

# Faith-Based Vocation

Genesis 14:1-16

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“John Calvin taught that calling is as simple as knowing what God wants us to do in the place that he has appointed us to life: The Lord bids each one of us in all life’s actions to look to his calling. By ‘calling’ he means that God ‘has appointed duties for every man in his particular way of life.’ Each of us is like a guard stationed to a particular post so that we might ‘not heedlessly wander about throughout life.’” “The reformers agreed that ‘a person’s calling was the whole network of relationships and opportunities and duties which formed his life.’”

William Boekestein, *Finding My Vocation*

## Faith-Based Vocation Genesis 14:1-16

“Despite all the frowns from friends and family, the romantic dreamer was right all along. His brilliant idea changes the world without any real effort on his part. His dream has given him the power. This type of romantic thinking is a recipe for revolutionary thinking and mental illness as adolescents realize that life is not at all like these tales.”

*The corrupt imagination, Emily Finley, World, June 2025*

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“Stories like What Do You Do With an Idea? Teach children to expect much more than happy domestic life and meaningful work. To value marriage, motherhood, fatherhood, and life in the local community is to settle for something lesser. Their imaginations cannot grasp how the beauty of ‘ordinary’ living could be worthy . . . .”

## Faith-Based Vocation Genesis 14:1-16

“It’s not unrealistic to hope that this kind of imagination could be the new norm. It describes the general cast of mind of our ancestors, who were accustomed to hardship, to periods of joy and periods of sorrow, and to life’s limits.”

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“The insightful twentieth-century British writer Dorothy Sayers puts it this way: **The outcome of our ‘work will be decided by our religious outlook: as we are so we make.’** There is a difference between how believers and unbelievers approach their varied responsibilities. **Without trust in God we use opportunities to make a name for ourselves** (see Gen. 11:4). **Or we expect work to give us the kind of satisfaction that we can only find in Christ.** We may see our jobs simply as ways to get money. **But faith in God and obedience to his word can transform any valid work into worship.** Instead of inflexibly insisting on following your passions into ideal work—I need to be an executive chef or an artist or a Navy Seal—as a Christian you must prioritize faith, hope, love, and patience even in roles that might be miles away from childhood dreams and current aspirations. **In these situations we cheerfully live out responsibilities before God.”**

William Boekestein,

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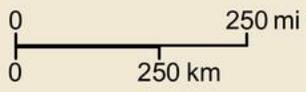
Genesis 14:1-16

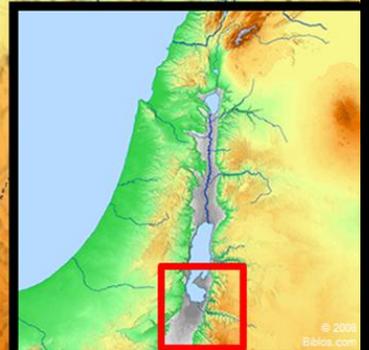
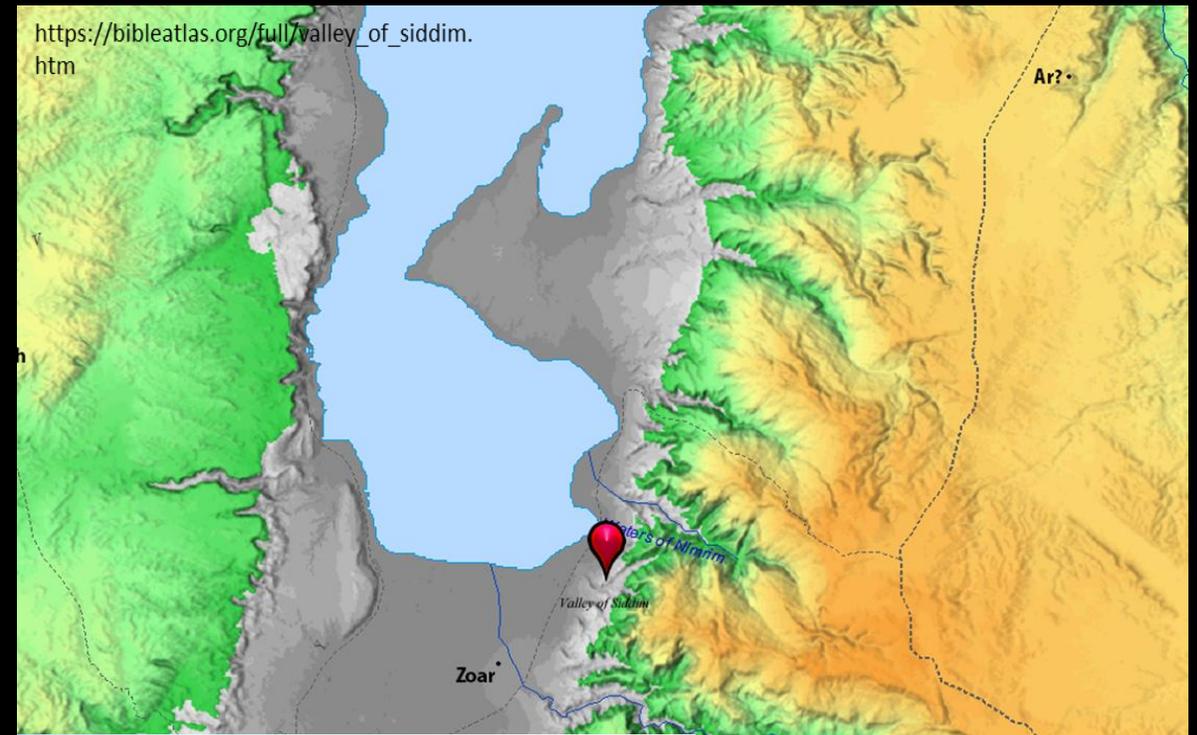
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  - A. The Players vv. 1-3

