

# Genesis 20:1 – The Great Trees of Mamre

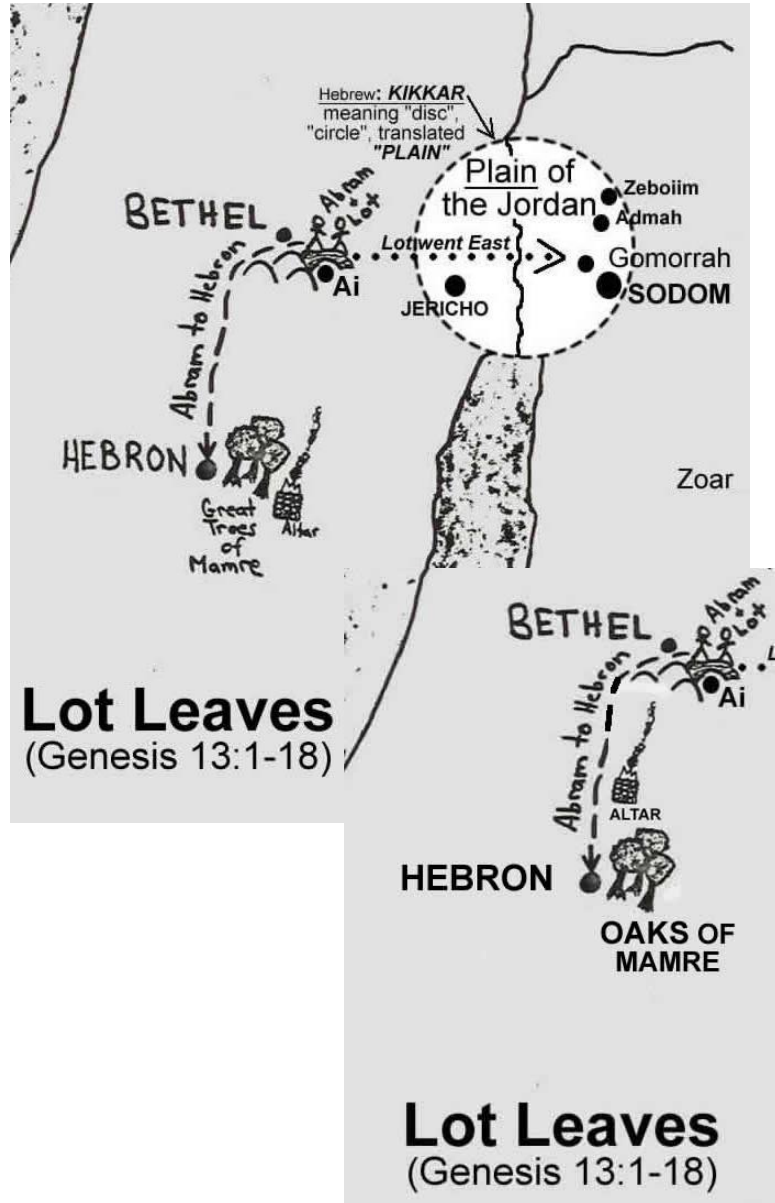
Genesis 20:1 – From there Abraham journeyed toward the territory of the Negeb and lived between Kadesh and Shur; and he sojourned in Gerar.

1. “Oaks of Mamre” in Genesis 18:1 is the Hebrew word “*elown*” or “*elon*”:
  - elown* /ay-lone/** meaning "oak", "terebinth" referring to a strong tree.
  - often large, strong trees or groves that lasted long and served as points of reference
  - These "elon" often marked sacred sites, meetingn places, burial grounds

2. “From there” refers to “by the oaks of Mamre” (Gen. 18:1)
  - a. Genesis 13:18 – Abraham had moved here in Genesis 13:18 when he and Lot parted:
 

“So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the ***oaks***[b] of ***Mamre***, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the Lord.”
  - b. Genesis 14:13 – Abraham lived here when Lot was captured by the four kings of the East:
 

“Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, who was living by the ***oaks***[a] of ***Mamre*** the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and of Aner. These were allies of Abram.”
  - c. 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.”



