

Unit One: The Patriarchs

CONCLUSION OF ABRAHAM

Genesis 12 - 26

Review

- History is not the primary purpose of the Old Testament. What is?
- What does “patriarch” mean?
- Approximately when did Abraham live?
- What are the three parts of the Abrahamic Covenant?
- Why did Abram et al. “settle” in Haran?

The Land, Canaan (12.4-6)

3

- Arrived at Shechem at age 75 (2091 BC)
- Canaan had at this time a “dimorphic” culture
 - with both agrarian (farmers in cities) and pastoral (nomadic) peoples, in symbiotic relationship
- This supports the biblical story of Abram moving freely through Palestine (as a pastoral nomad)
- No great political powers; mostly local “kings” (city-based; i.e., ‘city-states’)

Canaan

4

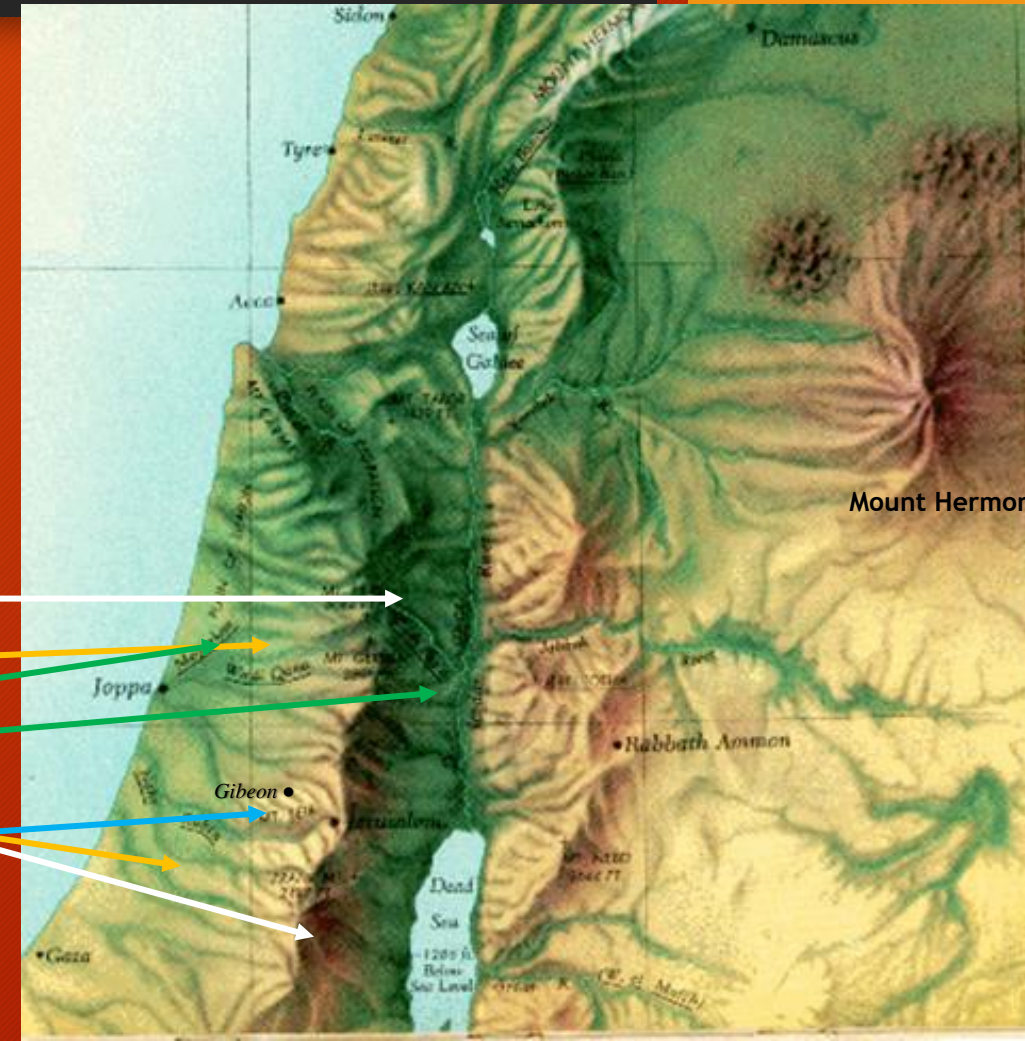
Four main groupings of the inhabitants of Canaan (the “-ites”)

