

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,

We are not told how God communicated with Abram here

But in **Acts 7:2** it says that, The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham

That sounds like a visible manifestation

“Go from your country, and from your relatives, and from your father’s house

God told Abram to leave his home and relatives

So why did Abram take his father and Lot along?

Knowing what God wants and doing it are two different things

But Abram’s faith was strong enough that he did leave home

None of us completely do what God wants us to do

Because faith is something that grows slowly over time

In 11:31 it says Terah took his family to set out for Canaan

² And I will make you into a great nation,

The promise was made at a time when Abraham had no children

And this would continue for another 25 years

And yet a mighty nation descended from Abraham

And I will bless you,

What kind of blessings did Abraham Receive?

1. Physical blessings

Children, riches, protection and land

2. Spiritual blessings

He had a personal relationship with God

He met and talked with God a number of times

God revealed things to him about the future

And you shall be a blessing;

Abraham taught his family how to live a godly life

See Genesis 18:19

Abraham would become the father of Israel

And thru the Jews would come the Messiah

**³ And I will bless those who bless you,
And the one who curses you I will curse.**

Abram had many trials thru his life but God always blessed him

This has been true for believes throughout history

See Luke 18:6-8

And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

This promise could only be fulfilled in one way

In the coming of Jesus to save all people from their sin

Verse 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.

