

The Covenant with Abraham — Teaching Notes

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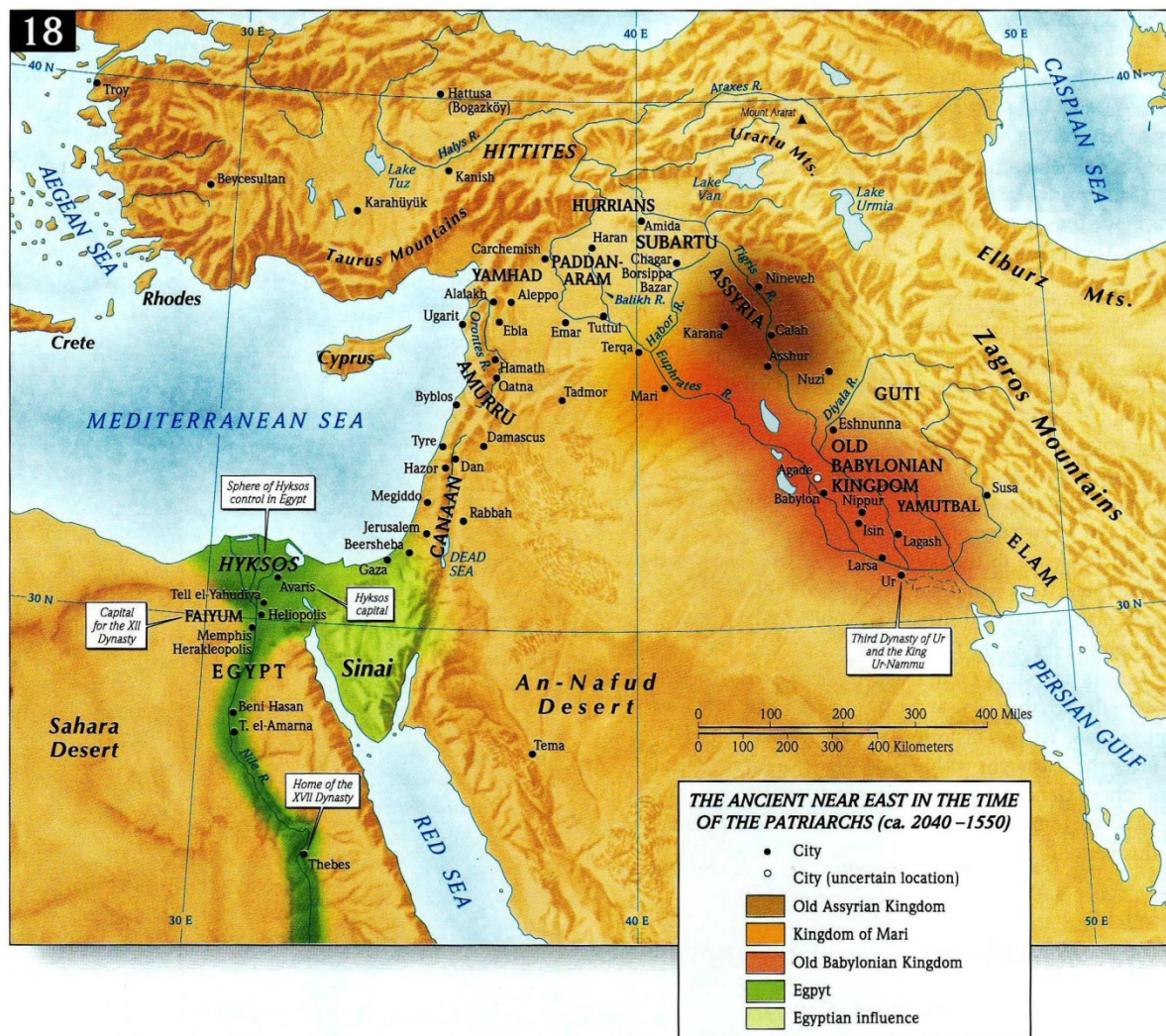
Pastor • Teacher • Worship Leader



House of David
MINISTRIES

Part 1—Father of Many Nations

The Ancient Near East



The Promise in the Covenant

✠ Gen 12:1 (NKJV) Now the LORD had said to Abram: Get out of your country, From your family
And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.

✠ Gen 12:2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you
shall be a blessing.

— Jer 31:9 For I am a Father to Israel, And Ephraim is My firstborn.

✠ Gen 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all
the families of the earth shall be blessed.

— Gal 3:6 just as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for
righteousness.

