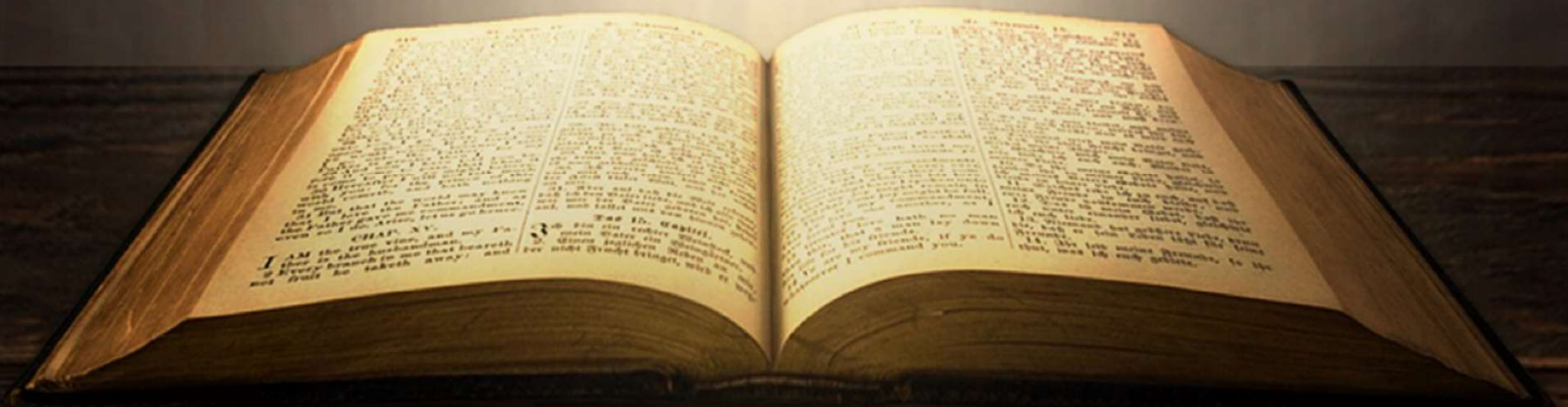


SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



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

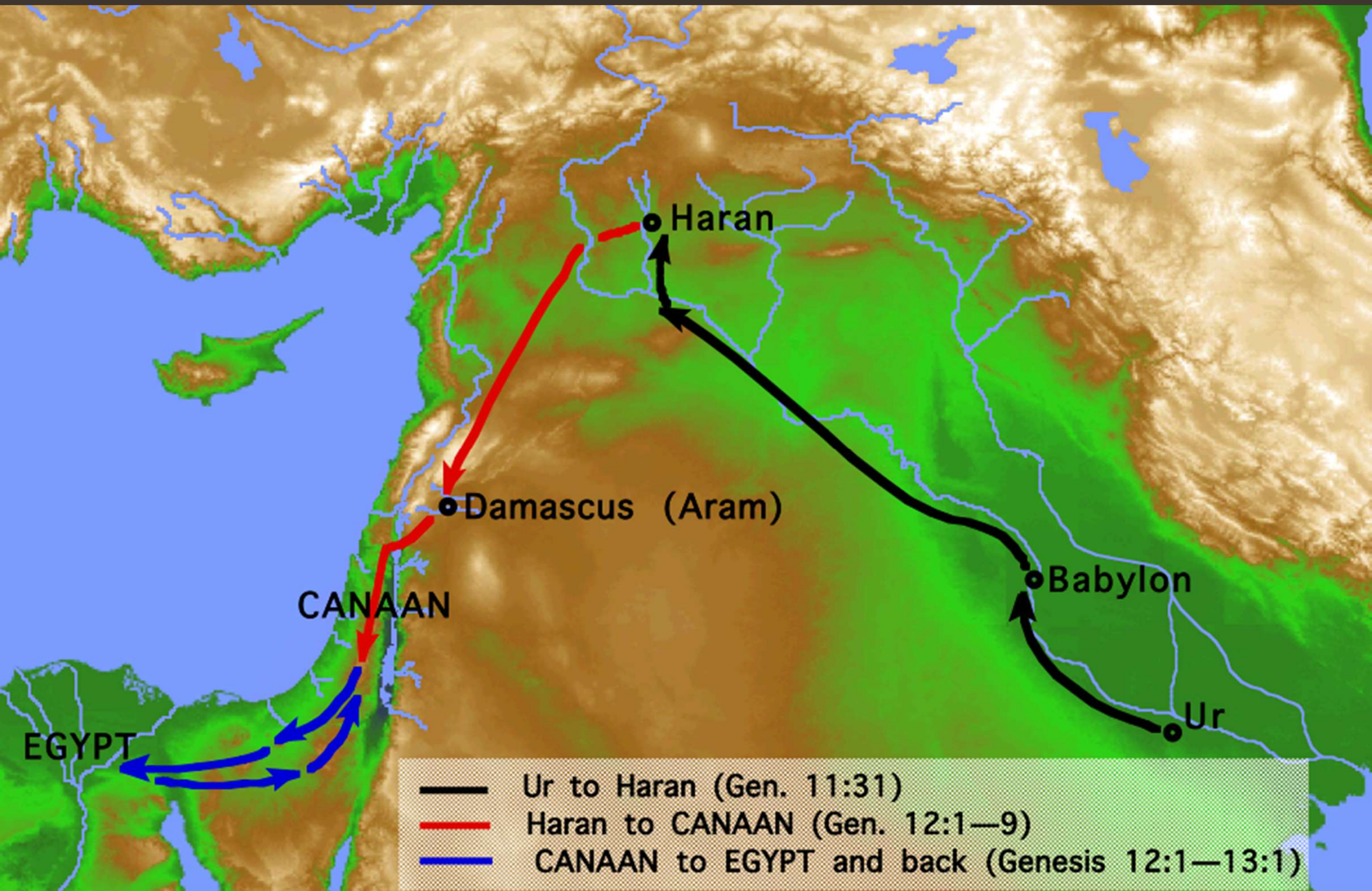
Genesis 19:1-38

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

- I. THE PRIMEVAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HUMAN RACE, 1:1—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
2. The Price of Faith, 13:1-18
3. The Power of Faith, 14:1-24
4. The Pledge of Faith, 15:1-21
5. The Pawning of Faith, 16:1-16
6. The Potential of Faith, 17:1-27
7. The Perplexing of Faith, 18:1-33
 - a. The Encounter With The Lord, 18:1-6
 - b. The Enlightenment From The Lord, 18:7-15
 - c. The Explanation By The Lord, 18:16-21
 - d. The Engaging With The Lord, 18:22-31

Tonight, we will observe “*the Position of Faith*,” comparing several individuals and their “*faith position*.” The main characters in this chapter are Lot, his wife, children, sons-in-law, the residents of Sodom, and a cameo appearance of Abraham.





8. The Position of Faith, 19:1-38

a. The Spiritual Deviance Revealed, 19:1-3

Gen. 19:1 And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and **Lot sat in the gate of Sodom:** and Lot seeing *them* rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;

2 And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night.

3 And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.

- ❖ Lot, exhibiting gracious hospitality, reflected the same spirit and faith as his uncle Abraham (see Gen. 18:1-8.)
- ❖ A “just” backslider may exhibit good traits while yet compromising their testimony.

2 Pet. 2:6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned *them* with an overthrow, **making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;**

7 And delivered **just Lot**, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

8 (For **that righteous man** dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, **vexed his righteous soul** from day to day with *their* unlawful deeds;)

❖ In Gen. 18:2, the appearance of the “three men” were actually a theophany and two angels now being revealed in Gen. 19:1a:

Gen. 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;
