

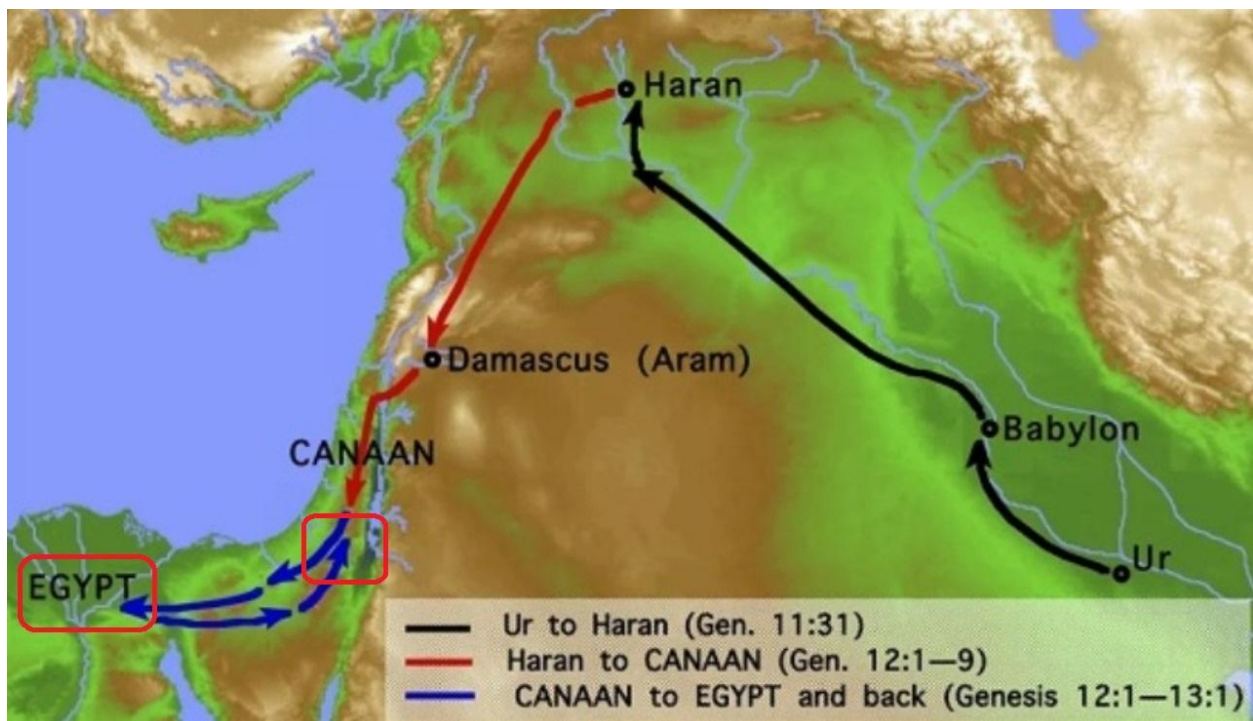
Genesis 13

Verse 1

So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, he and his wife and all that belonged to him, and Lot with him.

Abram had overstayed his welcome in Egypt and was escorted out of town so he headed back to Canaan.

See Map 1305



Verses 2- 4

² Now Abram was very rich in livestock, silver, and gold. ³ And he went on his journeys from the Negev as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, ⁴ to the place of the altar which he had made there previously; and there Abram called on the name of the Lord.

God used Abraham's favored status in Egypt to bring him great wealth which was one of the promises He had made to Abram. However, this does not exonerate Abram from his lying and deception.

What this tells us is that God can use even the worst situations in our lives and turn them into good.

See Romans 8:28

²⁸ And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

However, we should not keep on sinning in order to receive more grace but repent of our sin knowing that we should no longer live in sin.

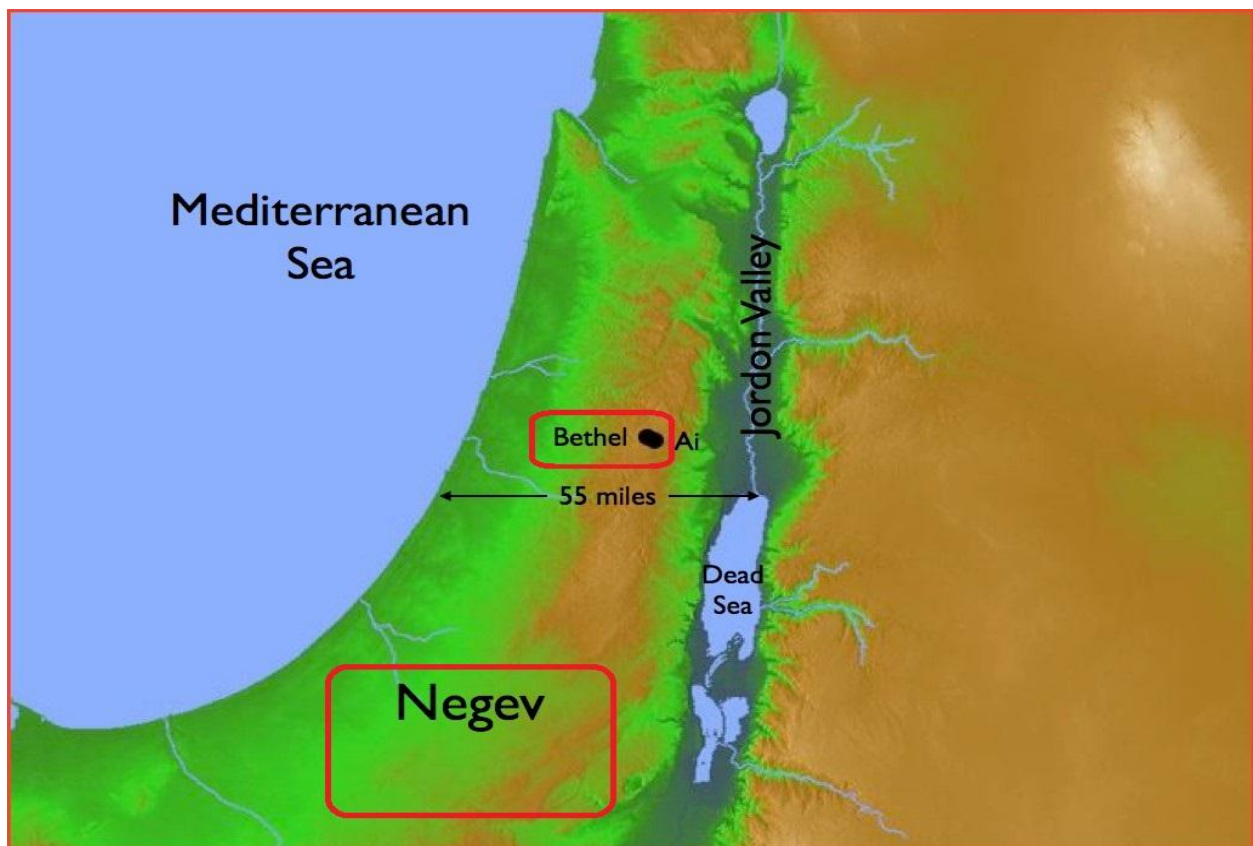
See Romans 6:1- 2

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?

² Far from it! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?

³ And he went on his journeys from the Negev as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai,

See map 1310



⁴ to the place of the altar which he had made there previously; and there Abram called on the name of the Lord.

Calling on the name of the Lord started long before Abram did it.

See Genesis 4:26

²⁶ **To Seth also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then people began to call upon the name of the Lord.**

People began doing this during the time of Enoch (4905 to 4000 BC), so this began two to three thousand years before Abram came along.

Verses 5-9

⁵ Now Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks, herds, and tents. ⁶ And the land could not support *both of them* while living together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to remain together. ⁷ And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. Now the Canaanites and the Perizzites were living in the land at that time. ⁸ So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, nor between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are relatives! ⁹ Is the entire land not before you? Please separate from me; if *you choose* the left, then I will go to the right; or if *you choose* the right, then I will go to the left."

⁵ Now Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks, herds, and tents.

Lot had been in Egypt with Abraham and apparently he also benefited from Abram's favored status. Because the two of them had such large flocks and herds it was too much for the land and it caused problems between the workers of Abram and Lot.

⁸ So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, nor between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are relatives! ⁹ Is the entire land not before you? Please separate from me; if *you choose* the left, then I will go to the right; or if *you choose* the right, then I will go to the left."

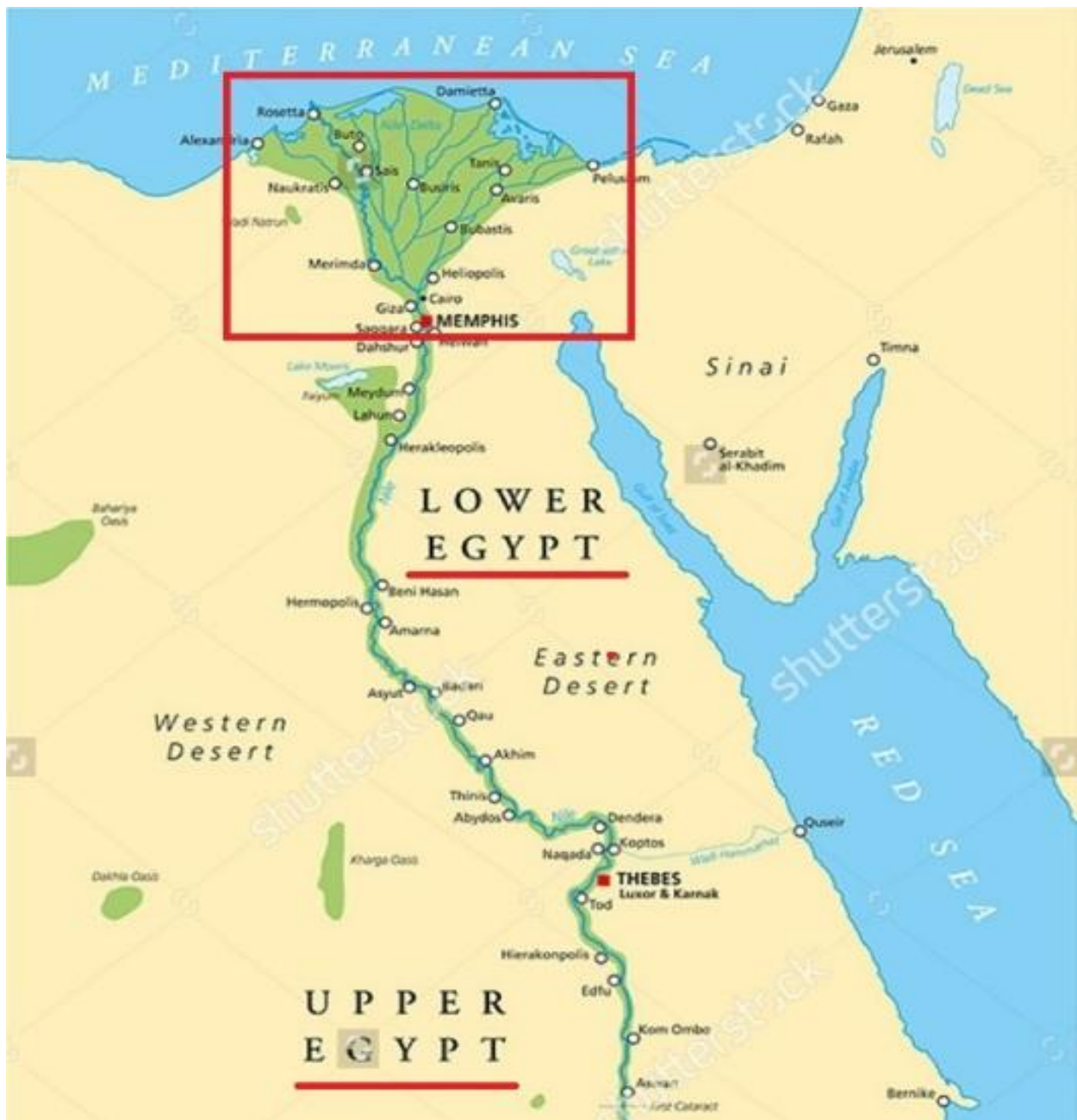
As leader of the expedition into Canaan Abram had the first choice of the land but he graciously yielded that choice to his nephew Lot.

Verse 10

¹⁰ Lot raised his eyes and saw all the vicinity of the Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere—this was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah—like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt going toward Zoar.

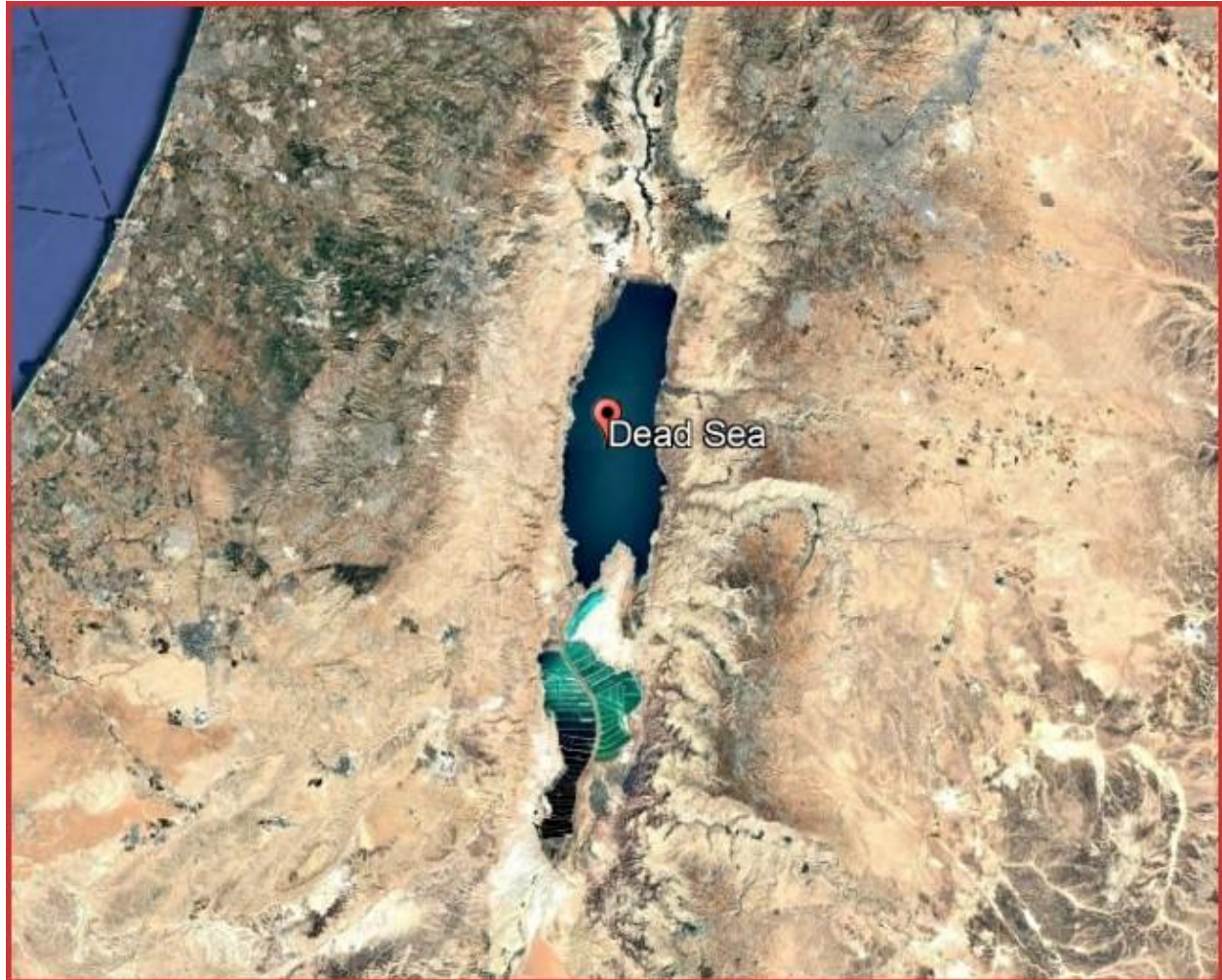
The area around the Jordan River was well watered and was compared to the Garden of Eden and the lower part of Egypt.

See Pic 1315



However, Moses reminds the reader that this was before God destroyed Sodom & Gomorrah.

See pic 1320



The area around Sodom and Gomorrah (the Dead Sea area) remains lifeless. However, in the past it was well watered like the Garden of Eden.

Verses 11-13

¹¹ So Lot chose for himself all the vicinity of the Jordan, and Lot journeyed eastward. So they separated from each other. ¹² Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled in the cities of the vicinity of the *Jordan*, and moved his tents as far as Sodom. ¹³ Now the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked sinners against the Lord.

¹² Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled in the cities of the vicinity of the *Jordan*, and moved his tents as far as Sodom.

It is interesting that the location of Sodom & Gomorrah is still in question. It has been suggested that these towns may lie under the Dead Sea but that viewpoint is in the minority. However, given the fiery destruction of these towns, the only evidence they are likely to find is a thin layer of dark dirt and soot under multiple layers of earth.

In any case, Lot chose a place that looked like heaven (the Garden of Eden) but it turned out to be a haven (one letter short of heaven) of evil men.

Verses 14-18

¹⁴ The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Now raise your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward, and eastward and westward; ¹⁵ for all the land which you see I will give to you and to your descendants forever. ¹⁶ I will make your descendants as *plentiful as the dust of the earth*, so that if anyone can count the dust of the earth, then your descendants could also be counted. ¹⁷ Arise, walk about in the land through its length and width; for I will give it to you.” ¹⁸ Then Abram moved his tent and came and lived by the oaks of Mamre, which are in Hebron; and there he built an altar to the Lord.

For all the land which you see, to you will I give it, and to your seed forever.

Here is the promise to Abraham and his posterity that they would be given the land of Canaan **forever**. However, the Jews were exiled from the land of Canaan by Assyria, Babylon and Rome. So was this promise broken?

It seems that God modified that agreement when Israel was given the Law. This change was spelled out in great detail in Deuteronomy 28. It would be good to read the entire chapter but the following verses help to sum it up.

See Deuteronomy 28:63 - 64

⁶³ And it will come about that, just as the Lord rejoiced over you to be good to you, and make you numerous, so will the Lord rejoice over you to wipe you out and destroy you; and you will be torn away from the land which you are entering to possess. ⁶⁴ Furthermore, the Lord will scatter you among all the peoples, from one end of the earth to the other; and there you will serve other gods, *made of wood and stone*, which you and your fathers have not known.

¹⁶ **I will make your descendants as plentiful as the dust of the earth, so that if anyone can count the dust of the earth, then your descendants could also be counted.**

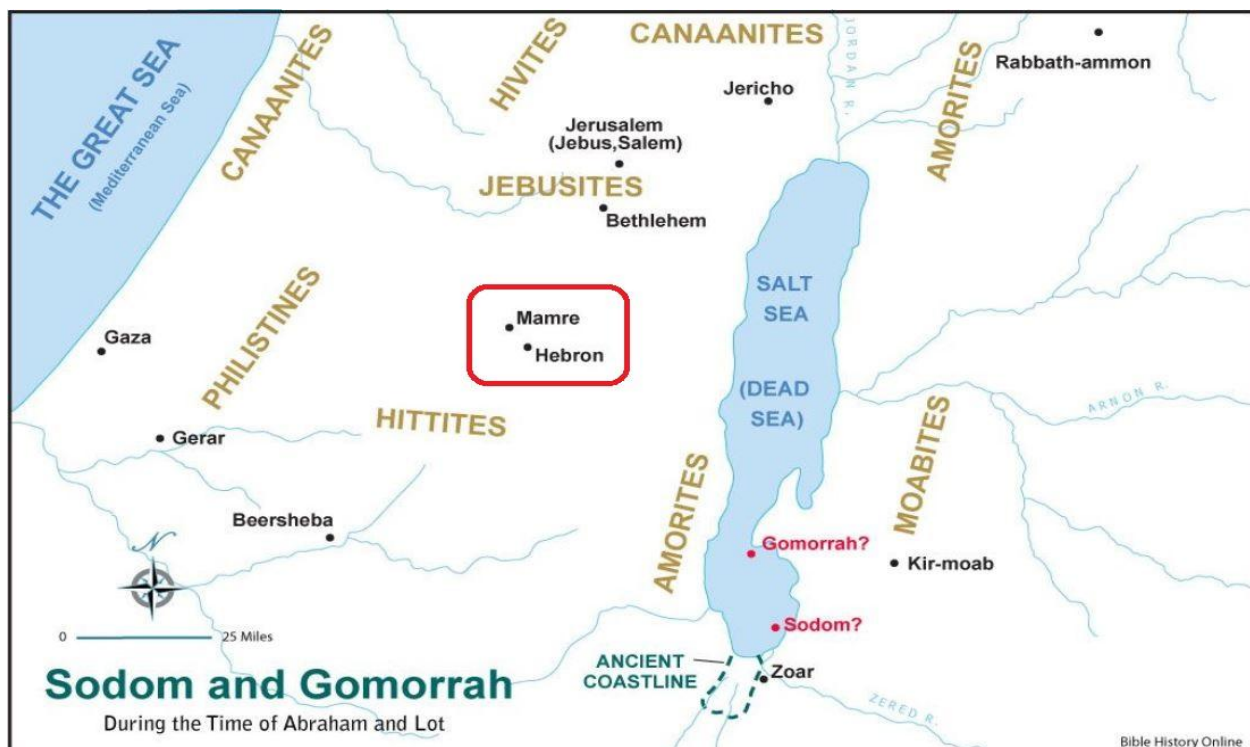
The Jewish population today is estimated to be around 14-15 million people. This group is direct descendants of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob. However, many Arab populations trace their lineage back to Abraham through Ishmael. The Arab world is home to over 400 million people today. Now consider the fact that many of these nations have been around for 4,000 years.

¹⁷ **Arise, walk about in the land through its length and width; for I will give it to you.”**

This had to be quite a journey. The length and width of Canaan was around 120 miles by 55 miles and many areas have severe changes in elevation. They range from 4,000 feet above sea level in the mountains to 1200 feet below sea level at the Dead Sea.

Then Abram moved his tent and came and lived by the oaks of Mamre, which are in Hebron; and there he built an altar to the Lord.

See Map 1325



The oaks of Mamre were about two miles north of Hebron but this area was still part of the city limits. This is now the 3rd time that Abram has built an altar to the Lord.