

# **Course: Old Testament History**

## **Genesis (12-50)**

### **From Abram to Joseph**

**Text:** ‘All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:’ (2 Timothy 3:16)

# **Introduction**

## **Part Two (Genesis 12-50)**

Focuses on one family.

Abraham and Sarah

Isaac and Rebecca

Jacob and his family

Joseph

## **Main events**

God calls Abram and leads him to Canaan.

God makes a covenant with Abram

The birth of Ishmael

The promise and birth of Isaac

Abraham offers up Isaac

Isaac and Rebecca

Jacob and Esau

Jacob in Haran

Jacob's family in Canaan.

Joseph in Egypt.

# Lesson Outline

1. Archaeological excavations
  - a) Ebla
  - b) Ugarit
2. Abram in Canaan
  - a) Chronology of journey to Canaan
  - b) Abram's first visit to Egypt (12<sup>th</sup> dynasty)
3. God makes a covenant with Abram
  - a) The Blood Covenant
  - b) The Importance of the Covenant
  - c) The Promise
4. The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah
  - a) Abram at Mamre
  - b) The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah
  - c) Descendants of Lot.

## 5. Moriah and Machpelah

- a) Abraham offers up Isaac
- b) Abraham buys the cave of Machpelah for a burial ground.

## 6. Finding a bride for Isaac.

- a) Eliezar goes to the City of Nahor (Haran)
- b) Isaac and Rebecca

## 7. Jacob and Esau

- a) Lentils
- b) Jacob in Haran
- c) Jacob's family in Canaan.

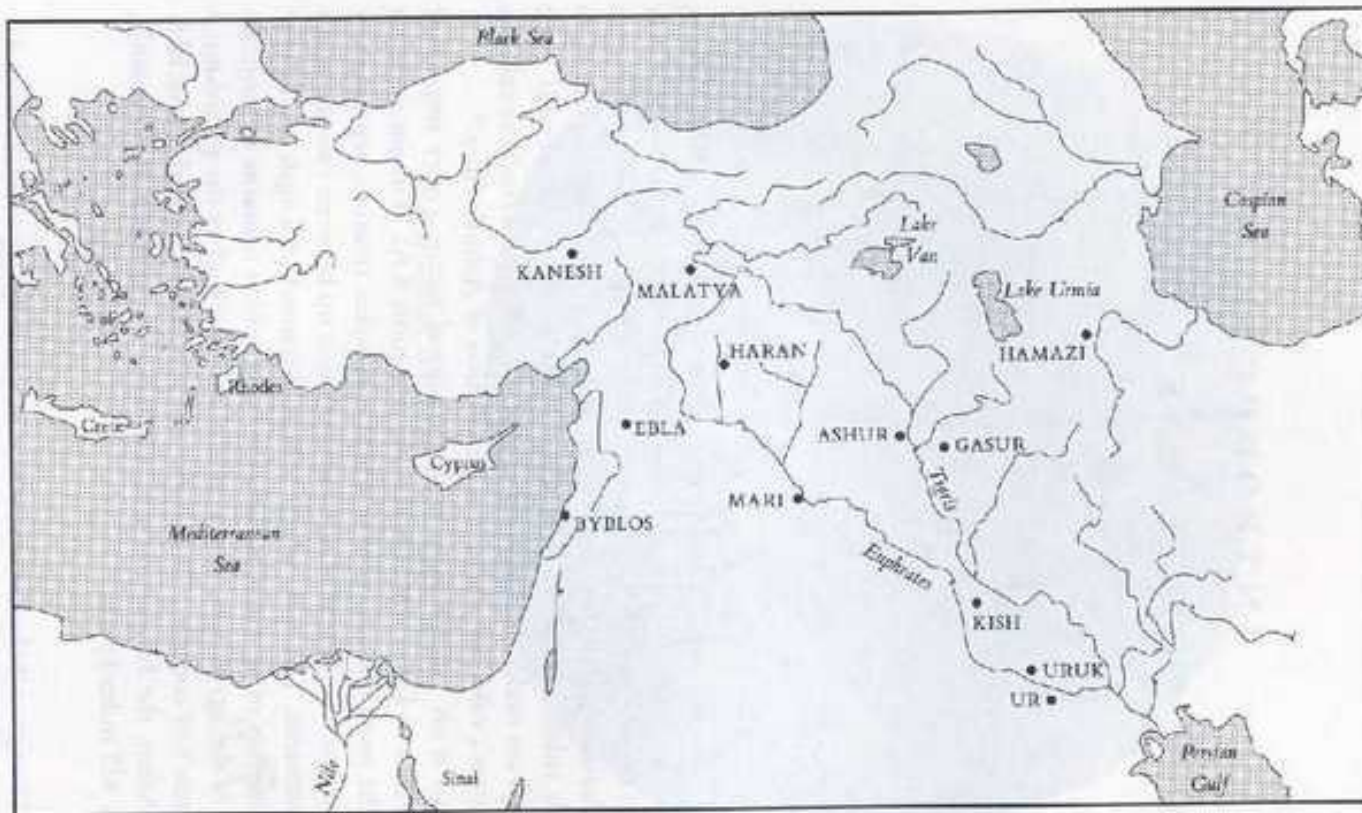
## 8. Joseph in Egypt.

- a) Joseph sold by his brothers
- b) Joseph's rise to power in Egypt.

# 1. Archaeological excavations

a) Ebla (Tell Mardikh) located in N.Syria, and

b) Ras Shamra the ancient Canaanite city of Ugarit



The Fertile Crescent

**a) Ebla (Tell Mardikh) located in N.Syria.**

55km SW of Aleppo

c. 2500 - 2000 BC

Italian archaeologists excavated Tell Mardikh in 1964

1968 Discovered statue of Ibit-Lim, King of Ebla, dedicated to the goddess Ishtar



Tell Mardikh, the Tell, from the South-East.

## Excavations at Ebla



1968-1978 Discovered over 15,000 cuneiform tablets.