3117 [e]	2527 [e]	168 [e]	6607 [e]	3427 [e]	1931 [e]	4471 [e]	436 [e]	3068 [e]	413 [e]	7200 [e]
hay-yô-wm.	ke-hôm	hâ'ô-hel	pe-tah-	yô-šêb	wə-hû	mam-ré;	be-'é-lô-nê	Yah-weh,	'é-lāw	way-yé-rā
הַיּוֹם:	בְּחֹם	הָאֵהֶל	פֶּתַח	יֹשֵׁב	וְהוּא	מַמְרֵא	בְּאֵלֹנֵי	יְהוָה	אֵלָיו	וַיֵּרָא
of the day	in the heat	to his tent	in door	was sitting	and as he	of Mamre	by the oaks	Yahweh	to him	And appeared
Art   N-ms	Prep-k   N-msc	Art   N-ms	N-msc	V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms	Conj-w   Pro-3ms	N-proper-fs	Prep-b   N-mpc	N-proper-ms	Prep   3ms	Conj-w   V-Nifal-Consecimperf-3ms

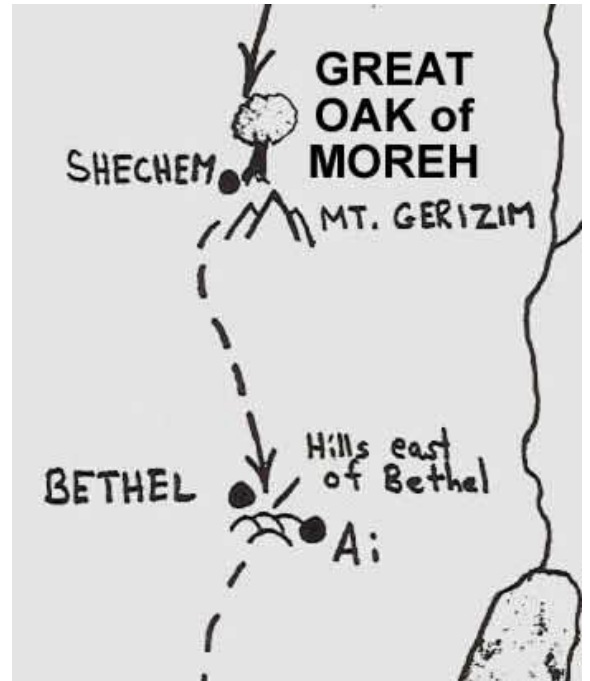
אלון - ***elown* /ay-lone/** meaning "oak", "terebinth" referring to a strong tree.  
 - often large, strong trees or groves that lasted long and served as points of reference  
 - These "elon" often marked sacred sites, meetingn places, burial grounds

- d. Genesis 23:17, 19 – The field belonging to Ephron located east of Mamre with a cave and a grove of trees that was purchased by Abraham to bury Sarah:  
*“So the field of Ephron in Machpelah, which was to the east of Mamre, the field with the cave that was in it and all the **trees** (‘ets /ayts/ meaning “tree”, “wood”, “timber”, used in Genesis chapters 1-3 19x) that were in the field, throughout its whole area, was made over to Abraham as a possession in the presence of the Hittites, before all who went in at the gate of his city. After this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah east of Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan. The field and the cave that is in it were made over to Abraham as property for a burying place by the Hittites.”*
- e. Genesis 25:9 – Isaac and Ismael buried their father Abraham east of Mamre in the cave of Machpelah:  
*“Isaac and Ishmael his sons buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, east of Mamre, the field that Abraham purchased from the Hittites. There Abraham was buried, with Sarah his wife. 11 After the death of Abraham, God blessed Isaac his son. And Isaac settled at Beer-lahai-roi.”*
- i. “Bee-lahai-roi” means “well of the Living One who sees me”
  - ii. The Angel of the Lord appeared to Hagar here
  - iii. Isaac lived here in Genesis 24:62 and 25:11
- f. Genesis 35:27 – Isaac lived at Mamre (Kiriath-arba, Hebron). Jacob visited Isaac at Mamre and buried him there:  
*“Jacob came to his father Isaac at Mamre, or Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had sojourned. Now the days of Isaac were 180 years. 29 And Isaac breathed his last, and he died and was gathered to his people, old and full of days. And his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.”*
- g. Genesis 49:30 – Jacob wants to be buried in the cave of Machpelah east of Mamre along with his family:  
*“Then he commanded them and said to them, “I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, in the cave that is in the field at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite to possess as a burying place.”*
- h. Genesis 50:13 – Jacob is buried at Mamre in the cave in the field where Sarah is buried. No mention of trees, oak or “elon”  
*“for his sons carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave of the field at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite to possess as a burying place.*

