

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 21:1-34

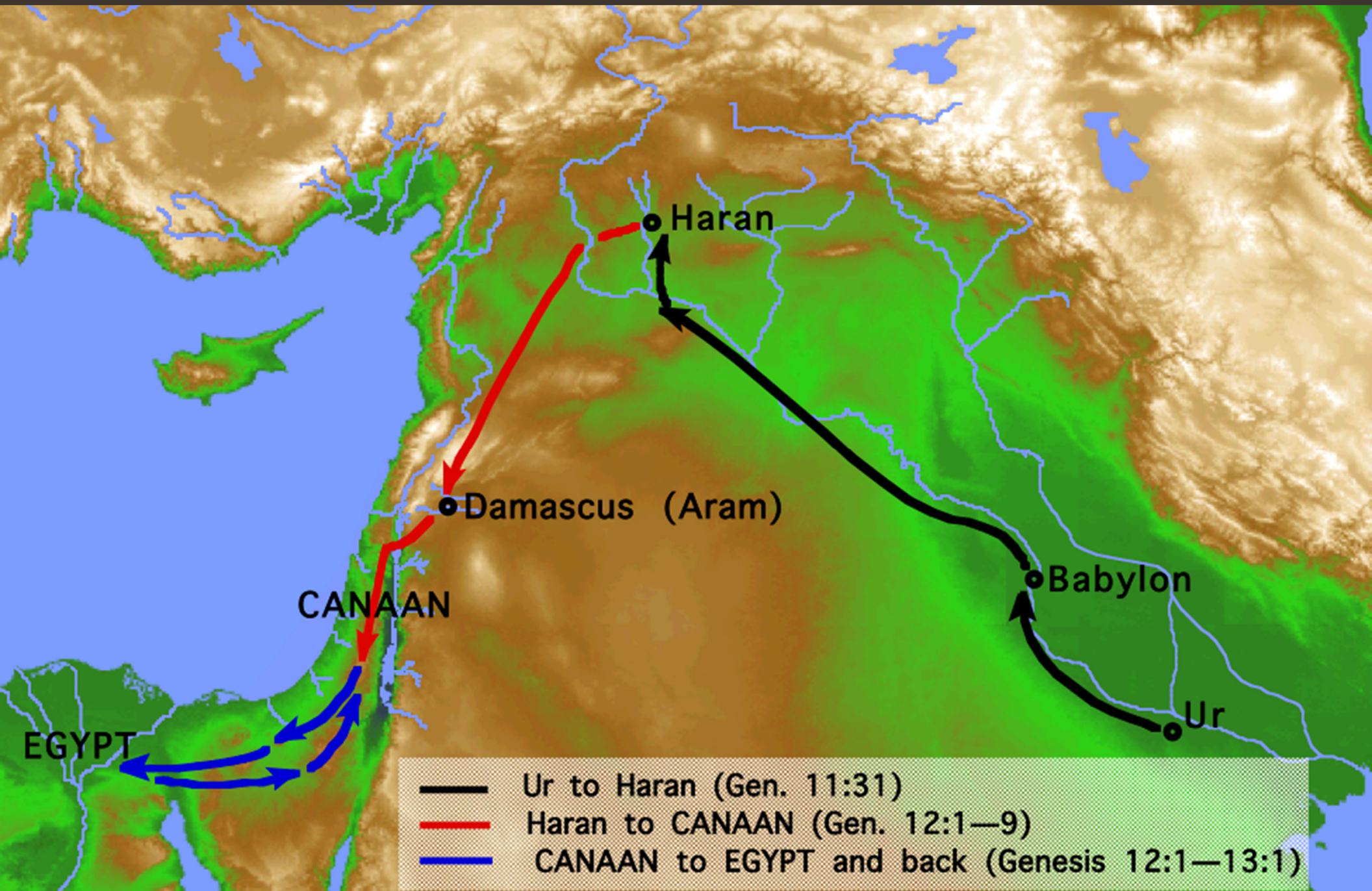
We began in Genesis with the beginnings of the human race.

