prophesying the church (the Believers under the New Covenant, and therefore the inhabitants of the New Jerusalem). Just as **Sarah was desolate and barren (couldn't have children)** at the time that Hagar went in to her husband, Abraham, and later bore Ishmael, the heavenly Jerusalem was barren and desolate (did not have any inhabitants) during the Old Testament time of the Law of Moses (Israel was then called the "wife" of God, and **usually an unfaithful, adulterous wife**). Now that we are in the New Testament times, **under the COVENANT of GRACE, the heavenly Jerusalem, God's kingdom, has "many more children" than ever were saved under the Old Covenant.** Now, we have multitudes too great to even count, **from every tribe and nation around the earth**, as the Gentiles (and a "remnant" of the Jews) come to faith in Jesus Christ and become children of God (see John 1:12).

- **Isaiah 54:1** "'Sing, O _____, you who have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, you who have not travailed with _____! For more are the _____ of the desolate than the children of the married woman,' says the Lord."
- **John 1:12-13** "But as many as _____ Him, to them He gave the right to become _____ of _____, even to those who believe in His name. Who were _____ not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."
- **Galatians 3:26** "For you are all sons (CHILDREN) of God through _____ in _____."

- **Revelation 5:9** "And they sang a new song, saying: 'You (Jesus) are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have _____ us to _____ by Your _____ out of every _____ and _____ and _____ and _____."
- **Revelation 7:9-10** "After these things I looked and behold, a great _____ which _____ could _____, of all _____, _____, peoples, and tongues (languages), standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white _____, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, '_____ belongs to our _____ who sits on the throne, and to the _____!'"

Definition: "The RIGHT to become CHILDREN of God" - Does the Bible teach that God is the Father of everyone and that everyone in the world is AUTOMATICALLY a CHILD of GOD? No! We are GIVEN the AUTHORITY (right, privilege) to become CHILDREN of GOD **only when we BELIEVE in His Son Jesus Christ.**

- **John 8:44** "You are of YOUR _____, the _____, and the desires of your _____ you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a _____, and the _____ of it."

Definition: "BORN of GOD" - John 1:13 says we are born, NOT of certain things, but we **ARE BORN of GOD**. The New Birth (being Born Again) **(1.)** Does NOT happen "by blood", which means by inheritance from human ancestors; **(2.)** Does NOT happen "by the will of the flesh", which means by human sexual desire; and **(3.)** Does NOT happen "by the will of man", which means by human will power or determination (the **"works of the flesh"**). It is a SUPERNATURAL ACT of GOD that happens to us when we BELIEVE in Jesus and RECEIVE HIM as Savior.

- **I Peter 1:23** "Having been _____, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the _____ of _____ which lives and abides forever."

28. Now **WE, brethren, as Isaac was, are CHILDREN of PROMISE.**

- **Romans 9:6-9** "But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are _____ all Israel who are of Israel, nor are they all _____ because they are the _____ of _____; but 'In _____ your seed shall be called.' That is, those who are the _____ of the _____, these are _____ the _____ of _____; but the _____ of the _____ are counted as the seed. For this is the _____ of _____: 'At this time I will come and _____ shall have a son.'"
- **Genesis 18:10-15** "And He said, 'I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, _____ your wife shall have a _____.' And Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him. Now _____ and _____ were _____, well-advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of _____. Therefore _____ laughed within herself, saying, 'After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord (husband) being old also?' And the Lord said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh, saying, "Shall I surely _____ a _____, since I am _____?" Is anything too _____ for the _____? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a _____.' But Sarah denied it, saying, 'I did not laugh,' for she was afraid. And He said, 'No, but you did laugh.'"

Definition: "WE, brethren, as Isaac was, are CHILDREN of PROMISE" - God's promise to us is that we will be BORN of the HOLY SPIRIT, and become His children as we believe in Jesus Christ. We are "children of promise" in that we believe God's promises and accept them by FAITH.