2 And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, **three men** stood by him: and when he saw *them*, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground,

Gen. 19:1 And **there came two angels to Sodom** at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing *them* rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;

Heb. 13:2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby **some have entertained angels unawares.**

- ❖ Lot was a politician, 19:1b “...and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom...” (see verse 9 – “...This one *fellow* came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge...”)
- ❖ The lust for money and the power of greed is still the “root of all evil” –

1 Tim. 6:9 But **they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare**, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

10 For **the love of money is the root of all evil**: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

- ❖ Do a “search” on “the selling out of America to China.” You will be shocked what you find!
- ❖ Politicians and businessmen are selling out our country to our enemy!
- ❖ Lot’s faith was diminished by his compromise to placate sinners for the political expediency.

“Don’t sacrifice the permanent on the altar of the immediate.”

— Bob Jones, Sr.

<https://quotefancy.com/quote/1767905/Bob-Jones-Sr-Don-t-sacrifice-the-permanent-on-the-altar-of-the-immediate>

b. The Sexual Debauchery Revealed, 19:4-11

Gen. 19: 4 But before they lay down, the men of the city, *even* **the men of Sodom**, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter:
5 And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where *are* the men which came in to thee this night? **bring them out unto us, that we may know them.**

6 And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him,

7 And said, I pray you, **brethren**, do not so wickedly.

8 Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as *is* good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof.

9 And they said, Stand back. And they said *again*, **This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge**: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And **they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door**.