— Gal 3:7 Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.

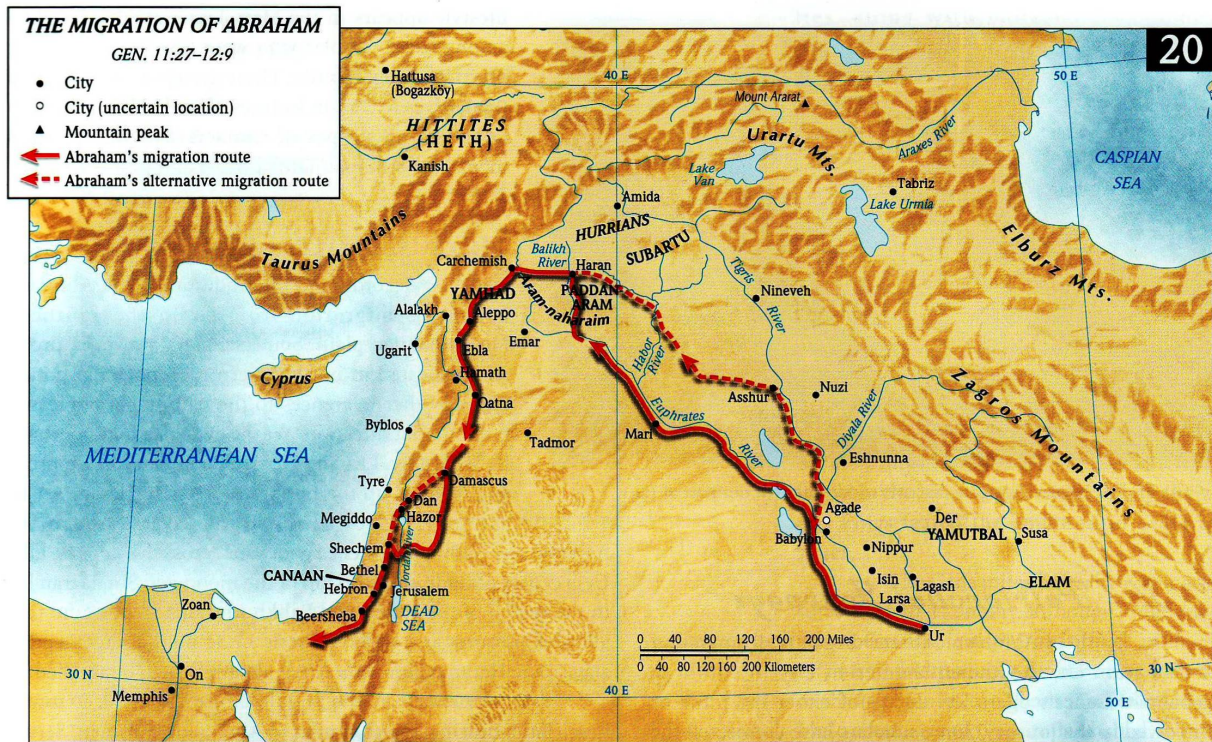
— Gal 3:8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith,
preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, In you all the nations shall
be blessed.

— Gal 3:9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.

The Homeland of Abram



The Migration of Abram



The Promise Confirmed

✠ Gen 12:7 Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, To your descendants I will give this land. And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

— At the beginning the Lord spoke to Abram. But now that he has obediently left his father's house and entered the land of Canaan, the Lord appears to Abram and confirms the covenant.

The Covenant Confirmed

✠ Gen 13:14 And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward;

✠ Gen 13:15 For all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.

✠ Gen 13:16 And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered.

✠ Gen 13:17 Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you.

The Covenant Reconfirmed

- ⌘ Gen 15:1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.
- ⌘ Gen 15:2 But Abram said, Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?
- ⌘ Gen 15:3 Then Abram said, Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!
- ⌘ Gen 15:4 And behold, the word of the LORD came to him (Abram), saying, This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.
- ⌘ Gen 15:5 Then He brought him outside and said, Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them. And He said to him, So shall your descendants be.
- ⌘ Gen 15:6 And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.
- ⌘ Gen 15:7 Then He said to him, I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it.

Abram Asks for a Sign

- ⌘ Gen 15:8 And he said, Lord GOD, how shall I know that I will inherit it?
- ⌘ Gen 15:9 So He said to him, Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.
- Why does Abram ask for a sign? Does He not believe God's covenant promise?
 - Shemuel's understanding of Avraham's sin sits well with the literal reading of the text. Avraham asks of God some guarantee for the fulfillment of His promise concerning the inheritance of the land. This demand would seem to express a deficiency in his supposedly perfect faith, justifying a harsh punishment. Indeed, in Shemuel's view, Avraham's punishment was measure for measure: because Avraham asked, How shall I know, he was informed of the future exile of his descendants with the words, Know with certainty.

