

Abraham believed God...

THE FAITHFUL GOD

The Origins of the Patriarchs

c. 2100 – 1950 BC

Abraham and Isaac

The Location:

**Mesopotamia and the Levant
“Fertile Crescent”**

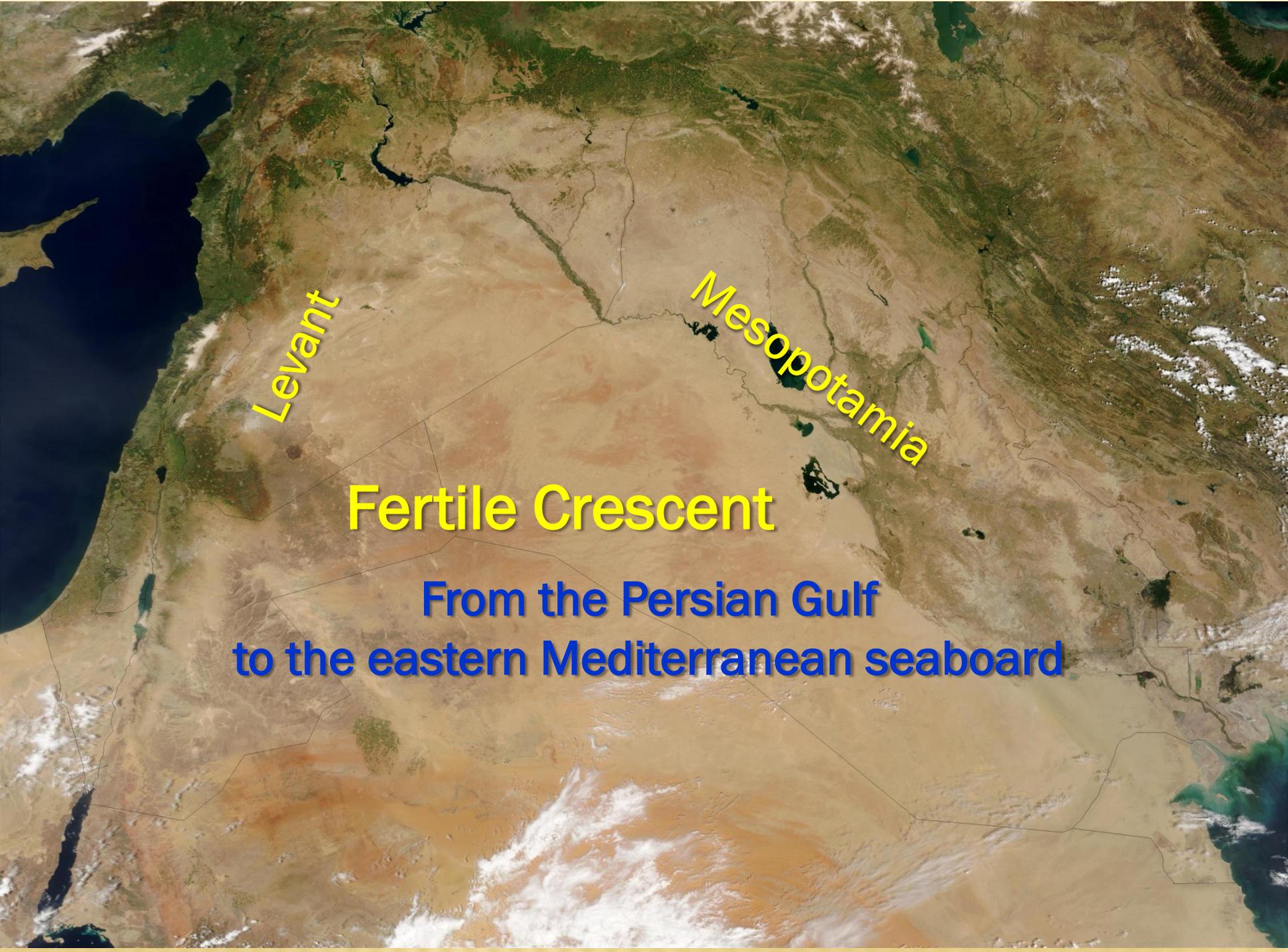
The Location:

MESOPOTAMIA

“Between rivers” Euphrates and Tigris

LEVANT

“to raise” refers to the north-south mountain ranges up to over 10,000 feet in some areas along the Mediterranean seaboard

A satellite-style map of the Middle East region, highlighting the Fertile Crescent. The map shows the Mediterranean Sea to the west, the Persian Gulf to the east, and the Red Sea to the south. The Fertile Crescent is outlined in a thin black line, forming a crescent shape from the Persian Gulf to the eastern Mediterranean coast. The word "Levant" is written in yellow, slanted text along the western part of the crescent, and "Mesopotamia" is written in yellow, slanted text along the eastern part. The central text "Fertile Crescent" is in large yellow font, and the subtitle "From the Persian Gulf to the eastern Mediterranean seaboard" is in blue font below it.

