

Genesis 12:6 – 13:4

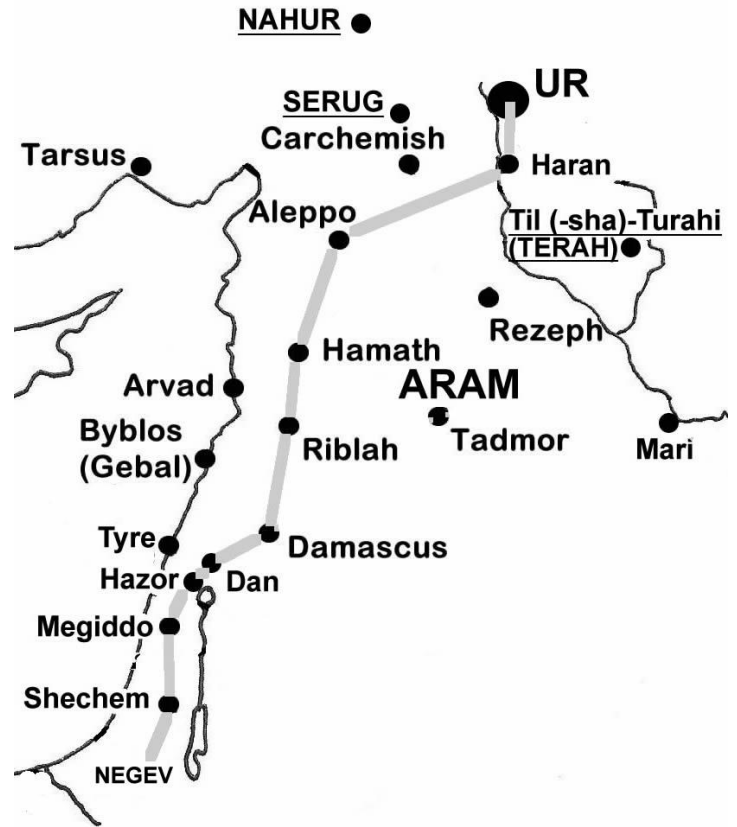
12:5 – And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan,

12:6 – Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.

12:7 – Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

12:8 – From there he moved to the hill country 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.

12:9 – And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.



1. Three specific places are mentioned in the Land of Canaan, and only three.

- Shechem** – Abram builds an altar sanctifying the Land for the Lord
- Between **Bethel** (to the west) and **Ai** (to the east) – Abram builds an altar and calls on the name of the Lord
- Negev** – later in Genesis 23 Abram buys a field of Machpelah in **Hebron** as a place to bury Sarah, and eventually, the family

12:4 – So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

854 [e]	1980 [e]	3068 [e]	413 [e]	1696 [e]	834 [e]	87 [e]	1980 [e]
'it-tōw	way-yē-lek	Yah-weh,	'ē-lāw	dib-ber	ka-'ā-šer	'ab-rām,	way-yē-lek
אִתּוֹ	וַיֵּלֶךְ	יְהוָה	אֵלָיו	דִּבֶּר	כַּאֲשֶׁר	אַבְרָם	וַיֵּלֶךְ 4
with him	and went	Yahweh	to him	had spoken	as	Abram	So departed
Prep 3ms	Conj-w V-Qal-ConseclImperf-3ms	N-proper-ms	Prep 3ms	V-Piel-Perf-3ms	Prep-k Pro-r	N-proper-ms	Conj-w V-Qal-ConseclImperf-3ms

