

# 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.**”

Jn 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for **he wrote of me.**

## Genesis 35

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

B.The Pilgrim: Isaac, 25:19—27:46

C.The Propagator: Jacob, 28:1—35:29

1.How God Saved Jacob, 28:1-22

2.How God Subdued Jacob, 29:1—30:43

3.How God Stopped Jacob, 31:1—32:32

4.How God Separated Jacob, 33:1—34:31

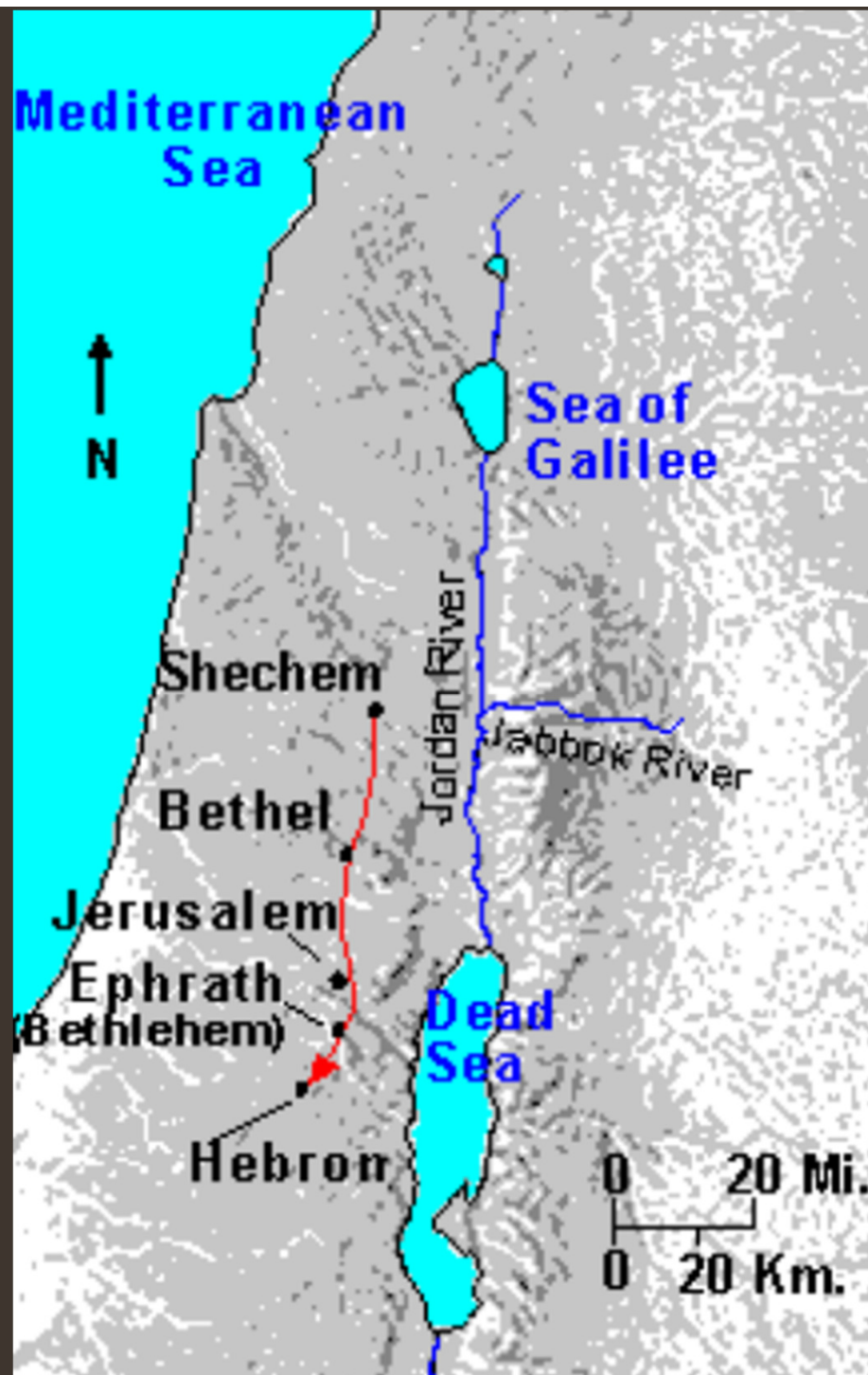
As we continue our series on “SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES,” we come to the close of “The Propagator: Jacob.” Jacob is a good example of a believer’s life that vacillates from carnality to spirituality. One moment he is Jacob, the carnal one, and then, Israel, the spiritual one. This evening, we will observe how the Lord works in his life to be a more spiritual leader.

