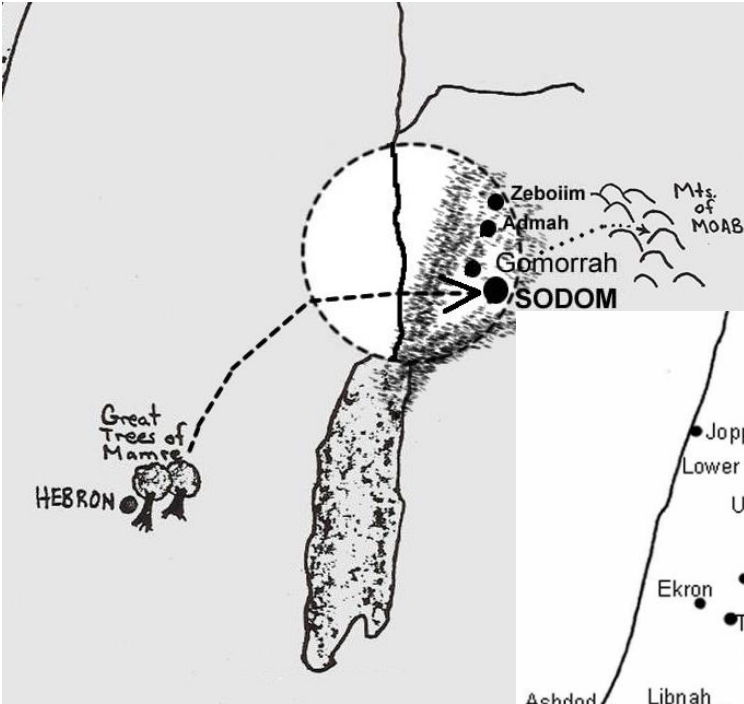
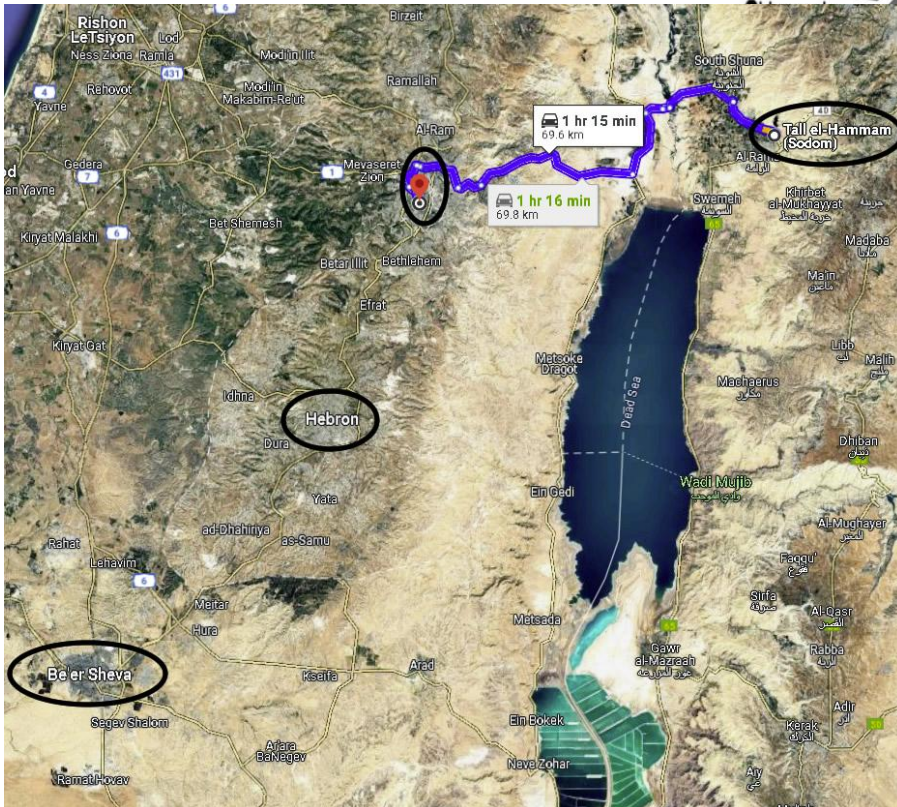


Genesis 18:1-21



Hebron to Jerusalem = 28 miles
 Jerusalem to Bethel = 10 miles
 Jerusalem to Tall el-Hammam
 = 100 miles
 (today on Route 1)



- Ch. 17 Abrahamalternative heir 15:2-3.....laughter 17:17
- Ch. 18 Sarah.....alternative heir 16:2laughter 18:12

1. One more time Isaac's birth is announced
2. It appears YHWH and his entourage are heading to inspect Sodom
3. First, Abram is the host. Second, Abram is the intercessor
4. Abram and Lot are contrasts as hosts:
 - a. Abram, good, guest stay willingly, heat of day, great meal, Sarah helps (1 nation)
 - b. Lot, poor host, guest resist staying, evening, Lot unprepared for meal, only has unleavened bread, Lot's wife not mentioned (2 nations)