Levant

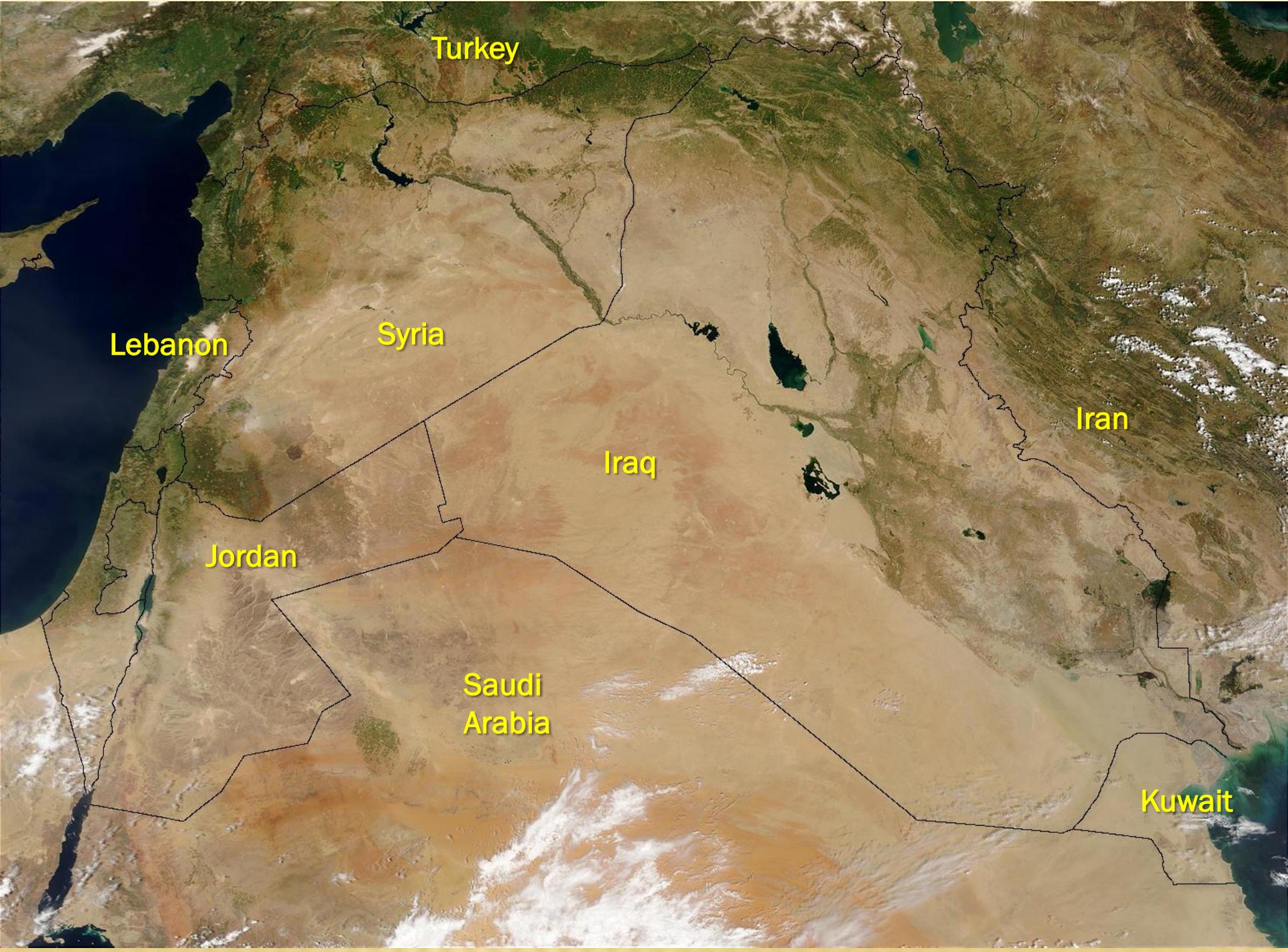
Mesopotamia

Fertile Crescent

From the Persian Gulf
to the eastern Mediterranean seaboard

Geographical Detail

- The Bible is a record of events that happened to real people at real places on our real earth.
- Bible is in the main a record of historical events that can be marked on a map.



Turkey

Lebanon

Syria

Jordan

Saudi
Arabia

Iraq

Iran

Kuwait



The Promise Land

CANAAN - ISRAEL

Ezekiel 5:5 ⁵ Thus saith the Lord GOD; This *is* Jerusalem: I have set it in the midst of the nations and countries *that are* round about her.

The Promise Land



The Promise Land



The Promise Land

CANAAN – ISRAEL

Ezekiel 5:5 ⁵ Thus saith the Lord GOD; This *is* Jerusalem: I have set it in the midst of the nations and countries *that are* round about her.

- Located at the center of three continents:
 - Asia
 - Africa
 - Europe

The Promise Land



The Promise Land

CANAAN – ISRAEL

- In the midst of two most ancient civilizations:
 - Mesopotamia
 - Nile River basin
- “*The Land Between*” – a commercial and military hub connecting the continents.
- Highly coveted by empires from these continents for these specific reasons!

Redemption History

- God chose a particular real people – the Jews
- God chose a real geographical place – Jerusalem
- God ultimately through these real people and place conquered sin and death for mankind.

Redemption History

Deuteronomy 4:39 ³⁹ Know therefore this day, and consider *it* in thine heart, that the LORD he *is* God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: *there is* none else.

Deuteronomy 12:5 ⁵ But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, *even* unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come:

2 Chronicles 6:5–6 ⁵ Since the day that I brought forth my people out of the land of Egypt I chose no city among all the tribes of Israel to build an house in, that my name might be there; neither chose I any man to be a ruler over my people Israel: ⁶ But I have chosen Jerusalem, that my name might be there; and have chosen David to be over my people Israel.

Jeremiah 3:17 ¹⁷ At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the Lord; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the Lord, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart.

Abraham's Family History

Joshua 24:2 ² And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, *even* Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods.

Genesis 12:1 ¹ Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:



Abraham's Family History

The *Story* of One Family

- The Bible tells us the story of one family from Genesis 12 to the Book of Acts.
- The patriarch of that family is Abraham, the Hebrew.
 - Genesis 14:13 ¹³ And there came one that had escaped, and told Abram the Hebrew...
- His physical descendants came to be known as the nation of *Israel*.

Abraham's Family History

The Story of One Family

- God's plan to bless mankind through Abraham and his descendants is fulfilled in the descendant, **Jesus the Messiah**.
 - Galatians 3:16 ¹⁶ Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

Abraham's Family History

The Adopted Family

- ***Gentiles*** can be adopted into the family of Abraham.
- “***All the nations*** are blessed” through Abraham.

