

# Conflict through Eyes of Faith

Genesis 13:2-18

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Jordan Peterson paraphrasing Freud

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“**Meanwhile God’s Word, without ostentation, simply speaks of a twofold etiology of this mental nuisance of obsessive nonproductive thinking—namely, the old-man nature, and the prowling lion who tempts. Like other conundrums of our day . . . The answers lie in the spiritual, not material, domain.**” Andree Seu Peterson

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Genesis 13:2-18

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**Conflict Exposes the True Shape of Our Faith and Provides an Opportunity to See God's Hand**

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- I. **Conflict through Eyes of Faith Exposes Our True Values** vv. 10-13
  - A. **Crisis Expose Fears** vv. 10-12

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- II. **Conflict through Eyes of Faith Involves Living out the Actions of Our Present Faith** vv. 14-16
- III. **Conflict through Eyes of Faith Always Includes the Lord's Hand** vv. 17-13:1

# Conflict through Eyes of Faith Genesis 13:2-18

**We are not merely looking for an example of faith, but a life of faith.**

# Conflict through Eyes of Faith Genesis 13:2-18

True faith returns from battles yielded to unbelief and moves toward the next normal test of faith with worship and obedience.

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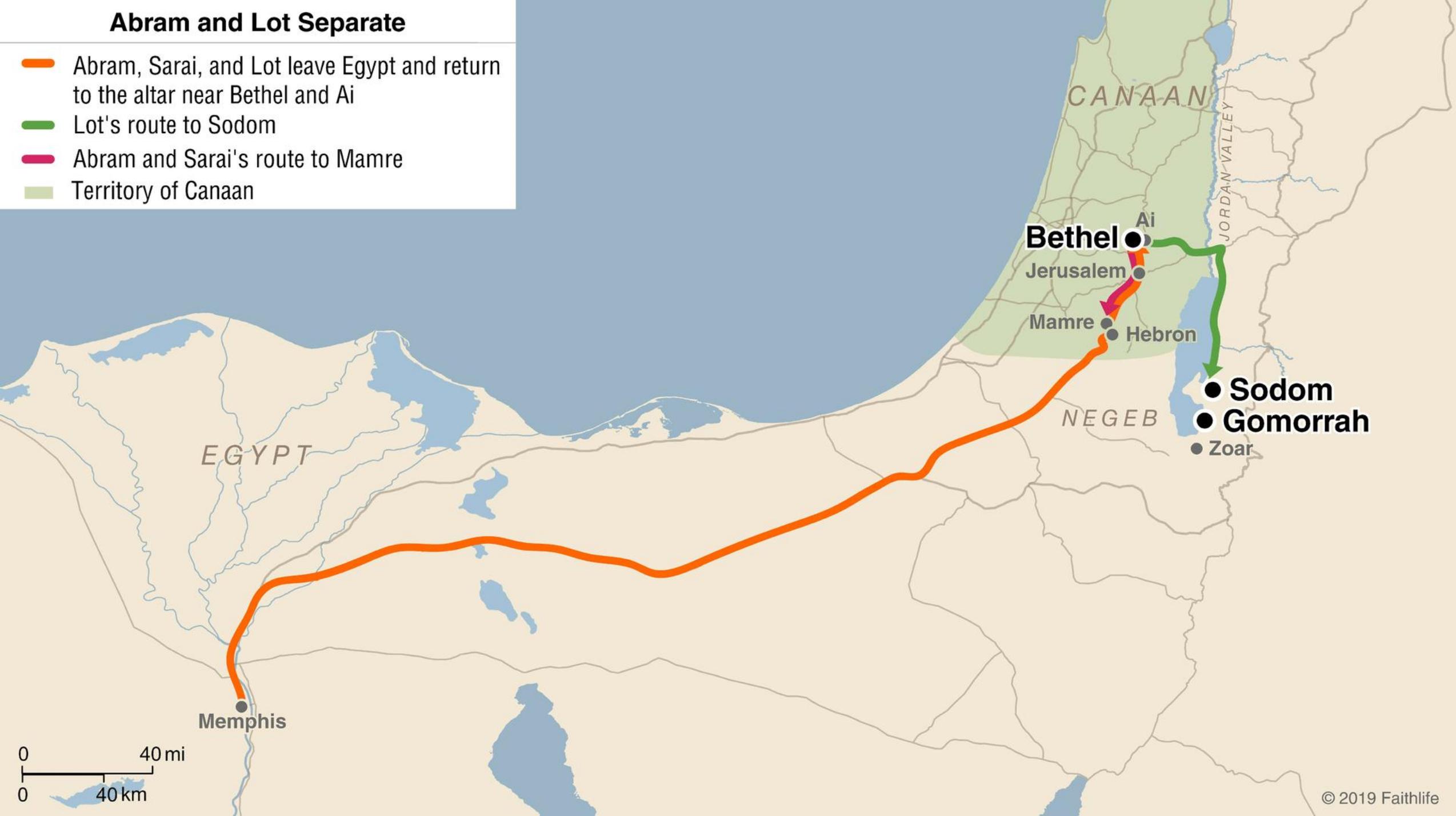
True faith returns from battles yielded to unbelief and moves toward the next normal test of faith with worship and obedience.