The Sign of the Covenant

- ⌘ Gen 15:17 And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces.

✚ Gen 15:18 On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates.

His Word is His Covenant

- ❖ When Abram leaves his father's house he is seventy years old. There, Lord gave him a promise, a covenant, and five years later he reaches the land of Canaan. In the land, the Lord confirms the promise, the covenant with Abram.
- ❖ Many confuse the sign of the covenant as the covenant. We read that even the rabbis question the exact timing of the covenant: "This is most surprising: How could the Covenant have taken place when Avraham was seventy years old, when we are told explicitly, at the beginning of our weekly reading: Avraham was seventy-five years old when he left Charan?"
- ❖ Notice the progression of God's word. At first the Lord says "I will give" this land, then He says "I give" this land, and then after the sign of the covenant He says "I have given" this land.
- ❖ It is important to understand that God's promise through His word is His covenant.
- ❖ No physical act establishes a covenant for God, only His word. You will notice that Jesus made the covenant with His disciples on the night of the Passover, and then was led to the cross the next day to display for us the sign of the covenant; His shed blood and broken body on the cross.
 - 1Co 11:25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

❖ And since His covenant is established through His word, it is our word given in response to receive it.

- Num 30:2 If a man makes a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath to bind himself by some agreement, he shall not break his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.
- Rom 10:10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Abram Becomes Abraham

✚ Gen 17:1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.

- ⌘ Gen 17:2 And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.
- ⌘ Gen 17:3 Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying:
- ⌘ Gen 17:4 As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations.
- ⌘ Gen 17:5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.
- ⌘ Gen 17:6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.
- ⌘ Gen 17:7 And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.
- ⌘ Gen 17:8 Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

A Father of Many Nations

- Rom 4:13 For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.
- Rom 4:14 For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect,
- Rom 4:15 because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression.
- Rom 4:16 Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all
- Rom 4:17 (as it is written, I have made you a father of many nations).

Boundaries of The Nations

- ⌘ Gen 35:11 Also God said to him (Jacob): I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation (Israel) and a company of nations (gentiles) shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body.
- Deu 32:8 When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations, when He separated the sons of Adam, He set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the children of Israel.

- Deu 32:9 For the Lord's portion is His people; Jacob is the place of His inheritance.

Summary of the Covenant

- I will make you a great nation (Israel).
- I will bless you And make your name great.
- You shall be a blessing.
- I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you.
- In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed (through Christ).
- To your descendants I will give this land.
- I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth.
- You shall be a father of many nations.
- Kings shall come from you.

Another Sign of the Covenant

- ⌘ Gen 17:9 And God said to Abraham: As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations.
- ⌘ Gen 17:10 This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised;
- ⌘ Gen 17:11 and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you.
- ⌘ Gen 17:12 He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant.
- ⌘ Gen 17:13 He who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money must be circumcised, and My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.
- ⌘ Gen 17:14 And the uncircumcised male child, who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant.

Circumcision of the Heart

- Rom 2:25 For circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law; but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.

- Rom 2:29 But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

Part 2—King of Righteousness

Melchizedek King of Salem

✠ Gen 14:8-16 abbreviated The kings of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, Bela (Zoar) joined together in battle. They took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and they also took Lot, Abram's brother's son who dwelt in Sodom. Then one escaped and told Abram the Hebrew, what had happened to Lot. When Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants and went in pursuit. He attacked them and brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people.

✠ Gen 14:17 And the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley), after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him.

— Then, in the middle of this meeting, and suddenly:

✠ Gen 14:18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High.

✠ Gen 14:19 And he blessed him and said: Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;

✠ Gen 14:20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand. And he gave him a tithe of all.

✠ The meeting now continues with Abram and the king of Sodom:

✠ Gen 14:21 Now the king of Sodom said to Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods for yourself.

✠ Gen 14:22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth,

✠ Gen 14:23 that I will take nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, I have made Abram rich.

- There is an interesting paradox in this story. Is Abram meeting with both the king of Sodom and the king of Salem, or does Abram have a separate spiritual encounter with the king of Salem during his meeting with the king of Sodom?

- Psa 110:4 The LORD has sworn And will not relent, You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.