2771 [e]	3318 [e]	8141 [e]	7657 [e]	8141 [e]	2568 [e]	1121 [e]	87 [e]	3876 [e]
mê-hā-rān.	bē-šê-tōw	šā-nāh,	wē-šib-'īm	šā-nīm	ḥā-mēš	ben-	wē-'ab-rām,	lō-wṭ;
מִחַרְוֵן	בְּצֵאתוֹ	שָׁנָה	וְשִׁבְעִים	שָׁנִים	חָמֵשׁ	בֶּן־	וְאַבְרָם	לוֹט
from Haran	when he departed	years	and seventy	years	five	old	And Abram [was]	Lot
Prep-m N-proper-fs	Prep-b V-Qal-Inf 3ms	N-fs	Conj-w Number-cp	N-fp	Number-fs	N-msc	Conj-w N-proper-ms	N-proper-ms

12:5 – And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan,

251 [e]	1121 [e]	3876 [e]	853 [e]	802 [e]	8297 [e]	853 [e]	87 [e]	3947 [e]
'ā·hīw,	ben-	lō·wṭ	wə·'eṭ-	'iš·tōw	śā·ray	'eṭ-	'ab·rām	way·yiq·qah
אָחִיו	בֶּן־	לוֹט	וְאֶת־	אִשְׁתּוֹ	סָרַי	אֶת־	אַבְרָם	וַיִּקַּח
of his brother	son	Lot	and	his wife	Sarai	-	Abram	And took
N-msc 3ms	N-msc	N-proper-ms	Conj-w DirObjM	N-fsc 3ms	N-proper-fs	DirObjM	N-proper-ms	Conj-w V-Qal-ConseclImperf-3ms

2771 [e]	6213 [e]	834 [e]	5315 [e]	853 [e]	7408 [e]	834 [e]	7399 [e]	3605 [e]	853 [e]
bə·hā·rān;	'ā·śū	'ā·śer-	han·ne·peš	wə·'eṭ-	rā·kā·śū,	'ā·śer	ra·kū·śām	kal-	wə·'eṭ-
בְּחָרָן	עָשׂוּ	אֲשֶׁר־	הַנָּפֶשׁ	וְאֶת־	רָכְשׁוֹ	אֲשֶׁר	רְכוּשָׁם	כָּל־	וְאֶת־
in Haran	they had acquired	whom	the people	and	they had gathered	that	their possessions	all	and
Prep-b N-proper-fs	V-Qal-Perf-3cp	Pro-r	Art N-fs	Conj-w DirObjM	V-Qal-Perf-3cp	Pro-r	N-msc 3mp	N-msc	Conj-w DirObjM

3667 [e]	776 [e]	935 [e]	3667 [e]	776 [e]	1980 [e]	3318 [e]
ke·nā·'an.	'ar·śah	way·yā·bō·'ū	ke·nā·'an,	'ar·śah	lā·le·ket	way·yē·šə·'ū,
כְּנַעַן	אֶרְצָהּ	וַיָּבֹאוּ	כְּנַעַן	אֶרְצָהּ	לָלֶכֶת	וַיֵּצְאוּ
of Canaan	to the land	so they came	of Canaan	to the land	to go	and they departed
N-proper-ms	N-fs 3fs	Conj-w V-Qal-ConseclImperf-3mp	N-proper-ms	N-fs 3fs	Prep-l V-Qal-Inf	Conj-w V-Qal-ConseclImperf-3mp

12:6 – Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.