## 5. How God Sanctified Jacob, 35:1-29

### a. Jacob as a Believing Man, 35:1-15

# (1) Renewing Jacob's Spiritual Vitality, 35:1-4

(a) The Place, 35:1a “And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there...”



- ❖ God's message to Jacob is "go up to (the house of God) Bethel."
- ❖ The believer's "hospital for nourishment, strength, and healing" is the "House of God."

Psa. 92:13 **Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.**

Psa. 73:26 My flesh and my heart faileth: *but* **God is the strength of my heart**, and my portion for ever.



Psa. 18:2 **The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength**, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, *and* my high tower.  
6 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: **he heard my voice out of his temple**, and my cry came before him, *even* into his ears.

❖ In essence, the Lord was directing Jacob to return to his “first love.”

Rev 2:4 Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because **thou hast left thy first love**.

5 **Remember** therefore from whence thou art fallen, and **repent**, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.



❖ The admonition to the church at Ephesus is good for all believers to follow.

(b) The Purpose, 35:1b “...and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother.”

Mt. 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: **the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**

Rom. 14:5 “...Let every man be **fully persuaded** in his own mind.”

Rom. 13:14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.**

1 Jn. 4:18 There is no fear in love; but **perfect love casteth out fear**: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

(c) The Preparation, 35:2-4

Gen. 35:2 Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that *were* with him, **Put away the strange gods that *are* among you, and be clean, and change your garments:**

3 And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto **God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went.**

4 And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which *were* in their hand, and *all their* earrings which *were* in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which *was* by Shechem.

- ❖ When Jacob was returning to his “first love,” a requirement included with repentance was to “...Put away the strange gods that *are* among you, and be clean, and change your garments:”
- ❖ Heart-change on the inside is recognizable with changes outwardly for a believer.
- ❖ Spiritual judgment “...must begin at the house of God...”

1 Pet. 4:17 **For the time *is* come that judgment must begin at the house of God:** and if *it* first *begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God?

- ❖ Jacob removed the worldly testimony and “hid” the effects “...under the oak...”
- ❖ What token of worldliness should be buried by believers today?

(2) Renewing Jacob’s Spiritual Victory, 35:5

Gen. 35:5 And they journeyed: and **the terror of God was upon the cities that *were* round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob.**

❖ After the “massacre of Shechem and the Hivites,” Jacob feared a reprisal, but God intervened to cause His fear upon “...the cities that *were* round about them...”

(3) Renewing Jacob’s Spiritual Verity, 35:6-15

(a) His Relationship to God Confessed  
Anew, 35:6-8

Gen. 35:6 So Jacob came to Luz, which *is* in the land of Canaan, that *is*, **Bethel**, he and all the people that *were* with him.

7 And he built there an altar, and **called the place Elbethel**: because there God appeared unto him, when he fled from the face of his brother.

8 But Deborah Rebekah's nurse died, and she was buried beneath Bethel under an oak: and the name of it was called Allonbachuth.

❖ Jacob “called the place Elbethel” = “The Mighty God of the house of God.”



- ❖ Deborah, Jacob's mother's nurse, died. Perhaps she was Jacob's caretaker from his birth. If so, Jacob would have been very close to her, and her death a great sorrow to Jacob.
  
- ❖ Allonbachuth = "the oak of weeping" = Jacob's emotional reaction.

(b) His Relationship to God Confirmed  
Anew, 35:9-13

i. The Personal Name, 35:9-10

Gen. 35:9 And God appeared unto Jacob again, when he came out of Padanaram, and blessed him.

10 And God said unto him, **Thy name is Jacob: thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name: and he called his name Israel.**

❖ This is an opportunity to see how God sees – to those who knew him, Jacob was a conniving “supplanter:” God saw him as “Israel” – “God prevails.”

Gen. 32:28 And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

❖ God reminded Jacob who he was to be for God's glory – the believer's goal, today!

ii. The Promised Fame, 35:11

Gen. 35:11 And God said unto him, I *am* God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins;

❖ God reminded Jacob of His promise to bless him as He blessed Abraham and Isaac.