- Heb 6:20 Where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.
- We have commonly understood in the Church that Jesus' priestly ministry is built upon the "order" of Melchizedek. But would an eternal infinite God build His priesthood upon the ministry of a mortal finite man? The book of Hebrews tells us that God's priesthood would not be according to a mortal man.
- Heb 7:11 Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron?

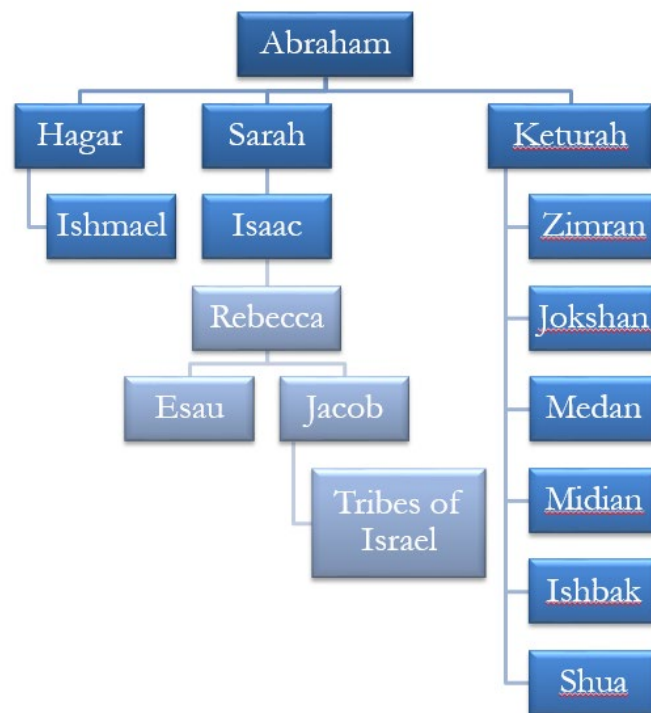
- Let us read and translate the Hebrew from Psalm 110:4:
- נִשְׁבַּע יְהוָה וְלֹא יִנָּחם אֱתֵה-כֶהֱן לְעוֹלָם עַל-דִּבְרֹתַי מֶלְכִי-צֶדֶק
- Swears YHVH and will not relent, you are a priest to the world upon My word, Malchi-Tzedek (King of Righteousness).
- From the direct Hebrew translation it becomes clear that the Father YHVH is speaking to His son, Christ Yeshua, who is called the King of Righteousness, that upon His written word He will establish His priesthood, for Christ is the Word of God made flesh.
- Joh 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.
- Heb 7:1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,
- Heb 7:2 to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated "king of righteousness," and then also king of Salem, meaning "king of peace,"
- Heb 7:3 without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.
- Heb 7:4 Now consider how great this man was, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils.

- Abram has experienced what theologians call a pre-incarnate, a pre-birth encounter with Christ Yeshua.
- Jesus appeared in a physical form, but was not yet born in the flesh.
- In conclusion, Melchizedek is Jesus.

Part 3—The Sacrifice

Promises Given to Sarah

- ✠ Gen 17:15 Then God said to Abraham, As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name.
- ✠ Gen 17:16 And I will bless her and also give you a son by her; then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her.
- ✠ Gen 17:21 But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year.
- Rom 9:7 Nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, In Isaac your seed shall be called.



God Reveals Himself

- ✠ Gen 18:1 Then the LORD appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day.
- ✠ Gen 18:2 So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground,

- ⌘ Gen 18:9 Then they said to him, Where is Sarah your wife?
So he said, Here, in the tent.
- ⌘ Gen 18:10 And He said, I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold,
Sarah your wife shall have a son.