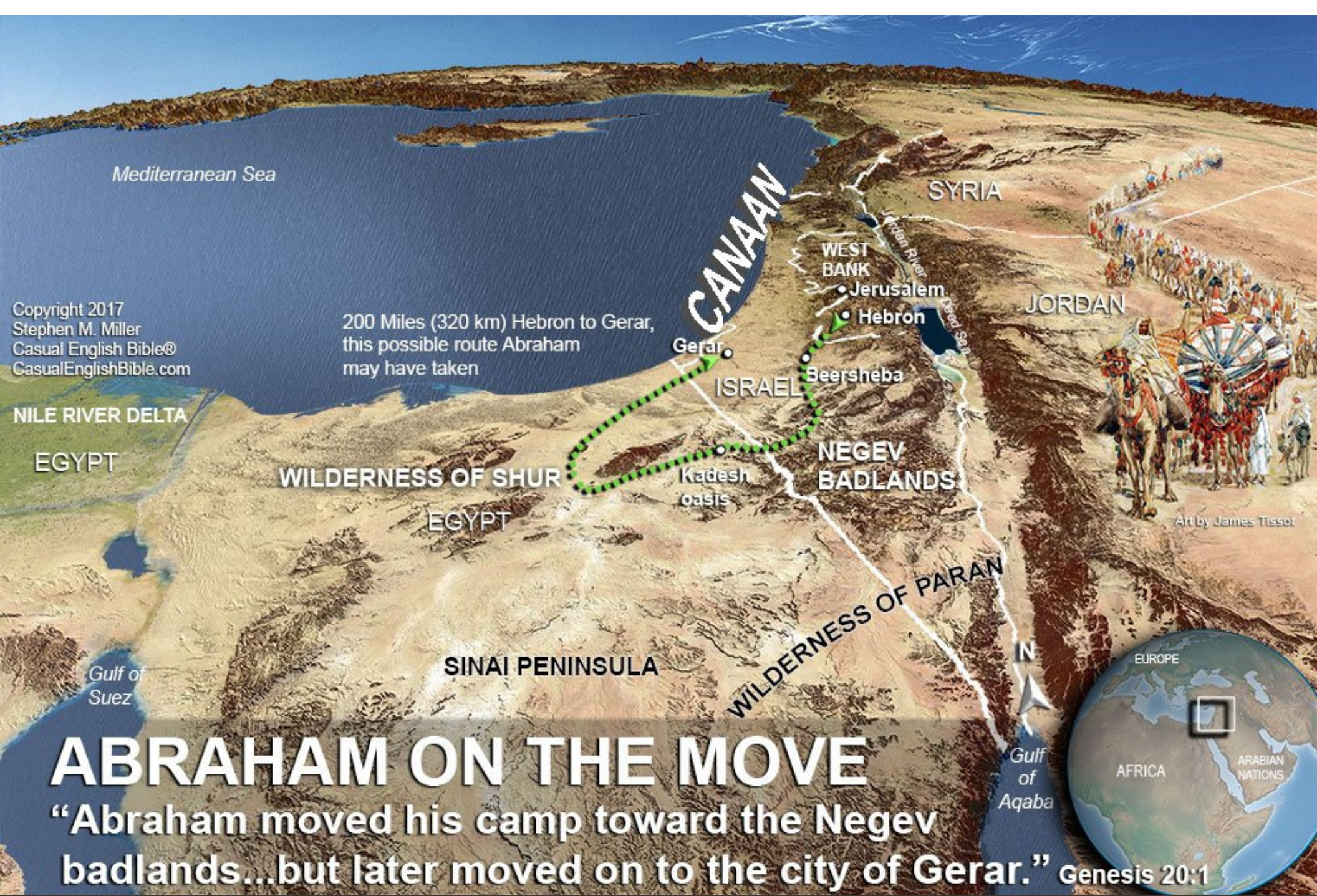
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❖ Tonight, we will observe “*the Prize of Faith.*” About 25 years earlier in his life, Abraham was promised by God that his future ancestry would be as many as the stars in heaven. Now, the time was at hand to fulfill the prize of his faith.