80% Sumerian (world's oldest language)

20% Unknown Semitic language (Eblaite)

One tablet contained a dictionary of 3000 Eblaite words giving Sumerian equivalent.

### Creation (Ebla tablet)

'There was a time when there was no heaven, and Lugal ('the great one') formed it out of nothing; there was no earth, and Lugal made it; there was no light, and he made it'

## b) Ancient Canaanite city of Ugarit - Ras Shamra

Ancient city in N W Syria on the Mediterranean. Discovered 1928.

Important Mediterranean port – inland trade route to Mesopotamia.



The Shøyen Collection

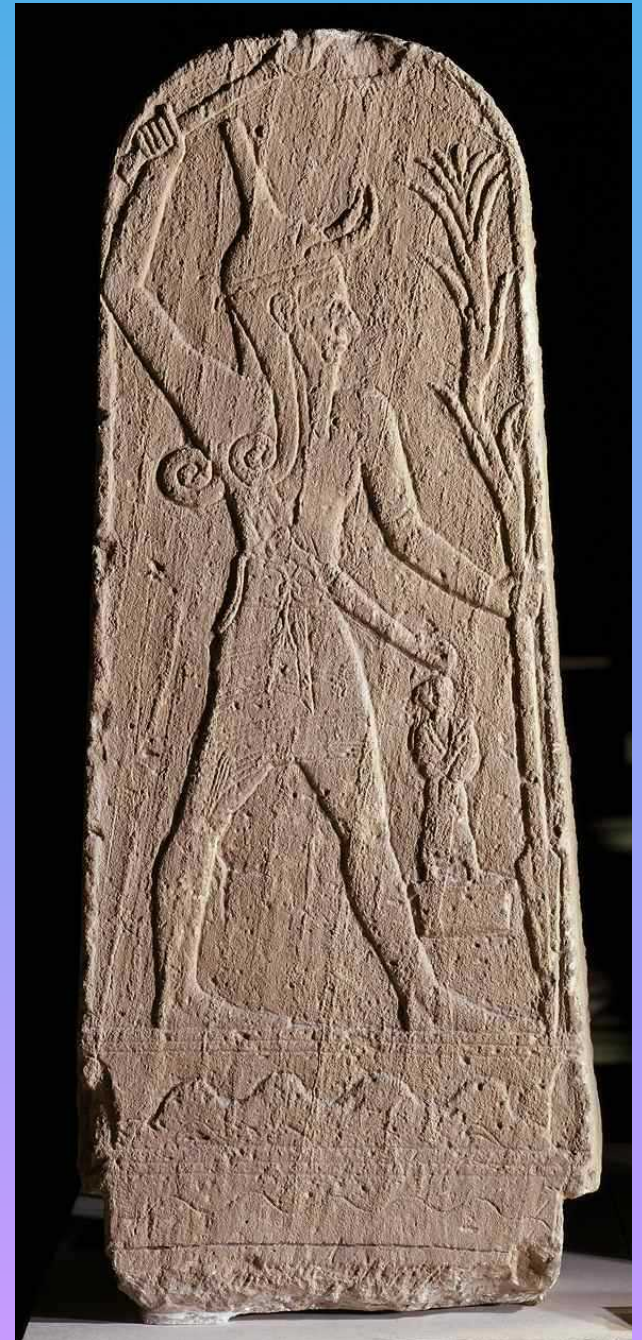
# Ugarit

Discovered a royal Palace containing 90 rooms and two temples.

The temples were dedicated to

6. Baal (lord of the earth), and
7. Dagon (god of grain and fertility).

Ugarit Baal



## Phoenician gods

Dagon



Baal



Baal was the son of Dagon.

## Ugarit and Egypt

The earliest evidence of contact between Ugarit and Egypt comes from a carnelian bead from the time of the Pharaoh Senusret I (1971 BC – 1926 BC).

Senusret was Pharaoh during the Middle Kingdom.

This was around the time Abram went to Egypt and Sarai was taken into the house of Pharaoh.

Senusret was also married to his sister.

### **Senusret I (1971 BC – 1926 BC)**

Second pharaoh of twelfth dynasty.

He was married to his sister Neferu.



## **Abram in Canaan**

(Gen 12:4-20)

Abram 75 years old when he left Haran

Went with Sarai (daughter of Terah – Gen. 20:12)

Sarai and Abram had the same father but different mothers.

Lot – son of Haran.

Arrived in Shechem

On to Bethel

Pitched tent between Bethel and Ai.

Built an altar.

