

# Genesis 18-20

The Abraham Cycle

Journey Through Genesis

# Overview

This section of Genesis begins the  
"Abraham Cycle"

Genesis 12: Abram Called  
Abram and Sarai in Egypt (1)

Genesis 13: Abram and Lot Separate  
Abram covenant renewed

Genesis 14: Abram Saves Lot/  
War of Nine Kings  
Abram Blessed by Melchizedek

Finished  
Primeval  
History

Beginning  
Ancestral  
History

## Genesis 12:1-3

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, **so that you will be a blessing**. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

# Abram Chiasm

A. Genesis 11:27-32 The Genealogy of Terah

B. Genesis 12:1-9 Promises Made — Test of Faith

C. Genesis 12:10-20 The Sister Fib, Part 1

D. Genesis 13-14 The Rescue of Lot, Part 1

E. Genesis 15-17 Walking with God by Faith in Covenant

D'. Genesis 18-19 The Rescue of Lot, Part 2

C'. Genesis 20:1-18 The Sister Fib, Part 2

B'. Genesis 21-22 Promises Kept — Test of Faith

A'. Genesis 22:20-24 The Genealogy of Nahor

# Overview Pt 2

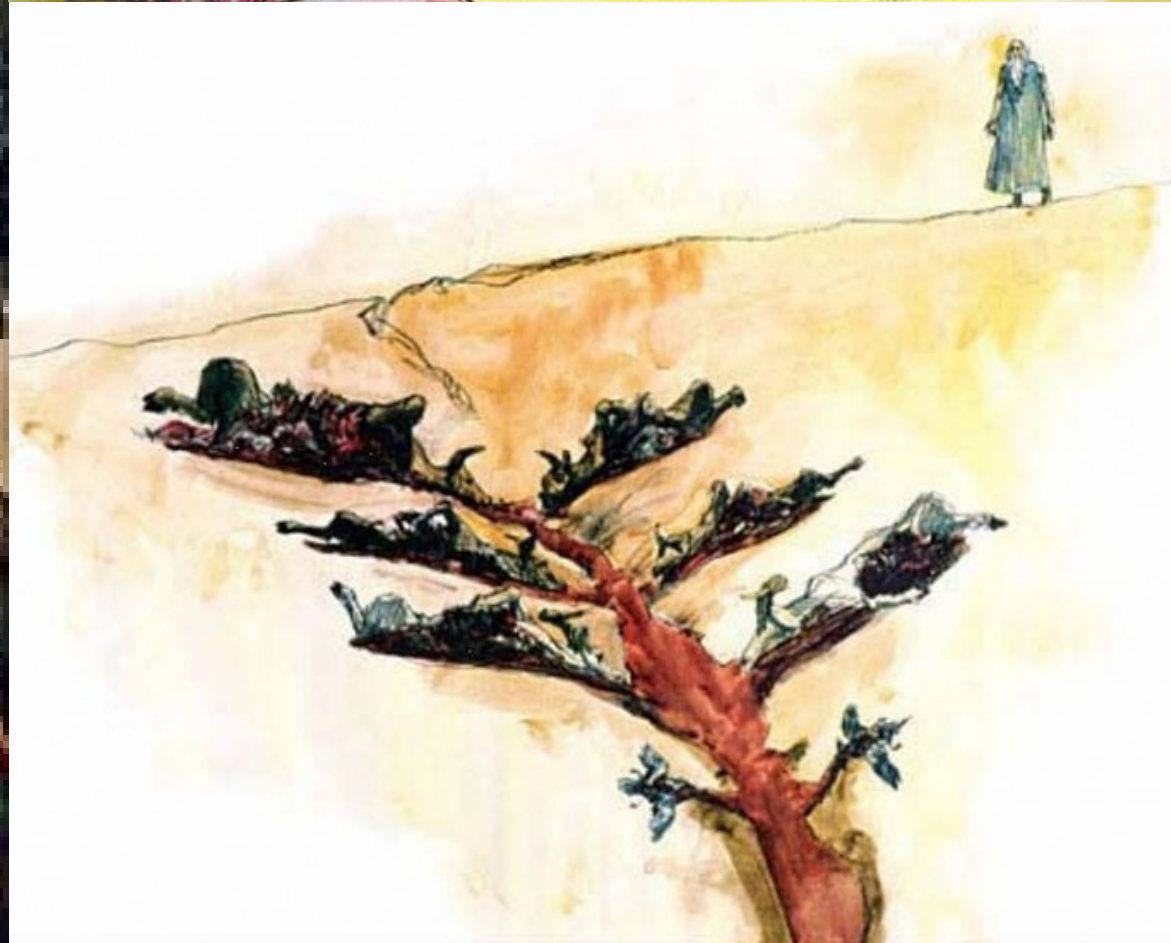
This section of Genesis continues the  
"Abraham Cycle"