# Four Mesopotamian Kings Invade

- Chedorlaomer's route from Elam to join forces with Amraphel near Babylon
- Amraphel's route from Shinar to join forces with Chedorlaomer near Babylon
- Chedorlaomer and Amraphel's route to join forces with Tidal and Arioch near the Euphrates
- Tidal and Arioch's route to join forces with Chedorlaomer and Amraphel near the Euphrates
- Route of the four kings from the Euphrates to the Valley of Siddim
- Territory of Elam
- Territory of Ellasar
- Territory of Goiim
- Territory of Shinar
- Approximate area of the Valley of Siddim





Deadsea.com

View east from Masada near mid-day. Photo by Ferrell Jenkins.

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  - B. The Conflict vv. 4-9



G O I I M

E L L A S A R

Euphrates

Babylon

S H I N A R

E L A M

Damascus

Dan

Hobah

Ashteroth-karnaim

Mamre

Kiriathaim

Gomorrhah

Kadesh-barnea

Tamar

Eloth



G O I I M

S I N A I P E N I N S

• Elim?



Paran?

S I N D E S E R T

Dophkah?

Haze

S H I N A R

0  
5  
10  
15

10 mi

0  
5  
10  
15 km

Rephidim?

© 2008

E L A M

# Faith-Based Vocation

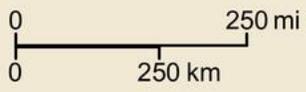
Genesis 14:1-16

God was with the lad, and he grew; and he lived in the wilderness and became an archer. 21 **He lived in the wilderness of Paran**, and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Genesis 21:20–21