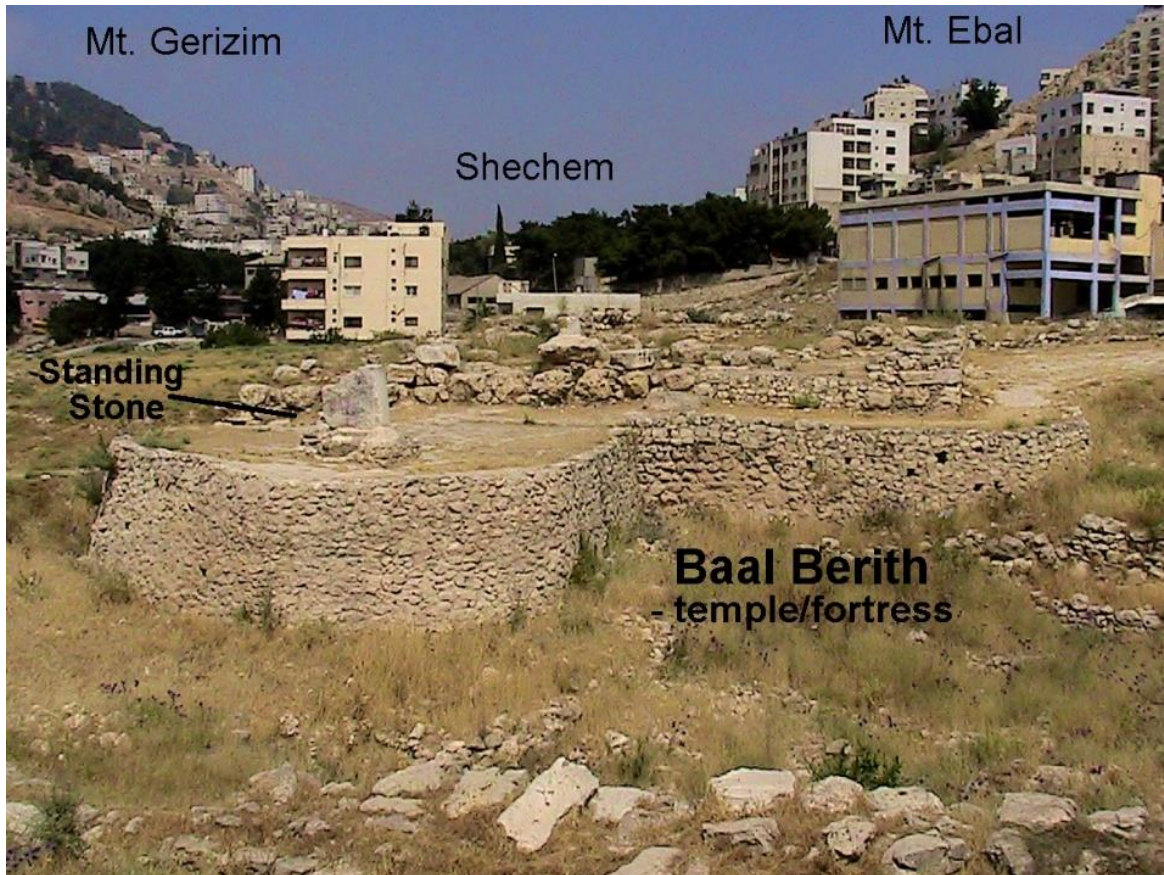
4176 [e]	436 [e]	5704 [e]	7927 [e]	4725 [e]	5704 [e]	776 [e]	87 [e]	5674 [e]
mō·w·reh;	'é·lō·wn	'ad	šə·kəm,	mə·qō·wm	'ad	bā·'ā·reš,	'ab·rām	way·yā·'ā·bōr
מֹרְהָ	אֵלֹן	עַד	שְׁכֶם	מְקוֹם	עַד	בְּאֶרֶץ	אַבְרָם	וַיַּעֲבֹר
of Moreh	the terebinth tree	as far as	of Shechem	the place	to	the land	Abram	And passed through
N-proper-ms	N-msc	Prep	N-proper-ms	N-msc	Prep	Prep-b, Art N-fs	N-proper-ms	Conj-w V-Qal-ConseclImperf-3ms

elon /ay-lone/ = terebinth, oak

מֹרְהָ = **Moreh** /mo-reh/
= a place near Shechem

776 [e]	227 [e]	3669 [e]
bā·'ā·reš.	'az	wə·hak·kə·na·'ā·nī
בְּאֶרֶץ	אָז	וַהֲכַנְעֲנִי
in the land	at that time	And the Canaanite [was]
Prep-b, Art N-fs	Adv	Conj-w, Art N-proper-ms

1. Shechem is 35 miles north of Jerusalem
2. Shechem is mentioned in Egyptian text between 1880-1840 BC in the writings of Pharaoh Sesostri.
3. The Canaanites refer to multiethnic people made up of several people groups including the Amorites
 - a. The Mari letters from the 1700's BC mention the Canaanites
 - b. By 1200 BC any mention of Canaanites has
 - c. disappeared from any remaining written documents and the archaeological records.