Famine

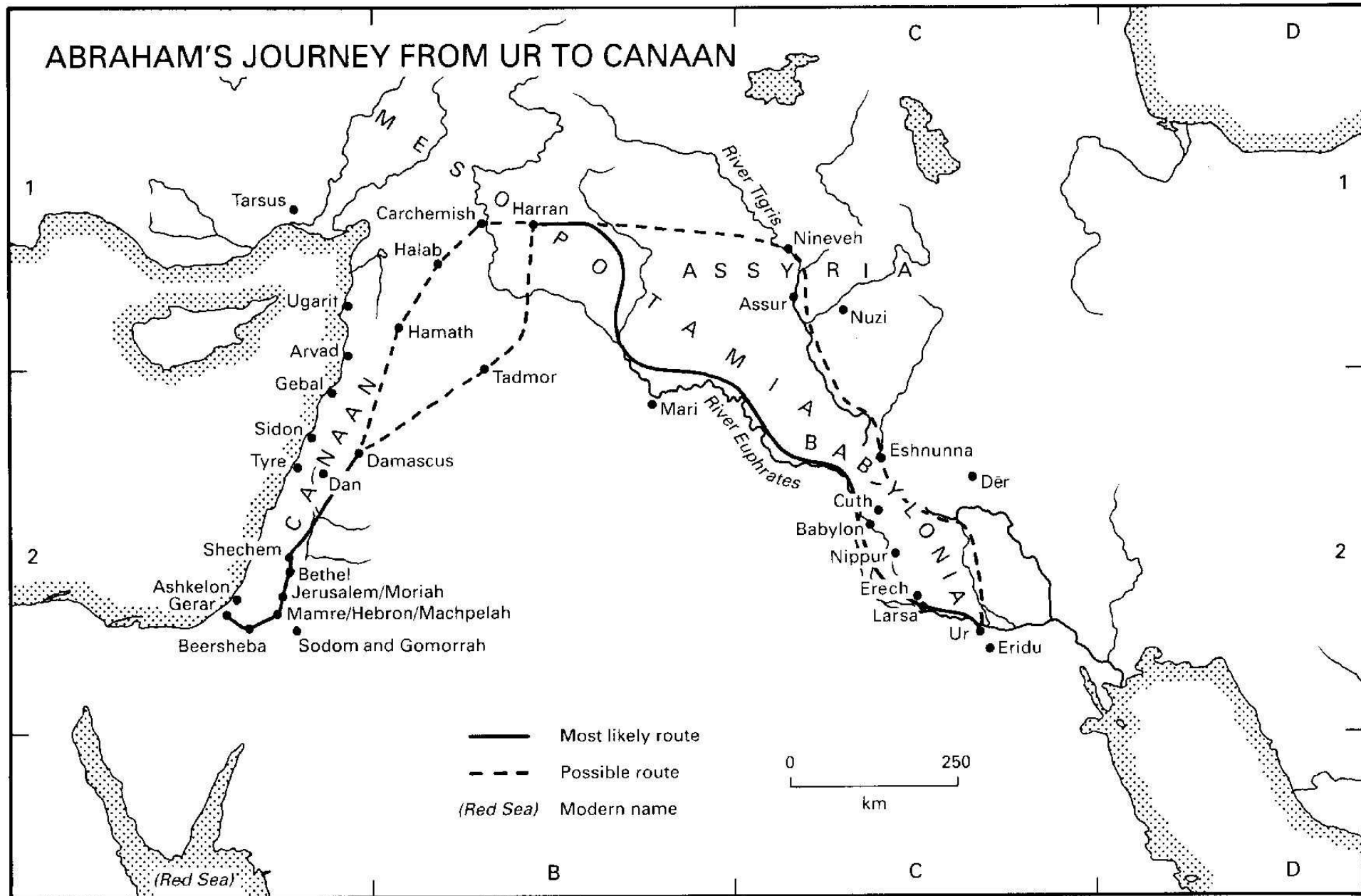
Went to Egypt.

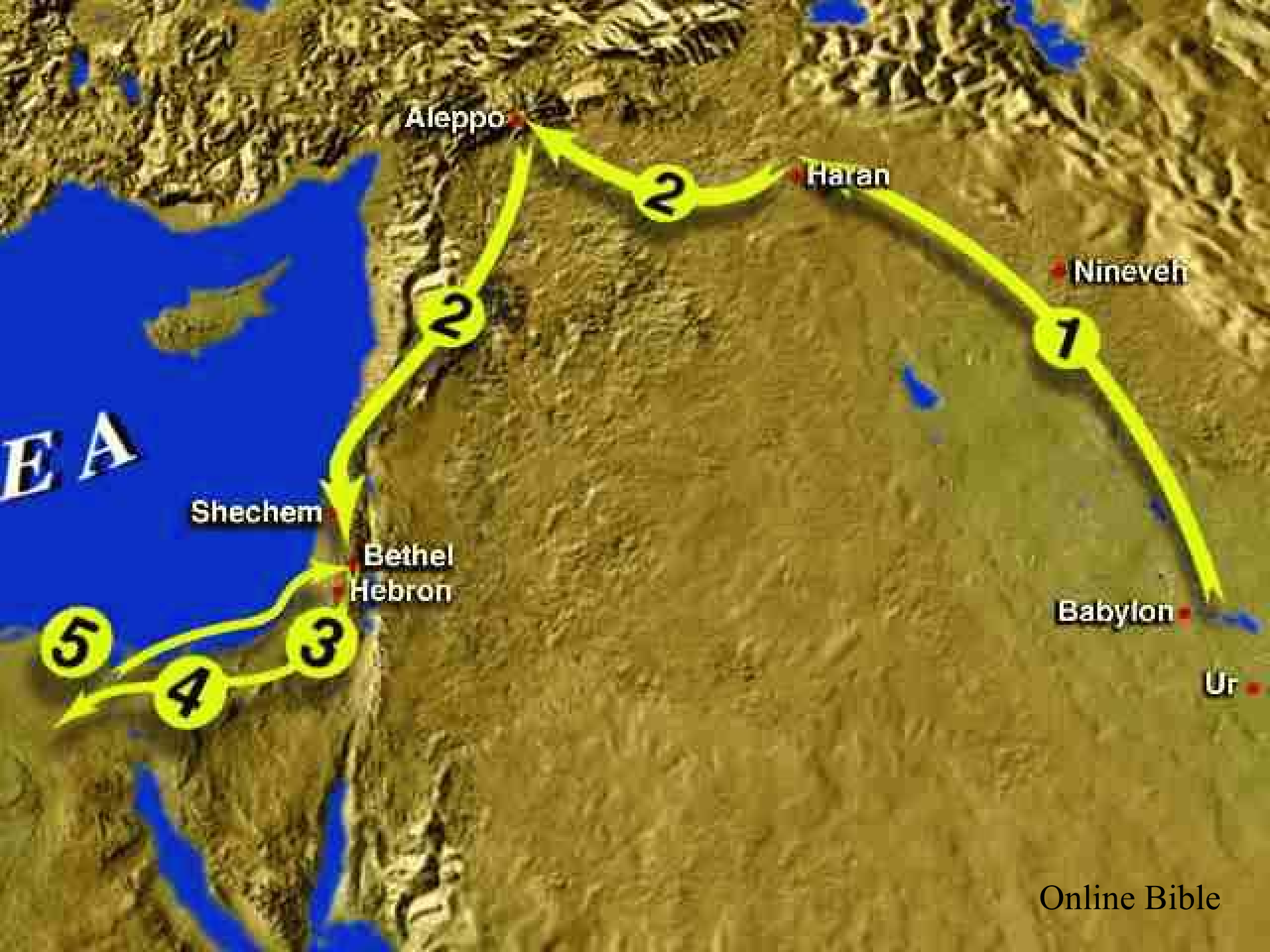
Sarai – beautiful.