Abraham's Family History

The Adopted Family

- Genesis 12:3 ³ And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.
- Genesis 18:18 ¹⁸ Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?
- Galatians 3:6-9 ⁶ Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. ⁷ Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. ⁸ And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, *saying*, In thee shall all nations be blessed. ⁹ So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

From UR to HARAN

Terah and Abram

■ Genesis 11:24–32 ²⁴ And Nahor lived nine and twenty years, and begat Terah: ²⁵ And Nahor lived after he begat Terah an hundred and nineteen years, and begat sons and daughters. ²⁶ And Terah lived seventy years, and begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran. ²⁷ Now these *are* the generations of Terah: Terah begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran begat Lot. ²⁸ And Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his nativity, in Ur of the Chaldees. ²⁹ And Abram and Nahor took them wives: the name of Abram's wife was Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah, and the father of Iscah. ³⁰ But Sarai was barren; she *had* no child. ³¹ And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there. ³² And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years: and Terah died in Haran.



From UR to HARAN

Terah and Abram

- Terah had two other sons: Nahor and Haran.
- Haran died in Ur of Chaldees.
- Nahor remained in Ur when Terah and Abram departed for Haran.
- Terah took his son and grandson Lot with him.



From UR to HARAN

Ur (Muqayir)

- “Ur of the Chaldeans”
- Sumerian capital city near the Euphrates River
- Halfway (150 miles) between the city of Babylon and the Persian Gulf
- Ur and Haran were developed civilizations during Abram’s time.



From HARAN to CANAAN

Haran

Genesis 12:1-6 ¹ Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: ² And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: ³ And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. ⁴ So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. ⁵ And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came. ⁶ And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land.

From HARAN to CANAAN

Haran

- This is where God commanded him to leave his relatives and his country.
- He was told to move to another land that God will show him.
- God would bless Abram and all the families of the earth through him.
- Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran to move to Canaan.



TAURUS MOUNTAINS

Tarsus

Carchemish

Edessa, Urhai
Ur of the Chaldees?

Haran

Gozan

ARAM-NAHARAIM

Balikh

Euphrates

Habur

Ebla

Ugarit

Hammath

Arvad

Kadesh

Riblah

Tadmor

Mari

Gebal

LEVANT

Tyre

Hazor

Damascus

CANAAN

Shechem

Syrian/Arabian
Desert

From HARAN to CANAAN

Idolatrous Worship

- Ur and Haran were centers of worship of the moon-god, Sin.
- Terah and his family were involved in worshipping idols.
 - Joshua 24:2 ² And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, *even* Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods.
- His obedience and abandonment of idolatrous worship in Haran is evidence of his belief in one God.

From HARAN to CANAAN

Idolatrous Worship

- ✦ Sumerian gods



Abram Enters CANAAN

The Patriarchs: Abraham and Isaac

- Isaiah 51:2 ² Look unto Abraham your father, And unto Sarah *that* bare you: For I called him alone, And blessed him, and increased him.

Abram Enters CANAAN

Shechem

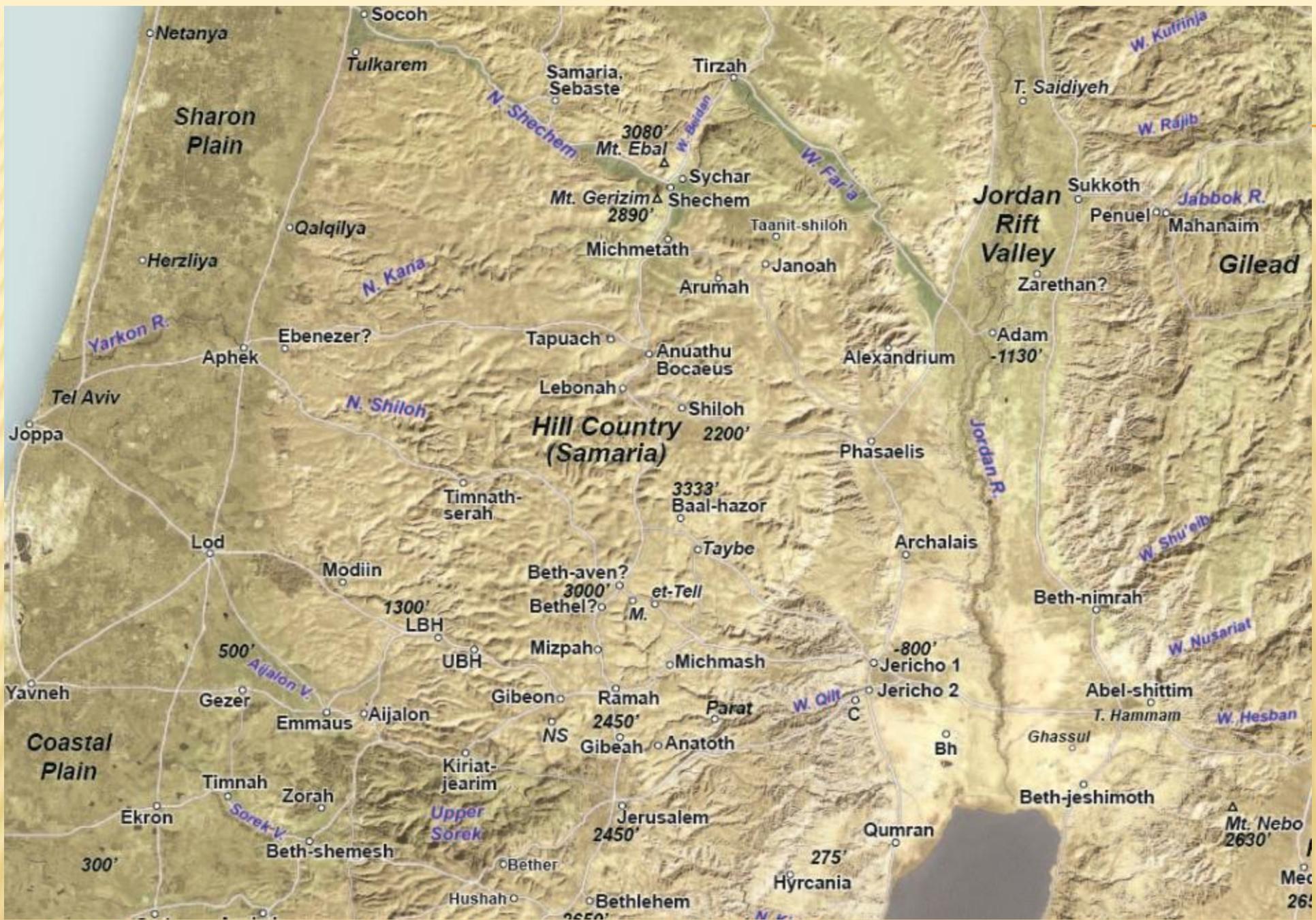
- Most likely he entered the land of Canaan from Haran via Gilead and *Wadi Far'a*.
- “*Wadi*” in Arabic, “*Nahal*” in Hebrew means canyon or narrow valley.
- This route leads to the Hill Country which has a direct access to Shechem.