SHECHEM - Baal Berith between Mt. Gerizim and Mt. Ebal

Moses spoke of this place in
Deuteronomy 11:29-32 -

*“When the Lord your God brings you into the land that you are entering to take possession of it, you shall set the blessing on Mount Gerizim and the curse on Mount Ebal. Are they not beyond the Jordan, west of the road, toward the going down of the sun, in the land of the Canaanites who live in the Arabah, opposite Gilgal, **beside the oak of Moreh**? For you are to cross over the Jordan to go in to take possession of the land that the Lord your God is giving you. And when you possess it and live in it, you shall be careful to do all the statutes and the rules that I am setting before you today.*”

12:7 – Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

1. “built an altar”
 - a. There is no mention of a sacrifice being made
 - b. The only sacrifice mentioned in the Bible concerning Abraham is offering Isaac.
 - c. This altar may be a territory marker or a land claim ceremony such as used by Joshua in Joshua 22:26-28 – *“Therefore we said, ‘Let us now build an altar, not for burnt offering, nor for sacrifice, but to be a witness between us and you, and between our generations after us...”*”

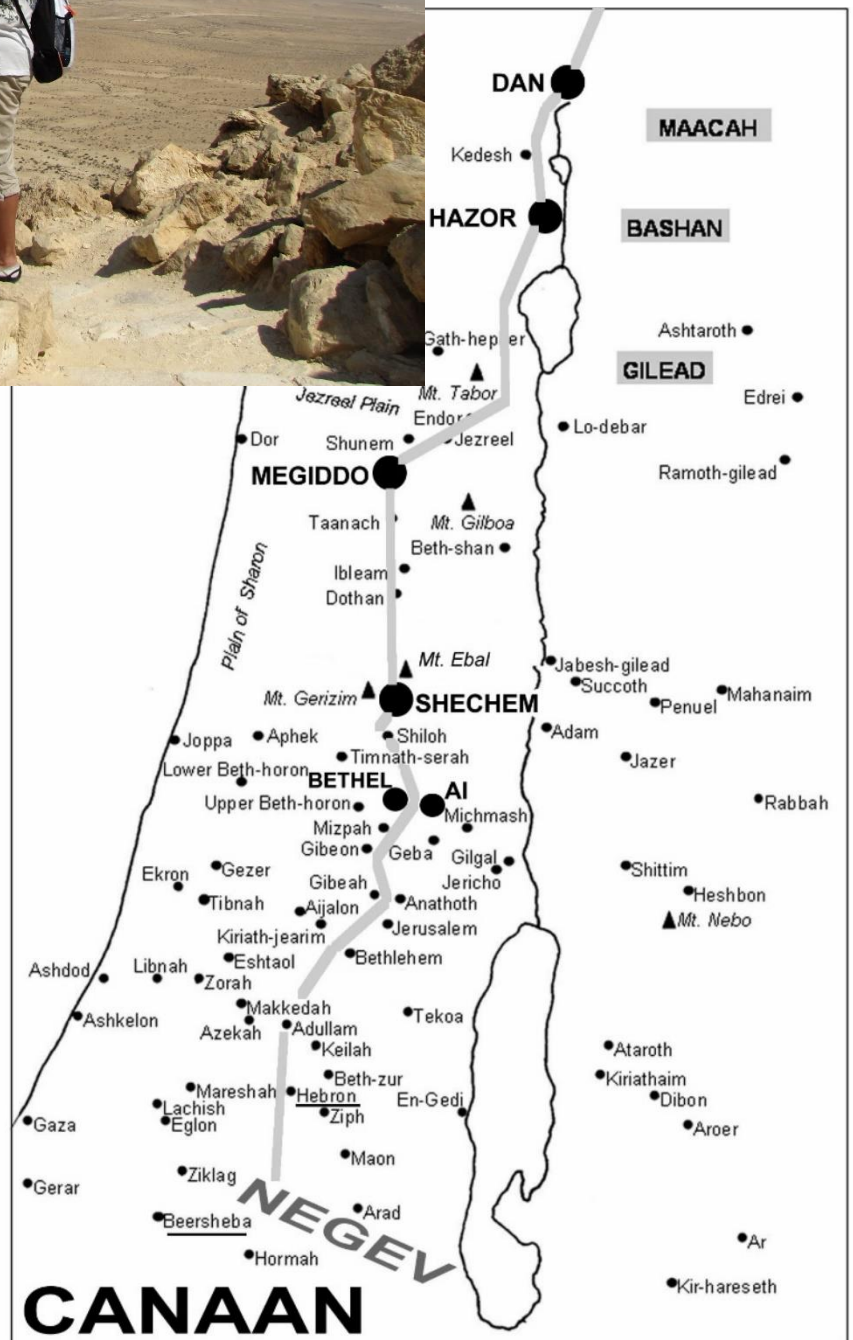
12:8 – From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord.