Genesis 15: Abram Covenant of Pieces

Genesis 16: Abram and Hagar/Ishmael

Genesis 17: Abraham and Covenant Circumcision

# Genesis 15: Abram Covenant of Pieces



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# Genesis 17: Covenant Circumcision



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Available!

# Genesis 18-20

## The Abraham Cycle

### Journey Through Genesis

**Questions/  
What stood out/  
Let's read!**

# Overview Pt 3

This section of Genesis continues the  
"Abraham Cycle"

Genesis 18: Abraham and Three Visitors at Mamre  
Abraham's Hospitality  
Abraham Intercedes for Sodom & Gom

Genesis 19: Lot's/ Sodom & Gomorrah's Hospitality  
Lot and his daughters.....

Genesis 20: Sister Fib Part 2

# Genesis 18: Abraham and Three Visitors at Mamre

Abraham is there when suddenly three figures/the LORD appeared. He immediately begins a hospitality routine.

This story is twofold, about Abraham and the divine AND hospitality done well.

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# Genesis 18: Abraham and Three Visitors at Mamre

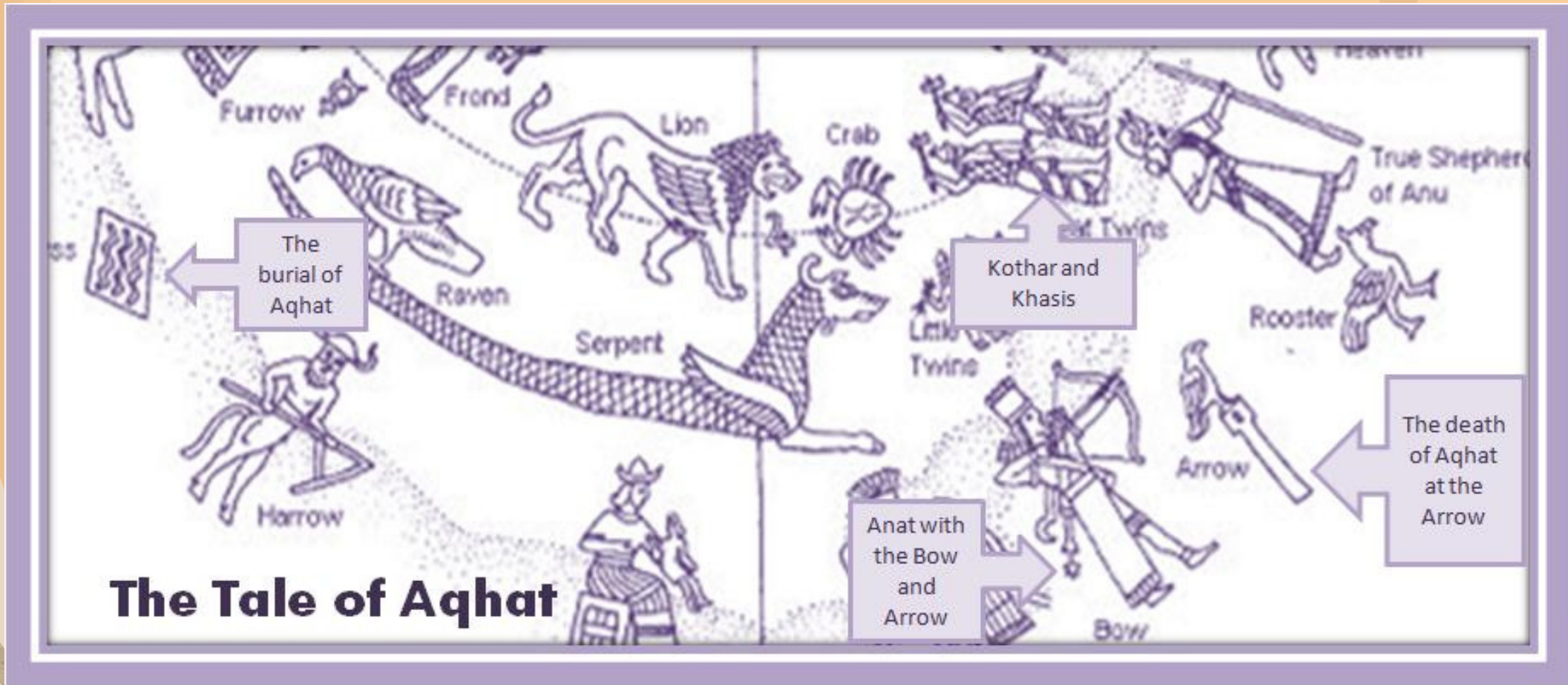
Abraham is there when suddenly three figures/the LORD appeared. He immediately begins a hospitality routine.