Genesis 18:1 – **And the Lord appeared to him by the oaks[a] of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day.**

1. “appeared” –
 - a. this is the 3rd theophany to Abraham
 - i. 12:7
 - ii. 17:1
 - iii. 18:1
 - b. First three use the word “appeared”
 - c. 17:22 YHWH had vanished from Abraham's sight
2. “three men”
 - a. Only place in Bible a trio appears together like this
 - b. One is the Lord (18:22)
 - c. Two are angels (19:1)
 - d. They are overseeing two major announcements:
 - i. Birth of Isaac
 - ii. Destruction of Sodom
3. In chapter 21:
 - a. 21:17 there is an angel and God
 - b. 21:18 the angel is God
4. Chapter 19 switches from “angels” to “God”

18:2 – **He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth**

1. Plural and singular
 - a. 18:2 = 3 men
 - b. 18:3 = all singular
 - c. 18:4 = plural (2nd personal)
 - d. 18:5 = plural
 - e. 18:9 = plural
 - f. 18:10-15 = singular
 - g. 18:16 = plural
 - h. 18:17-21 = singular
 - i. 18:22 = begins plural ends singular

j. 18:22b-33 = singular

2. Abraham only addresses one

18:3 – and said, “O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant.

1. One man is singled out as Adonai or “my lord”
2. The verb “do not pass by” is singular

18:4 – Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree,

1. Plural verb addressing all three to stay
2. Honor and respectfully asks to stay
3. Uses “please” (NA) 2x
4. Abraham is acting hospitality, but is not offering a sacrifice
5. Abraham is NOT the one who brings up childbearing

18:5 – while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.”

18:6 – And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, “Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes.”

1. Three seahs of fine flour seems to be a lot of bread and more than they can eat
 - a. 1 Sam 25:8 – Abigail made provisions for David and his band of men with 5 seahs
 - b. 1 kings 18:32 Elijah’s trench at base of altar on Mt. Carmel filled with 12 jars of water and was large enough for 2 seahs of seed

18:7 – And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly.

18:8 – Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

18:9 – They said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” And he said, “She is in the tent.”

1. Previous promise of a son were vague and unqualified:
 - a. 15:4 –
 - b. 17:16 –
2. Now it is specific:
 - a. This time next year
 - b. Sarah have a child
 - c. Son
3. Abraham’s answer is “*hinne ba ‘ohel*” or “Behold, in the tent”, probably motioning
4. I will surely return

- a. Gen. 21:1 picks up here
 - i. YHWH visited Sarah as he had said
 - ii. YHWH did to Sarah as he had promised

18:10 – The Lord said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him.

1121 [e]	2009 [e]	2416 [e]	6256 [e]	413 [e]	7725 [e]	7725 [e]	559 [e]
bēn	we·hin·nēh-	hay·yāh,	kā·'ēt	'ē·le·kā	'ā·šūb	šō·wb	way·yō·mer,
בֶּן	וַהֲגִידָהּ	חַיָּהּ	כַּעֲתָ	אֵלַיְךָ	אֲשׁוּב	שׁוּב	וַיֹּאמֶר 10
a son	and behold	of life	according to the time	to you	I will return	surely	And He said
N-ms	Conj-w Interjection	Adj-fs	Prep-k, Art N-csc	Prep 2ms	V-Qal-Imperf-1cs	V-Qal-InfAbs	Conj-w V-Qal-Conseclmperf-3ms

310 [e]	1931 [e]	168 [e]	6607 [e]	8085 [e]	8283 [e]	802 [e]	8283 [e]
'a·hā·rāw.	we·hū	hā·'ō·hel	pe·tah	šō·ma·'at	we·šā·rāh	'iš·te·kā;	le·šā·rāh
אַחֲרָיו:	וְהוּא	הָאֵהָל	פֶּתַח	שָׁמְעַת	וְשָׂרָה	אֲשַׁמְךָ	לְשָׂרָה
behind him	that [was]	to the tent	at the entrance	was listening	And Sarah	your wife [shall have]	Sarah
Prep 3ms	Conj-w Pro-3ms	Art N-ms	N-msc	V-Qal-Prtcpl-fs	Conj-w N-proper-fs	N-fsc 2ms	Prep-l N-proper-fs

שָׁמְעַת = **shama** /shaw-mah/ meaning "to hear", "to listen"

Ishmael - Derived from the Hebrew words **shama**, meaning "to hear" and **El**, meaning "God", thus "God hears."