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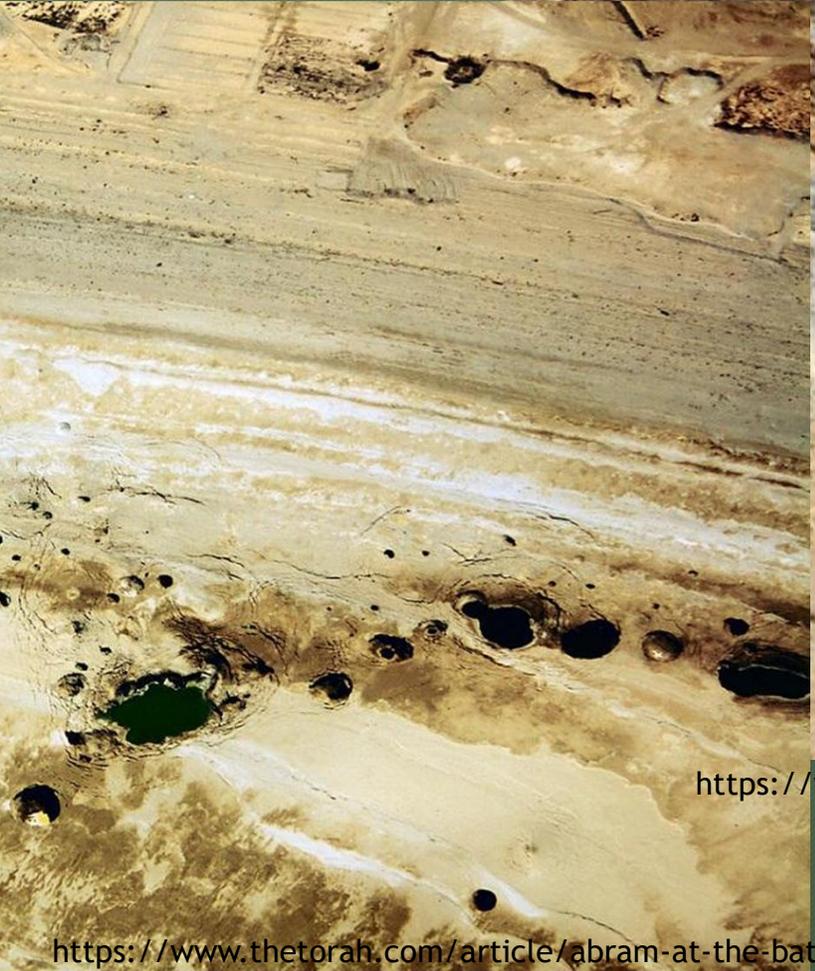
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זהירות!  
אזור בולענים לפניך  
الحذر!  
منطقة إمتصاص (بالوعات)  
امامك  
BEWARE!  
SINK-HOLES AREA  
AHEAD