i. **OTHER VERSES WITH “OAK” (el<sup>on</sup>):**

i. There was an “oak (el<sup>on</sup>) of Moreh” in Genesis 12:6:  
*“Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak[d] of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.”*

ii. This same tree and location were mentioned by Moses in Deuteronomy 11:30 –  
*“And 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. 30 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[e] of Moreh?”*



j. Other “Oaks” (el<sup>on</sup>):

i. Judges 4:11 – *“Now Heber the Kenite had separated from the Kenites, the descendants of Hobab the father-in-law of Moses, and had pitched his tent as far away as the oak in Zaananim, which is near Kedesh.”*

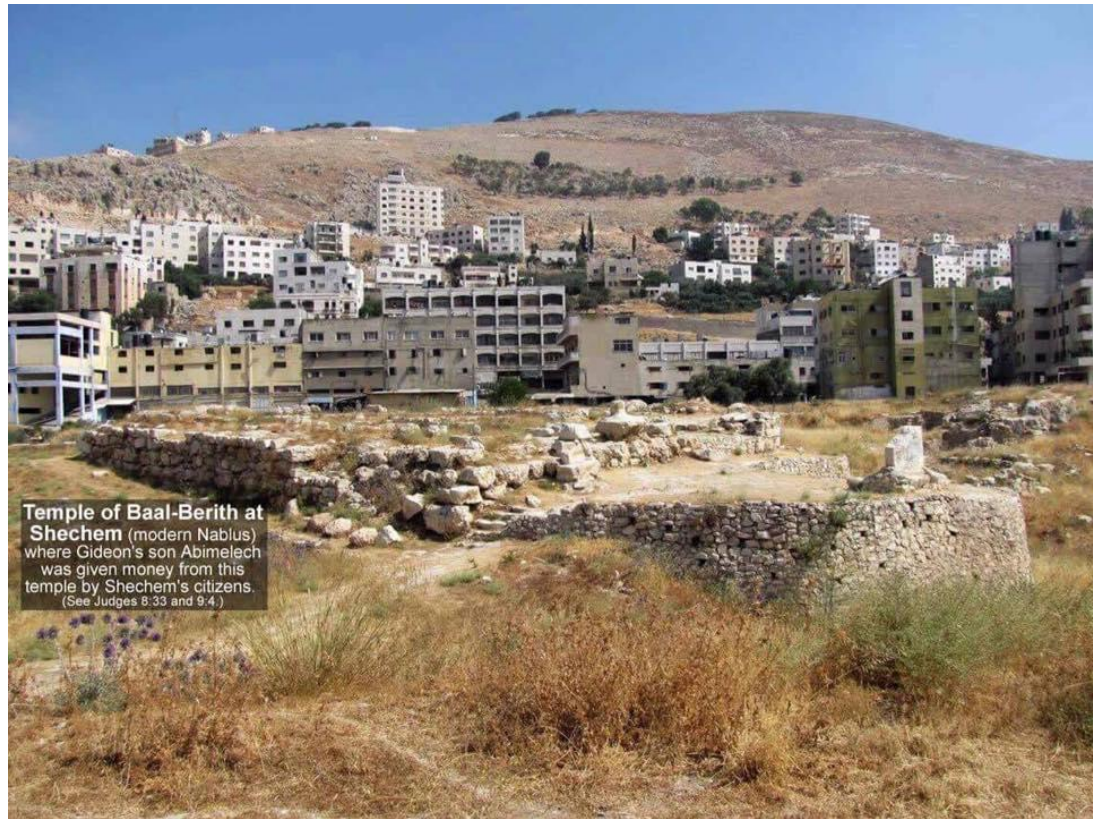
ii. Judges 9:6 – *“All the leaders of Shechem came together, and all Beth-millo, and they went and made Abimelech king, by the*