Gen. 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.**





Mediterranean Sea

SYRIA

JORDAN

CANAAN

WEST BANK

Jerusalem

Hebron

Beersheba

ISRAEL

Gerar

NEGEV BADLANDS

Kadesh oasis

WILDERNESS OF SHUR

EGYPT

SINAI PENINSULA

WILDERNESS OF PARAN

Art by James Tissot

EUROPE

AFRICA

ARABIAN NATIONS

Gulf of Aqaba

Gulf of Suez

200 Miles (320 km) Hebron to Gerar, this possible route Abraham may have taken

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ABRAHAM ON THE MOVE

“Abraham moved his camp toward the Negev badlands...but later moved on to the city of Gerar.” Genesis 20:1

10. The Prize of Faith, 21:1-34

a. The Arrival of the Promised Son, Gen. 21:1-8

Gen. 21:1 And **the LORD visited Sarah as he had said**, and the LORD did unto Sarah **as he had spoken**.

2 For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, **at the set time** of which God had spoken to him.

3 And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, **Isaac**.

4 And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac being eight days old, as God had commanded him.

5 And Abraham was an hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born unto him.

6 And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh, *so that* all that hear will laugh with me.

7 And she said, Who would have said unto Abraham, that Sarah should have given children suck? for I have born *him* a son in his old age.

8 And **the child grew**, and was weaned: and Abraham made a great feast the *same* day that Isaac was weaned.

- ❖ The omniscience of God is exhibited as what God had promised, came to fulfillment.
- ❖ The exact location of Isaac's birth is not indicated: two probabilities are somewhere near Gerar or in Beersheba – 21:31.
- ❖ In verse 8, a link to the Messiah was made:

Luke 2:40 And **the child grew**, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

b. The Abandonment of the Problem Son,
Gen. 21:9-21

Gen. 21:9 And Sarah saw the son of **Hagar the Egyptian**, which she had born unto Abraham, **mocking**.

10 Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, *even* with Isaac.

11 And **the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son**.

12 And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called.

13 And also of the son of the bondwoman will I make a nation, **because he is thy seed.**

14 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and took bread, and a bottle of water, and gave *it* unto Hagar, putting *it* on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away: and she departed, and **wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.**

15 And the water was spent in the bottle, and she cast the child under one of the shrubs.

16 And she went, and sat her down over against *him* a good way off, as it were a bowshot: for she said, Let me not see the death of the child. And she sat over against *him*, and lift up her voice, and wept.

17 And **God heard the voice of the lad**; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her, What aileth thee, Hagar? **fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is.**

18 Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him in thine hand; for **I will make him a great nation.**

19 And **God opened her eyes**, and she saw a well of water; and she went, and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad drink.

20 And **God was with the lad**; and he grew, and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer.

21 And **he dwelt in the wilderness of Paran**: and his mother took him a wife out of the land of Egypt.

❖ Sarah observed Ishmael “mocking” Isaac. (21:9)

Original Word: קִחַץ

Transliteration: tsachaq

Definition: to laugh

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/6711.htm>

to jest; to sport, play, make sport, toy with, make a toy of

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/h6711/kjv/wlc/0-1/>

Gen. 17:17 Then Abraham fell upon his face, and **laughed**, and said in his heart, Shall *a child* be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear?

Gen. 18:12 Therefore Sarah **laughed** within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?

13 And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah **laugh**, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old? ...

15 Then Sarah denied, saying, I **laughed** not; for she was afraid. And he said, Nay; but thou didst **laugh**.

Gen. 19:14 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.

Gen. 21:6 And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh, so *that* all that hear will **laugh** with me.

9 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, **mocking**.

Gen. 26:8 And it came to pass, when he had been there a long time, that Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out at a window, and saw, and, behold, **Isaac was sporting with Rebekah** his wife.

Gen. 39:14 That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us **to mock** us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice: ...

17 And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me **to mock** me:

Ex. 32:6 And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up **to play**.

Jdg. 16:25 And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, Call for Samson, that he may make us sport. And they called for Samson out of the prison house; and he made them **sport**: and they set him between the pillars.