Called Sarai his sister. Noticed by Pharoah. What Pharoah?

## 2. Abram in Canaan

### ABRAHAM'S JOURNEY FROM UR TO CANAAN





Aleppo

Haran

Nineveh

Babylon

Ur

Shechem

Bethel

Hebron

Online Bible

# Abram in Canaan

In Acts 7:4 Stephen says that Abram left Haran when his father died. His father was 205 when he died.

Abram was 75 when he left Haran

This means that Genesis 11:26 may be a copyist error and that Terah was 130 when Abram was born and not 70.

			Abram	
Abram left Haran	1921	2083	75	Genesis 12:4; 16:3
Alternative date	1981	2023	75	
			Abram	
Ishmael born	1910	2094	86	Genesis 16:16
Alternative date	1970	2034	86	
			Abraham	
Ishmael circumcised	1897	2047	99	Genesis 17:25
Ishmael circumcised	1957	2047	Ishmael (13)	Genesis 17:24
			Abraham	
Isaac born	1896	2108	100	Genesis 21:5
Alternative date	1956	2048	100	
			Sarah	
Sarah died	1859	2145	127	Genesis 23:1
Alternative date	1919	2085	127	
			Isaac	
Isaac Married	1856	2148	40	Genesis 25:20
Alternative date	1916	2088	40	
			Isaac	
Jacob and Esau born	1836	2168	60	Genesis 25:26
Alternative date	1896	2108	60	
			Abraham	
Abraham died	1821	2183	175	Genesis 25:7
Alternative date	1881	2123	175	
			Ishmael	
Ishmael died	1773	2111	137	Genesis 25:17
Alternative date	1833	2171		
			Esau	
Esau married	1796	2208	40	Genesis 26:34
Alternative date	1856	2148	40	
			Isaac	
Isaac died	1716	2288	180	Genesis 35:28
Alternative date	1776	2228	180	

**Abram visited Egypt at beginning of 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty.**

The 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty lasted about 200 years (c.1991 BC – c.1802 BC).

The whole of Egypt was united under one rule during the 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty.

Time of prosperity and civilisation.

## Amenemhat I (1991 BC – 1962 BC)

First ruler of the 12<sup>th</sup> Dynasty

Moved capital from Thebes to Itjtawy



Amenemhat I  
pyramid at Lisht.

This was the pharaoh  
if the date of Abrams  
arrival in Canaan  
was around 1980BC.

The more probable  
date for Abrams  
arrival in Canaan is  
1920BC

## Amenemhat II (1929 BC to 1895 BC)

Third Pharaoh of Twelfth Dynasty

Son of Senusret I and Queen Nefru.

If Abram came to Canaan around 1920BC then Amenemhat II was the pharaoh who took Sarai into his house.



Sphinx of  
Amenemhat II at the  
Louvre, Paris.

Genesis 15:5 ‘And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.’



### **3. God makes a covenant with Abram**

#### **Blood Covenant (Genesis 15)**

God entered into a blood covenant with Abram.

The significance of the blood covenant was that each party now was indivisibly linked to each other.

The blood covenant meant that one party could always depend upon the other for assistance.

#### **God keeps His Covenant**

God will chastise His people for not keeping covenant.

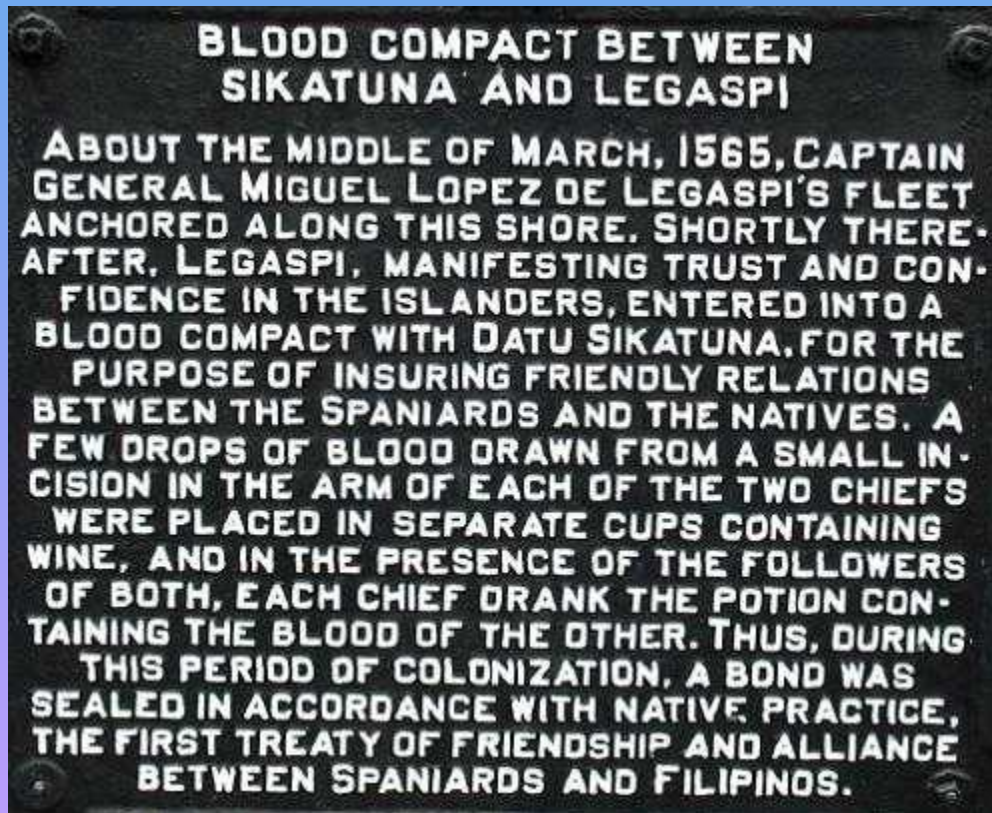
What does it mean to keep covenant? Love God and love others

Obedience – Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O man, what *is* good; and what does the LORD require of you, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

A new commandment – John 13:34-35. Love one another as I have loved you.