1. Amorites

2. Hittites

3. Canaanites

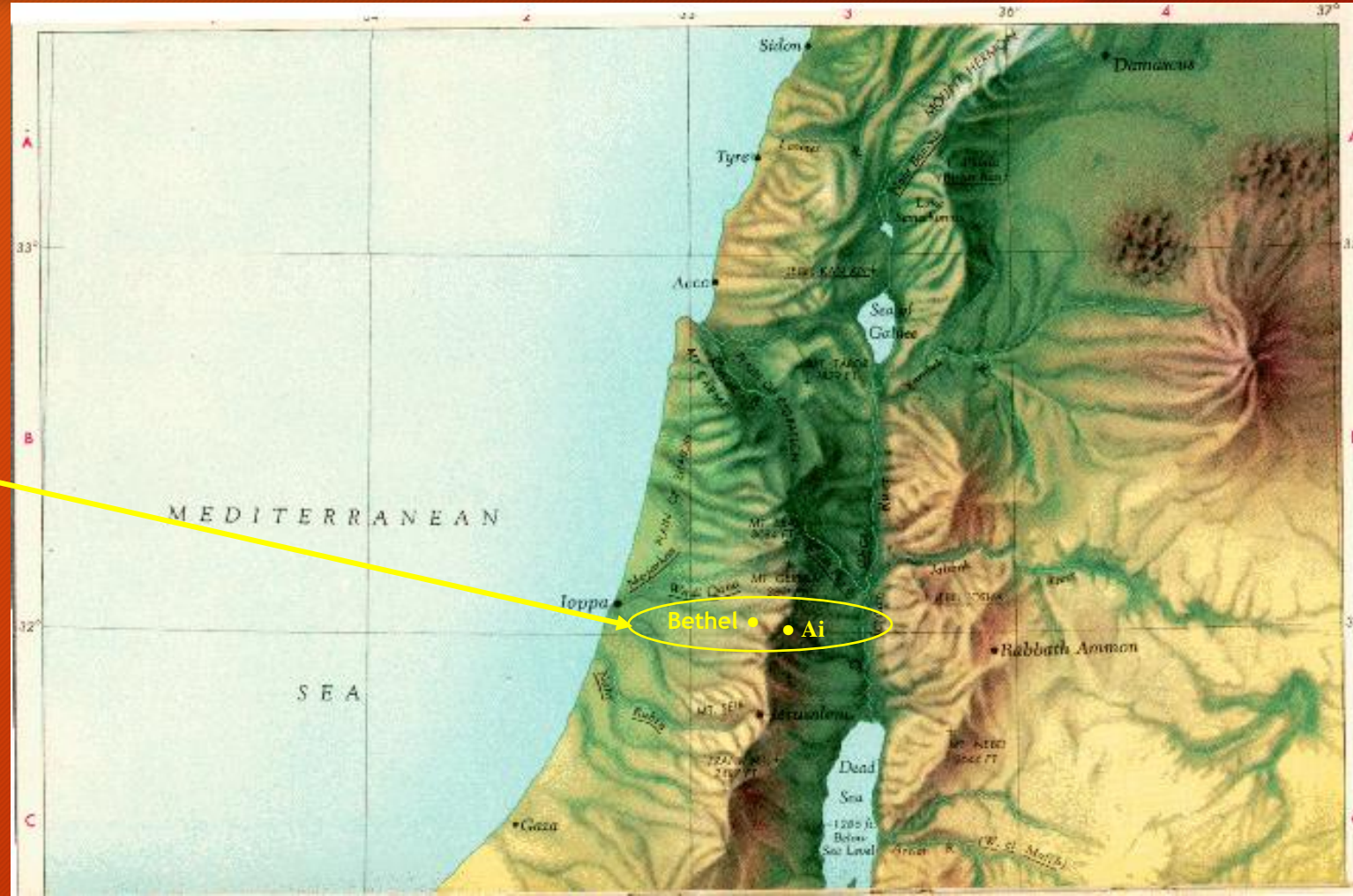
4. Hivites



The narrative after arrival in Palestine (Gen 12.10 – 14.24)

5

- Travel to Egypt and return (12.10 - 13.4)
- Separation from Lot (13.5-11)



The narrative after arrival in Palestine (Gen 12.10 – 14.24)

6

- Reaffirmation of the Covenant (13.14-18)
- A coalition of kings led by Chedorlaomer king of Elam (14.1-24) captured Lot et al.
- Lot rescued by Abram in Damascus
- Melchizedek

Reaffirmation of the Covenant (Gen 15)

7

- Abraham lacking an heir
 - Eliezer would be the heir (lit., ‘son of acquisition’)
- God told Abraham one of his own **offspring** would be his heir
- His **descendants** would be as the stars
- *Abraham believed the LORD and God reckoned it to him as righteousness*
- God promised him the **land**
- Abraham asked for guarantee

Reaffirmation of the Covenant

8

- The guarantee: Yahweh made an oath, a covenant with Abraham
 - Unilateral covenant (God alone walked between the sacrifices)
 - Did not depend on Abraham
 - Abraham was a mere observer - receiver of covenant

Reaffirmation of the Covenant

9

- 400 years in “a land not theirs” predicted
 - deliverance promised
 - timed when the iniquity of the *Amorite* is completed
 - “people of the mountains” → people in land of Canaan