12:9 – And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

OUTLINE:

- 12:10 – Abram and Sarai go to Egypt
- 12:11-13 – Abram is told Sarai to identify as a sister
- 12:14-17 – Pharaoh takes Sarai
- 12:18-20 – Pharaoh confronts Abram
- 13:1-4 – Abram returns to Canaan with more wealth Abram travels through Negev back to Bethel



12:10 – **Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land.**

1. Abraham and Jacob both go to Egypt due to a famine

12:11 – **When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, “I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance,**

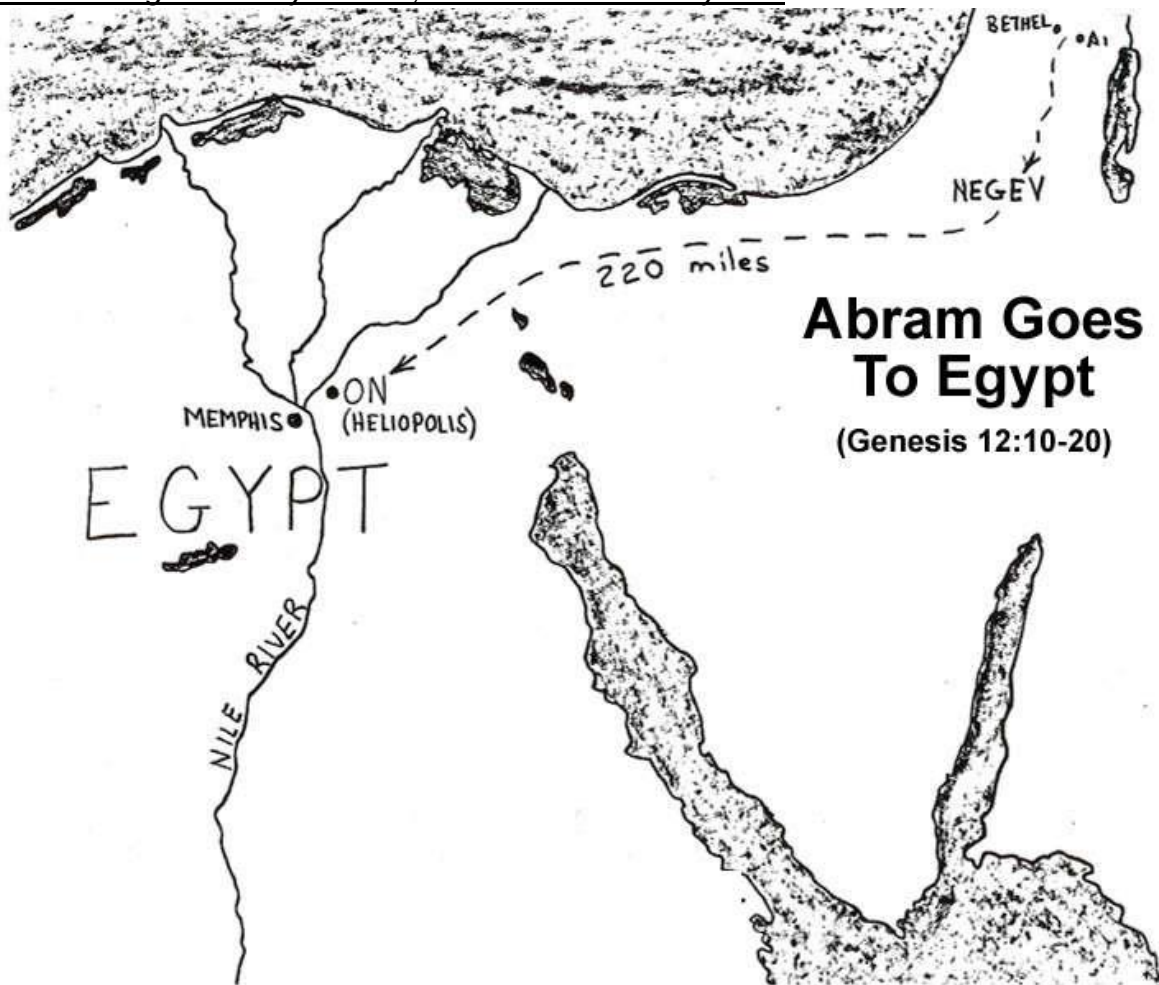
1. Sarai was 65.
2. Her beauty would depend on cultural standards which included the eyes and form.
3. Abduction of beautiful women for royalty (the elite) may have been standard operation.