## **Bohol, Philippines - Plaque commemorating the Blood Compact between Sikatuna and Legaspi.**

The Islanders would not trust the Spaniards until a blood compact was made. The ceremony had great significance to the Filipino's. The Spaniards used the Blood Compact to their own advantage.



wikipedia.org - public domain

## **Covenant - Gibeonites**

Covenant with the Gibeonites (Joshua 9). The Gibeonites acted deceitfully but once the covenant had been made it could not be broken.

The covenant was passed down from generation to generation. God chastised Israel for not keeping this covenant during the reign of David. (2 Samuel 21:2)

There was a 3 year famine. (2 Samuel 21:1)

Gibeonites wanted revenge on Saul's descendants. (2 Samuel 21:6)

## **Covenant - David and Jonathan**

David made a covenant with Jonathan (1 Samuel 17:3-4)

Jonathan gave David his robe, and his armour.

Jonathan kept covenant (1 Samuel 20:4)

David kept covenant by showing kindness to Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son.

(2 Samuel 9).

David protected Mephibosheth because of his covenant with Jonathan. (2 Samuel 21:7)

## **Four hundred years refers to ‘in a land not theirs’ (Canaan and Egypt)**

Genesis 15:13 ‘And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land *that is* not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;’

Period from birth of Isaac (1896 BC) till the Exodus from Egypt (1492 BC).

Strangers in a land not theirs (400 years – Canaan and Egypt)

Shall serve them (Egypt). They shall afflict them (slaves in Egypt).

Genesis 15:14-16 ‘And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites *is* not yet full.’

Israel’s conquest of the promised land (Joshua) was also God’s judgment on the sins of the Amorites. God commanded Joshua to destroy them.

God had a testimony in the land before he destroyed the inhabitants.

# Abraham's Oak

Mamre

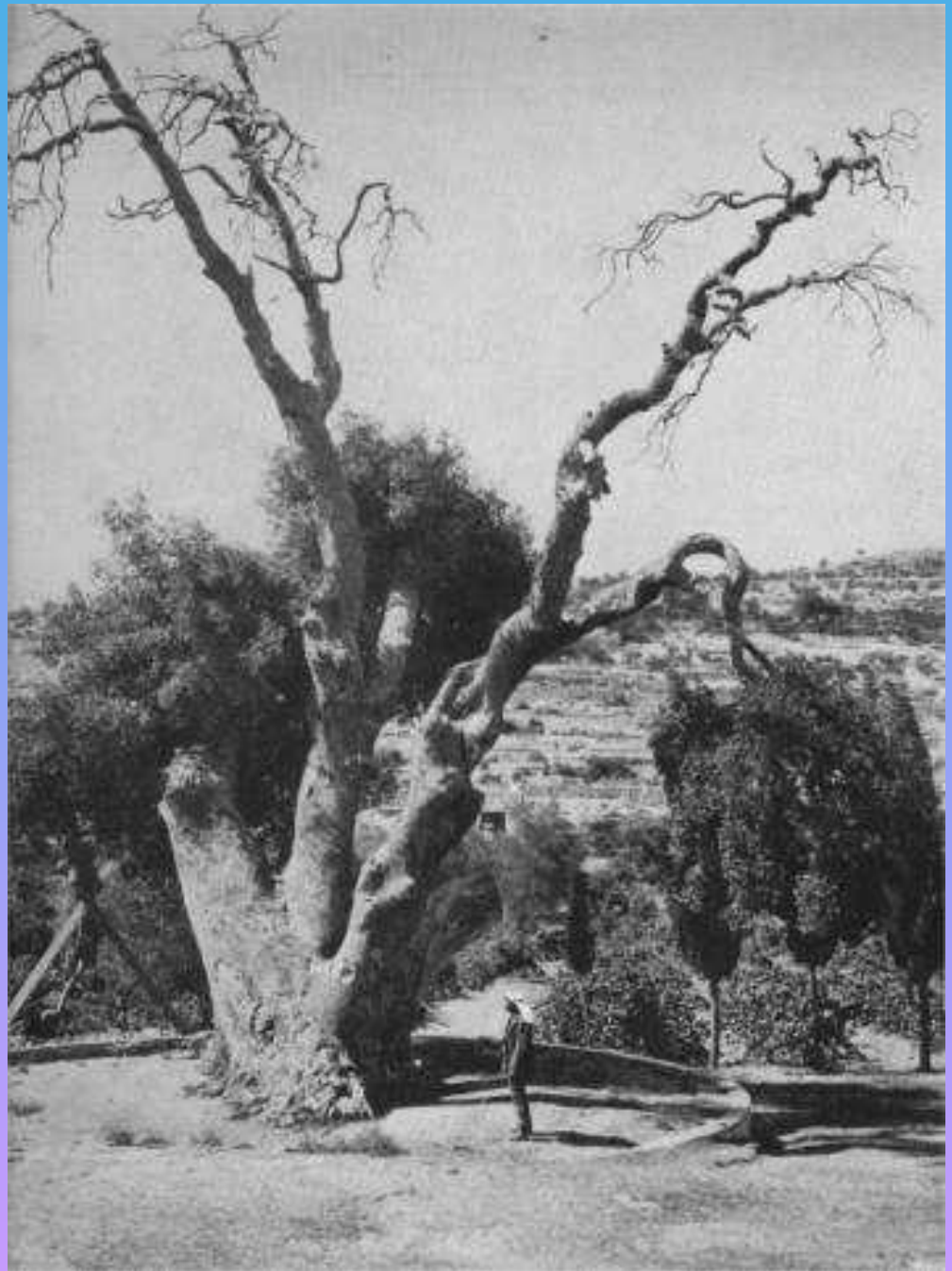
Near to Hebron.