1. Lord knows Sarah's private thoughts while she is:
 - a. Unseen
 - b. In tent
 - c. Behind the Lord
 - d. Can see no facial expression
 - e. No audible words or laugh
2. The fact that the Lord speaks to Abram audibly out loud about what unseen, unheard Sarah is thinking shocks/scares Sarah.
3. This is a sign to Sarah that the "man" speaking about her having a child knows what he is talking about. He is not normal.
4. Noteworthy that two features are involved here that correspond with the name ISHMAEL and ISAAC...
 - a. Sarah "LISTENS" as in Hebrew "samar" which means "hear" and is in Ishmael's name speaking of "HEARING"
 - b. Sarah "LAUGHS" as in Hebrew "sahaq" which means "laugh and is in Isaac's name speaking of "LAUGHING"

18:11 – Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah.

1. Four descriptions clearly explain the birth of Isaac was not normal, natural or humanly possible:
 - a. Old – **zeqenim**
 - b. Advanced in Years – literally “coming with days”
 - c. Past age of Childbearing – literally “as the way of women had ceased for Sarah”
 - d. Pleasure = **‘edna** refers to sexual relations

18:12 – So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?”

1961 [e]	1086 [e]	310 [e]	559 [e]	7130 [e]	8283 [e]	6711 [e]
hā-yə-tāh-	bə-lō-tî	'a-ḥă-rê	lê-môr;	bə-qir-bāh	śā-rāh	wat-tiṣ-ḥaq
הֵיִתְהַ	בָּלִיתִי	אַחֲרַי	לֵאמֹר	בְּקִרְבִּי	שָׂרָה	וַתִּצְחַק
shall I have	I have grown old	after	saying	within herself	Sarah	Therefore laughed
V-Qal-Perf-3fs	V-Qal-Inf 1cs	Prep	Prep-l V-Qal-Inf	Prep-b N-msc 3fs	N-proper-fs	Conj-w V-Qal-Conseclmperf-3fs

וַתִּצְחַק = tsachaq / tsaw-khak/ meaning "to laugh", "to mock", "to play", "to jest"

2204 [e]	113 [e]	5730 [e]	
zā-qên.	wa-dō-nî	'ed·nāh,	lî
וְהָיִתִּי	וְאֵלַי	עֵדֶנָּה	לִי
being old	and my master	pleasure	to me
V-Qal-Perf-3ms	Conj-w N-msc 1cs	N-fs	Prep 1cs

Isaac = וַיִּשְׂחַק = Derived from the Hebrew root וַצַּחַק (tsachaq), meaning "to laugh" or "to rejoice."

1. Hebrew 11:11 – (ESV) – “By faith Sarah herself **received power to conceive**, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.”
2. Romans 4:19 – (ESV) – “He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness[b] of Sarah's womb.”

18:13 – The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’

18:14 – Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”

18:15 – But Sarah denied it, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid. He said, “No, but you did laugh.”

3588 [e]	6711 [e]	3808 [e]	559 [e]	8283 [e]	3584 [e]
kî	šā·ḥaḳ·tî	lō	lê·mōr	śā·rāh	wat·tə·ḵa·ḥêš
כִּי	שָׂחַקְתִּי	לֹא	לֵאמֹר	שָׂרָה	וַתִּכְחַשׁ 15
for	I did laugh	not	saying	Sarah	But denied [it]
Conj	V-Qal-Perf-1cs	Adv-NegPrt	Prep-I V-Qal-Inf	N-proper-fs	Conj-w V-Piel-Conseclmperf-3fs

tsachaq "laugh", "mock", "jest"	6711 [e]	3588 [e]	3808 [e]	559 [e]	3372 [e]
	šā·ḥā·ḳet.	kî	lō	way·yō·mer	yā·rê·'āh;
	שָׂחַקְתָּ:	כִּי	לֹא	וַיֹּאמֶר	יָרְאָה
	you did laugh	but	No	And He said	she was afraid
	V-Qal-Perf-2fs	Conj	Adv-NegPrt	Conj-w V-Qal-Conseclmperf-3ms	V-Qal-Perf-3fs

Ki is a relative conjunction meaning = "for, because, when, if, surely, indeed, that"

Sarah's point of FAITH when she realizes it was God's Word that spoke to her.

1. Now Sarah is "afraid" of the Lord' response
2. The Lord says, "Yes" (Hebrew Ki) emphatically, as in, "Oh, YES, YOU did laugh."
3. This is the ONLY time Sarah is addressed in this chapter.
4. This tone ends the conversation
5. But, THIS MOMENT must be the turning point in Sarah's faith, because the NT indicates she believed the Lord and she had faith.
6. The Lord's intervention here appears to have produced faith in Sarah.

18:16 – Then the men set out from there, and they looked down toward Sodom. And Abraham went with them to set them on their way.

18:17 – The Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do,

18:18 – seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

18:19 – For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring to Abraham what he has promised him."

18:20 – Then the Lord said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave,

18:21 – I will go down to see whether they have done altogether[g] according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know."