**Stone Pillar and Sacred Site at Shechem**  
(between Mt. Gerizim and Mt. Ebal)





**oak of the pillar at Shechem.”**

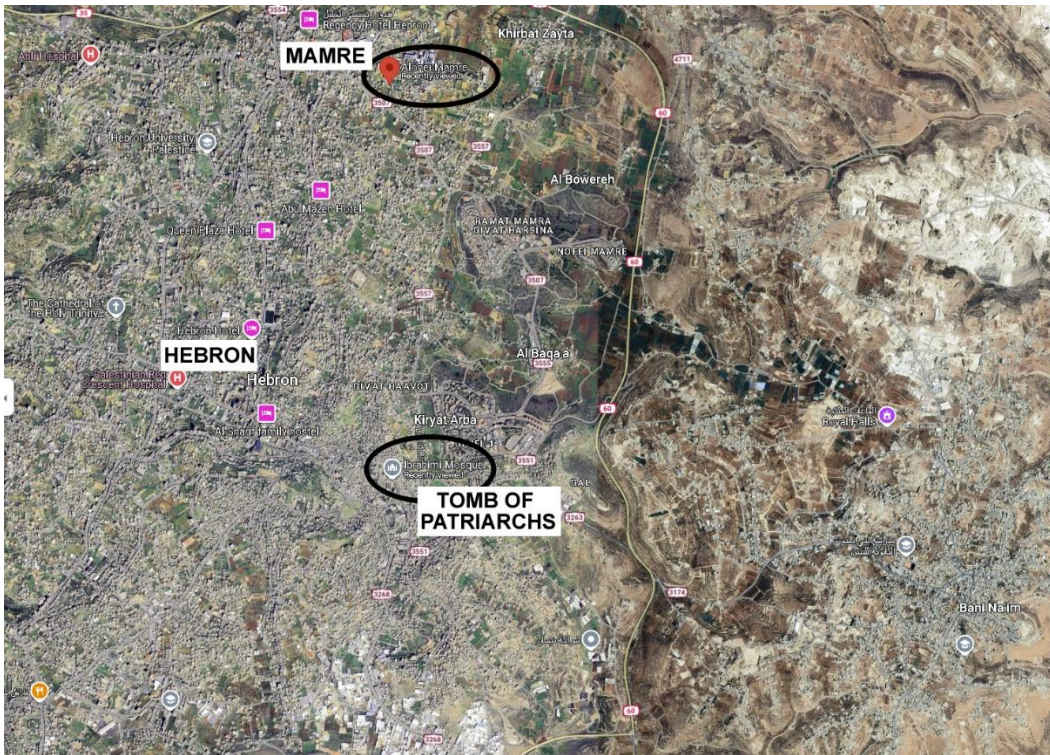


**Temple of Baal-Berith at Shechem** (modern Nablus) where Gideon's son Abimelech was given money from this temple by Shechem's citizens. (See Judges 8:33 and 9:4.)

- iii. 1 Samuel 10:3 – An “oak” tree is in the directions Samuel gives Saul when Samuel anointed Saul as king”  
*“Then you shall go on from there farther and come to the **oak** of Tabor. Three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you there, one carrying three young goats, another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a skin of wine.”*

## “The oaks of Mamre” in Genesis 13:18; 14:13; 18:1; “Mamre north of Hebron”

- Mamre is 2.5 miles north of Hebron
- The burial Cave of Mach is east of Mamre



- Videos showing Mamre:
  - By Joel Dramer, a biblical archaeologist with YouTube channel “Expedition Bible” :  
[https://youtu.be/WzunDBINbS4?si=ZWojRLq\\_BxcKz2R9](https://youtu.be/WzunDBINbS4?si=ZWojRLq_BxcKz2R9)
  - YouTube channel “HolyLandSite”:  
<https://youtu.be/zd-lqQ7R7Vs?si=4t0n3LACA1sluO90>