I. To what do you return? vv. 1-4



## Abram and Lot Separate

-  Abram, Sarai, and Lot leave Egypt and return to the altar near Bethel and Ai
-  Lot's route to Sodom
-  Abram and Sarai's route to Mamre
-  Territory of Canaan



0 40 mi  
0 40 km

## Conflict through Eyes of Faith Genesis 13:2-18

“Here, then, is the key test of the kind of faith you have: **does your failure drive you from God or toward him?** If your faith is in the power of your faith, failure will drive you away from God. If you are trusting in your own goodness to gain access to God’s presence, you will either try to conceal your failure and pretend that it never happened, or you will be devastated by your failure and driven away from God by it. The reason is simple: your failure exposes the emptiness of your claim to stand before God on your own merits . . . **if your faith rests in God and what he does for your ability to enter his presence, then your failure won’t destroy you. It will drive you back to square one, back to the altar where you started, so that you can repent and call on the name of the Lord.**” Iain Duguid

# Conflict through Eyes of Faith

Genesis 13:2-18

“Swine-husks are often the hors d’oeuvres before the fattened calf. The only way to get back into the will of God is to go back to the very cause of the departure, confess it, forsake it, and return to the place of fellowship.”

Donald Grey Barnhouse

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**“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; 32 but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” Luke 22:31–32**

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Luke 22:31–32

**The steps of a man are established by the LORD, And He delights in his way. 24 When he falls, he will not be hurled headlong, Because the LORD is the One who holds his hand.**

**Psalm 37:23–24**

# Conflict through Eyes of Faith Genesis 13:2-18

**True faith returns from battles yielded to unbelief and moves toward the next normal test of faith with worship and obedience.**

- I. To what do you return? vv. 1-4**
- II. What are your goals in conflict? vv. 5-12**

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  - A. **Conflict Because of Material Blessing** vv. 5-6

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For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

1 Timothy 6:10

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Genesis 13:2-18

For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

1 Timothy 6:10

Keep deception and lies far from me, Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion, 9 That I not be full and deny You and say, "Who is the LORD?" Or that I not be in want and steal, And profane the name of my God.

Proverbs 30:8–9

# Conflict through Eyes of Faith

Genesis 13:2-18

Dead flies make a perfumer's oil stink, so a little foolishness is weightier than wisdom and honor.

Ecclesiastes 10:1

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Dead flies make a perfumer's oil stink, so a little foolishness is weightier than wisdom and honor.

Ecclesiastes 10:1

See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;

Hebrews 12:15

# Conflict through Eyes of Faith

Genesis 13:2-18

“Then it shall come about when the LORD your God brings you into the land **which He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you, great and splendid cities which you did not build, 11 and houses full of all good things which you did not fill, and hewn cisterns which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and you eat and are satisfied, 12 then watch yourself, that you do not forget the LORD** who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 13 **“You shall fear only the LORD your God; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name.**

Deuteronomy 6:10–13

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Genesis 13:2-18

**“Therefore God allays the sweetness of wealth with bitterness; and does not permit the mind of his servant to be too much enchanted with it.”**

John Calvin

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  - A. **Conflict Because of Material Blessing** vv. 5-6
  - B. **Conflict Resolution Exposes Priorities** vv. 8-9

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Genesis 13:2-18

Today, if you would hear His voice, 8 **Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, As in the day of Massah in the wilderness,** 9 **“When your fathers tested Me, They tried Me,** though they had seen My work. 10 **“For forty years I loathed that generation, And said they are a people who err in their heart, And they do not know My ways.** 11 **“Therefore I swore in My anger, Truly they shall not enter into My rest.”**

Psalm 95:7b–11

# Conflict through Eyes of Faith Genesis 13:2-18

Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. 18 **Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.**

1 Timothy 6:17–19

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1 Timothy 6:17–19

**If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.**

Romans 12:18

# Conflict through Eyes of Faith

Genesis 13:2-18

**'You shall not hate your fellow countryman in your heart;** you may surely reprove your neighbor, but shall not incur sin because of him. 18 **'You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself;** I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19:17–18

**Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brothers to dwell together in unity!**

Psalm 133:1

# Conflict through Eyes of Faith

Genesis 13:2-18

“But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell. 23 **“Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.** 25 “Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. 26 “Truly I say to you, you will not come out of there until you have paid up the last cent. Matthew 5:22–26

# Conflict through Eyes of Faith

Genesis 13:2-18

“You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.’ 44 **“But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,** 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 **“For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have?** Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 **“If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others?** Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 “Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 5:43–48

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Matthew 5:43–48

**Now the God of peace** be with you all. Amen. Romans 15:33

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Genesis 13:2-18

Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

Hebrews 12:14

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Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

Hebrews 12:14

God's peace does not peacefully coexist with falsehood, sham, or injustice; **so Gods' peacemakers cannot simply ignore peace-destroying sin and error, any more than a surgeon can simply close up an infection wound:** an abscess is bound to develop.