10 But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door.

11 And they smote the men that *were* at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door.

- ❖ Old and young men of Sodom aggressively sought out the men/angels who were at Lot's house in order to sexually assault them. (vs. 4-6)
- ❖ Lot, (vs. 7-8) calling them "brethren," offered to appease them by offering them his virgin daughters.
- ❖ Lot's "brethren" turn on him in order to quell their lust (v. 9.)
- ❖ The angels rescued Lot and smite the sodomites with blindness, (vs. 10-11) who still "pressed upon the man...and came near to break the door."

- ❖ The Bible reveals the zeal and aggressive behavior of the debauched sodomites.
- ❖ The position of faith in Sodom was rampant perversion against the righteousness of God.

c. The Special Directions Revealed, 19:12-26

Gen. 19:12 And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring *them* out of this place:

13 For **we will destroy this place**, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and **the LORD hath sent us to destroy it.**

14 And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for **the LORD will destroy this city**. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.

15 And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.

16 And **while he lingered**, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; **the LORD being merciful unto him**: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.

17 And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.

18 And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my Lord:

19 Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die:

20 Behold now, this city *is* near to flee unto, and it *is* a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (*is* it not a little one?) and my soul shall live.

21 And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken.

22 Haste thee, escape thither; for **I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither**. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

23 The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar.

24 Then **the LORD** rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire **from the LORD** out of heaven;

25 And **he overthrew those cities**, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.

26 But **his wife looked back from behind him**, and she became a pillar of salt.

- ❖ The angels directed Lot (vs. 12-13) to go to his sons-in-law and warn them of impending doom.
- ❖ Lot's testimony (v. 14) was totally ineffective, as if Lot was "joking" or it was a matter to laugh at.
- ❖ Lot lingered and the angels took each of them by the hand to lead them out of Sodom (vs. 15-16.)
- ❖ The angels could not destroy Sodom until Lot was safely removed from Sodom, v. 22a.
- ❖ Lot appeals to go to the small town of Zoar (v. 22b – Zoar = "insignificance".)

- ❖ The Lord was the destroyer of the wicked cities.
- ❖ Lot's wife "looked back from behind him," defying authority and paid the price.

d. The Specific Decision Revealed, 19:27-29

Gen. 19:27 And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD:

28 And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace.

29 And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that **God remembered Abraham**, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in the which Lot dwelt.

- ❖ Abraham is the focus of God's graciousness to Lot.
- ❖ Lot's portion of faith was pathetic, but Abraham's portion of faith was powerful.
- ❖ Many unseen, unknown and unsung heroes of "the faith" are pleasing to God.

Heb. 11:36 **And others** had trial of *cruel* mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

38 (**Of whom the world was not worthy**;) they wandered in deserts, and *in* mountains, and *in* dens and caves of the earth.

e. The Societal Depravity Revealed, 19:30-38

Gen. 19:30 And Lot went up out of Zoar, and **dwelt in the mountain**, and his two daughters with him; for he feared to dwell in Zoar: and he dwelt in a cave, he and his two daughters.

31 And the firstborn said unto the younger, Our father *is* old, and **there is not a man in the earth** to come in unto us after the manner of all the earth:

32 Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father.

33 And they made their father drink wine that night: and the firstborn went in, and lay with her father; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose.

34 And it came to pass on the morrow, that the firstborn said unto the younger, Behold, I lay yesternight with my father: let us make him drink wine this night also; and go thou in, *and* lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father.

35 And they made their father drink wine that night also: and the younger arose, and lay with him; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose.

36 Thus were both the daughters of Lot with child by their father.

37 And the firstborn bare a son, and called his name **Moab**: the same *is* the father of the Moabites unto this day.

38 And the younger, she also bare a son, and called his name **Benammi**: the same *is* the father of the children of Ammon unto this day.

- ❖ Lot's pathetic portion of faith and faithlessness was further revealed by the deplorable display of Sodom's wicked influence on the daughters and their incestuous decision.
- ❖ The older sibling's exaggerated "reason" for incest ("...not a man in the earth to come in unto us...") precipitated the combination of drunkenness, nudity, and illicit sex.
- ❖ The incestuous relationship produced two future heartaches for Israel:

v. 37 – Moab = "of his father"

v. 38 – Benammi = "son of my people"

Neh. 13:26 Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: **nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin.**

1 Kings 11:1 But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, **women of the Moabites, Ammonites**, Edomites, Zidonians, *and* Hittites;

