

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



Jn. 5:39 “**Search the scriptures....they are they which testify of me.**”

Genesis 13:1 And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south.

2 And Abram *was* very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.

3 And he went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Hai;

4 Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: **and there Abram called on the name of the LORD.**

5 And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents.

6 And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.

7 And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: **and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land.**

8 And Abram said unto Lot, **Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we *be* brethren.**

9 *Is* not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if [thou wilt take] the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if *thou depart* to the right hand, then I will go to the left.

10 And **Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan**, that it *was* well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, *even* as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.

11 Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: **and they separated themselves the one from the other.**

12 Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched *his* tent toward Sodom.

13 But **the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.**

14 And the LORD said unto Abram, **after that Lot was separated from him**, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:

15 For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.

16 And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, *then* shall thy seed also be numbered.

17 Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for **I will give it unto thee**.

18 Then Abram removed *his* tent, and came and **dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the LORD**.

We began in Genesis with the beginnings of the human race.

I. THE PRIMEVAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HUMAN RACE, 1:1—11:32

A. The Creation, 1:1—2:25

B. The Curse, 3:1—4:15

C. The Catastrophe, 4:16—9:29

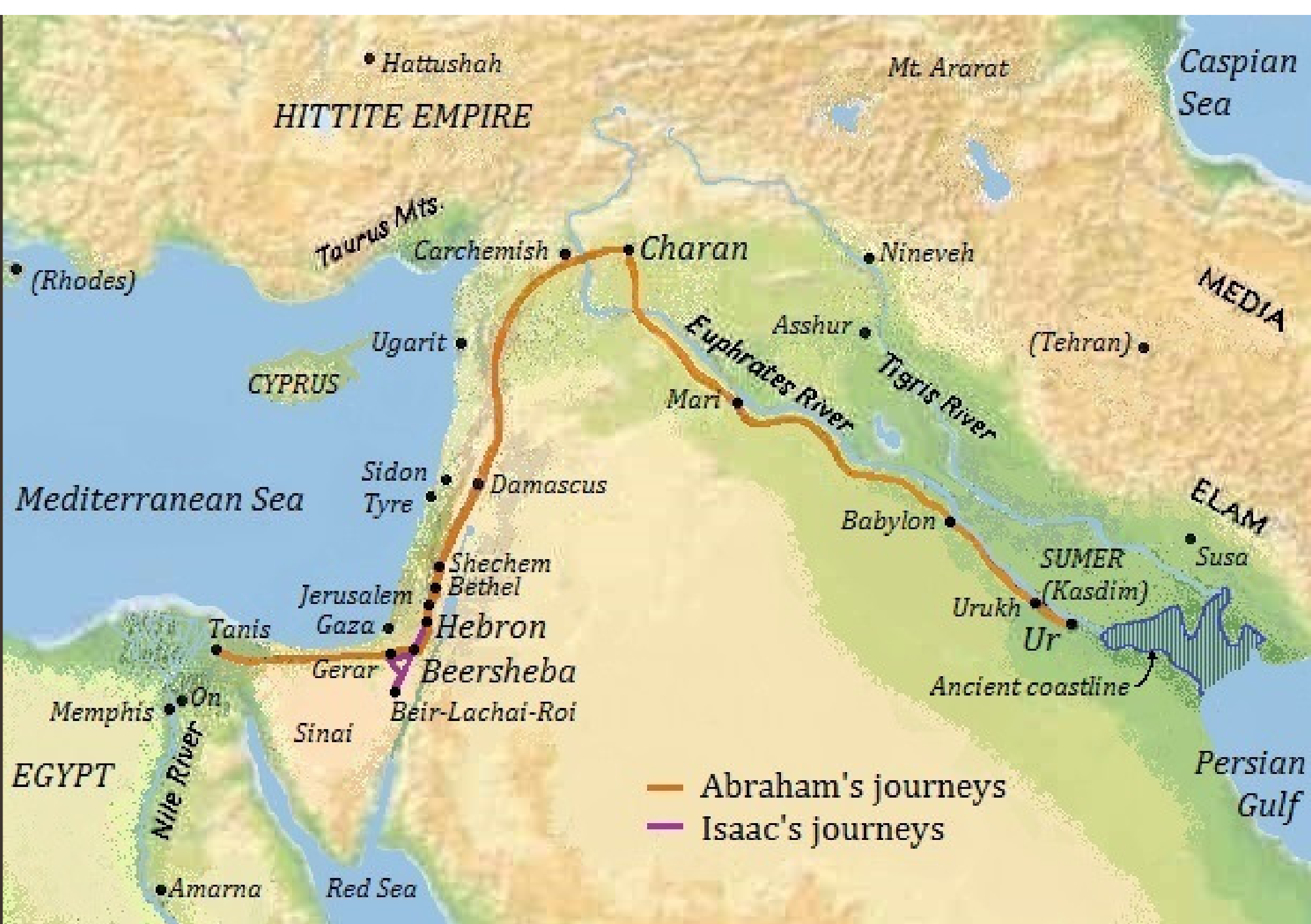
D. The Coalition, 10:1—11:32

II. PATRIARCHAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HEBREW RACE, 12:1—50:26

A. The Progenitor: Abraham, 12:1—25:11

1. The Path of Faith, 12:1-20

❖ Abraham, at 75 years old, left his homeland to go, by faith, to a destination yet unknown as he trusted in the promises of God and followed His leadership.



- ❖ Abraham and the Abrahamic Covenant changed the history of the world, and is yet further to change the history of the world.
- ❖ The four unconditional covenants all culminate in the reign of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Abrahamic
 - Palestinian
 - Davidic
 - New

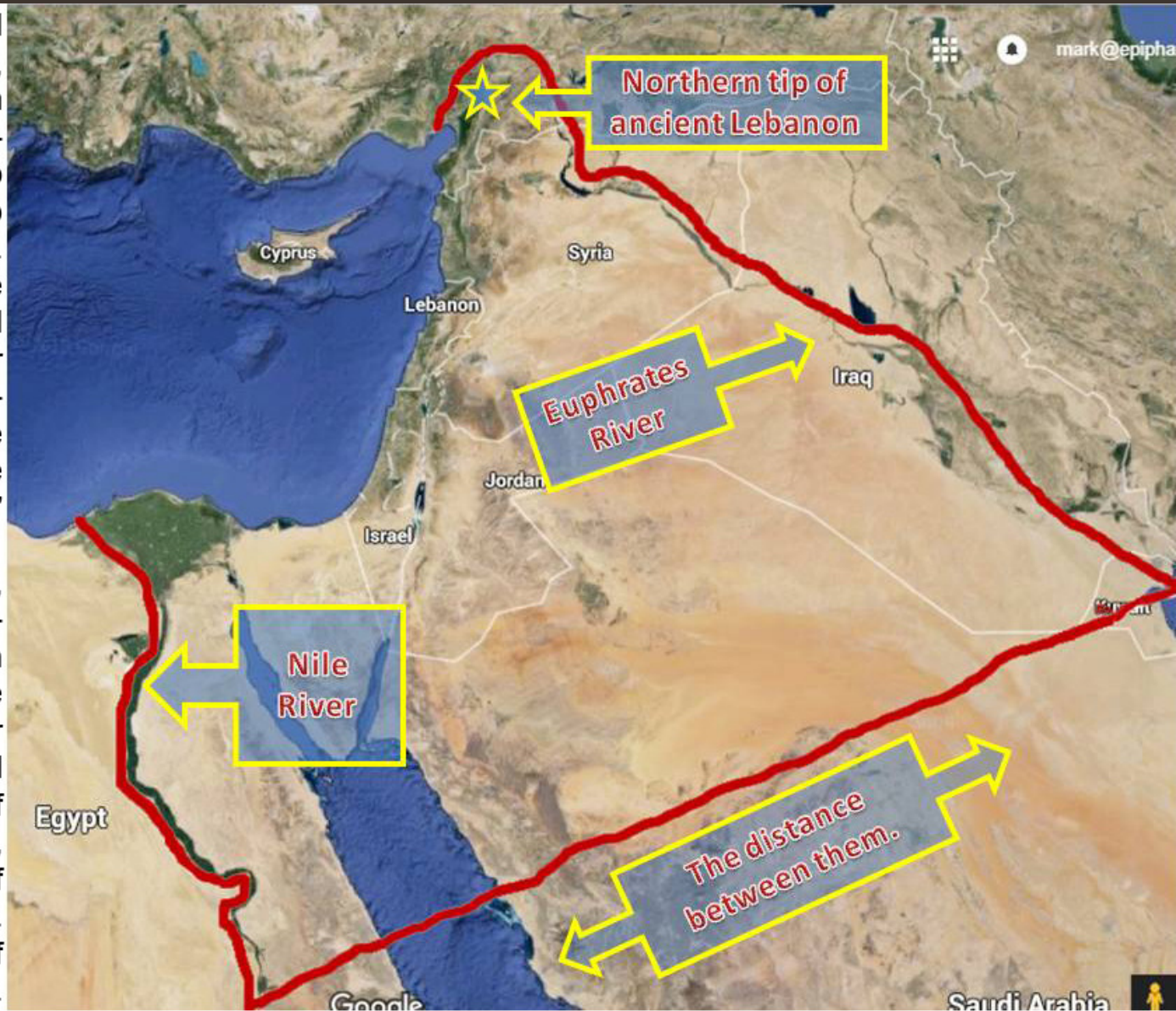
The fulfillment of the Palestinian Covenant will look something like this:



Please note the difference regarding “the great river in Egypt:”

In regards to the land that God has promised Israel, Genesis 15:18 declares to Abraham, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates.” God later confirms this promise to Abraham’s son Isaac and Isaac’s son Jacob (whose name was later changed to Israel). When the Israelites were about to invade the Promised Land, God reiterated the land promise, as recorded in Joshua 1:4, “Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Great Sea on the west.”

According to Genesis 15:18 and Joshua 1:4, the land God gave to Israel included everything from the Nile River in Egypt to Lebanon (south to north) and everything from the Mediterranean Sea to the Euphrates River (west to east). All of the land modern Israel currently possesses, plus all of the land of the Palestinians (the West Bank and Gaza), plus some of Egypt and Syria, plus all of Jordan, plus some of Saudi Arabia and Iraq. Israel currently possesses only a fraction of the land God has promised.



Tonight we will observe “the *Price of Faith*,” which is emphasized in “*the Price of Separation*.” Abram is returning from Egypt on his way to Mamre. Along the way, a serious dispute arises among relatives:

Gen. 13:7 And **there was a strife** between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: **and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land.**

The solution is “the price of faith.”

2. The Price of Faith, 13:1-18

a. The Situation

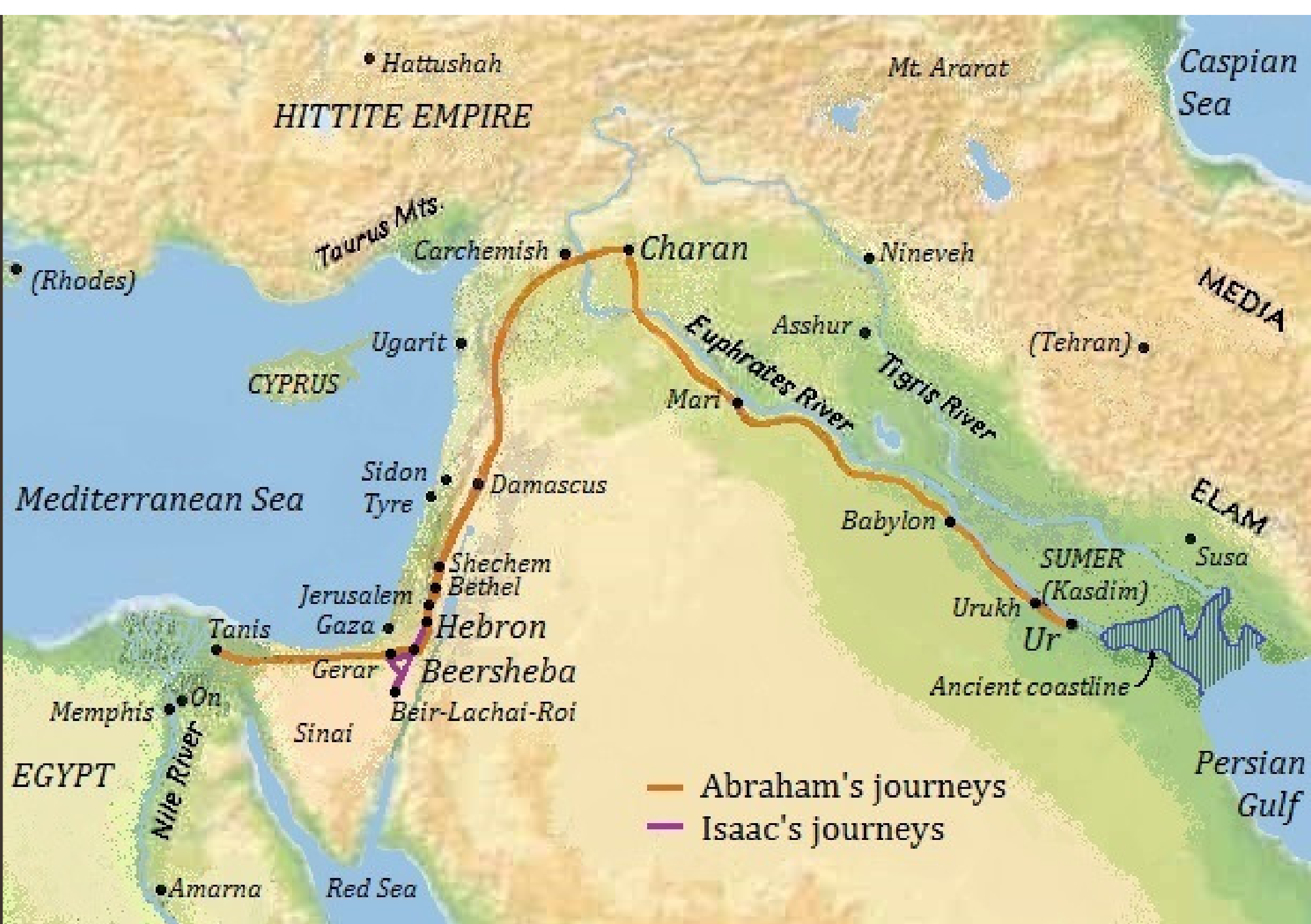
Genesis 13:1 And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south.

