

Genesis 12

Verses 1- 3

Now the Lord said to Abram,

**“Go from your country,
And from your relatives
And from your father’s house,
To the land which I will show you;
² And I will make you into a great nation,
And I will bless you,
And make your name great;
And *you shall* be a blessing;
³ And I will bless those who bless you,
And the one who curses you I will curse.
And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”**

Now the Lord said to Abram,

God did not speak to Abram in a dream but in person.

See Acts 7:2 - 4

² **And Stephen said, “Listen to me, brothers and fathers! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, ³ and He said to him, ‘Go from your country and your relatives, and come to the land which I will show you.’ ⁴ Then he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. And from there, after his father died, *God* had him move to this country in which you are now living.**

**“Go from your country,
And from your relatives
And from your father’s house,
To the land which I will show you;**

Abram’s faith was strong enough that he did leave home but not quite in the way that God had told him to do it.

1. God told Abram to leave his relatives but he went with his father and his nephew.
2. God told Abram to go from his father house (take the lead role) but he let his father lead the way.

See Genesis 11:31

³¹ Now Terah took his son Abram, and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they departed together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan; and they went as far as Haran and settled there. ³² The days of Terah were 205 years; and Terah died in Haran.

**² And I will make you into a great nation,
And I will bless you,
And make your name great;
And you shall be a blessing;**

There are 4 promises made here and all of them came true.

1. This promise was made at a time when Abraham did not have a son and yet a mighty nation descended from Abraham.
2. God blessed Abram in the following ways:

A. Physical blessings

Children, riches, land, and protection

B. Spiritual blessings

He met and talked with God and they became close friends. Abram bargained with God and God revealed things to him because of their close relationship.

3. God made his name great by making him the patriarch of Israel and the father of many nations.
4. Abram became a blessing to his family, and his descendants.

See Genesis 18:19

¹⁹ For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him."

**³ And I will bless those who bless you,
And the one who curses you I will curse.
And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”**

This promise could only be fulfilled in one way, by Jesus coming in the flesh and dying on the cross to save mankind from their sin.

Verses 4-5

⁴ So Abram went away as the Lord had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵ Abram took his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot, and all their possessions which they had accumulated, and the people which they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan; so they came to the land of Canaan.

⁴ So Abram went away as the Lord had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

As already discussed, this was an error on the part of Abram. Two of Israel's enemies descended from Lot, the Moabites from the older daughter and the Ammonites from the younger.

Abram's father died in 1921 BC and Abram was 75 years old which means Abram was born in 1996 BC.

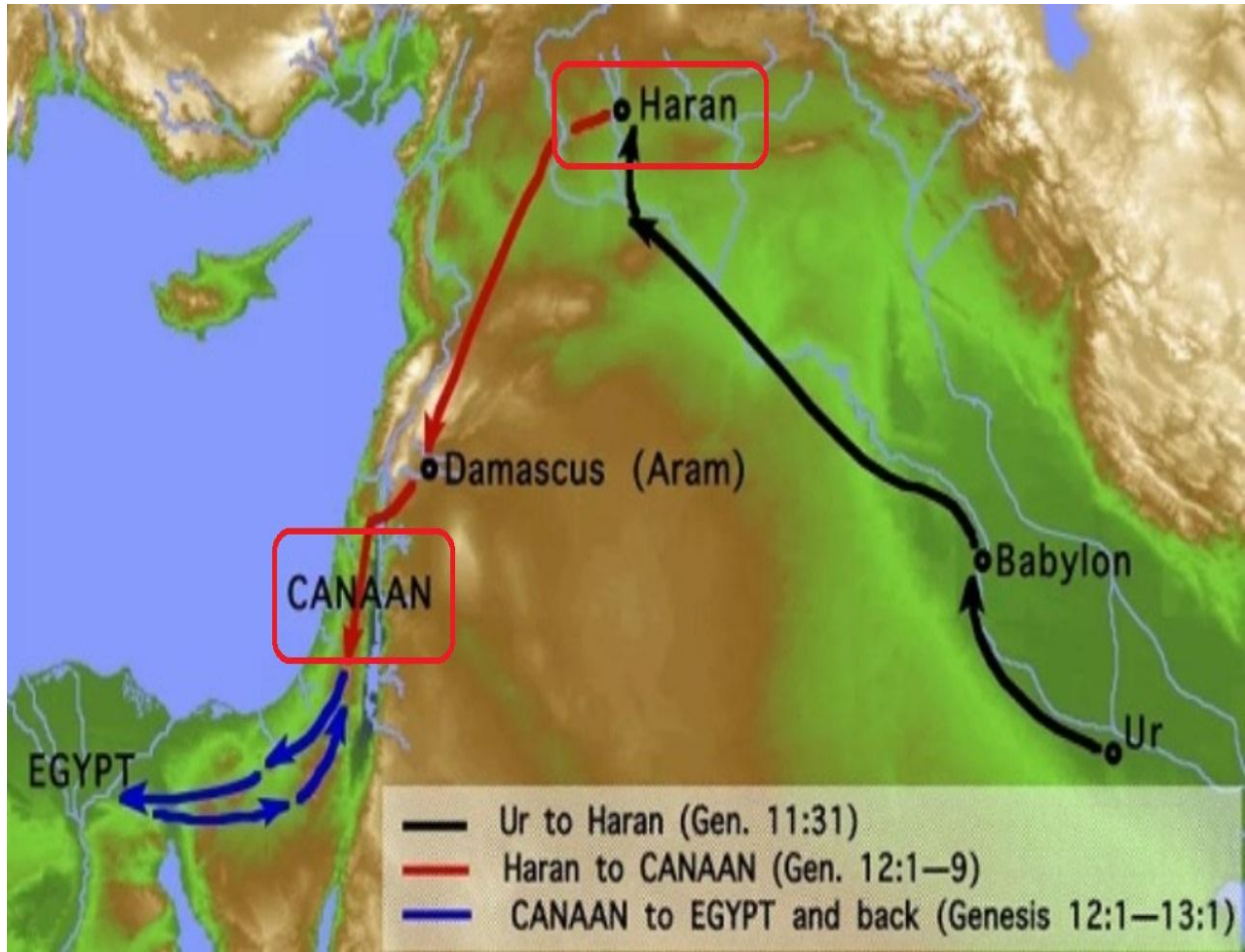
⁵ Abram took his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot, and all their possessions which they had accumulated, and the people which they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan; so they came to the land of Canaan.

