

# Elder Vernon Johnson

## Numbers

### Ten

#### The Law Covenant

"Abraham married the Egyptian handmaid Hagar after he had been in the land of Canaan **ten years**. Hagar is a representative of the **law** covenant. We read in Gal. 4:22 "For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. 23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise.

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. 25 For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. 26 But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.

27 For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband. 28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. 29 But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. 30 Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman. 31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free."

The two wives of Abraham are spoken of as forming an allegory and that they represented the two covenants of worship. Hagar, the bondservant represented the covenant of the law. Abraham married her after he had been in the land of Canaan **ten years**. The ten years suggest to us that Hagar was associated with the law covenant. As Hagar was in bondage, so those under the law covenant were in bondage also. The law covenant brings into bondage. The children of the bondservant are in bondage with the bondwoman. This teaches us among other things that when people try to establish their righteousness under the works of the law they are going to a system of bondage that results in only a curse: Gal. 3:10 "For as many

as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them."

In contrast, Abraham had been married to the freewoman (Sarah) all along and her son was a son of promise. As Isaac was a child of promise, so we, the elect of God, are also children of promise. It is far better to worship under the covenant of grace than trying to establish our righteousness under the covenant of the law.