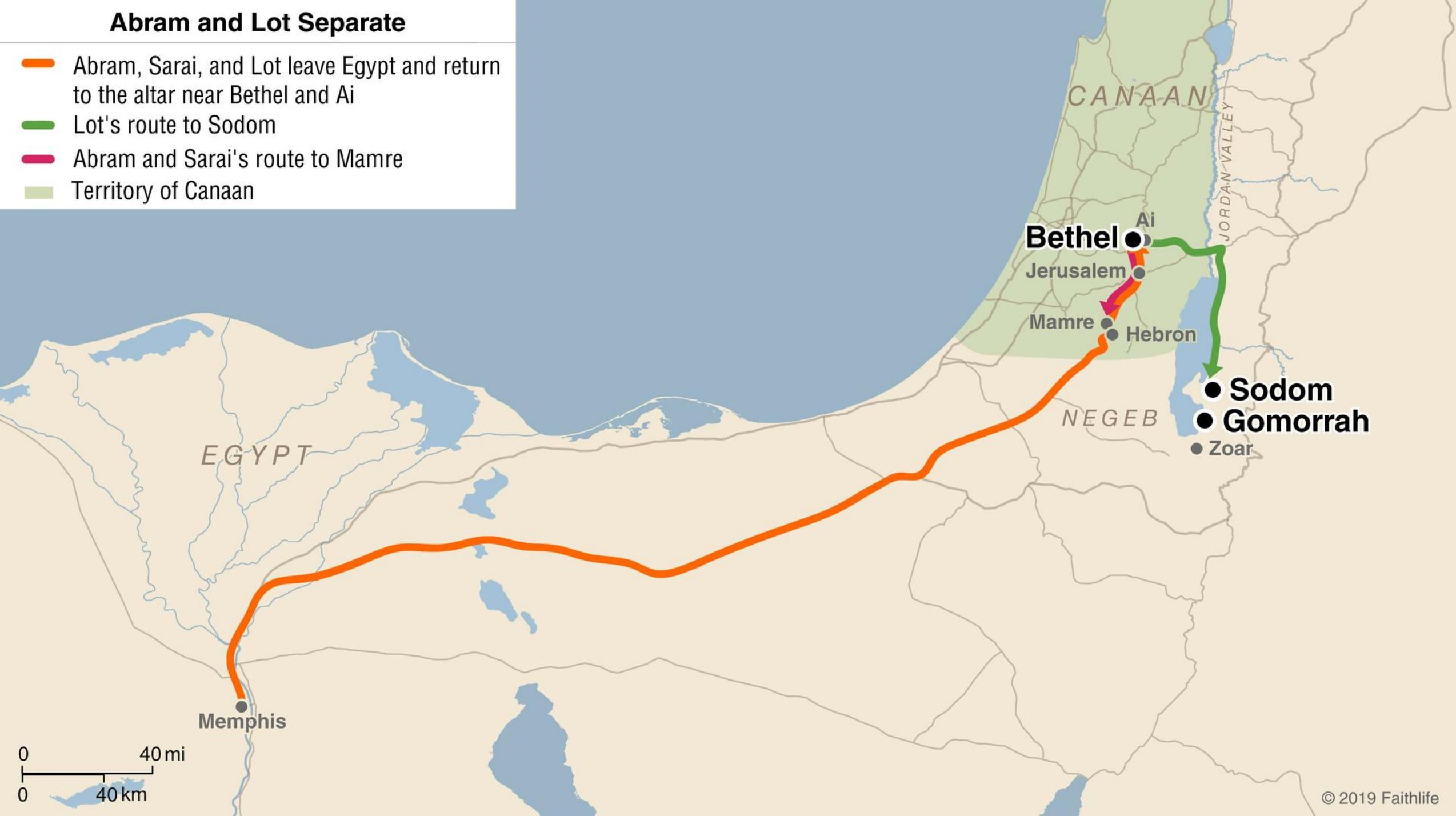


<https://www.openbible.info/geo/modern/m3edbe2/south-of-the-lisan>

<https://www.thetorah.com/article/abram-at-the-battle-of-the-kings-when-was-the-dead-sea-the-valley-of-siddim>

## Abram and Lot Separate

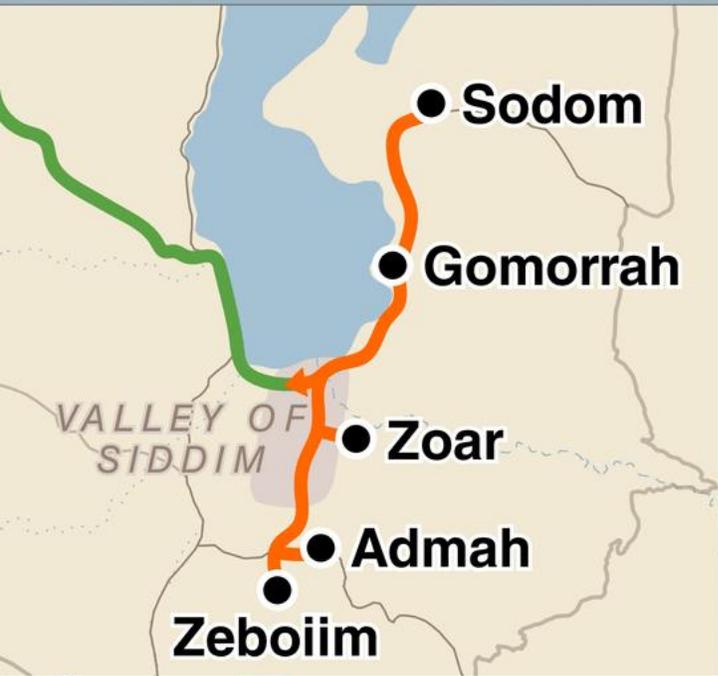
-  Abram, Sarai, and Lot leave Egypt and return to the altar near Bethel and Ai
-  Lot's route to Sodom
-  Abram and Sarai's route to Mamre
-  Territory of Canaan