The fact that they had accumulated possessions and acquired people in Haran prompts a couple of questions.

1. How long had they stayed in Haran?
2. How many slaves or workers did the three of them require?

The trip from Ur to Haran was about 600 miles and from Haran to Canaan was about 400 miles.

See Map 1205 below

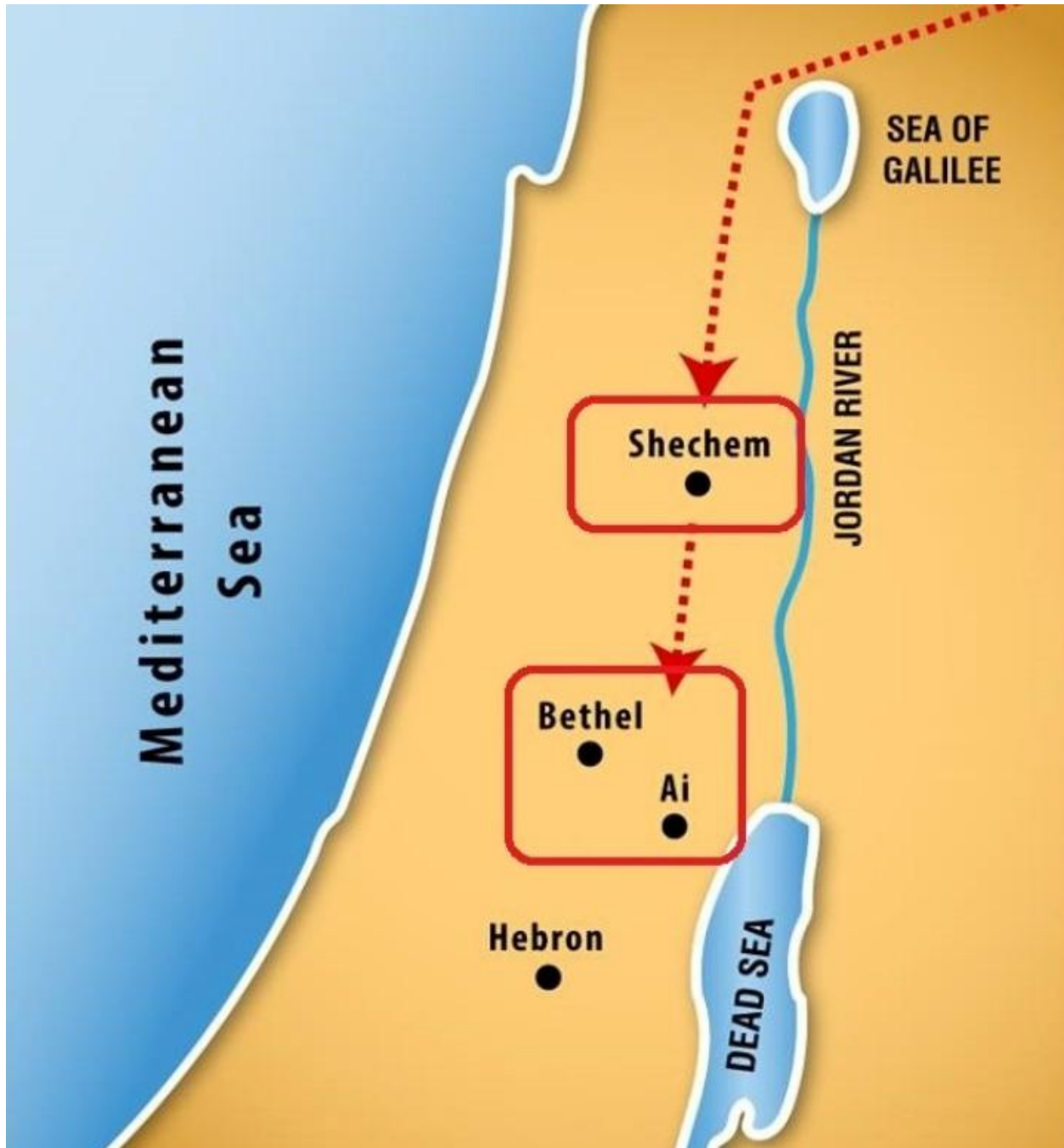


Verses 6-9

⁶ Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanites *were* in the land at that time. ⁷ And the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the Lord who had appeared to him. ⁸ Then he proceeded from there to the mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord. ⁹ Then Abram journeyed on, continuing toward the Negev.

⁶ Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanites *were* in the land at that time.

See Map 1210 below



⁷ And the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the Lord who had appeared to him.

Men of God had been sacrificing to the Lord for a long time. Noah did after the flood in 3097 BC, and so did Job in the land of Uz around 2500 BC.

This is the 2nd time that God appeared to Abraham.

⁸ Then he proceeded from there to the mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord

See Map 1210 above

⁹ Then Abram journeyed on, continuing toward the Negev.

The Negev was in the very southern part of Canaan below the Dead Sea.