**Abraham's Well**



**Oak Tree Grew Here**

 [HolyLandSite.com](http://HolyLandSite.com)



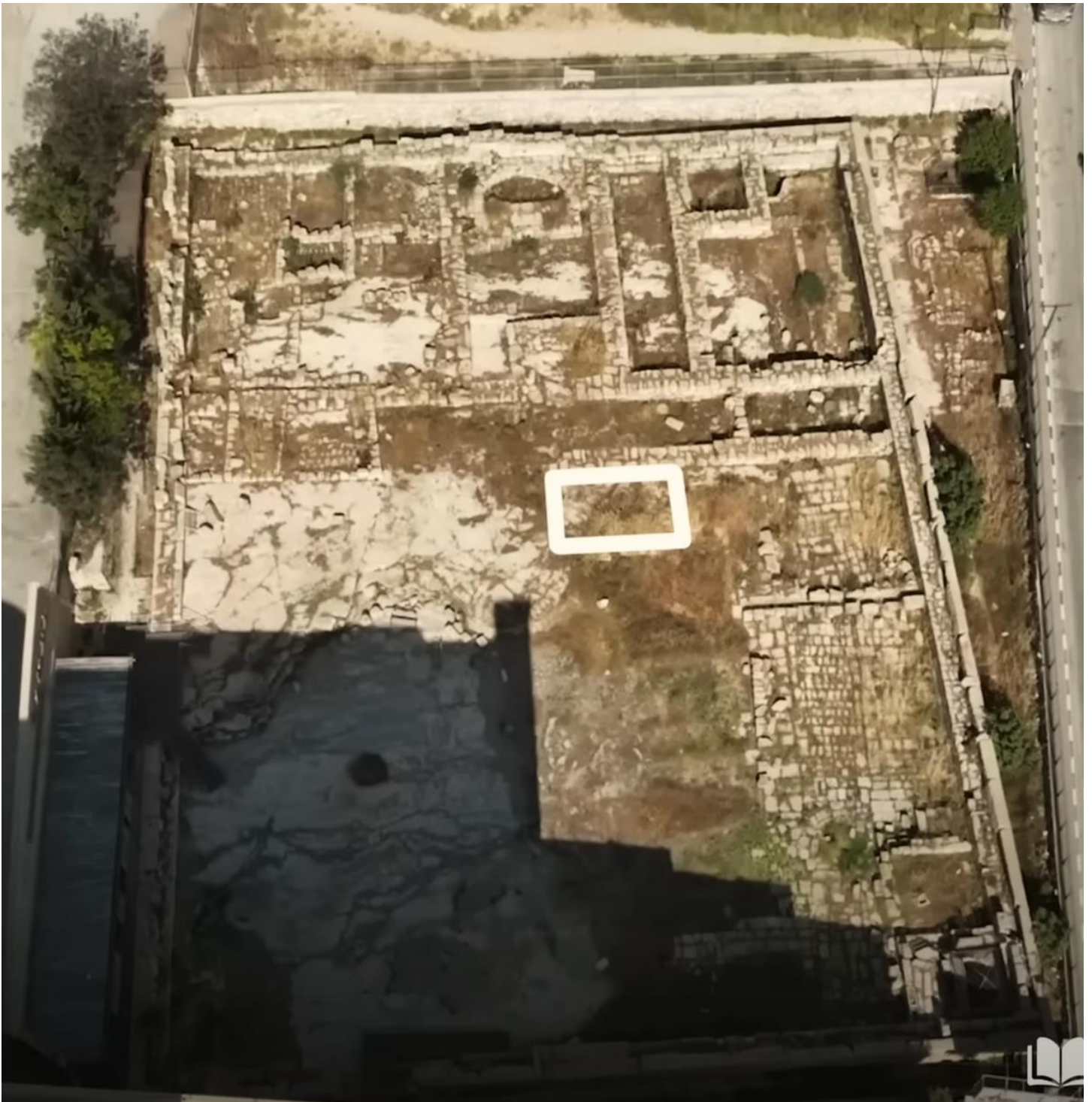




WELL







**ALTAR**





**Oak Tree**

**Abraham's Altar**

**Well**