And Lot went with him

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

And Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran

Abram's father died in Haran at the age of 205 in 1921 BC

Abraham is 75 years old when he leaves Haran in that same year

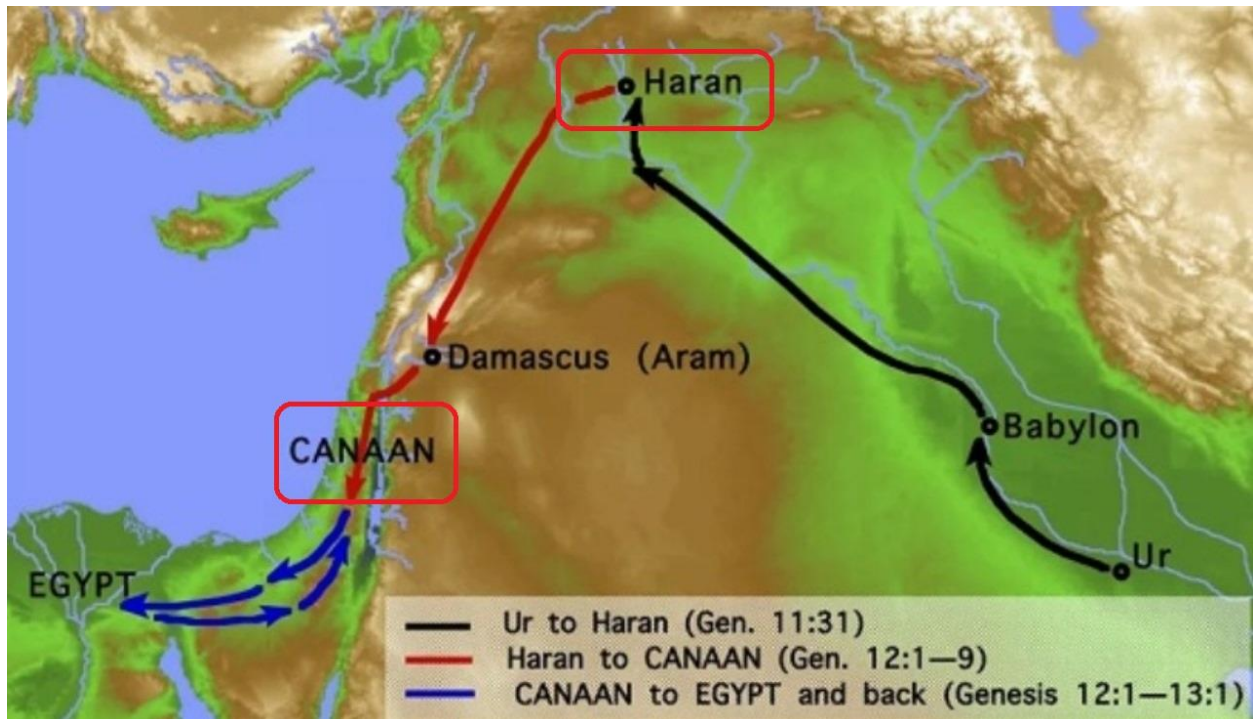
And into the land of Canaan they came

The trip from Haran to Canaan was about 400 miles

So the whole trip covered about 1000 miles

Because they had already traveled 600 miles from Ur to Haran

See Map 1205 below



Verses 6-9

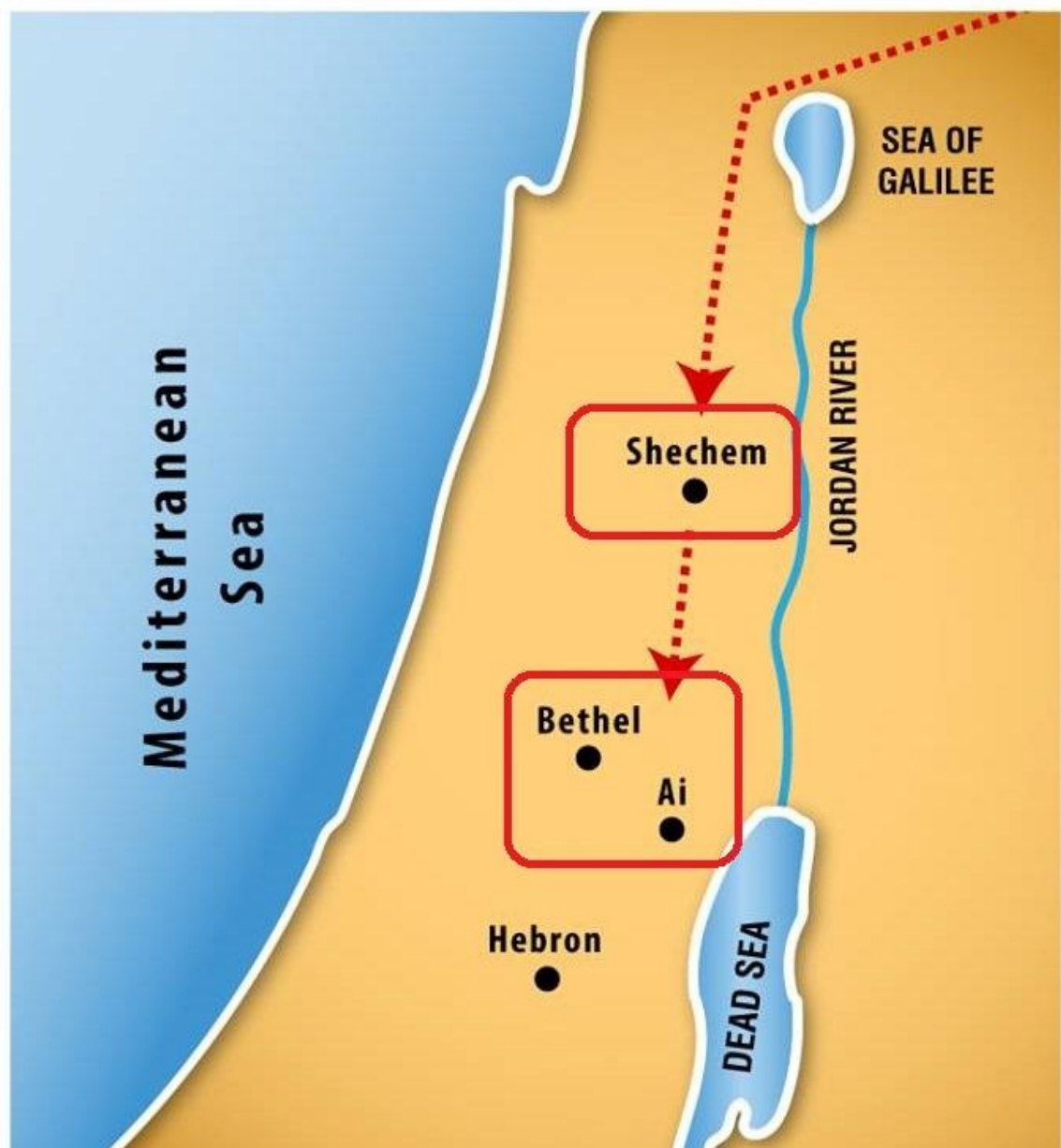
⁶ Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanites were in the land at that time. ⁷ And the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the Lord who had appeared to him. ⁸ Then he proceeded 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

See Map 1210 below

Now the Canaanites were in the land at that time

The population was composed in a large part by the descendants of Cain



⁷ And the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.”