0 40 mi  
0 40 km

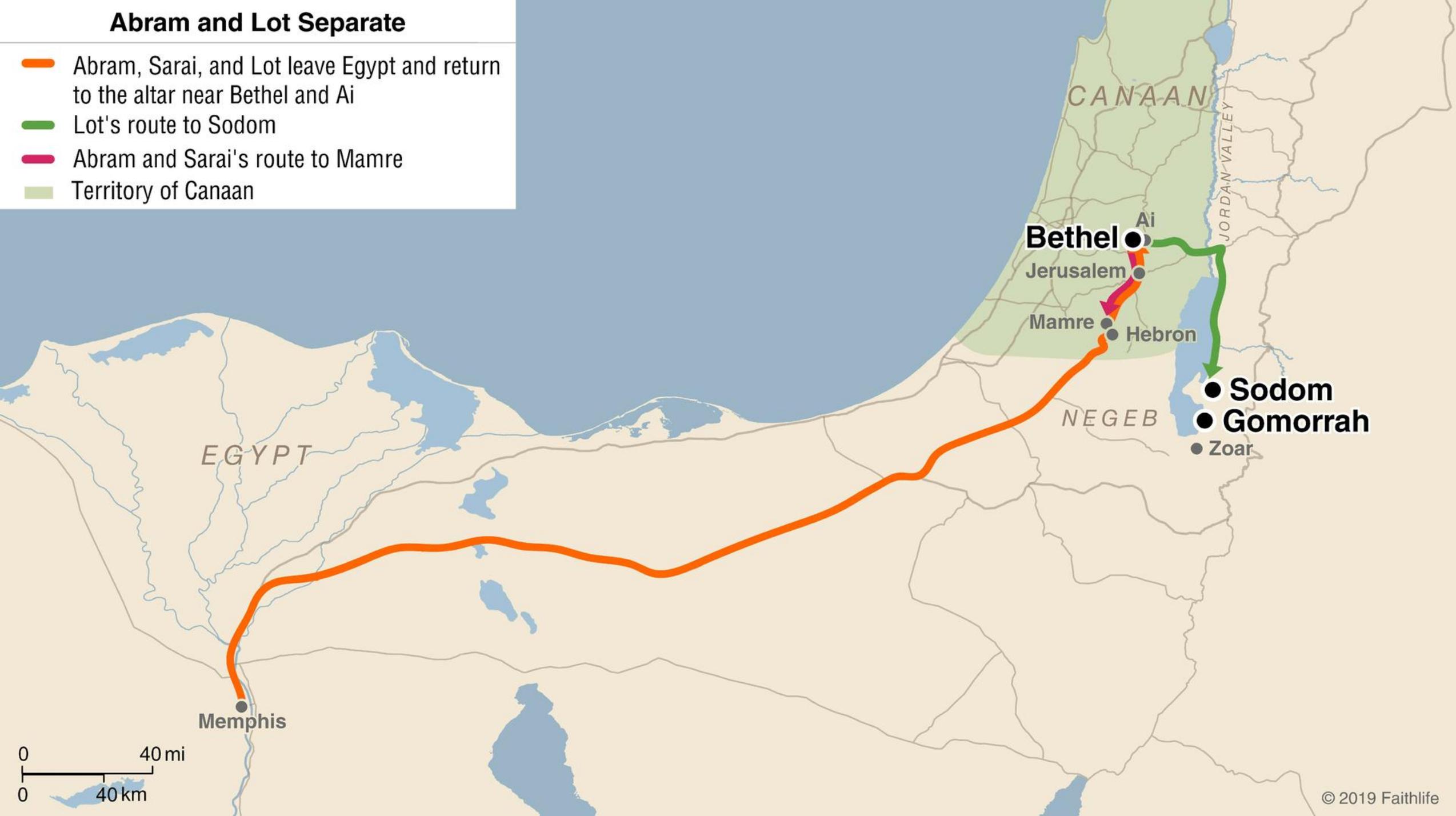
# Abram and the Four Kings

-  The five kings join forces in the Valley of Siddim
-  Escaped soldier's route from the Valley of Siddim to Mamre
-  Route of Abram and his men from Mamre to Hobah and back
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Genesis 14:1-16

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1 Thessalonians 4:11

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Genesis 14:1-16

He says, “It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; **I will also make You a light of the nations So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.**”

Isaiah 49:6

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“Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, **lift up your eyes and look on the fields,** that they are **white for harvest.**”

John 4:35

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**For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.**

Ephesians 6:12

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  - A. Determining Duty v. 14

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Yet Lot's story also provides a challenge to those of us who live too comfortably alongside those who are of an entirely different spirit from us. **Many of us, like Lot, have happily settled down in this world and assimilated ourselves to our environment.** We need to remember that it isn't easy to live in a pigsty without ending up smelling like a pig. **While God can easily rescue the godly from the judgment that is to come on the wicked, it is not nearly as easy as we think to remain godly while living in the close company of the wicked.**

Iain Duguid

# Faith-Based Vocation

Genesis 14:1-16

How blessed is the man who **does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!** 2 **But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.** 3 He will be **like a tree** firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers. 4 **The wicked are not so, But they are like chaff which the wind drives away.**

Psalm 1:1–4

# Faith-Based Vocation

Genesis 14:1-16

What is your place?

1. Who besides you has responsibility for this need?

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Genesis 14:1-16

## What is your place?

1. Who besides you has responsibility for this need?
2. Who is affected by your caring for this need?

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Genesis 14:1-16

## What is your place?

1. Who besides you has responsibility for this need?
2. Who is affected by your caring for this need?
3. What is the best course of action?

