



1. Exodus 1:1-7:

Twelve 'sons of Israel' in Egypt [P]

All need redemption

“All, both Jews and Greeks, are under the power of sin”(Romans 3:9)

“The gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith [the faith of Jesus], to the Jew first and also to the Greek”(Romans 1:16).

Jesus' liberating mission

Mark 1:23: man with 'unclean spirit' in the synagogue

Mark 1:31: Simon's mother-in-law and ministry

Mark 1:40-45: leper welcomed back into community

Mark 2:20: Communion with the Bridegroom takes precedence over fasting (see Cana : John 2 and Messianic Banquet : Apocalypse 21:2)

Mark 2:16: Sinners dining with Jesus

Mark 2:27: 'Sabbath is made for humanity'

‘You will know the truth,
and the truth will make you free’(John 8:32)

‘If the Son makes you free,
you will be free indeed’(John 8:36).

Twelve Apostles

‘Jesus went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. When day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles’(Luke 6:12-13).

‘You who have followed me will sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel’(Matthew 19:28).

‘The wall of the city [the new Jerusalem] has twelve foundations, and on them are the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb’(Apocalypse 21:14).



Paul to the Galatians 48AD

‘Christ gave himself
to set us free’(Galatians 1:4)

We must stop putting
boundaries on the action
of God’s liberating and
life-giving Spirit.

Andrei Rublev

33 Jesus is crucified

34 Paul's Encounter
with Christ (Acts 9:1-19)

‘I received the Gospel
through a revelation
of Jesus Christ’
(Galatians 1:12).

‘God called me through
his grace and was
pleased to reveal his Son
in me, so that I might
proclaim him among the
Gentiles’
(Galatians 1:15-16).

34-37 In ‘Arabia’ (The Nabataen kingdom) (Galatians 1:17-18; Acts 9:20-25)



37 Paul escapes from Damascus (Acts 9:25)
and pays a short visit to Jerusalem
'to speak with [historêsai] Cephas' (Galatians 1:18)
then leaves for Tarsus (Galatians 1:16-21; Acts 9:26-30)

'Proclaiming the faith' (Galatians 1:23)

45 Barnabas gets Paul to join him in Antioch (Acts 11:25-26)

46 Paul visits Jerusalem (during the 'fourteen year' period, Galatians 2:1)
with Barnabas and Silas
and confers with Peter, John & James
concerning conditions for accepting Gentiles
into the Christian community (Galatians 2:1-10; Acts 11:27-30)

47-48 Missionary Journey to Cyprus and Southern Galatia

Acts 13:1-4

In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers ... While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia; and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

Acts 13:4-14

‘Barnabas and Saul left Antioch and sailed to Cyprus ... Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga ... and to Antioch.’

Acts 14:1-6

Iconium ... Lystra ... Derbe.

Acts 14:21-26

‘They returned to Lystra, then on to Iconium and Antioch ... Perga ... From there they sailed back to Antioch.’



Paul's words in the synagogue of Antioch (in Galatia).

‘By this Jesus everyone who believes is set free from all those sins from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses’(Acts 13:39).

Problem

‘Certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, ‘Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved’(Acts 15:1)

The Galatians know that they can fall back and lose the freedom they experienced in the Christian community.

The circumcision group had strong arguments to persuade them to obey God's will as found in the Law (= become a Jew)