This is the 2nd time that God appeared to Abraham

Here God promised that he would give the land to Abraham’s descendants

In the next chapter God says to Abraham and his descendants

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 after the flood in 3098 BC, Job in the land of Uz in 2500 BC, and now Abram

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

See Map 1210 above

And there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord

It seems Abraham had a regular habit of worshipping God

This is the second time since he came to Canaan

The first time in Shechem and then by Bethel

Then Abram journeyed on, continuing toward the Negev.

The Negev was in the very southern part of Canaan

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.

Did God command Abraham to go down into Egypt?

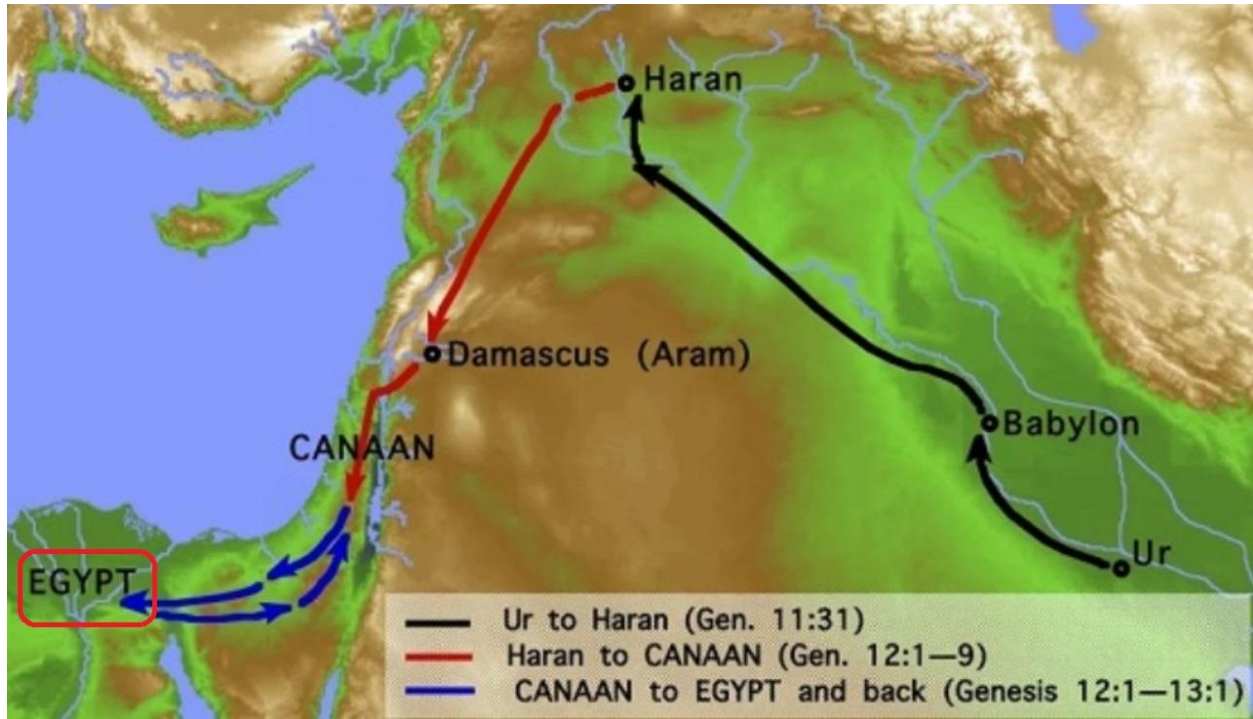
The text does not say, so we cannot say one way or the other for sure

But he may have decided to do this on his own because of the famine

So he left the area of the Negev and went west to Egypt

See map 1215 below

Map 1215



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.”

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

So this is not as unusual as some people imagine in their minds

Please say that you are my sister

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 this half-truth was a whole lie

The Bible tells it all, the good, the bad and the ugly

We esteem our Bible all the more because of its candor

It does not hide the faults of its greatest characters

Verse 14-15

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.

This was a disaster!

Sarah became part of Pharaoh's harem

This is not a good start for the father of our faith

Verse 16

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.

Pharaoh gave Abraham a lot of wealth

That may be why Abraham did this again later on

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 counted them among the gifts to Abraham.

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!"

"What is this *that* you have done to me?"

This is almost the same language used by the sailors to Jonah

See Jonah 1:10

Abraham is rebuked and reprimanded by a pagan king

Abraham gave no defense - nor could he

Verse 20

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

This was a military escort for the safe passage of Abraham and his clan

The king may have feared God's vengeance if any harm came to Abraham