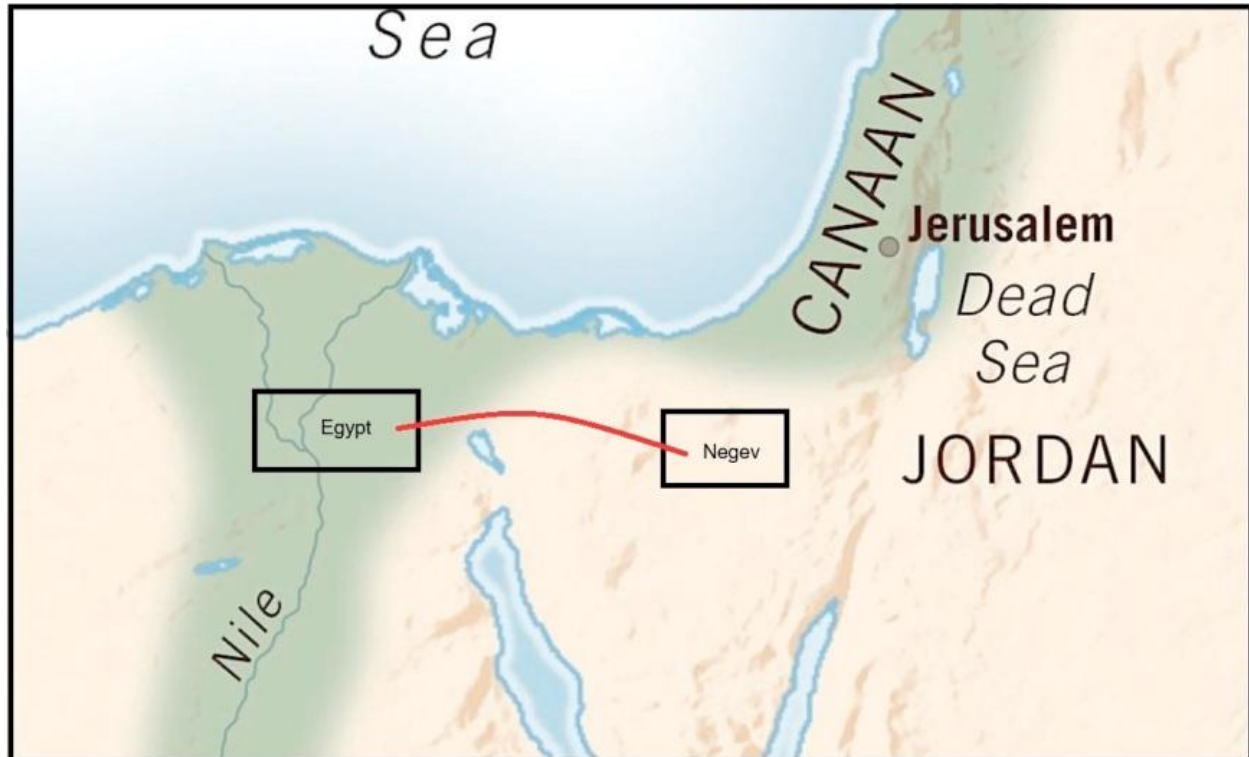
See map 1215



Verse 10

¹⁰ Now there was a famine in the land; so Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a time, because the famine was severe in the land.

See map 1220



Verses 11-13

¹¹ It came about, when he was approaching Egypt, that he said to his wife Sarai, “See now, I know that you are a beautiful woman; ¹² and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife’; and they will kill me, but they will let you live. ¹³ Please say that you are my sister so that it may go well for me because of you, and that I may live on account of you.”

¹¹ It came about, when he was approaching Egypt, that he said to his wife Sarai, “See now, I know that you are a beautiful woman;

Sara was 10 years younger than Abraham so she was 65 when they left Haran. However, her life span of 127 years would place this event almost at mid-life. This would be like a woman in her 40’s today, therefore, not as unusual as one might think.

¹³ Please say that you are my sister so that it may go well for me because of you, and that I may live on account of you.”

Sara was the daughter of Terah by a wife who was not Abram's mother so this was half true but this was said with the intention to deceive so it was a lie.

The Bible does not hide the faults of its greatest characters and even unbelievers should recognize the truth of scripture based on its candor.

Verses 14-16

¹⁴ Now it came about, when Abram entered Egypt, that the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. ¹⁵ Pharaoh’s officials saw her and praised her to Pharaoh; and the woman was taken into Pharaoh’s house. ¹⁶ Therefore he treated Abram well for her sake; and he gave him sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants and female servants, female donkeys, and camels.

¹⁵ Pharaoh’s officials saw her and praised her to Pharaoh; and the woman was taken into Pharaoh’s house.

This was a disaster waiting to happen because Sarah had become part of Pharaoh’s harem. This was not a good start for the father of our faith.

¹⁶ Therefore he treated Abram well for her sake; and he gave him sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants and female servants, female donkeys, and camels.