# Faith-Based Vocation

Genesis 14:1-16

If possible, so far as it depends on you, **be at peace** with all men.  
Romans 12:18

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

Hebrews 12:14

# Faith-Based Vocation

Genesis 14:1-16

with **gentleness correcting** those who are in opposition, **if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,** 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

2 Timothy 2:25–26

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2 Timothy 2:25–26

I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, **so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.**

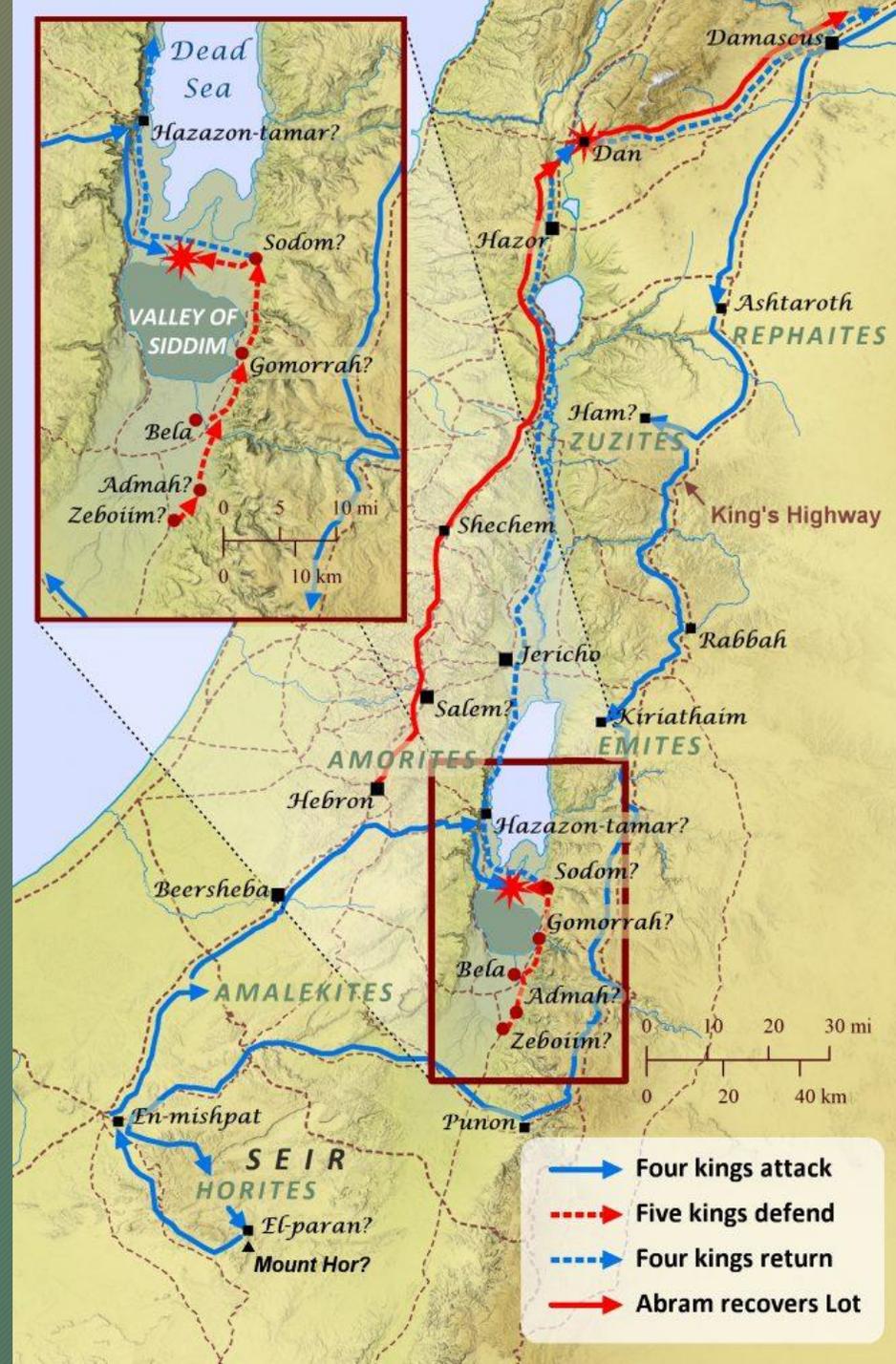
1 Corinthians 5:5

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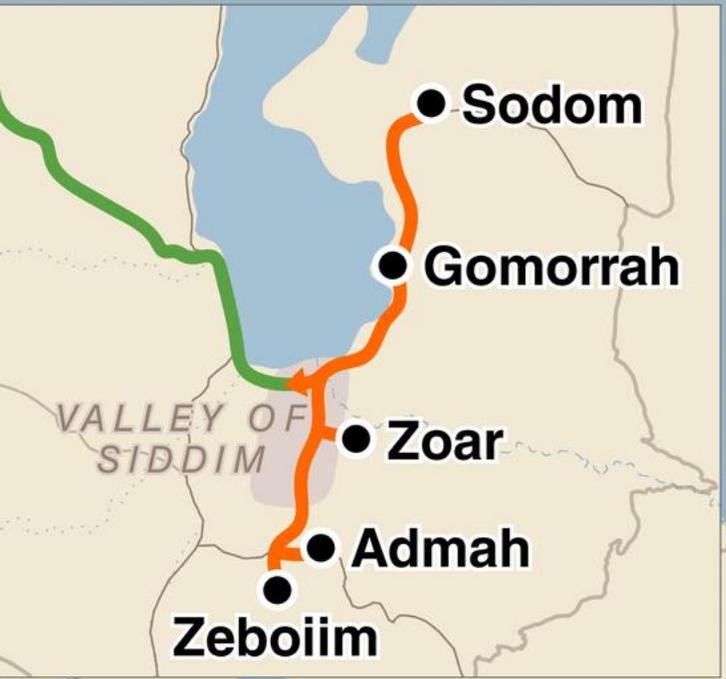
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  - B. Complete that Duty vv. 14-16



# Abram and the Four Kings

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and **if He rescued righteous Lot**, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men 8 (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds), 9 **then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation**, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,

2 Peter 2:7–9

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**Vocation points to the One who called and includes much more than seeking something satisfying or successful from your viewpoint.**

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Genesis 14:1-16

“A **calling**, said Perkins, is like a **compass that shows us the direction in which we approach God even in our ordinary labors**. And so, while carefully choosing a calling is not insignificant, **simply ‘working right trumps finding the right work.’** At work—as in your other vocations—you have the opportunity to answer the question, What should this world be like? If you are working well and relying on God to establish the work of your hands for you (Ps. 127:1; 90:17), there is no telling what you might accomplish. **In every calling Christians are meant to show to the world the work God is currently doing and preview the coming of God’s glory. ‘The first place believers should look to conduct their foretaste-bringing mission is right at the current job they hold.’** Ask Scripture, how should I work? And then do what it says with all your heart.”

William Boekestein, *Finding My Vocation*

# Faith-Based Vocation

Genesis 14:1-16

A plan in the heart of a man is like deep water, But a man of understanding draws it out.