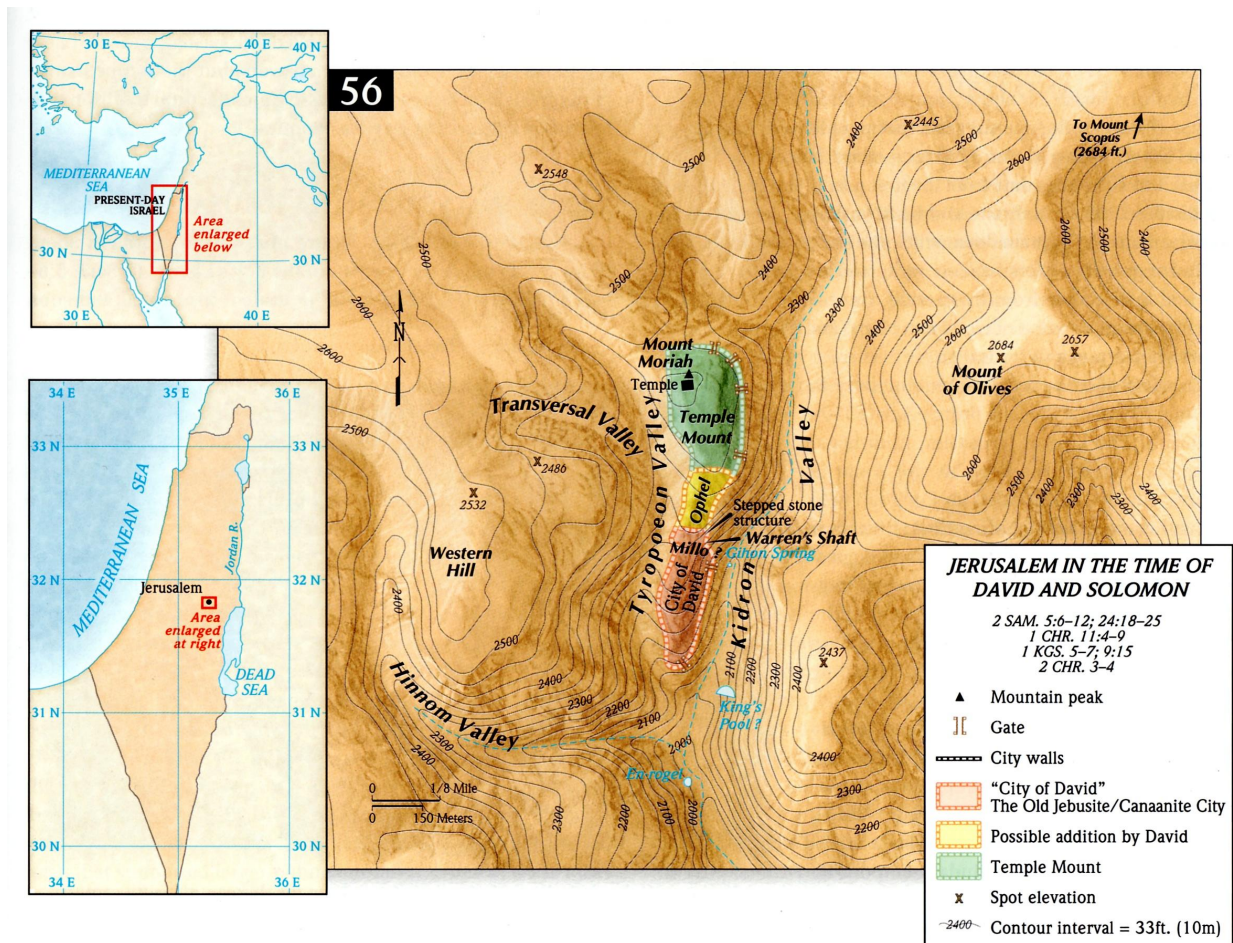
Isaac is Born

- ⌘ Gen 21:1 And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had
spoken.
- ⌘ Gen 21:2 For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of
which God had spoken to him.
- ⌘ Gen 21:3 And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him—whom Sarah bore
to him—Isaac.
- ⌘ Gen 21:4 Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had
commanded him.