Intervening Events (Gen 16-20)

10

- Birth of Ishmael (16) (→ Father of “Arabs”)
 - The first promise of a seed was at age 75 when Abraham arrived at Shechem, his first stop in Canaan
 - 11 years later (Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to him; 16.16):
Sarai/Hagar
 - Consistent with ‘fundamental legal and cultural circumstances of the day in ANE

Intervening Events (Gen 16-20)

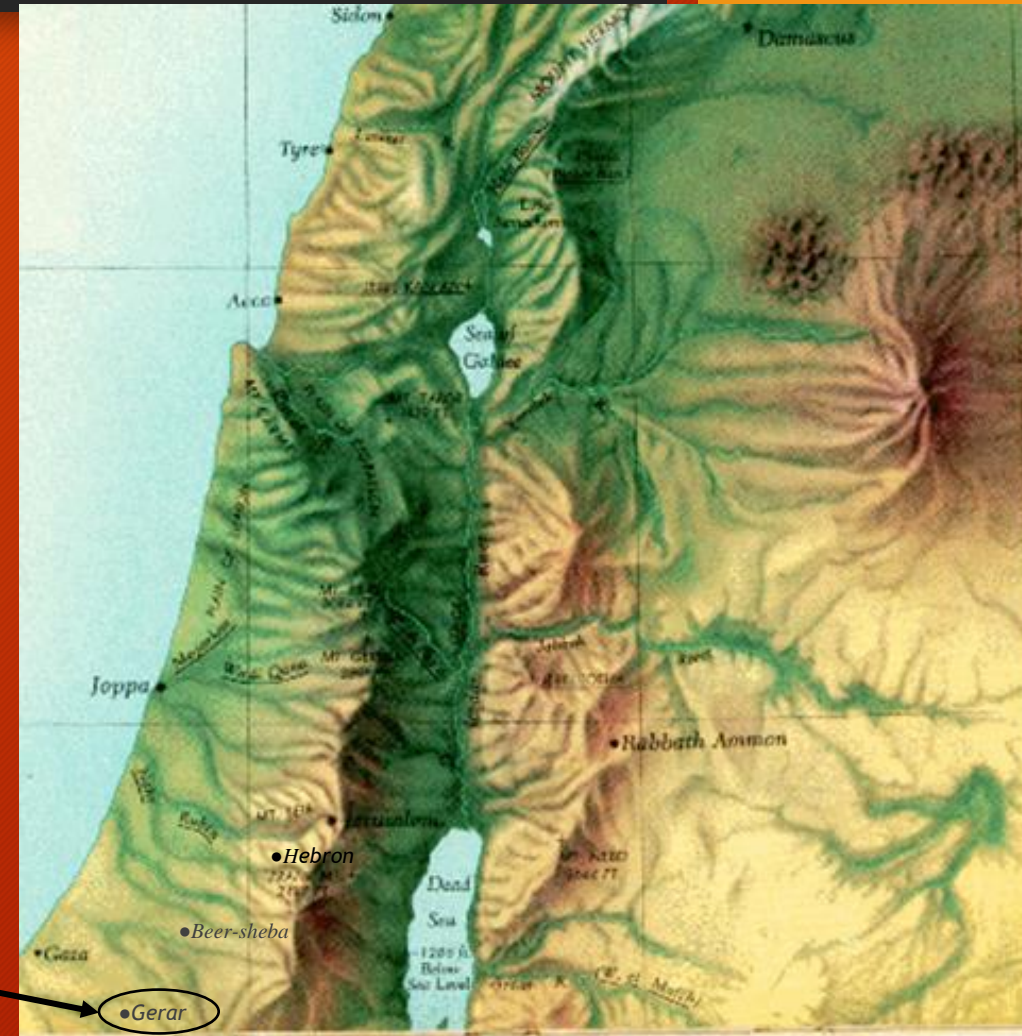
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- Reaffirmation of the Covenant 13 years later (17.1-12a)
 - Name changes
 - Kings will come from you
 - Sign of Circumcision
- Promise of Isaac's Birth (17.19)

Intervening Events (Gen 16-20)

12

- Lot and the Destruction of Sodom (18, 19)
- Abraham's Deception (of Abimelech, the 'Philistine,' at Gerar) (20)



Isaac (Gen 21-26)

13

Birth (21)

- Hagar and Ishmael driven away

Offering of Isaac (22)

- Picture of God giving his Son (Isaac as Christ-type) (1-10)
- Picture of vicarious atonement (Isaac as sinner-type; ram as Christ-type) (11-14)
- Death of Sarah (23)

Isaac

14

- Isaac marries Rebekah (24)
 - Daughter of Bethuel, the son of Nahor, Abraham's brother
 - He is brother of Laban
- Death of Abraham (25)
 - Marries Keturah → Midian et al.
 - Isaac, *The Heir*: “Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac” (25.5)

Questions/comments about Abraham?