Abram Enters CANAAN

Shechem

✦ This is the first time God promised the Land of Canaan to Abram's offspring.

• Genesis 12:6-7 ⁶ And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land. ⁷ And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.





Samaria,
Sebaste

Tirzah

T. Saidiyeh

3080'
Mt. Ebal

Sychar

Mt. Gerizim
2890'

Shechem

Taanit-shiloh

Jordan
Rift
Valley

Sukkoth

Penuel

Jabbok R.

Mahanaim

Michmetath

Janoah

Zarethan?

Gilead

Arumah

Tapuach

Anuathu
Bocaeus

Alexandrium

Adam
-1130'

Lebonah

Shiloh

Hill Country
2200'



COASTAL PLAIN.

CANANAN

HILL COUNTRY

GILEAD

Jordan Rift Valley

Jabbok R.

Shechem

1

ABRAM
Wadi Far'a

Adam

Aphek

Bethel

Ai

Jericho

Tel el-Hammam

Gezer

Lot to Sodom





Wadi Farah and Jordan Rift from south



Baal Berith temple at Shechem



Middle Bronze wall of Shechem



Mt. Gerizim and Mt. Ebal from the east

Abram to and from EGYPT

The Watershed Route

- Genesis 12:8 ⁸ And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Beth-el, and pitched his tent, *having* Beth-el on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD.
- This is also known as “*The Way of the Patriarchs*” – the only north-south route in the Hill Country on the top of the ridge.
- Pitched his tent in between Bethel and Ai on his journey south and built an altar there and called on the name of the Lord.



COASTAL PLAIN.

CANANAN

GILEAD

Jordan Rift Valley

Jabbok R.

1

Shechem

ABRAM
Wadi Far'a

Adam

Aphek

Way of the Patriarchs

Bethel

Ai

Jericho

Tel el-Hammam

Lot to Sodom

Gezer

HILL
COUNTRY

Abram to and from EGYPT

The Negev

- Genesis 12:9⁹ And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south.
- He continued south past Hebron into the region of Negev.
- Negev means “*south*” and “*dry*”.



Abram to and from EGYPT

Egypt

- Genesis 12:10 ¹⁰ And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land.
- Abram moved to Egypt because of a famine.
- It was in Egypt that he gained wealth.
 - Genesis 12:16 ¹⁶ And he entreated Abram well for her sake: and he had sheep, and oxen, and he asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels.

Abram to and from EGYPT

Egypt

- Genesis 12:18–20 ¹⁸ And Pharaoh called Abram, and said, What *is* this *that* thou hast done unto me? why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife? ¹⁹ Why saidst thou, She *is* my sister? so I might have taken her to me to wife: now therefore behold thy wife, take *her*, and go thy way. ²⁰ And Pharaoh commanded *his* men concerning him: and they sent him away, and his wife, and all that he had.
- Abram's deception in Egypt involved Sarah.
- A hard lesson to learn – Abraham and his son Isaac will again fail in similar situations later on (Genesis 20 & 26).



Gaza

Lachish

Mamre,
Hebron,
Kiriath-arba

Gerar?

6

HAGAR

T. el-Farah
(South)

Besor Brook

ABRAM to and from EGYPT

Beer-sheba

Arad

NEGEV

THREE "MEN" to SOD

EGYPT



Way of Shur

2

Lot to SODOM

Bethel – Ai

- Genesis 13:1–18
- Abram moved out of Egypt and journeyed to Negev and then back to Bethel – Ai in the Hill Country.
- Abram and Lot separated.
- God reiterated and expanded his promise to Abram.