Abraham was visited by angels

Genesis 18:1, 'And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day;'

The Lord promised Abraham that Sarah would have a son.

Told Abraham He would destroy Sodom and Gomorrah.



## 4. Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

### Example of end time judgment

Luke 17:28-30 'Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed *them* all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.'

The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah was sudden and not expected.

But God delivered Lot and his family before the cities were destroyed.

Lot hated living among ungodly people.

God knows how to deliver the righteous.

(2 Peter 2: 6-9)



## **Zoar**

Lot dwelt in a cave with his  
two daughters.

No hope of children

Made Lot drunk.

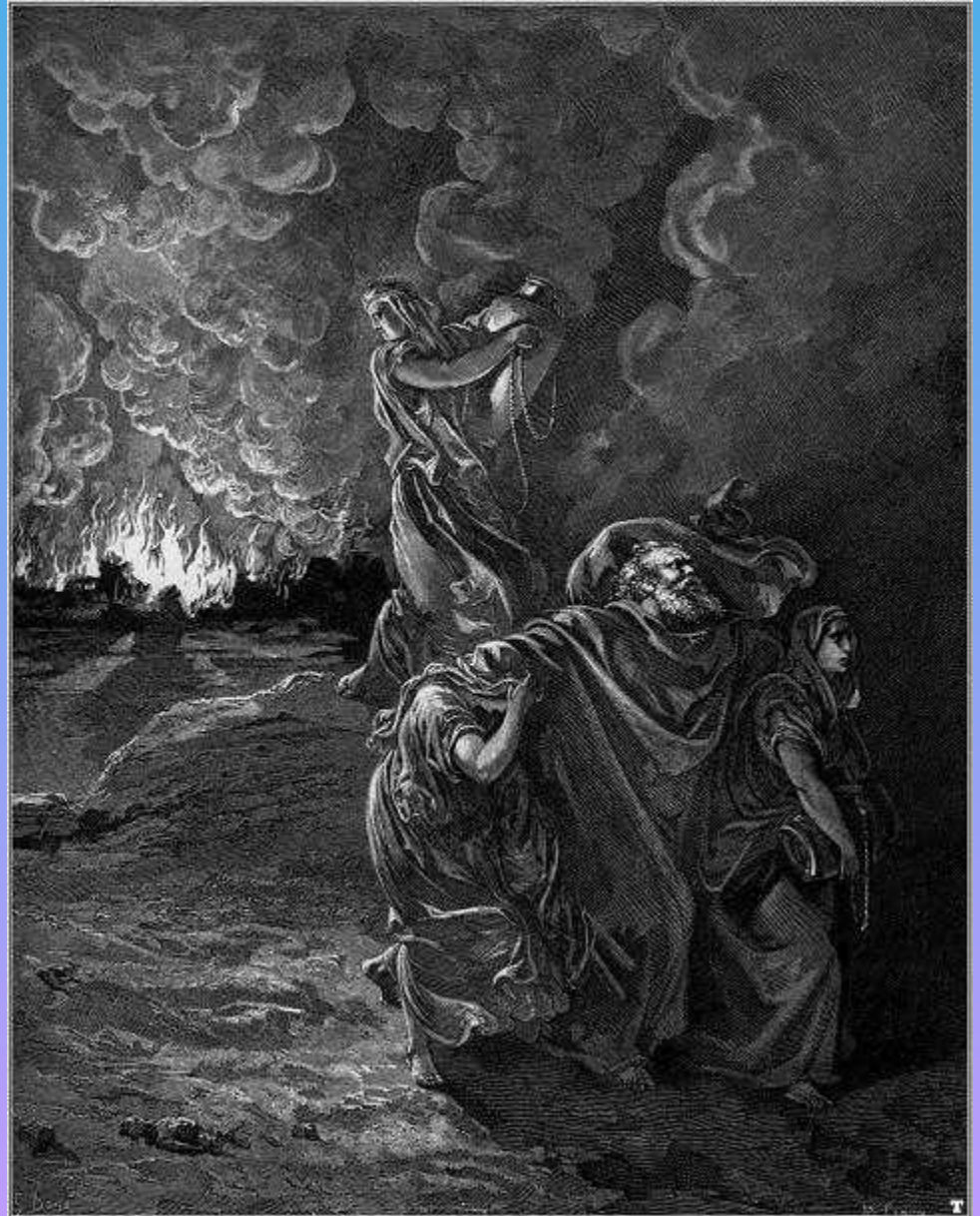
Lay down with him.

## **Moab and Ammon**

The descendants of Lot

Moab - father of the  
Moabites

Ben-Ammi - father of the  
Ammonites



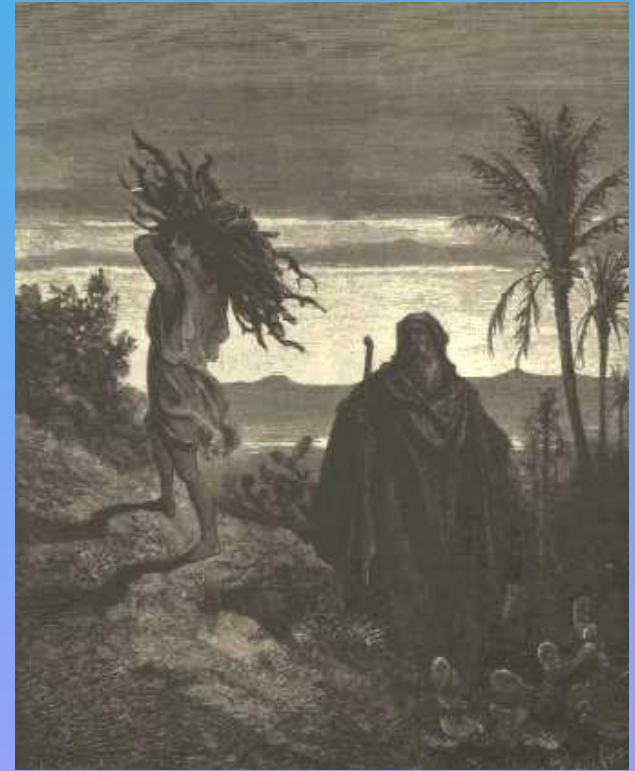
## 5. Jehovah Jireh (The LORD will provide)

Genesis 22:5 ‘And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and **come again to you.**’

Where is the lamb for a burnt offering? (22:7)

God will provide Himself the lamb for a burnt offering 22:8.