12:12 – **and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then they will kill me, but they will let you live.**

12:13 – **Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared for your sake.”**

1. More details of Abram and Sarai’s relation are revealed in the account of Abimelech in a similar situation in Genesis 20:11-13 –

“Abraham said, “I did it because I thought, ‘There is no fear of God at all in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.’ Besides, she is indeed my sister, the daughter of my father though not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife. And when God caused me to



wander from my father's house, I said to her, 'This is the kindness you must do me: at every place to which we come, say of me, "He is my brother."'"

12:14 – When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful.

12:15 – And when the princes of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.

12:16 – And for her sake he dealt well with Abram; and he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants, female servants, female donkeys, and camels.

1. The gifts are not explicitly described as “bridal gifts, but the gifts do appear to be some kind of compensation.

12:17 – But the Lord afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife.

1. “plagues” or “diseases” is the same word used for the plagues in Exodus
 - a. The term refers to skin disease in the Mosaic law in Leviticus 13 and the leprosy that strikes King Uzziah in 2 Kings 15:5.

12:18 – So Pharaoh called Abram and said, “What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife?”

1. This account does not reveal how Pharaoh found out.
 - a. In Abimelech's case in Genesis 20:3 –

“God came to Abimelech in a dream by night and said to him, “Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife.”
 - b. In Isaac and Rebekah's case with the king of Gerar in Genesis 26:8-9 -

“When he had been there a long time, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out of a window and saw Isaac laughing with Rebekah his wife. So Abimelech called Isaac and said, “Behold, she is your wife. How then could you say, ‘She is my sister’?” Isaac said to him, “Because I thought, ‘Lest I die because of her.’”