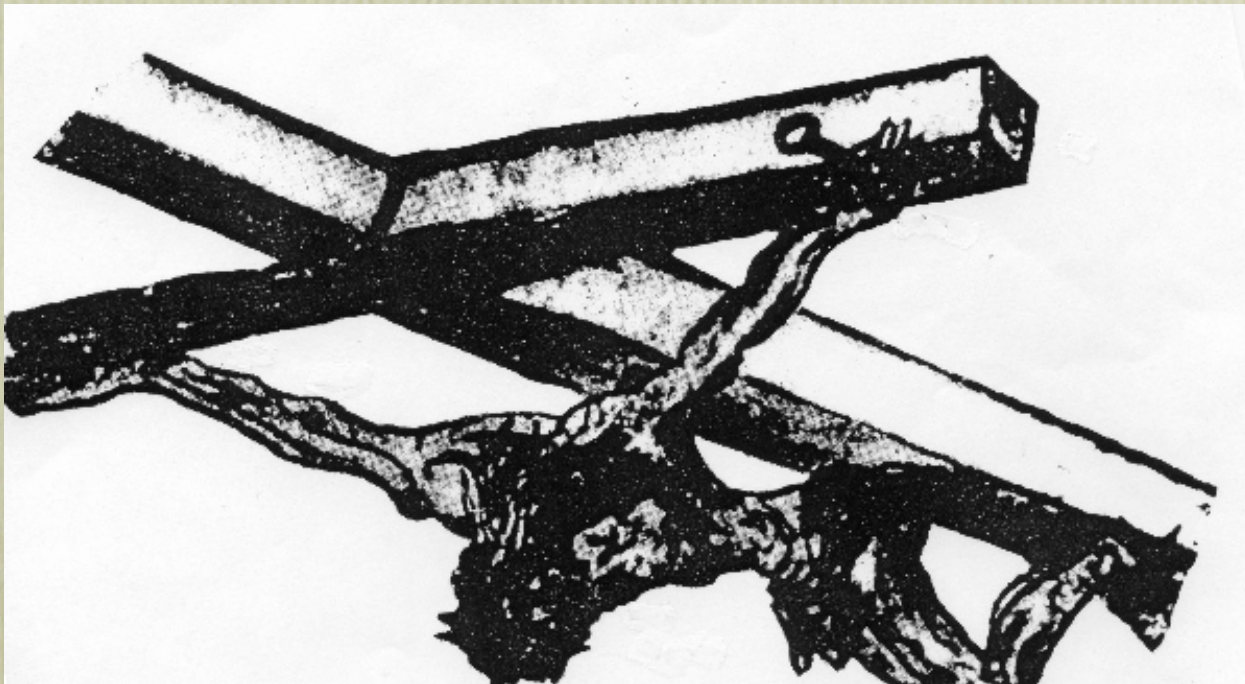
Paul did not disagree with this, but he had come to see that the Law had come to its flowering in Jesus. To obey the Law = join themselves to the Christian community.

48 Paul writes from Antioch to Galatia

‘Paul an apostle — sent neither by human commission nor from human authorities, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead — and all the members of God’s family who are with me. To the churches of Galatia’(Galatians 1:1-2).

Galatians 1:3-5

‘Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to set us free from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.’



Galatians 1:6-7

‘I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel — not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are **confusing** you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.’

‘Confusing’(tarassô) - introducing fear into their relationship with their Father.

‘False believers secretly brought in, who slipped in to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might **enslave** us.’ Galatians 2:4

‘When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood self-condemned; for until certain people came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But after they came, he drew back and kept himself separate for fear of the circumcision faction. And the other Jews joined him in this hypocrisy [acting to please], so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that they were **not acting consistently with the truth of the gospel**, I said to Cephas before them all, “If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?” Galatians 2:11-14

Galatians 2:15-16

‘We have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law.’

Galatians 2:19-20

‘I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, loving me and giving himself for me.’

Galatians 3:26-29

‘You are all ‘sons’ of God through the faith that is in Christ Jesus. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise.’

Galatians 4:4-7

‘When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to **redeem** those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then also an heir, through God.’

Galatians 5:1

‘For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.’

Galatians 5:6

‘In Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that counts is faith working through love.’