BETHEL (?) EL-BIREH



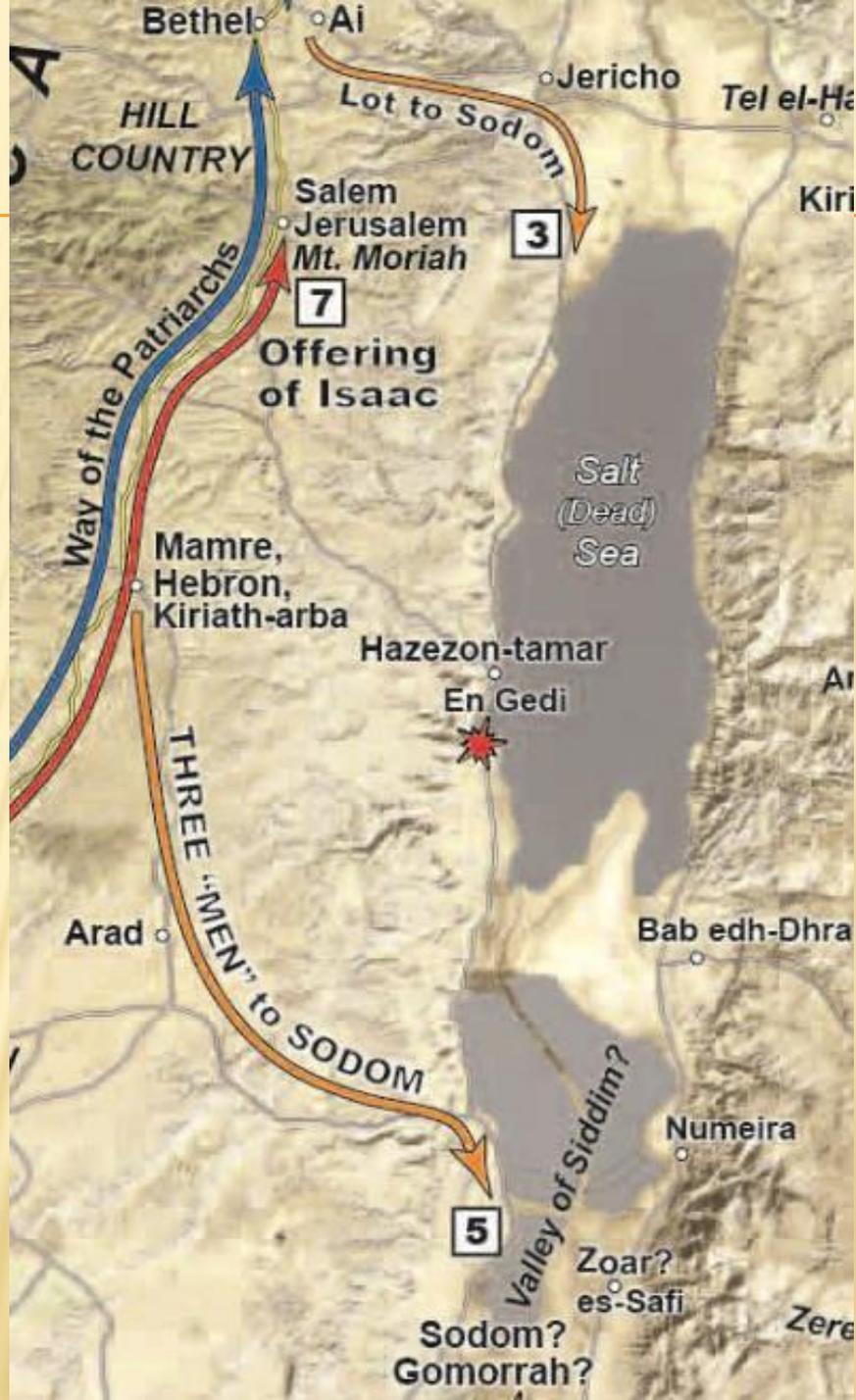
AI (?)
ET-TELL



Lot to SODOM

Sodom

- Genesis 13:1-18
- Lot went east to the Jordan Valley down in a place called Sodom.
- This was probably located south side of the Dead Sea.



HILL COUNTRY

Way of the Patriarchs

Lot to Sodom

THREE "MEN" to SODOM

Salt (Dead) Sea

Valley of Siddim?

Sodom? Gomorrah?