### iii. The Perpetual Claim, 35:12-13

Gen. 35:12 And the land which I gave Abraham and Isaac, to thee I will give it, and to thy seed after thee will I give the land.

13 And God went up from him in the place where he talked with him.

❖ Jacob was reminded of the Abrahamic Covenant which God gave to him.

(c) His Relationship to God Claimed Anew,  
35:14-15

Gen. 35:14 And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he talked with him, *even* a pillar of stone: and he poured **a drink offering** thereon, and he poured oil thereon.

15 And Jacob called the name of the place where God spake with him, Bethel.

❖ The first mention in the Scripture of “drink offering” is a picture of Christ.

Num. 15:5 And the fourth *part* of an hin of wine for a **drink offering** shalt thou prepare with the burnt offering or sacrifice, for one lamb.

6 Or for a ram, thou shalt prepare *for* a meat offering two tenth deals of flour mingled with the third *part* of an hin of oil.

7 And for **a drink offering** thou shalt offer the third *part* of an hin of wine, *for* a sweet savour unto the LORD.

Jn. 7:37 In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

## b. Jacob as a Bereaved Man, 35:16-29

### (1) Jacob Bereaved of His Favorite, 35:16-26

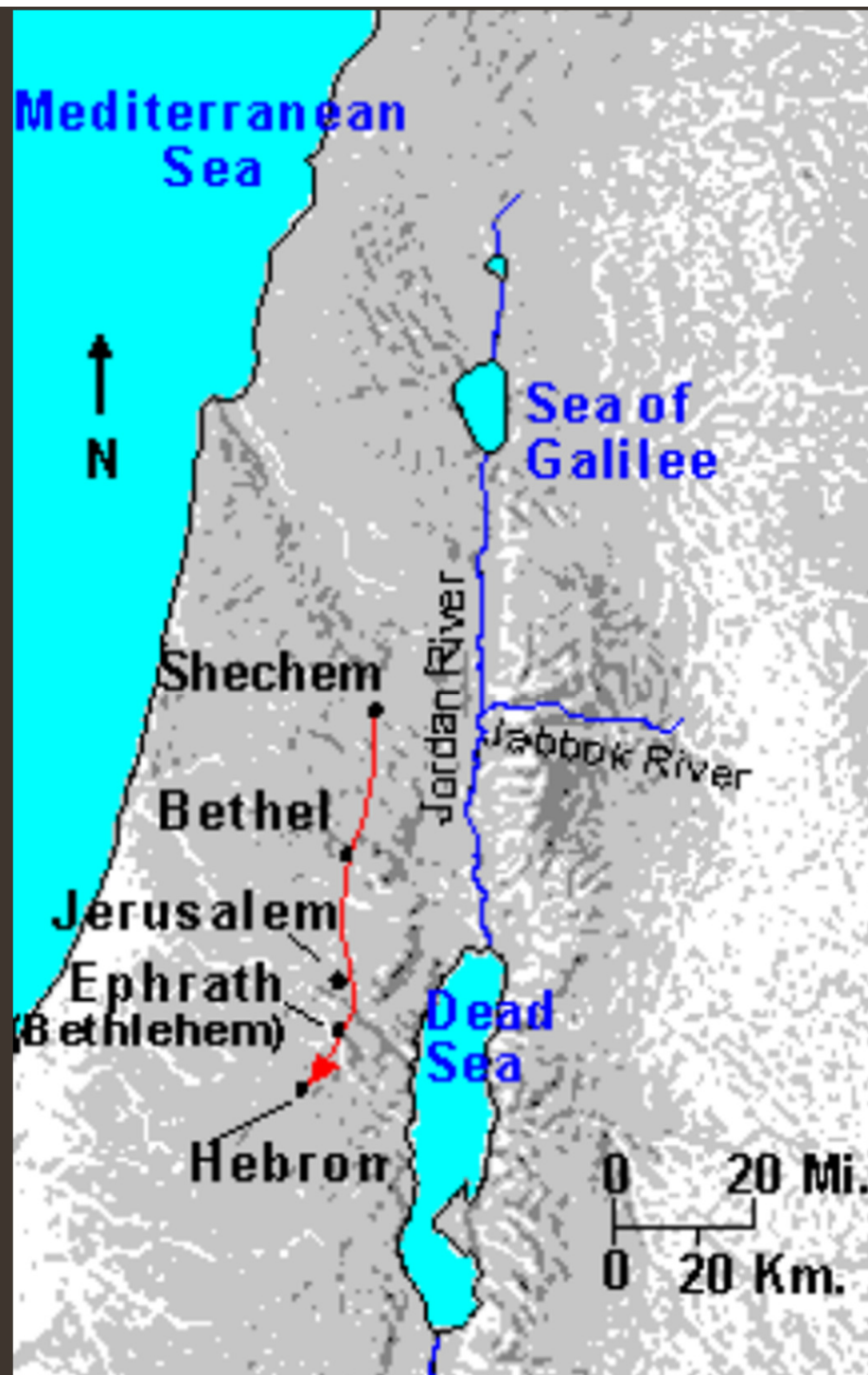
#### (a) The Loss of Rachel, 35:16-21

##### i. Jacob's Strange Mistake, 35:16a

“And they journeyed from Bethel...”

❖ God told Jacob to go to Bethel. Now, he “...they journeyed **from** Bethel...”





❖ Jacob left “the house of God” with a very pregnant wife.

ii. Jacob’s Sudden Misery, 35:16b-21

Gen. 35:16b “...and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour.

17 And it came to pass, when she was in hard labour, that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; thou shalt have this son also.

18 And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin.