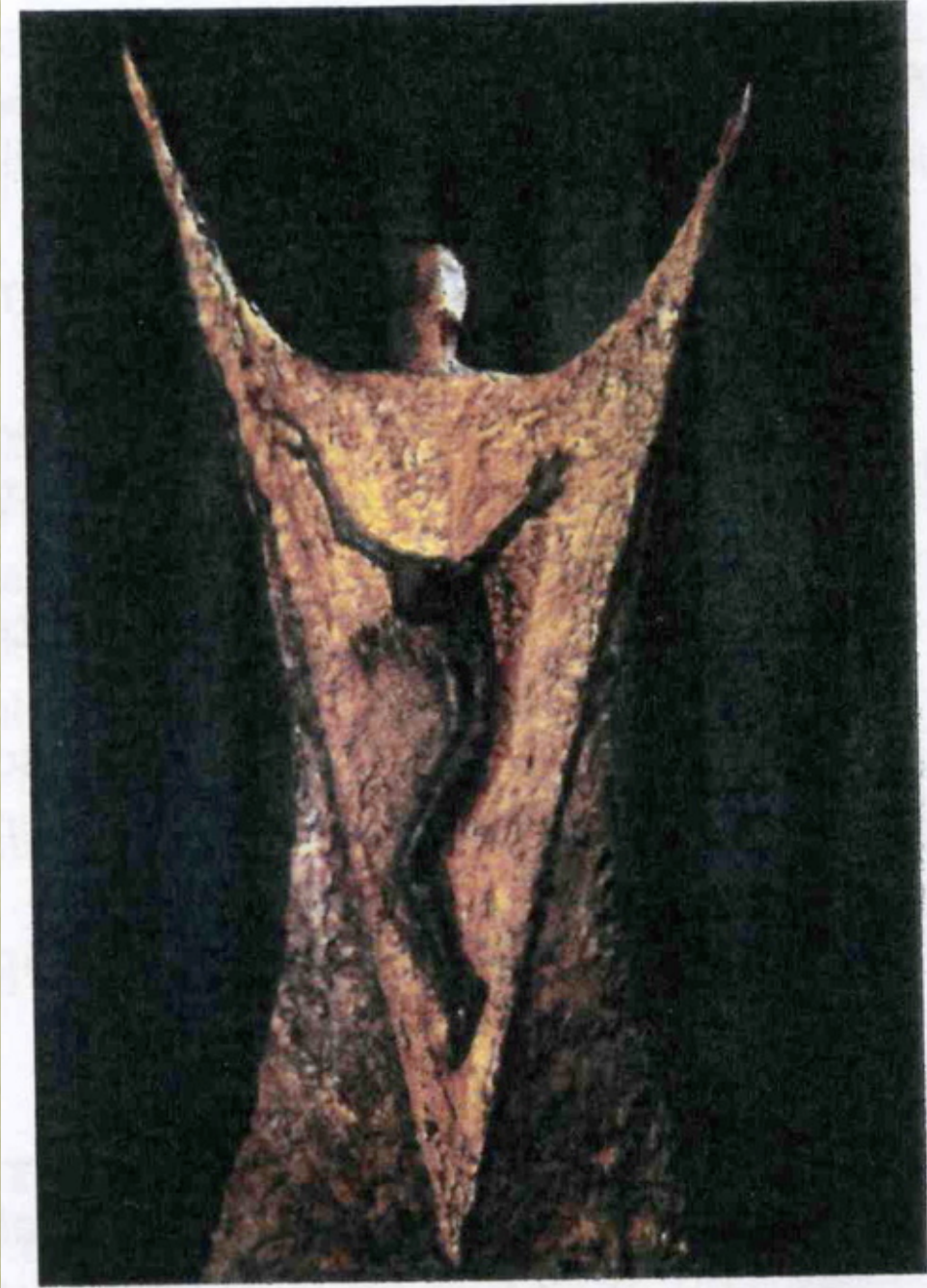
Faith = opening to welcome grace, and to let grace produce its fruit in one's life.

Galatians 5:13-14

‘You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.”

Freedom from (outside and inside)

Freedom to ‘live and to live to the full’(John 10:10)



‘He gave himself for us
to set us free’(Galatians 1:3)

‘If the Son
makes you free you are
free indeed’(John 8:36)

Peter at the Assembly in Jerusalem 49

‘Cleansing their hearts by faith, God has made no distinction between them and us’(Acts 15:9).

‘We believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will’(Acts 15:12).

2. Exodus 1:9-11

‘The Israelites are more numerous and more powerful than we’(Pharaoh is speaking)! They set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities for Pharaoh.

- ‘Israel came to Egypt; Jacob lived as an alien in the land of Ham. And YHWH made his people very fruitful, and made them stronger than their foes’(Psalm 105:23-24).
- ‘I am God, the God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there. I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again’ (Genesis 46:3).

- 3. The midwives: Exodus 1:21
- The power of ordinary people who ‘revere God’ to thwart the will of an oppressor, by being open to compassion and so to the larger design of God to liberate.
- 4. Moses Exodus 2:3
- ‘Basket’ = Hebrew **tebâh** (the same word used of Noah’s ark in Genesis 6:14) = a place of salvation. An ancient Near-East myth describes how Sargon II of Akkad (2300BC) was hidden in a basket in the Euphrates and was rescued by a peasant.

5. Exodus 2:11-23a

- Moses makes a commitment to the cause of the oppressed
- the oppressed oppress each other – fighting among themselves.
- Acts 7:23-29, 35 sees their rejection of Moses as part of a tradition which culminated in the rejection of Jesus, who should have been recognised by his deeds (John 10:25; Mat 11:2ff).
- Moses' attempt to oppose injustice by violence does not work; he has to flee, rejected by his brothers and by the Pharaoh. Liberation must await a divine mission.

Exodus 2:23b-25: Introducing God

After a long time the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned under their slavery, and cried out. Out of the slavery their cry for help rose up to God. God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God looked upon the Israelites, and God took notice of them.

‘He did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him’(Psalm 22:24).

‘This poor soul cried, and was heard by YHWH, and was saved from every trouble’(Psalm 34:6).

‘YHWH hears the needy, and does not despise his own that are in bonds’(Psalm 69:33).

‘YHWH lifts up the downtrodden’(Psalm 147:6).

- Matthew 2:13-21

- ‘Take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt ...
Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him
... ‘Out of Egypt I called my son’ ... Herod ordered
the massacre of all the boys ...
- Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land
of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are
dead.’