4428 [e]	40 [e]		8259 [e]	3117 [e]	8033 [e]		748 [e]	3588 [e]		1961 [e]
me·lek	'ā·bī·me·lek		way·yaš·qêp,	hay·yā·mīm,	šām		lōw	'ā·rə·kū·	kī	way·hī,
מֶלֶךְ	אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ		וַיִּשְׁקַף	הַיָּמִים	שָׁם		לוֹ	אָרְכּוּר	כִּי	וַיְהִי 8
king	Abimelech		that looked	a long time	there		he	had been	when	And it came to pass
N-msc	N-proper-ms		Conj-w V-Hifil-ConsecImperf-3ms	Art N-mp	Adv		Prep 3ms	V-Qal-Perf-3cp	Conj	Conj-w V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3ms

וַיִּצְחַק = tsachaq / tsaw-khak/ = "to laugh" (caressing, entertained, jesting, play, etc.)

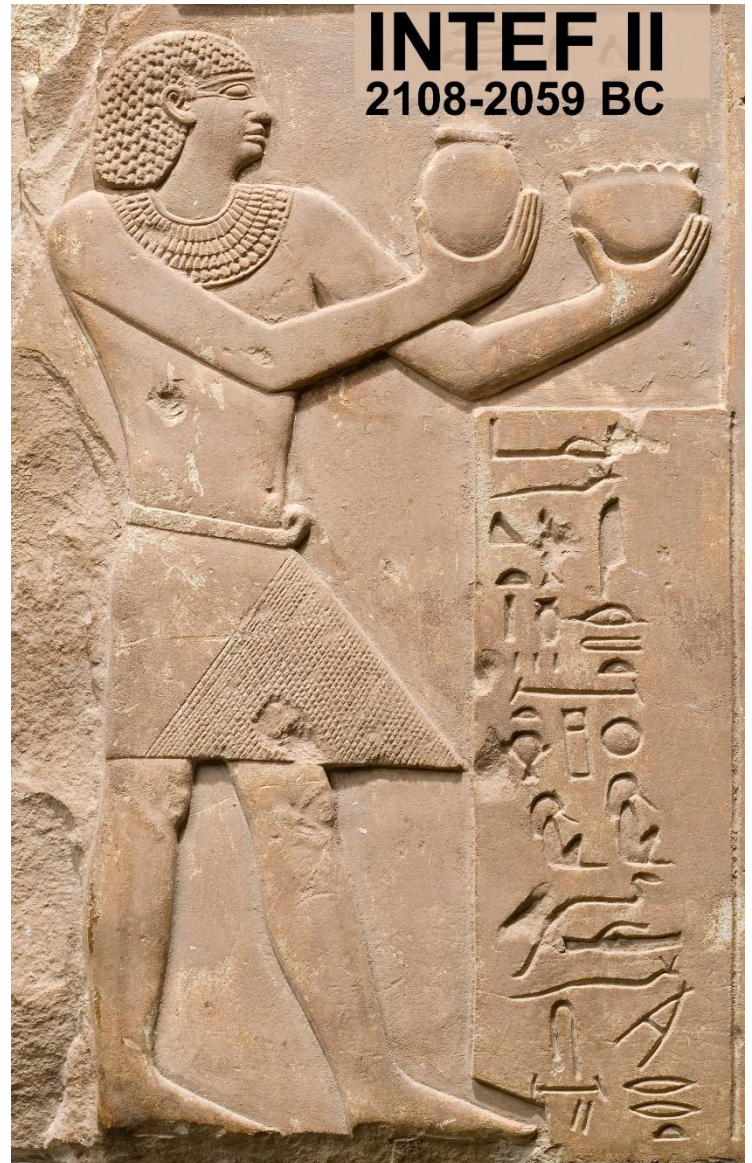
802 [e]	7259 [e]	853 [e]	6711 [e]	3327 [e]	2009 [e]		7200 [e]	2474 [e]	1157 [e]	6430 [e]
'iš·tōw.	rib·qāh	'ēt	mə·ša·hêq,	yiš·hāq	wə·hin·nêh		way·yar,	ha·ḥal·lō·wn;	bə·'ad	pə·liš·tīm,
אִשְׁתּוֹ	רִבְקָה	אֵת	מְצַחֵק	יִצְחָק	וְהָיָה		וַיִּרְא	חַלּוֹן	בְּעַד	פְּלִשְׁתִּים
his wife	with Rebekah	-	sporting	Isaac	and there was		and saw	a window	through	of the Philistines
N-fsc 3ms	N-proper-fs	DirObjM	V-Piel-PrtcpI-ms	N-proper-ms	Conj-w Interjection		Conj-w V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3ms	Art N-cs	Prep	N-proper-mp

