

Gal. 4:1-7

Argument from Salvation History

- I. Neg: Like an underage heir, we were under authority [of the Law] (1-3)
- A. I'm making a comparison to an heir not having his inheritance until coming of age (1-2)
1. I am saying: (1a)
 2. What I am saying (1b-2)
 - a In the time in which the heir is a child (1b)
 - b The child doesn't live like an heir, but under authority (1c-2)
 - 1) Neg: He doesn't yet experience the privilege that is rightfully his (1c-1d)
 - a) He differs in no way from a slave (1c)
 - b) Even though he is master of all (1d)
 - 2) Pos: But he is under authority until his coming of age (2)
 - a) He is under guardians and servants (2a)
 - b) Until the appointed time from his father (2b)
- B. In the same way, we were likewise under authority for a time (3)
- Applying the illustration to the Christian
1. When we were children (3a)
 'minors' in salvation history
 2. We were experiencing slavery to the elementary principles of the world (3b)
 στοιχεῖα – elementary principles, basic elements, elementary concepts
 possibly demonic powers, not probable here
 possibly basic elementary principles of life
 possibly elements of the world, i.e. Old Creation
- II. Pos: But now Jesus has brought the change of age and our full inheritance [without Law] (4-7)
- Dramatic change! Eschatological reality! New Age!
What has changed?
- A. Jesus has changed our status into full sonship (4-5)
1. At the right time, Jesus came to fulfill the Law (4)
 - a When the fullness of time had come (4a)
 At just the right time
 - b God sent His Son (4b)
 Born from woman
 Cf. Gen. 3:15 "seed"
 Born under Law
 Jesus conquered the curse of the law
 by perfectly fulfilling the obedience to the law
 by doing what we could not do
 2. Purpose: So that He may purchase our freedom and adoption (5)
 - a So that He may pay the release of those under Law (5a)
 Cf. 3:13 "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law"
 - b Purpose: so that we may receive the adoption (5b)
 cf. v. 6

- B. Result: You are experiencing the fullness of your inheritance (6-7)
1. You are sons, experiencing the full benefits of sonship (6)
 - a Because you are sons (6a)
 - b God sent the Spirit of His Son into our heart crying out “Abba, Father” (6b)
 - The Spirit is crying out “Abba, Father”
 - And we take up that cry as the Spirit exercises influence in our hearts
 2. Result: You have moved into the full possession of your inheritance (7)
 - a Neg: you are no longer a slave (7a)
 - b Pos: You are a son and an heir through God (7b-d)
 - 1) You are a son (7b)
 - 2) And because you are a son, you are an heir through God (7c-d)
 - a) If: you are a son (7c)
 - b) Then: you are also an heir through God (7d)