Bethel

Ai

Jericho

Tel el-Ha

Kiri

Salem
Jerusalem
Mt. Moriah

Offering of Isaac

Mamre,
Hebron,
Kiriath-arba

Hazezon-tamar

En Gedi

Arad

Bab edh-Dhra

Numeira

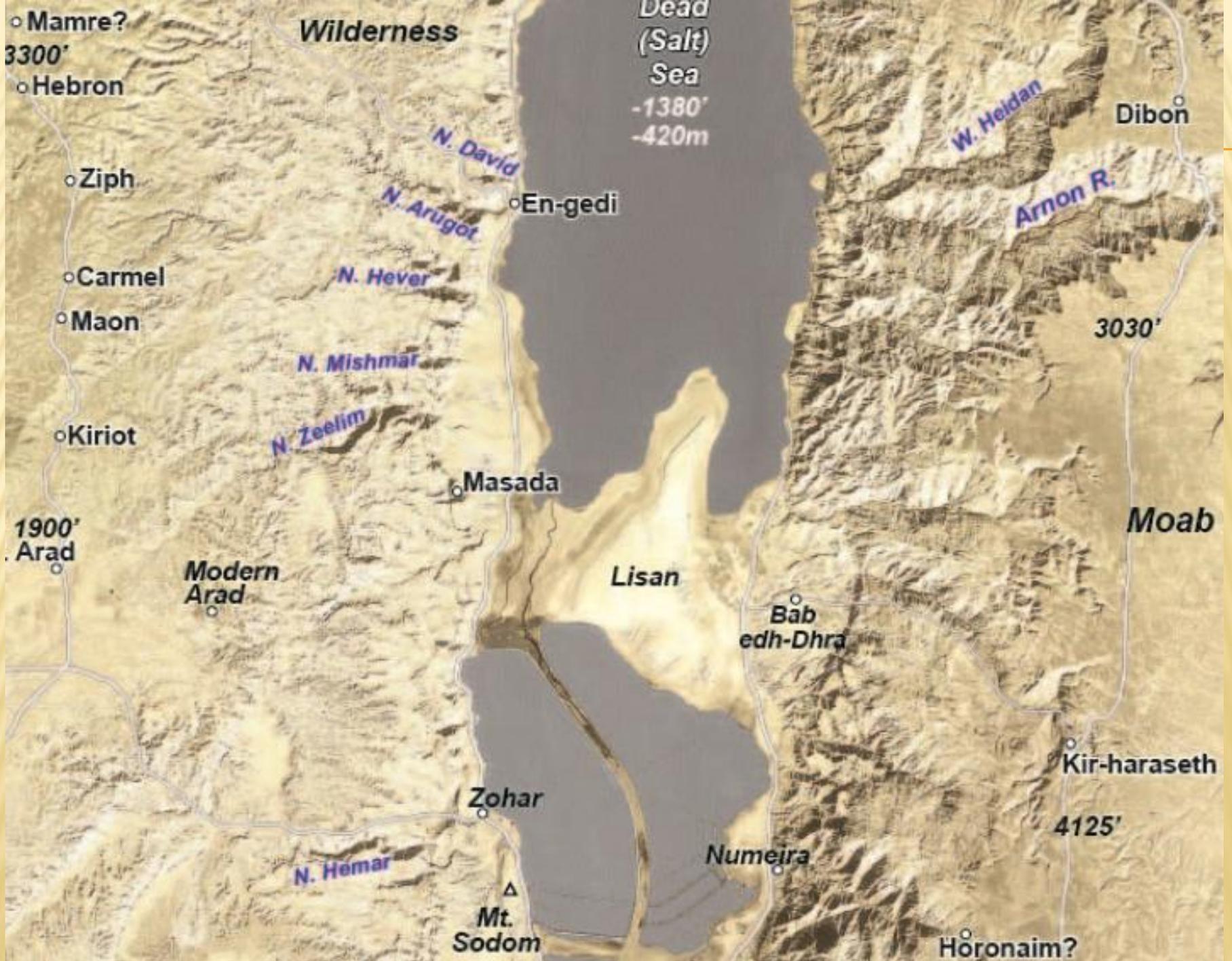
Zoar?
es-Safi

Zere

3

7

5



Mesopotamian Kings

Transjordan

- Genesis 14
- Deuteronomy 2:9–12
- A coalition of powerful kings of Mesopotamia conquered the Transjordan tribes of Rephaim, Zuzim, Emim, and Horites and southeastern Canaan.
- Abram was in a tent in Hebron when he learned that his nephew Lot had been captured.
- Abram pursued and defeated the Mesopotamian armies north of Damascus with only 318 men.

Mesopotamian Kings

Melchizedek

- Genesis 14
- Deuteronomy 2:9–12
- Abram met Melchizedek, whose name means “*king of righteousness*”.
- King of Salem (probably Jerusalem or Shechem; Genesis 33:18).
- Priest of God Most High.
- Abram gave him tenth of what he had.

Sodom and Gomorrah

Dead Sea Region

- Genesis 18–19
- Sodom and Gomorrah were somewhere in the Dead Sea region.
- Divine destruction most likely explains the problems locating these cities.





Wilderness and Dead Sea aerial east of Arad



Jordan and Dead Sea from Qumran

Sodom and Gomorrah

Three “Men” to Sodom

- Genesis 18–19
- They visited Abram at Hebron.
- These “men” reiterated to 99 year old Abram and 90 year old Sarah that they would have a son.
- Genesis 18:22 ²² And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD.

Sodom and Gomorrah

The Destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah

- Genesis 18:32-33 ³² And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy *it* for ten's sake. ³³ And the LORD went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place.
- Genesis 19:25 ²⁵ And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.
- Jude 6-7 ⁶ And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. ⁷ *Even* as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them, in like manner giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Sodom and Gomorrah

The Destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah

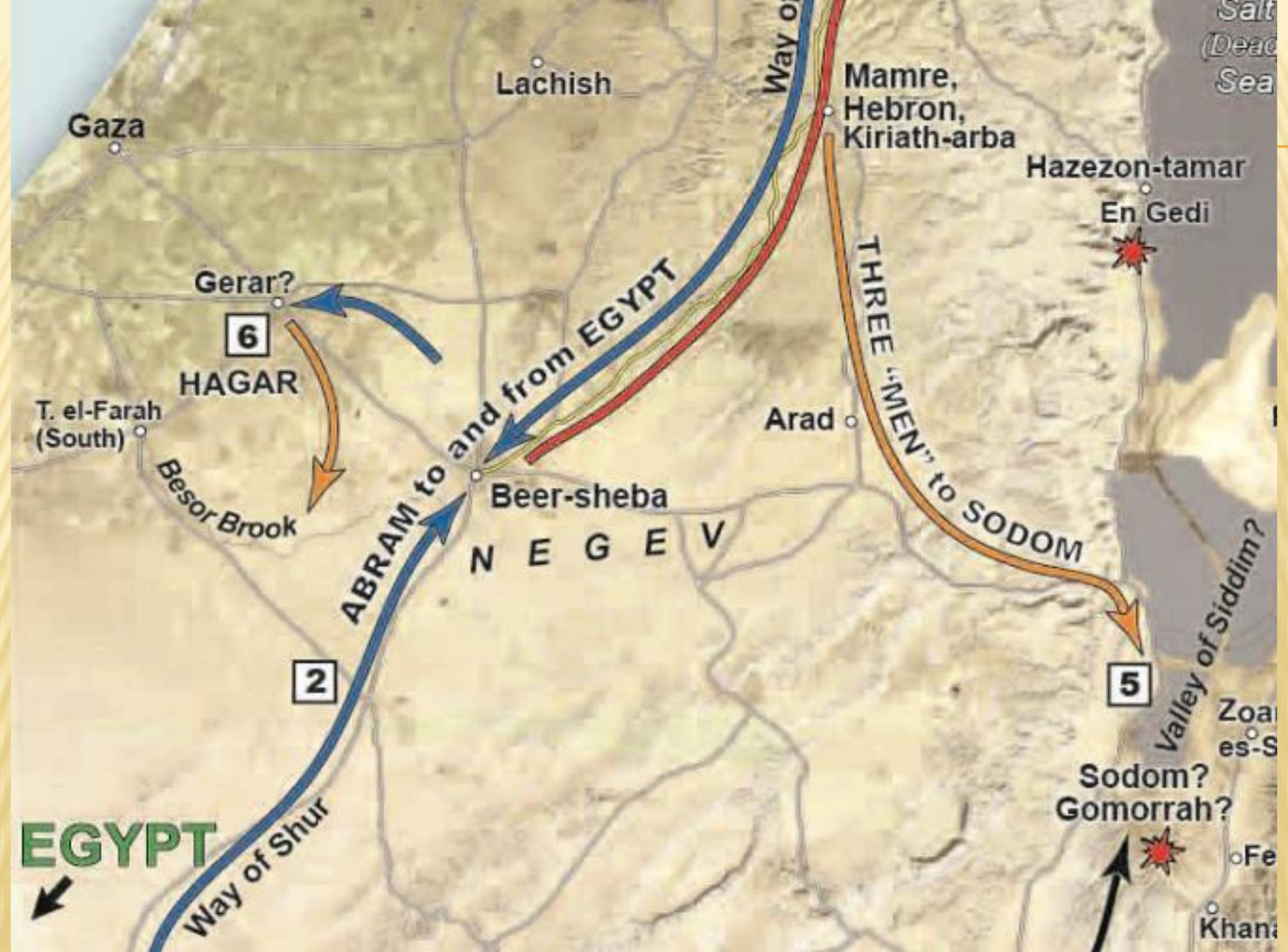
- Lot, his wife, and two daughter had to be dragged out of Sodom by the angels.
- They fled to Zoar to escape the judgment of God on these cities.
- Lot's wife hesitated. Jesus warned his disciples to “remember Lot's wife” and not hold on to the enticements of this world (Luke 17:32).
- Jesus said worse punishment than Sodom and Gomorrah awaits some (Matthew 10:14-15, 11:24).