Abraham trusted the Lord to keep covenant.  
Genesis 22:9-12



Genesis 22:13 ‘And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind *him* a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.’

**A ram caught in a thicket was a common sight.**

Ram in thicket from Ur of Chaldees

## **Cave of Machpelah before Mamre. (Genesis 23)**

Deeded to Abraham – burial place.

Sarah dies in Kirjath Arba (Hebron)  
aged 127 years.

Abraham negotiates with the Hittites,  
sons of Heth. Field of Ephron

Cave of Machpelah

Bought for 400 shekels of silver.

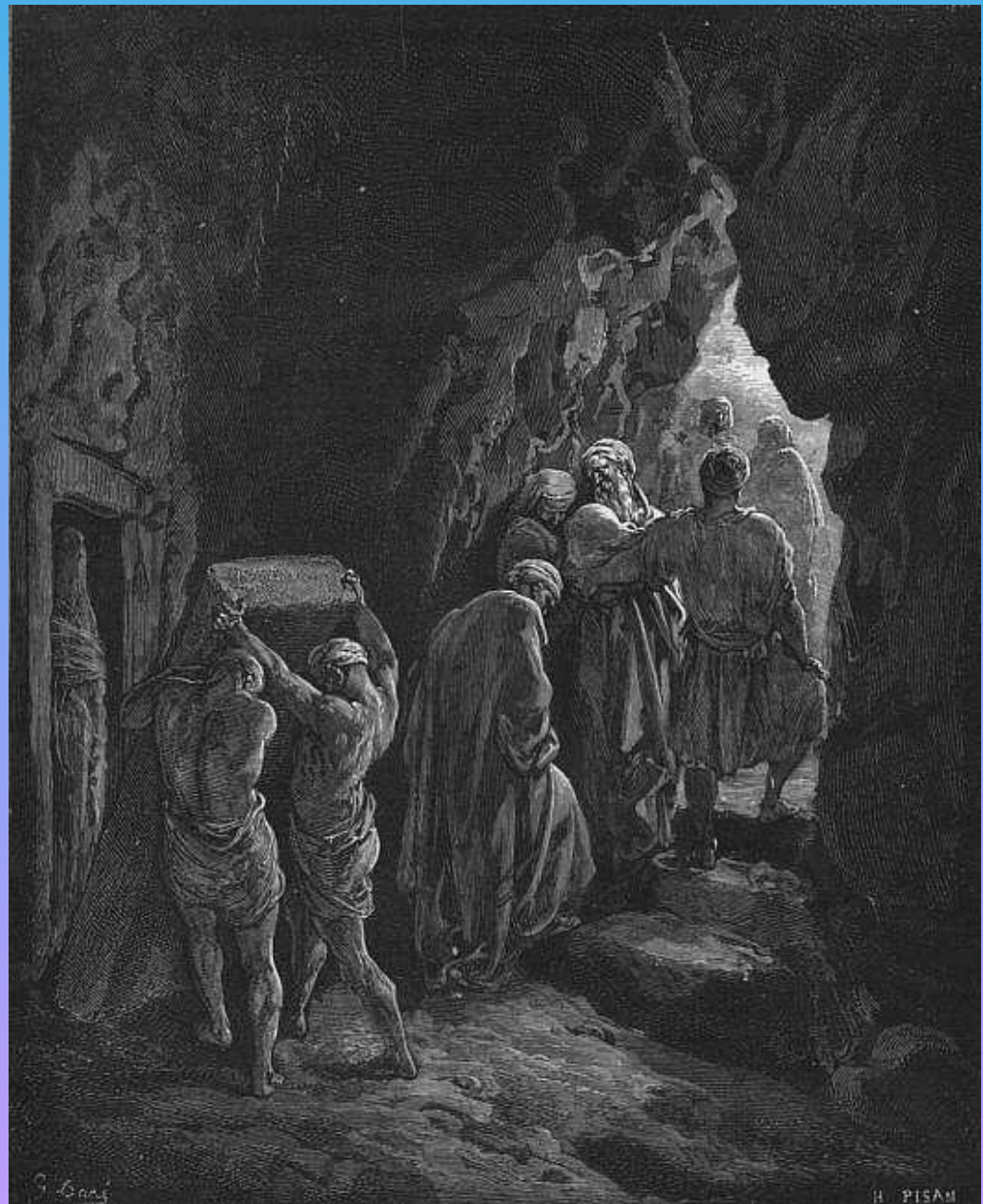
Burial place of:

Sarah and Abraham

Rebekah and Isaac

Leah (Genesis 49:29-33)

Jacob (Genesis 50:1-14)



The Cave of Machpelah - Sarah's burial

## **Finding a bride for Isaac.**

**Abraham sends Eliezer (his servant) to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor. (Genesis 24)**

The city of Nahor is most likely Haran. Nahor was Abram's brother. He settled in Haran. Clay tablets from Mari refer to a place called Nahur.

During the time of Ashurbanipal it was known as Nahuru.

The ruins were called by the Assyrians, Til-Nahiri (Mound of Nahor).

Rebekah was the sister of Laban the Syrian  
(Genesis 25:20).

Her father was Bethuel - the son of Nahor  
(Abram's brother) and his wife Milcah (Genesis  
24:24)

Bethuel was known as the Syrian of Padan Aram  
(Genesis 25:20).



## Lentils - Jacob and Esau

### Jacob's lentil soup (Genesis 25:29-34)

Nutricious soup. Seeds have fast cooking time

Can be mixed with rice which takes a similar time to cook.