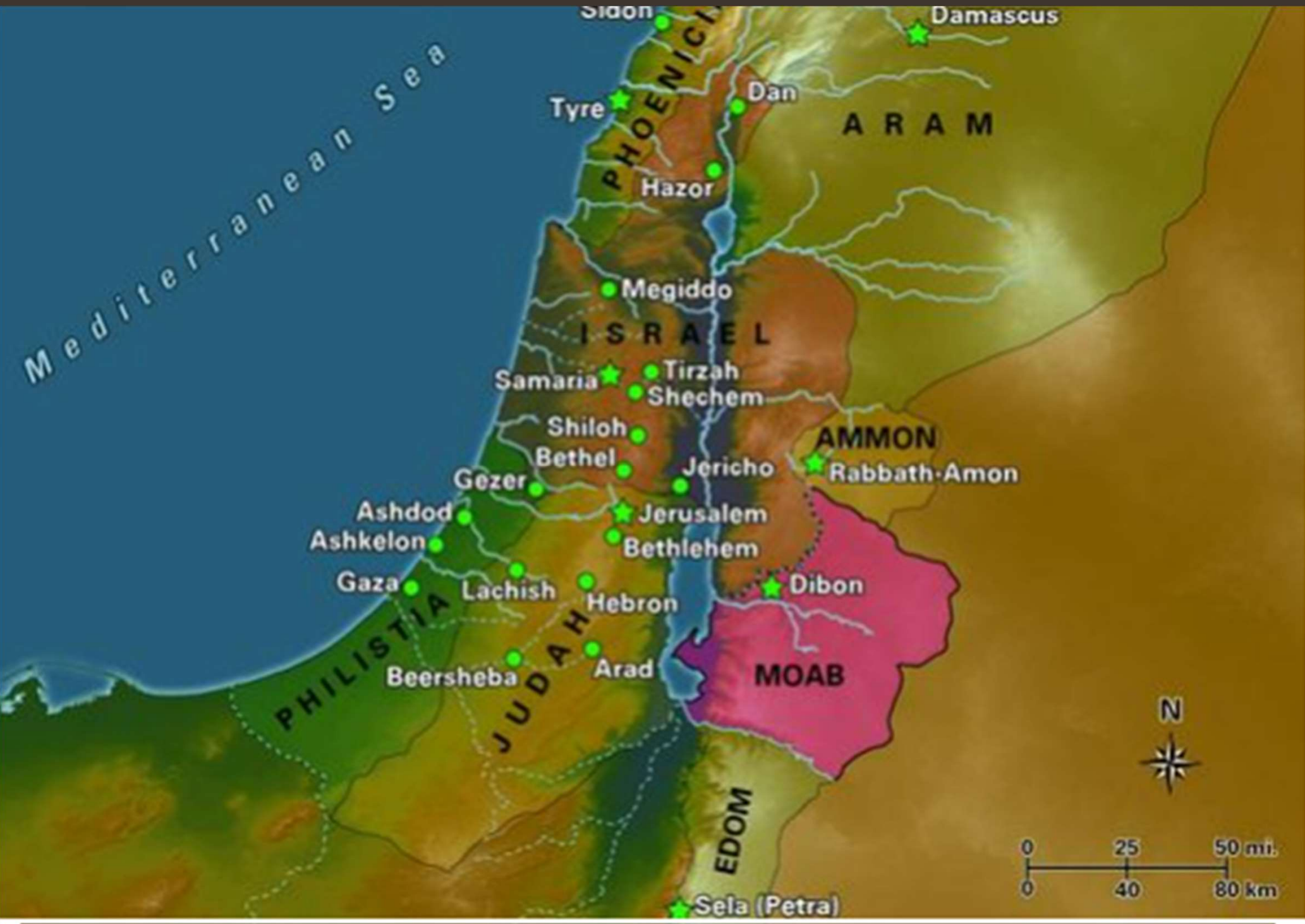
(See Num. 22:23, 25:1-10; 1 Sam. 12, 14, 2 Sam 8:12; 2 Kings 1, 3; Isa. 16; Jer. 48; 1 Sam. 12:12; 2 Sam. 10:10; 2 Kings 24:2; Zeph. 2:8-9)



Sodom and Gomorrah

During the Time of Abraham and Lot





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Summary

In observing “*the Position of Faith,*” comparing several individuals and their “*faith position,*” we see the following:

Lot: weak, compromising failure in his home, and fellowship with God.

Lot’s wife: weak, compromising failure as a mother and a wife.

Lot’s children: weak, compromising failure in testimony and live.

Lot's sons-in-law: spiritually lost, and physically destroyed.

Lot's "brethren," the residents of Sodom: Spiritually deplorable, full of debauchery, and destroyed.

Abraham: Continually walked by faith, with a powerful testimony for, and blessings from, God.

Conclusion

Luke 17:28 Likewise also **as it was in the days of Lot**; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;

29 But **the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed *them* all.**

30 Even **thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.**

31 In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back.

32 **Remember Lot's wife.**

Titus 2:13 **Looking for that blessed hope**, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;