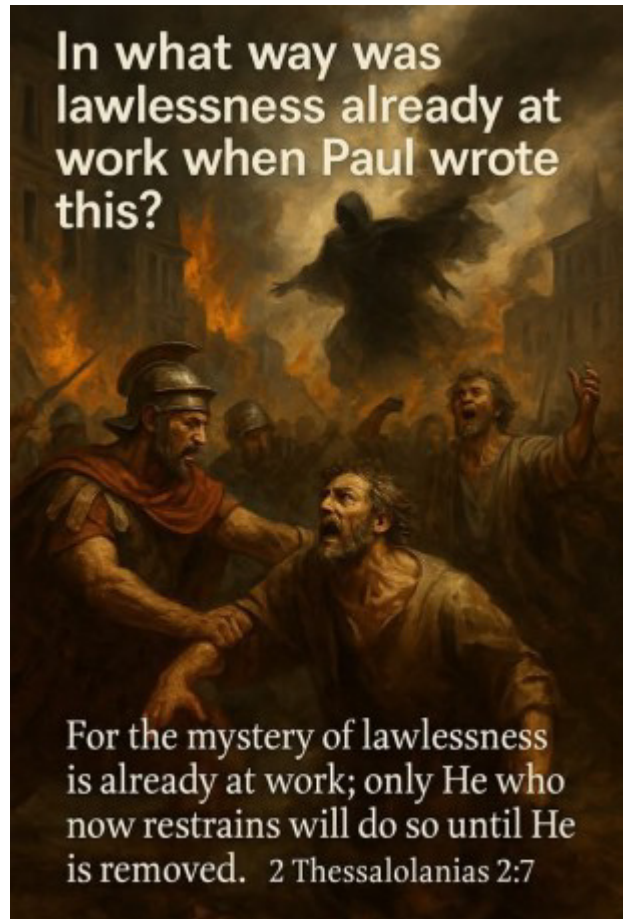


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Lawlessness - In what way was lawlessness already at work when Paul wrote this? (2 Thessalonians 2:7)



By Dan Maines

The Covenant Shift – Cast Out and Grafted In

Brothers and sisters, today I want to take you deep into the heart of Paul's teachings, into Galatians and Romans, to see how clearly the Scriptures speak of the transition from the old covenant to the new. This is not theory. This is not guesswork. This is what the text actually says and it's crystal clear once you see it.

Let's start with **Galatians 4:22-26:**

"For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and one by the free woman. But the son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, and the son by the free woman through the promise. This is speaking allegorically, for these women are two covenants: one coming from Mount Sinai giving birth to children who are to be slaves; she is Hagar. Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is enslaved with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free; she is our mother."

Paul is laying it out as plainly as possible: the two women represent two covenants.

Hagar, the slave, corresponds to the old covenant and to earthly Jerusalem.

Sarah, the free woman, corresponds to the new covenant and to the heavenly Jerusalem, which Paul says is **our mother**, referring to the church.

Then in **Galatians 4:30**, Paul quotes the Scripture:

"But what does the Scripture say? 'Drive out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not be an heir with the son of the free woman.'"

This is not just about Abraham's household, it is covenantal divorce language.

God was casting out the old covenant wife, Jerusalem, the physical lineage, the law-bound system.

The new covenant bride, the church, the Jerusalem from above, was the true heir and recipient of the promise.

Paul was not preaching replacement. He was revealing fulfillment. He was not inventing new doctrine. He was showing that the transition was already happening in his own time.

Now let's move to **Romans 11**, where Paul uses the metaphor of the olive tree.

Romans 11:17-20:

"But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive branch, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree, do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you. You will say then, 'Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.' Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear."

Some branches, unbelieving Israel, were broken off.

Gentile believers and believing Jews were grafted in.

This was a covenantal shift, not ethnic, but faithful.

The root supports the tree, that is the covenant promise given to Abraham by faith, not by law.

What do we see when we put Galatians and Romans together?

The old covenant wife was cast out, she could no longer be heir.

The unbelieving branches were cut off, they were no longer part of the living covenant.

The new covenant bride, the Jerusalem from above, was grafted in and called the bride of Christ.

There was a separation between flesh and promise, law and faith, Sinai and Zion.

The church was not an afterthought. She was the true bride, purified and prepared for the wedding. The casting out of the old wife was necessary for the wedding of the new.

And this is not future. This was fulfilled. These events were not symbolic guesses about the end of the world. They were Spirit-revealed truths about the end of the age. Jesus said:

"This generation will not pass away until all these things take place" (Matthew 24:34).

And Paul said:

"Now these things are being interpreted allegorically: for these women are two covenants" (Galatians 4:24).

That means the transition had already begun, and the judgment on the old covenant world, culminating in 70 AD, marked its final removal.

So yes, Galatians and Romans both confirm it:

The old covenant was divorced.

The unbelieving were cut off.

The new covenant bride was grafted in and married to Christ.

Let us not return to the old. Let us not cling to the earthly Jerusalem. Let us rejoice in the heavenly one, where

righteousness dwells.

"But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels" (Hebrews 12:22).

That was their present reality then and it is ours now.

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