- ❖ Sarah tells Abraham to cast out Hagar and Ishmael.
- ❖ The last time Abraham listened to his wife, he got into trouble. Now, should he listen to her?
- ❖ Abraham had the privilege of about 16 years with his son, Ishmael, and “...the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight...” (v. 11)
- ❖ God confirmed that Abraham needed to heed Sarah's desire, and Abraham obeyed God.

- ❖ After leaving, and heading for Egypt, Hagar and Ishmael ran out of water. Discouraged and in despair, they called upon God (vs. 15-17.)
- ❖ God heard and answered Ishmael's prayer (v. 17)
- ❖ God assured Hagar that He would bless Ishmael, and revealed to her a well (vs. 18-19.)
- ❖ Man (Abraham, v. 14) gave a "bottle of water," but God "opened her eyes" (v. 19) and provided "a well of water."

Luke 24:31 And **their eyes were opened**, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

45 **Then opened he their understanding**, that they might understand the scriptures,

❖ God was with Ishmael, he grew to become an archer, and Hagar got him and Egyptian wife (vs. 20-21.)



Original Word: בְּאֵר שֶׁבַע

Transliteration: Beer Sheba

Definition: "well of seven", a place in the Negev

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/884.htm>







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c. The Agreement for the Prospective Sons,
Gen. 21:22-34

Gen. 21:22 And it came to pass **at that time**, that Abimelech and Phichol the chief captain of his host spake unto Abraham, saying, **God is with thee in all that thou doest:**

23 Now therefore swear unto me here by God that thou wilt not deal falsely **with me, nor with my son, nor with my son's son:** *but* according to the kindness that I have done unto thee, thou shalt do unto me, and to the land wherein thou hast sojourned.

24 And Abraham said, I will swear.

25 And Abraham reprov'd Abimelech because of a well of water, which Abimelech's servants had violently taken away.

26 And Abimelech said, I wot not who hath done this thing: neither didst thou tell me, neither yet heard I *of it*, but to day.

27 And Abraham took sheep and oxen, and gave them unto Abimelech; and both of them made a covenant.

28 And Abraham set **seven ewe lambs** of the flock by themselves.

29 And Abimelech said unto Abraham, What *mean* these seven ewe lambs which thou hast set by themselves?

30 And he said, For *these* seven ewe lambs shalt thou take of my hand, that they may be a witness unto me, that I have digged this well.

31 Wherefore **he called that place Beersheba;** because there they sware both of them.

32 Thus they made a covenant at Beersheba: then Abimelech rose up, and Phichol the chief captain of his host, and they returned into the land of the **Philistines.**

33 And **Abraham** planted a grove in Beersheba, and called there on the name of the LORD, the **everlasting God.**

34 And Abraham sojourned in the Philistines' land many days.

- ❖ Abimelech's observation of Abraham's riches led him to conclude that God was blessing Abraham.
- ❖ Abimelech, learning from past experience, wanted assurance that Abraham would be honest in dealing in the future with the next generations – “my son...with my son's son:”
- ❖ (v. 25) “Abraham reproved Abimelech because of a well of water...” was a confrontation over “water rights” which was most important to those dwelling in a desert area – a well was compared to the value of a wonderful wife (Prov. 5:15-20.)

- ❖ The “seven ewe lambs” symbolized a solemn, binding contract before God, verifying the well in Beersheba belonged to Abraham.
- ❖ In Gen. 21:32 the word “Philistines” is first used in the Old Testament.

Gen. 26:1 And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto **Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar.**

Summary/Conclusion

- ❖ The birth of Isaac represented “the son of promise,” a type of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ❖ Isaac’s birth was the wonderful “prize,” or reward of Abraham’s faith.
- ❖ God, in His omniscience, promised a son to Abraham and Sarah and it happened.
- ❖ The history of Hagar/Ishmael and Sarah/Isaac was presented as an allegory contrasting law and grace.

Gal. 4:21 Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?

22 For it is written, that **Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman.**

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.**

27 For it is written, Rejoice, *thou* barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband.

28 Now **we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.**

29 But as then **he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit**, even so *it is* now.

30 Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.

31 So then, brethren, **we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.**

❖ The allegory also symbolizes the battle between the spirit and the flesh.

1 Pet. 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, **abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;**