2 And Abram *was* very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.

3 And he went on his journeys from the south even to **Bethel**, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Hai;

4 Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: **and there Abram called on the name of the LORD.**

5 And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents.



b. The Separation

Gen. 13:6 And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.

7 And **there was a strife** between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: **and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land.**

8 And Abram said unto Lot, **Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren.**

9 *Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if [thou wilt take] the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.*

10 And **Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan**, that it *was* well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, *even* as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.

11 Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: **and they separated themselves the one from the other.**

Mediterranean Sea

Canaan

Hebron

Sodom

**Abraham's
pastures**

**Lot's
pastures**

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❖ Strife and contention happened within the family as Abram was walking by faith.

Proverbs 13:10 **Only by pride cometh contention:** but with the well advised *is* wisdom.

❖ Abram exhibited grace and wisdom in separating.

2 Corinthians 6:14 **Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers:** for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 **Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord,** and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,

18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

- ❖ Spiritual strength motivates the believer to “take the high road” of spiritual leadership as Abram gave Lot the first choice.

c. The Submission

Gen. 12:12 **Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain,** and pitched *his* tent toward Sodom.

13 But **the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.**

❖ Both Lot and Abram exhibited submission to the principle of separation – submission to depart – Lot to following the lust of the eyes and Abram to follow God's leadership.

Rom. 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.**

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

❖ Separation is an exhibition of submission to God's will however He chooses to lead a believer.

James 4:7 **Submit yourselves therefore to God.** Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

d. The Specialization

Gen. 13:14 And the LORD said unto Abram, **after that Lot was separated from him**, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:

15 For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.

16 And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, *then* shall thy seed also be numbered.

17 Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for **I will give it unto thee**.

18 Then Abram removed *his* tent, and came and **dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the LORD.**

❖ Separation is indication of God's special standards for His children.

Exodus 19:5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then **ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:**

6 And **ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.** These *are* the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

Deut. 14:2 For **thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God,** and **the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself,** above all the nations that *are* upon the earth.

Deuteronomy 26:18 And **the LORD hath avouched thee this day to be his peculiar people**, as he hath promised thee, and that *thou* shouldest keep all his commandments;

Titus 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and **purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.**

Summary

- ❖ Believers can be doing the right thing in the right place and yet encounter problems.
- ❖ Often, problems originate with family.
- ❖ Some problems necessitate drastic solutions.
- ❖ Abram took the initiative to produce a solution – separation.
- ❖ Abram's submission to God's leadership indicated his desire to honor God with obedience regarding a special standing as a believer.

Conclusion

1 Peter 2:9 But **ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people**; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: