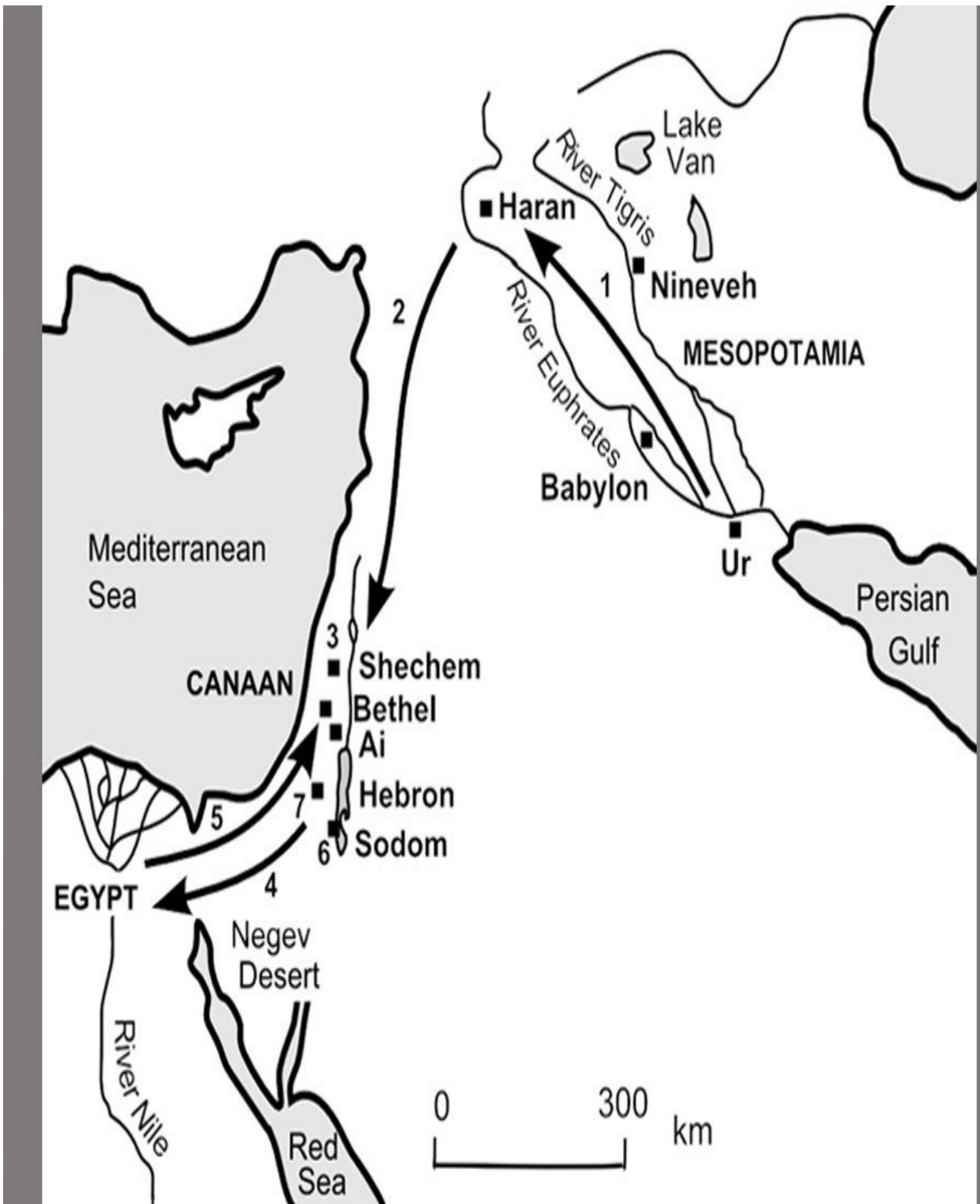


ABRAM'S RUSE!
GENESIS CH12:10 – Ch13:4



ABRAM' RUSE! V10-16

Abram, as we have been learning is growing in faith:

- He left Ur of the Chaldeans
- He has proclaimed Christ in Haran
- He has done as God had commanded
- He has scouted out the Land
- He has built altars
- He has called upon the name of the Lord

However, so often after demonstrations of real faith, comes real spiritual famine! In this case for Abram, it is both literal and spiritual! We will shortly see that ***the man of faith, becomes the man of fear!***

When famine occurred in this region, people frequently flocked to Egypt as it had a more dependable "life source" in the River Nile. Where harvests failed elsewhere because of famine, Egypt's harvest could succeed because of the River Nile! ***There are also examples in the Bible, where God commands or allows His people to go to Egypt:***

- ***Jacob "Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there" (Gen Ch46:3)***
- ***Joseph, Jesus' adoptive dad "Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt" (Matt Ch2:13)***
- ***However, Isaiah as he reflects on Egypt, he understands that it mirrors the world, or worldliness "Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, who rely on horses, who trust in the multitude of their chariots and in the great strength of their horsemen, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel, or seek help from the Lord" (Ch31:1).***
- ***To rely on Egypt meant to trust in human resources and not in God!***
- ***On this occasion we are told by Moses that the famine was severe v10, but we are not told that Abram is calling on the name of the Lord (Ch12:8) until Ch13:4!***
- ***And here is the problem Abram did "the natural thing" and took matters into his own hands, and followed the pattern of the world and did not call on the name of the Lord!***

What happens?

- V10 - Initially, through the word "sojourn" (***temporary stay***) Abram's intention is to travel to Egypt, only until the famine ends, but he does have a devious plan (Gen Ch20:13)!
- V11-v13 - Abram's ruse! But when did he think this up? Gen

- Ch20:13 - reveals it was back in Ur of the Chaldeans!
- Why is Abram (v13) so scared for his life? Because of Sarai's beauty, his feeble faith and the fact that he is married to her!
 - Is this an economical truth or a lie to save his own skin? Gen Ch20:12!
 - Why isn't Abram trusting God's promise to him? Gen Ch12:2-3! Fear!
 - Sarai at 65, how beautiful must she have been? But what about Sarai's safety! Who would protect her with this ruse?
 - V14 -v15 - The Princes of Egypt and the Pharaoh see how beautiful Sarai is, and she is taken into Pharaoh's House!
 - V16 - Is this where Hagar comes from? Gen Ch16:1-16, Gen Ch21:8-21 + Galatians Ch4:22-23
 - V16 - Abram is initially rewarded for his deceitfulness
 - V16 - Female Donkeys – BMW
 - v16 - Camels – Ferrari Testarosa
 - ***Whilst Abram is surrounded by an abundance of luxury things and prospering, his wife, is having sleepless nights in Pharaoh's harem!***

ABRAM'S RUSE REVEALED! V17-20

- V17 - As things are going “pair shaped” (a naval phrase relating to someone who didn't shoulder their responsibilities, as a person with no shoulders would have a pear-shaped body. Presumably any plans relying on such responsibility would go wrong).
- V17 - God steps in!
- V17 - God remains faithful to His promises to us, even when we don't keep to his promises (Gen Ch12:1-3)!
- V17 - God inflicts Pharaoh and his household with great plagues!
- Kent Hughes suggests that these “great plagues” would be skin based (Ex Ch9:9)!
- V18-V19 - I can only assume that Sarai has “broken” her silence over the ruse? Pharaoh questions Abram!
- ***V19 In the Hebrew would be 4 words – Here, take, wife, go!***
- V20 - Pharaoh's men are commanded to get Abram to leave sharpish!

ABRAM'S RUSE REVERSED! Ch13:1-4

- When we get things wrong with God, it is important to re-trace our steps, this is what happens to Abram here.
- V1 - They head back to the Negeb (Ch12:9)

- V2 - Abram is now very rich, but has stumbled in his faith!
- V3 - Abram heads back to Bethel, where he had pitched his tent before (Ch12:8), “pitched”, almost implying settled, and where he built his second altar. Abram, unlike his brother Nahor (Gen Ch11:26-29) who built a City (Gen Ch24:10), **left only altar's on earth, the only architecture he built!**
- V4 - And once again calls on the Lord! I wonder what that would have looked like?

APPLICATION!

1. Faith is always tested!
2. Sometimes after examples of real faith, real famine can come!
3. Try to recognise old habits when faced with famine and turn to God rather than turn to old sinful habits!
4. Don't be economical with the truth!
5. Expect trials and suffering as part of God's plan, just as they were for Jesus who was made “perfect through suffering” (Hebrews Ch2:10)!