Proverbs 20:5

# Faith-Based Vocation

Genesis 14:1-16

Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 In this case, moreover, **it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.**

1 Corinthians 4:1–2

# Faith-Based Vocation

Genesis 14:1-16

The main trouble with the Christian Church today is that **she is too much like a clinic, too much like a hospital**; that is why the great world is going to hell outside!... Look at the great campaign, look at it objectively, look at it from God's standpoint. Forget yourself and your temporary troubles and ills for the moment; fight in the army. **It is not a clinic you need; you must realize that we are in a barracks, and that we are involved in a mighty campaign.**

Martyn Lloyd-Jones

## Faith-Based Vocation Genesis 14:1-16

If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at the moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ. **Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved to be steady...** [It] is mere flight and disgrace if he flinches at that point [of attack].

Quoted by Francis A. Schaeffer in *The Great Evangelical Disaster*

# Faith-Based Vocation

Genesis 14:1-16

Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for **you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;** 10 for **indeed you do practice it** toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. **But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more,** 11 and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we **commanded you,** 12 so that you will behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need.

1 Thessalonians 4:9–12

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Genesis 14:1-16

**“I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.** 12 “He who is a **hired hand**, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, **sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees**, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 “He flees because he is a hired hand and is **not concerned about the sheep.**

John 10:11–13

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Not that I speak from want, **for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.** 12 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. 13 **I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.**

Philippians 4:11–13

# 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

## 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

## 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"