12:19 – **Why did you say, ‘She is my sister,’ so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife; take her, and go.’**

1. Pharaoh orders Abram away instead of killing him:
 - a. Abram deceived the Pharaoh
 - b. Abram’s God (or, the “gods”) defended Abram.
 - i. Pharaoh undoes his wrong
 - ii. Pharaoh is NOT going to kill or harm Abram for fear of what might happen.

12:20 – **And Pharaoh gave men orders concerning him, and they sent him away with his wife and all that he had.**

1. Pharaoh had his “men” escort Abram out of the country. (deported Abram)
2. Similar to the Exodus events:
 - a. Plagues
 - b. Expulsion from land
 - c. Gifts and wealth sent along
3. Abram lived 175 years from 2166-1991
 - a. Abram entered Egypt at age 75-76 in the year (2166 BC minus 75 years old) 2091-2090 BC
 - b. Intef II ruled Egypt from around 2108–2059 BC (almost 50 years)
 - i. Intef II was the pharaoh of Egypt (if Intef was present in Lower Egypt where he had won wars from Upper Egypt) who met Abram and took Sarai into his harem
 - ii. Reigned in Thebes (Upper Egypt) where his tomb is located.
 - iii. His tomb is a double row of columns with an entry way into a 250x70 meter trapezoidal courtyard with a chapel
 - iv. His tomb was plundered by the pharaoh needing funds around 1120 BC



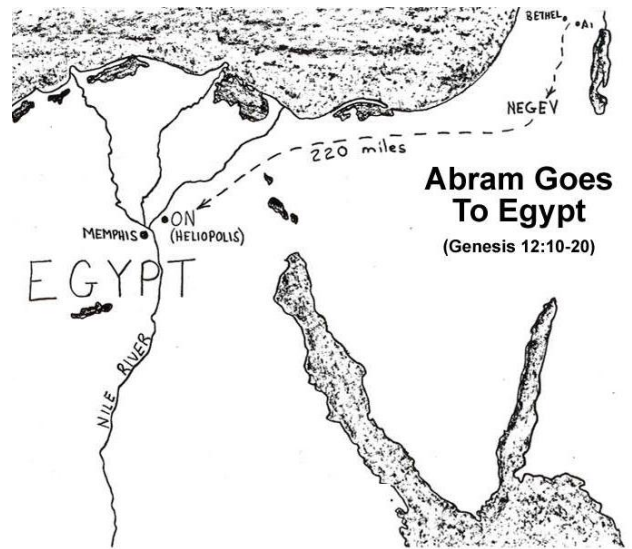
- v. During his long 50 year reign Intef II was successful in wars against the rulers of Middle and Lower Egypt

13:1 – So Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the Negeb.

1. Abram returns to the Negev in the land of Canaan
2. Abram’s possessions are noted as going with him

13:2 – Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold.

1. Abram came into Egypt with wealth and returned to the land of Canaan with more wealth
2. The wealth is identified as:



- a. Livestock – *miqneh* meaning domesticated sheep and cattle. (These require plenty of grass and water)
- b. Silver
- c. Gold

13:3 – And he journeyed on from the Negeb as far as Bethel to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai,

1. Abram returns to Bethel/Ai where he worships the Lord at the same altar as 12:8-9

13:4 – to the place where he had made an altar at the first. And there Abram called upon the name of the Lord.