19 And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which *is* Bethlehem.

20 And Jacob set a pillar upon her grave: that *is* the pillar of Rachel's grave unto this day.

21 And Israel journeyed, and spread his tent beyond the tower of Edar.

- ❖ Jacob had already buried Deborah, his dear mother's nurse, and now he buries his very beloved wife, Rachel – his “right hand.”
- ❖ Rachel lived long enough to name her son “Benoni” = “son of my sorrow.”
- ❖ Note: death is described “...as her soul was in departing, (for she died)...” = no soul sleep.
- ❖ *Jacob* buried Rachel, but *Israel* walked “through the valley of death.”

## (b) The Lust of Reuben, 35:22-26

### i. The Hideous Act, 35:22a

Gen. 35:22 And it came to pass, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine:

❖ **“Don’t sacrifice the permanent upon the altar of the immediate.”** – Dr. Bob Jones, Sr.

Gen. 49:4 Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defiledst thou *it*: he went up to my couch.

Gen. 30:4 And she gave him Bilhah her handmaid to wife: and Jacob went in unto her.

1 Chron. 5:1 Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel, (for **he was the firstborn; but, forasmuch as he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given unto the sons of Joseph the son of Israel:** and the genealogy is not to be reckoned after the birthright.

ii. The Hidden Ax, 35:22b-26 –  
“...and Israel heard *it*.”

Gen. 35:22b “...and Israel heard *it*. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve:

23 The sons of Leah; Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, and Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and Issachar, and Zebulun:

24 The sons of Rachel; Joseph, and Benjamin:

25 And the sons of Bilhah, Rachel's handmaid; Dan, and Naphtali:

26 And the sons of Zilpah, Leah's handmaid; Gad, and Asher: these *are* the sons of Jacob, which were born to him in Padanaram.”

❖ Then “the hammer dropped” on Reuben.

