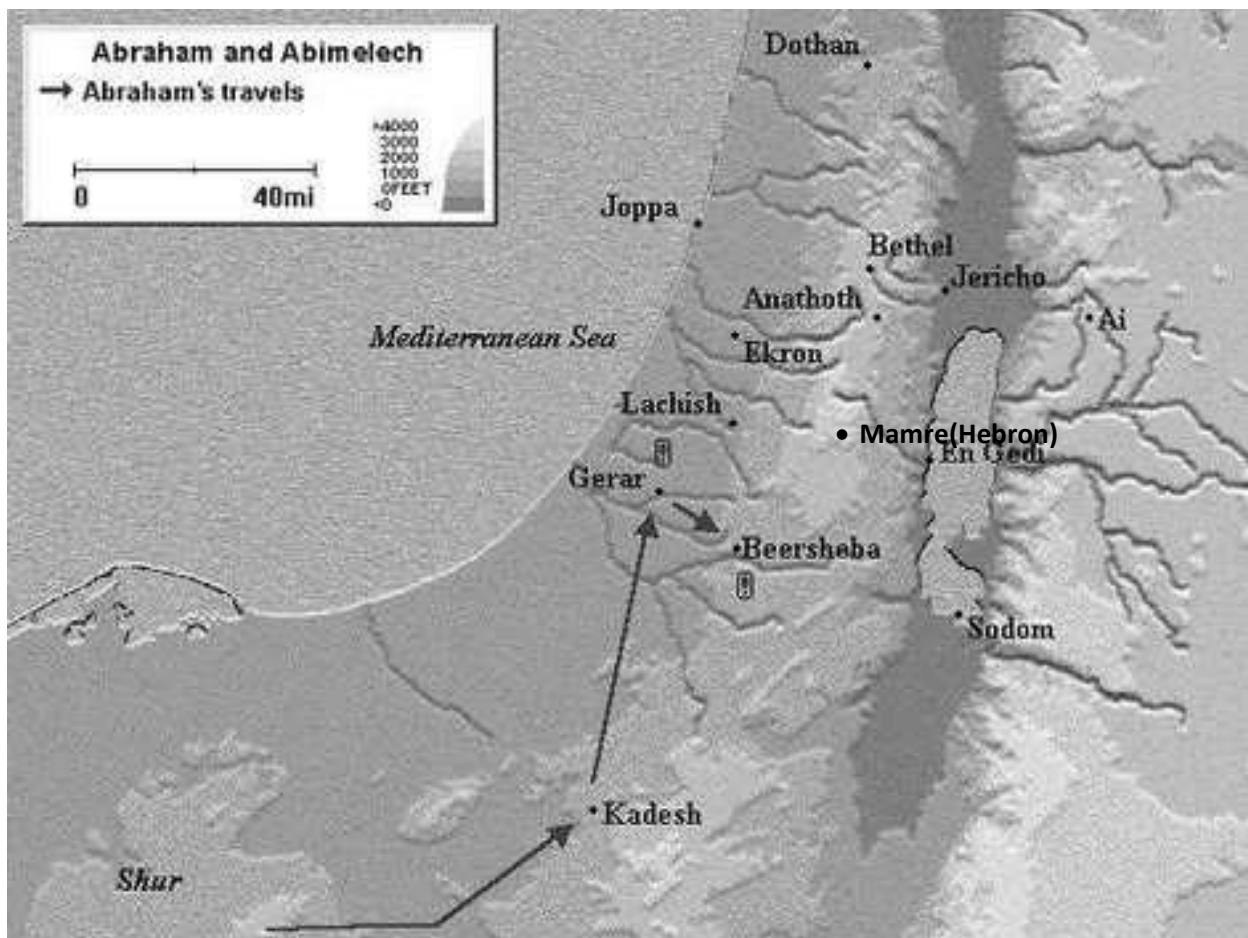


Read Genesis 20:1-2

- Chapter 20 begins with the words “From there Abraham traveled...” Where was he?
 - Genesis 18:1 – *Then the LORD appeared to Abraham at the oaks of Mamre while he was sitting in the entrance of his tent during the heat of the day.*
 - Genesis 19:27-29 – ²⁷Early in the morning Abraham went to the place where he had stood before the LORD. ²⁸He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and all the land of the plain, and he saw that smoke was going up from the land like the smoke of a furnace. ²⁹So it was, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, He remembered Abraham and brought Lot out of the middle of the upheaval when He demolished the cities where Lot had lived.



- We are not told why Abraham decides to move. Is it because of what happened in Sodom? Does he know that Lot is still alive? Could the move have anything to do with the fact that he began living in this place when he let Lot make the choice of land as they separated from one another?
- Does this seem like déjà vu? Considering the context, what potential problem does this create?
- How old is Sarah as she is being taken in the king's harem?
- Evaluate this statement: "Abimelech king of Gerar sent for Sarah and took her,' namely, into his harem. To take the sister of a rich man into his harem would enhance the king's prestige. Behind the king's action we see the prince of hell, seeking to pollute the womb of Sarah. Once again we see God's archenemy working in undying enmity against the descendant of the woman."
(People's Bible Commentary: Genesis, p.173)

Read Genesis 20:3-7

- God intervened here by coming to King Abimelech in a dream. What shows that this was no ordinary dream?
- If God had not immediately intervened here, what doubts would have been created?
- Can you think of another situation where God made clear what was taking place?
- Apply the following comment to this account: "It is regrettable that, judging by human standards, there are unbelievers who act more responsibly than some who bear Christ's name."
(People's Bible Commentary: Genesis, p.174)

Read Genesis 20:8-13

- How did Abraham seek to excuse himself?
- What did his excuses show?

Read Genesis 20:14-18

- Characterize King Abimelech's response.
- What is the stated purpose of the gifts given to Abraham in verse 16?
- What do you notice about the one to whom the gift is given?
- Note the irony of verses 17-18.
- What does the expression "God healed Abimelech" imply about the nature of God's punishment?
- Why is the use of God's covenant name (v. 18) significant?