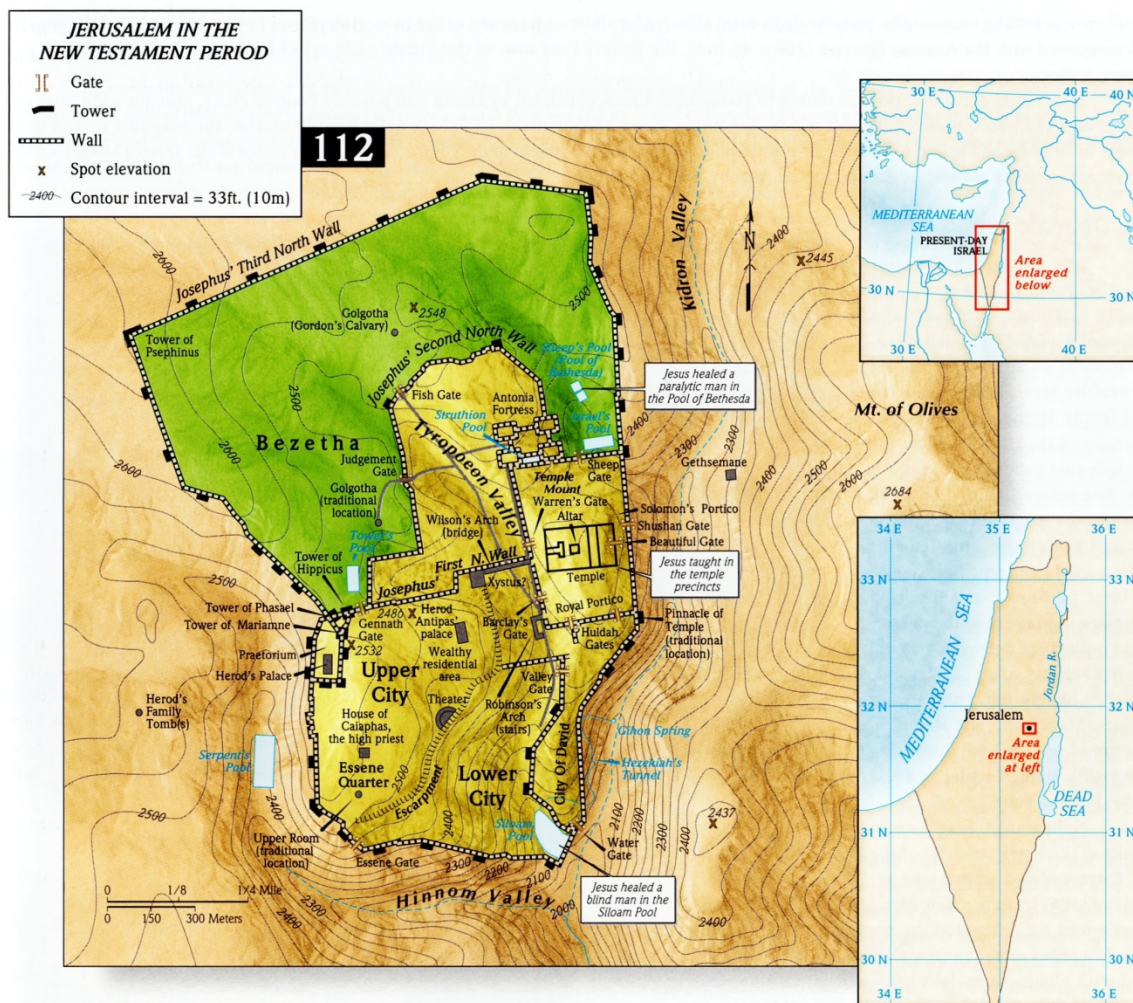
Mount Moriah

- ⌘ Gen 22:1 Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him,
Abraham! And he said, Here I am.
- ⌘ Gen 22:2 Then He said, Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to
the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of
which I shall tell you.
- 2Ch 3:1 Now Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem on
Mount Moriah, where the LORD had appeared to his father David, at the place
that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

Mount Moriah



Mount Moriah



- Mount Moriah, also known as Mount Zion, is a ridge system located between two other mountains. To the east is the Mount of Olives, and is separated by the Kidron Valley which runs north-south. On the Mount of Olives is where Jesus ascended into heaven, and is the place where He will return.
- The southerly part of the ridge system, at about 741 meters above sea level is a saddleback that was the threshing floor of Arunah. It was later purchased by King David, and ultimately became the site of the Temple Mount.
- South of the Temple Mount, about 600 meters above sea level is a place that was called Salem, or City of Peace, also called Ophel and the City of David.
- But the peak of the ridge system is further north, at 777 meters above sea level, is the place called Golgotha. Here Abraham offered his son, Isaac, and on the very

location two-thousand years later, our heavenly Father would give His Son, Yeshua, as an offering for the sin of the world.

God Will Provide The Lamb

- ⌘ Gen 22:6 So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together.
- ⌘ Gen 22:7 But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, My father! And he said, Here I am, my son. Then he said, Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?
- ⌘ Gen 22:8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering. So the two of them went together.
- ⌘ Gen 22:9 Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood.
- ⌘ Gen 22:10 And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.
- ⌘ Gen 22:11 But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, Abraham, Abraham! So he said, Here I am.
- ⌘ Gen 22:12 And He said, Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.
- ⌘ Gen 22:13 Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son.
- ⌘ Gen 22:14 And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided.
 - Joh 1:36 And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, Behold the Lamb of God!
 - Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Abraham is Blessed

- ⌘ Gen 22:15 Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven,
- ⌘ Gen 22:16 and said: By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—

⌘ Gen 22:17 blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.

⌘ Gen 22:18 In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.

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