Dennis Johnson Peacemakers, appendix in John M. Frame, Evangelical Reunion

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Genesis 13:2-18

“Indeed, if one of the laws of our adoption into the family of God is, that we become in all things brethren to each other, and bound to study each other’s interest, how little does that sacred relation effect, if it does not avail to extinguish our mutual animosities? When we look around us in the world, who would believe that the same relationship, and therefore the same powerful motive for peace, still exists among its inhabitants? When we see the quarrels and the coldnesses, the lawsuits and the strifes, between those who are not only bound by the common tie of Christian fraternity, but by the closest bonds of affinity and blood, are we not tempted to inquire, can these men be indeed ‘brethren?’ Can they all be trusting to the same hope of salvation, and expecting, or even desiring to dwell together in the same heaven?”

George Bush (theologian)





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Genesis 13:2-18

“Whosoever is too eagerly intent upon his own advantage, is wanting in humanity towards others.”

John Calvin

# Conflict through Eyes of Faith

Genesis 13:2-18

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as **good stewards of the manifold grace of God.** 11  
Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is **speaking the utterances of God**; whoever serves is to do so as one who is **serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ**, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:10–11

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Genesis 13:2-18

We can build Godlike character only upon the foundation of a whole-hearted devotion to God. God must be the very focal point of our lives if we wish to have godly character and conduct. This point cannot be overemphasized. Too many of us focus on the outward structure of character and conduct without taking the time to build the inward foundation of devotion to God. This often results in a cold morality or legalism, or even worse, self-righteousness and spiritual pride... Godly character flows out of devotion to God and practically confirms the reality of that devotion.

Jerry Bridges *The Practice of Godliness*

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Genesis 13:2-18

If you just get the big things straightened out, you will have what you need in the little things. What everyone in the world is obsessed with, God makes a distant second. He'll give you what you need to live on if you need Him in order to live.

David Powlison

# Conflict through Eyes of Faith

Genesis 13:2-18

Behold our shield, O God, And look upon the face of Your anointed. 10 For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand outside. I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness. 11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD gives grace and glory; No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly. 12 O LORD of hosts, **How blessed is the man who trusts in You!**

Psalm 84:9–12

# Journeys of Abraham - Part 1

## UR OF CHALDEES TO HARAN

- About 600 miles distance
- Genesis 11:27-32
- Ur 50 miles south of Babylon
- Death of Abraham's father Nahor (age 148)
- God calls for Abraham to leave
  - Genesis 12:1-3
  - Acts 7:2-4

## HARAN TO SHECHEM

- About 400 miles distance
- Crossing Jordan at Succoth
  - Genesis 12:1-7
- 1st altar built
- Abram worships God

## SHECHEM TO BETHEL

- About 20 miles distance
- Genesis 12:8
- 2nd altar built
- Prayer offered
- Famine in Canaan



**Abraham**  
"Father of the Faithful"

## BETHEL TO EGYPT

- About 225 miles southwest
- Genesis 12:9-13
- Abraham denies that Sarah is his wife

## EGYPT TO BETHEL

- About 225 miles northeast
- Abram returns and offers prayer
- Genesis 13:1-4
- Lot separates from Abraham

## BETHEL TO MAMRE (HEBRON)

- About 35 miles distance
- Genesis 13:18
- Builds 3rd altar

## HEBRON TO HOBAB

- Near Damascus
- About 160 miles distance
- Genesis 14:1-16
- Abram
  - Pursues robbers
  - Rescues Lot
  - Recovers goods

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What do your patterns of sin in the midst of life's difficulties expose about your deep heart loyalties?"

Iain Duguid

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"Most of us have 'been there.' We have the promises of God but we don't rub them into our circumstances . . . we don't apply what we know in the situation we're in."

Dale Ralph Davis

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Genesis 13:2-18

“I wonder how many believers today realize that faith is not merely believing that Christ died for our sins. Faith is also being confident that His way is better than sin. His will is more wise. His help is more sure. His promises more precious. And His reward more satisfying. Faith begins with a backward look at the cross, but it lives with a forward look at the promises.”

John Piper