Abram in Gerar

Western Negev

- Genesis 20–21
- Located in western Negev between Beersheba and Gaza in the Coastal Plain.



Abram in Gerar

Western Negev

- Isaac may have been born here.
- Abraham and the king of Gerar made a treaty at Beersheba.
- Hagar and Ishmael were cast out into the Wilderness of Beersheba toward Egypt.
- Galatians 4:23-26 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.



Gerar, Tel Haror, with bedouin women



Gerar, Tel Haror, with bedouin tent at base



Gerar wheatfield



Negev aerial east of Beersheba



Negev aerial east of Beersheba



Negev wadi east of Beersheba

From Beersheba to Moriah

Moriah

- Genesis 22

- Moriah is the mountain in Jerusalem where eventually the temple was built by Solomon.

- 2 Chronicles 3:1¹ Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where *the LORD* appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.



Gethsemane

Kidron Valley

Dung Gate

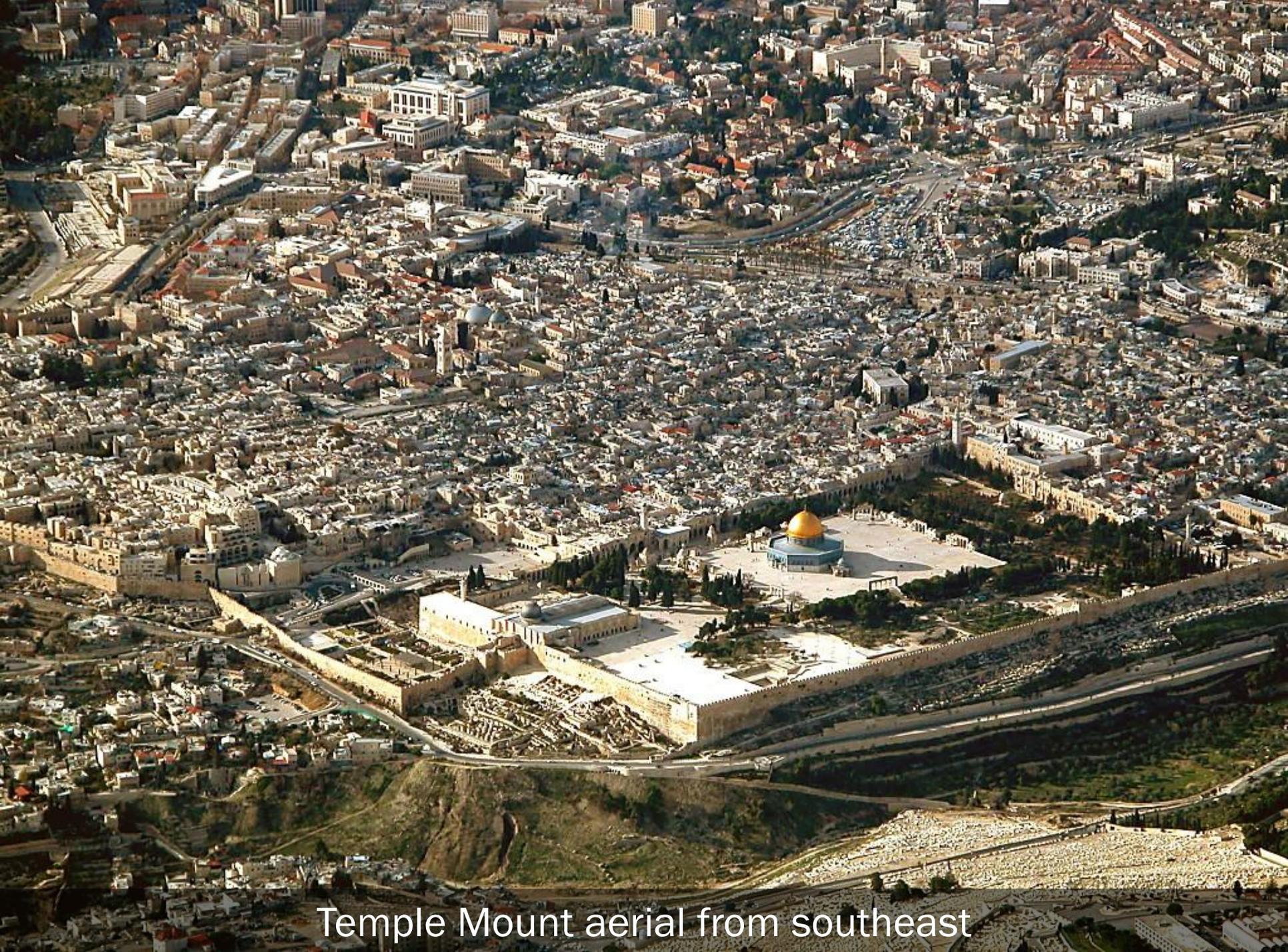
Gihon Spring

Central (Tyropean) Valley

Pool of Siloam

Oskar Schindler's tomb

Temple Mount and City of David aerial from southwest



Temple Mount aerial from southeast





Beersheba well and tamarisk tree



Beersheba sacrificial altar replica



Beersheba watersystem entrance

From Beersheba to Moriah

Moriah

- Genesis 22
- God told Abraham to go to the land of Moriah and offer his son Isaac as a burnt offering.
- They travelled three days from Beersheba to mount Moriah in Jerusalem.
- Hebrews 11:17–19 ¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, ¹⁸ Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: ¹⁹ Accounting that God was able to raise *him* up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