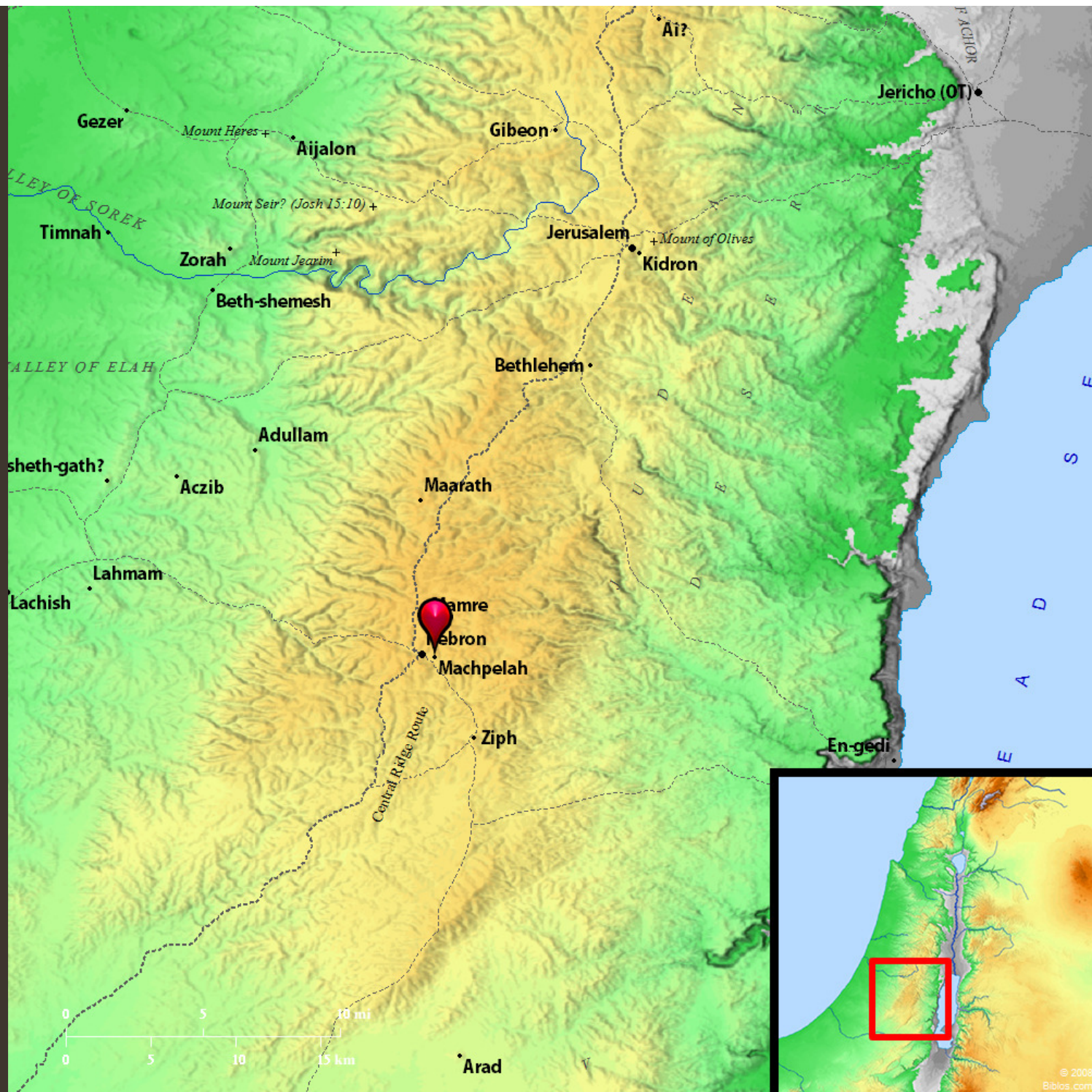
(2) Jacob Bereaved of His Father, 35:27-29

Gen. 35:27 And Jacob came unto Isaac his father unto Mamre, unto the city of Arbah, which *is* Hebron, where Abraham and Isaac sojourned.

28 And the days of Isaac were an hundred and fourscore years.

29 And Isaac gave up the ghost, and died, and was gathered unto his people, *being* old and full of days: and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.





<https://bibleatlas.org/full/machpelah.htm>

❖ Isaac was 180 years old when he “gave up the ghost, and died, and was gathered unto his people...”

Gen. 49:31 There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife; there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife; and there I buried Leah.

❖ Joseph lived 29 years while Grandpa Isaac was alive.

❖ Joseph was in Egypt 12 years before Grandpa Isaac died.

## Summary

- ❖ As Jacob's life comes to an end, he sorrows through three deaths in ch. 35, plus the hideous act of Reuben.
- ❖ Death is the inevitable challenge of life:

Job 14:1 Man *that is* born of a woman *is* of few days, and **full of trouble**.

## Conclusion

2 Cor. 5:7 (For **we walk by faith**, not by sight:)

Jer. 10:23 O LORD, I know that the way of man *is* not in himself: **it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.**

Psa. 37:23 **The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD:** and he delighteth in his way.

Prov. 3:5 **Trust in the LORD with all thine heart;** and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and **he shall direct thy paths.**