Jacob shows how easily the birthright could be taken away from Esau. He desired to fulfil his appetites.

Esau was sensual not spiritual. (Heb. 12:16-17)

He lost the birthright because he had no regard to spiritual things.



### The birthright (Deut 21:16-17)

The right of the first born could be lost.

Reuben forfeited his birthright – given to the children of Joseph (1 Chron.5:1-2).

## The right of the firstborn (Genesis 27)

Jacob deceives his father to receive the blessing of the firstborn.

Isaac's eyes are dim.

Jacob put on Esau's clothing.



Jacob's received the blessing by deception.

# Mandrakes

Genesis 30:14-18

The Hebrew word for mandrakes is **דודים** (duwday) which means love-apple. It was associated with exciting sexual desire, and pregnancy.

Leah gave her sister Rachel mandrakes in return Leah spent the night with Jacob.

Leah was the one who became pregnant.

Song of Songs 7:13



## Genesis 32

Jacob wrestles with the Angel.

He was given the name Israel - One who has fought with God and prevailed.

## Genesis 33

Jacob meets his brother Esau again.



## Rachel's tomb outside

### Bethlehem

**Genesis 35:18-20.** Rachel died in childbirth. She called the boy Benoni but Jacob called him Benjamin.



**Joseph sold by his brothers to the Ishmaelites for 20 pieces of silver.**

**Genesis 37:28**



**Joseph's rise to power in Egypt took place during the 13<sup>th</sup> dynasty.**

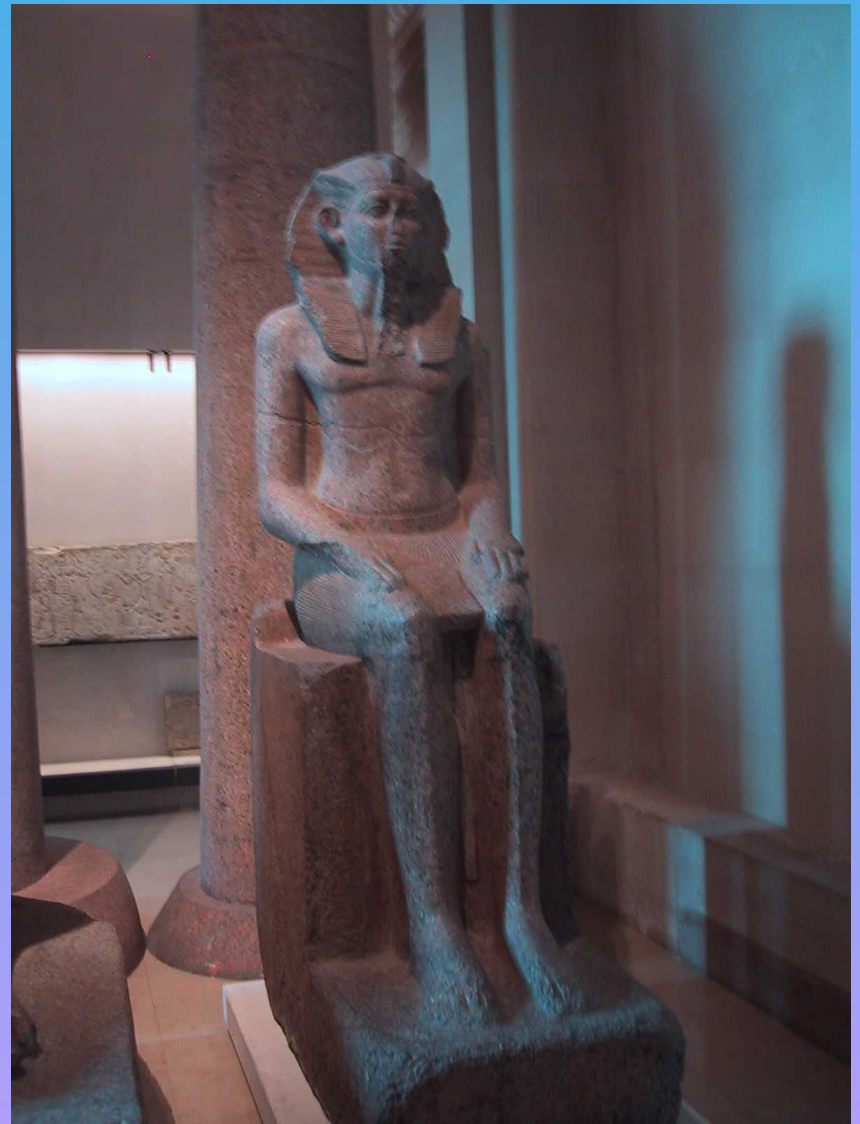
<b>Genealogy of Joseph</b>	<b>BC</b>			
<b>Joseph sold</b>	<b>1728</b>	<b>2276</b>	<b>17</b>	Genesis 37:2
<b>Before Pharaoh</b>	<b>1715</b>	<b>2289</b>	<b>30</b>	Genesis 41:46
<b>Plenty</b>	<b>1715-1708</b>		<b>7</b>	Genesis 41:53
<b>Famine</b>	<b>1707-1700</b>		<b>7</b>	Genesis 41:54
<b>Brothers in Egypt</b>	<b>1706</b>	<b>2298</b>	2nd year of famine	Genesis 45:6
<b>Jacob in Egypt</b>	<b>1706-5</b>	<b>2298</b>	<b>130</b>	Genesis 47:9
<b>Jacob died</b>	<b>1689</b>	<b>2315</b>	<b>147</b>	Genesis 47:28
<b>Joseph died</b>	<b>1635</b>	<b>2369</b>	<b>110</b>	Genesis 50:26

**Joseph was in Egypt during the time of the thirteenth dynasty**

His wife was Asenath, daughter of Poti-Pherah (priest of On).

His sons were born during the 7 years of plenty. (Genesis 41:50)

Manasseh and Ephraim



Pharaoh Sobekhotep IV  
(c. 1720 BC)