Abram told this lie out of fear and now he was being rewarded for that lie. Pharaoh gave Abraham a lot of wealth, enough to make him a rich man.

Critics have alleged that camels were not known in Egypt until a much later date but this text proves that Pharaoh had them in such abundance that he gave them away as a dowry to Abraham.

To makes things even worse, Abram will use this same tactic 24 years later.

See Genesis 20:2

² And Abraham said of his wife Sarah, “She is my sister.” So Abimelech king of Gerar sent *men* and took Sarah.

Verses 17-20

¹⁷ But the Lord struck Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife. ¹⁸ Then Pharaoh called Abram and said, "What is this *that* you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? ¹⁹ Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her for myself as a wife? Now then, here is your wife, take her and go!" ²⁰ And Pharaoh commanded *his* men concerning him; and they escorted him away, with his wife and all that belonged to him.

¹⁸ Then Pharaoh called Abram and said, "What is this *that* you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife?

Abram sinned in doing this to the king and it doesn't look good that he actually profited from it. No doubt the pagan world would look at this and come to the wrong conclusion. In addition, when a pagan king has to point out that the father of the Jewish faith has been deceitful in his dealing with him, it's not a good day for the righteous. Isn't it amazing how much grace God gives to those who follow him?

Abram deserved this rebuke and much more but Pharaoh probably feared that more harm could come his way if he punished Abram.

What the king said was almost the same language used by the sailors to Jonah.

See Jonah 1:10

¹⁰ Then the men became extremely afraid, and they said to him, "How could you do this?" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.

²⁰ And Pharaoh commanded *his* men concerning him; and they escorted him away, with his wife and all that belonged to him.

The king wanted to make sure Abram left Egypt but he also wanted to make sure that nothing bad happened to him while they were leaving. The king may have feared God's vengeance if any harm came to them.