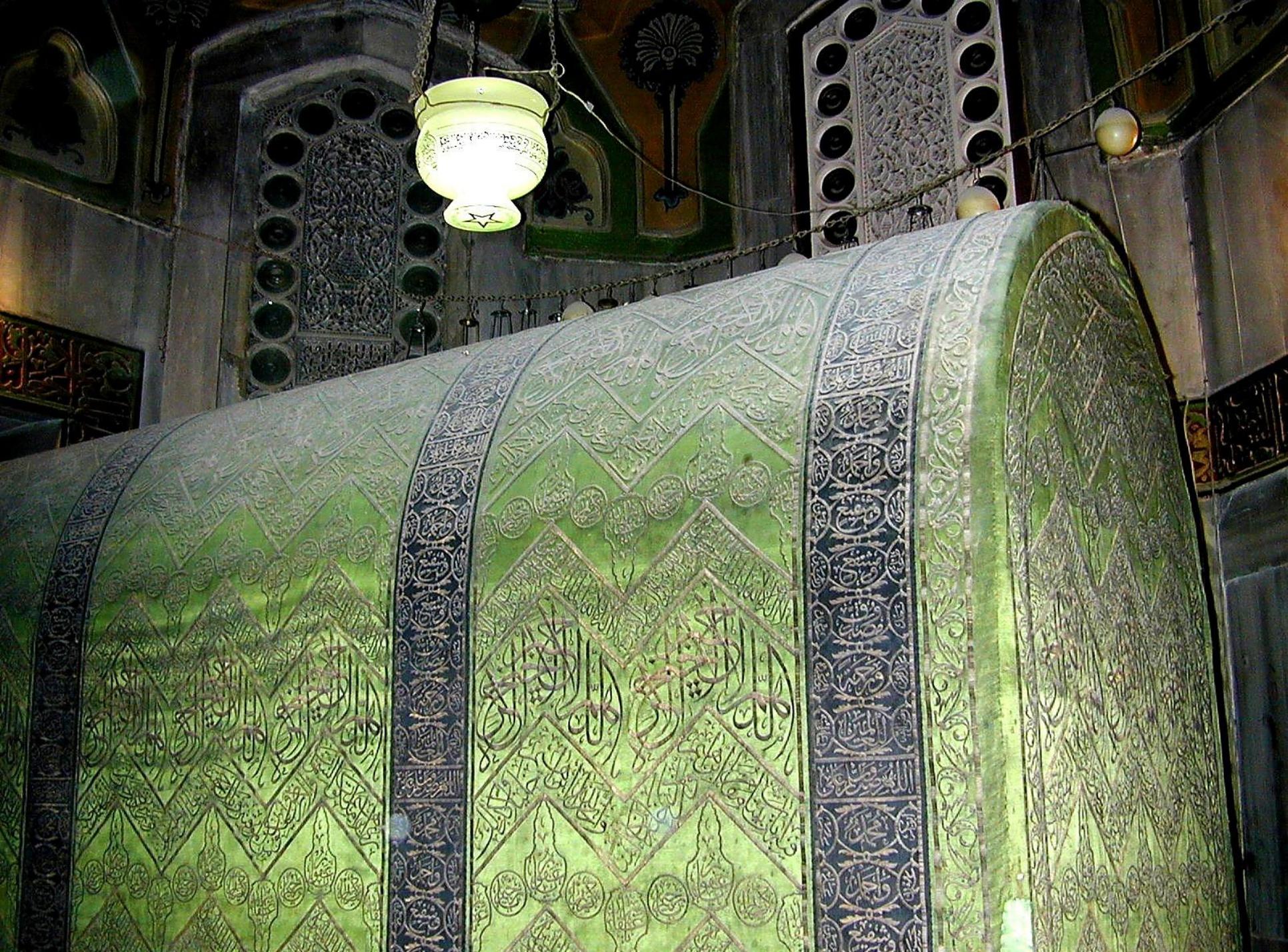
From Beersheba to Moriah

Mamre – Hebron

- Abraham was buried in Machpela, a cave in Mamre-Hebron.
- He had purchased the place to bury his wife Sarah (Genesis 25:9-10).
- Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob and Leah were all eventually buried in the same tomb.
- Isaac planned to go to Egypt because of famine in the land but instead stayed in Gerar.











Fruit trees in the Hulah Valley below Mt. Hermon:
"For the Land you God is bringing you into a good land, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; a land where you will eat food without scarcity" (Deuteronomy 8:7-9).

0 5 Miles 25 50
 0 8 Kilometers 40 80

- Borders of the Promised Land (Canaan)
- Areas east of Jordan annexed to the Promised Land



Borders of the Promised Land

Borders of the Promise Land

- Abraham's faith in God's promise looked beyond death.
- He knew God's promises will have to be fulfilled beyond death.
- Hebrews 11:10 ¹⁰ For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.
- Hebrews 11:13 ¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.



The Lord said to Abram,
 "Go forth from your country,
 and from your relatives,
 and from your father's house,
 to the land which I will show you;
 and I will make you a great nation,
 and I will bless you..."
 Genesis 12:1

© Satellite Bible Atlas

0 Miles 100 200
 0 Kilometers 160 320

-  Abraham from (northern) Ur to Haran
-  Abraham from (southern) Ur to Haran
-  Abraham from Haran to Promised Land



End