This story is twofold, about Abraham and the divine AND hospitality done well.

It also copies a **Canaanite Epic of Aqhat** about a just and hospitable father praying for a son...who ends up dead



The whole scene seems to be a monotheistic adaptation to the seminomadic early Hebrew setting of an episode from the Ugaritic Tale of Aqhat (tablet V: 6-7) in which the childless Dan'el is visited by the craftsman-god Kothar. As Moshe Weinfeld has observed, there are several verbal links between the two texts: Dan'el also is sitting by an entrance, overshadowed by a tree; he also "lifts up his eyes" to behold the divine visitor; and similarly enjoins his wife to prepare a meal from the choice of the flock.



Weinfeld has observed, there are two tales that are shadows of each other. One is the story of Aqhat, the hero who kills his wife's stepbrother. The other is the story of the Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, who is accused of the same crime. Weinfeld has observed, there are two tales that are shadows of each other. One is the story of Aqhat, the hero who kills his wife's stepbrother. The other is the story of the Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, who is accused of the same crime.



Genesis: Translation and Commentary . W. W. Norton & Company. Kindle Edition.

# Genesis 18: Abraham Intercedes for Sodom & Gomorrah

The "three/two visitors" are gone and Abraham is talking just with God again who warns of the coming destruction.

Abraham keeps praying (and God keeps listening) to be spared if but ten righteous persons are there. For Jews, 10 is the smallest judicial unit.

God seems to listen on account of Abraham's hospitality

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# Genesis 19: Lot's / Sodom & Gomorrah's Hospitality

In Contrast to Abraham is the hospitality of S&G  
Two (angels?) comes to S&G and the story begins  
with Lot mirrorings Abe's hospitality.

However, S&G doesn't respond well.

# Genesis 19: Lot's / Sodom & Gomorrah's Hospitality

**What was Sodom and Gomorrah's sin?**

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# Genesis 19: Lot's / Sodom & Gomorrah's Hospitality

What was Sodom and Gomorrah's sin?

Gang Rape?

Homosexuality?

Adultery? Pridefulness?  
Uncharitableness?

# Genesis 19: Lot's / Sodom & Gomorrah's Hospitality

Ezekiel 16:48-50 As I live, says the Lord God, your sister Sodom and her daughters have not done as you and your daughters have done. This was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had **pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease but did not aid the poor and needy.** They were haughty and did abominable things before me; therefore I removed them when I saw it.



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What was Sodom and Gomorrah's sin?

Gang Rape?

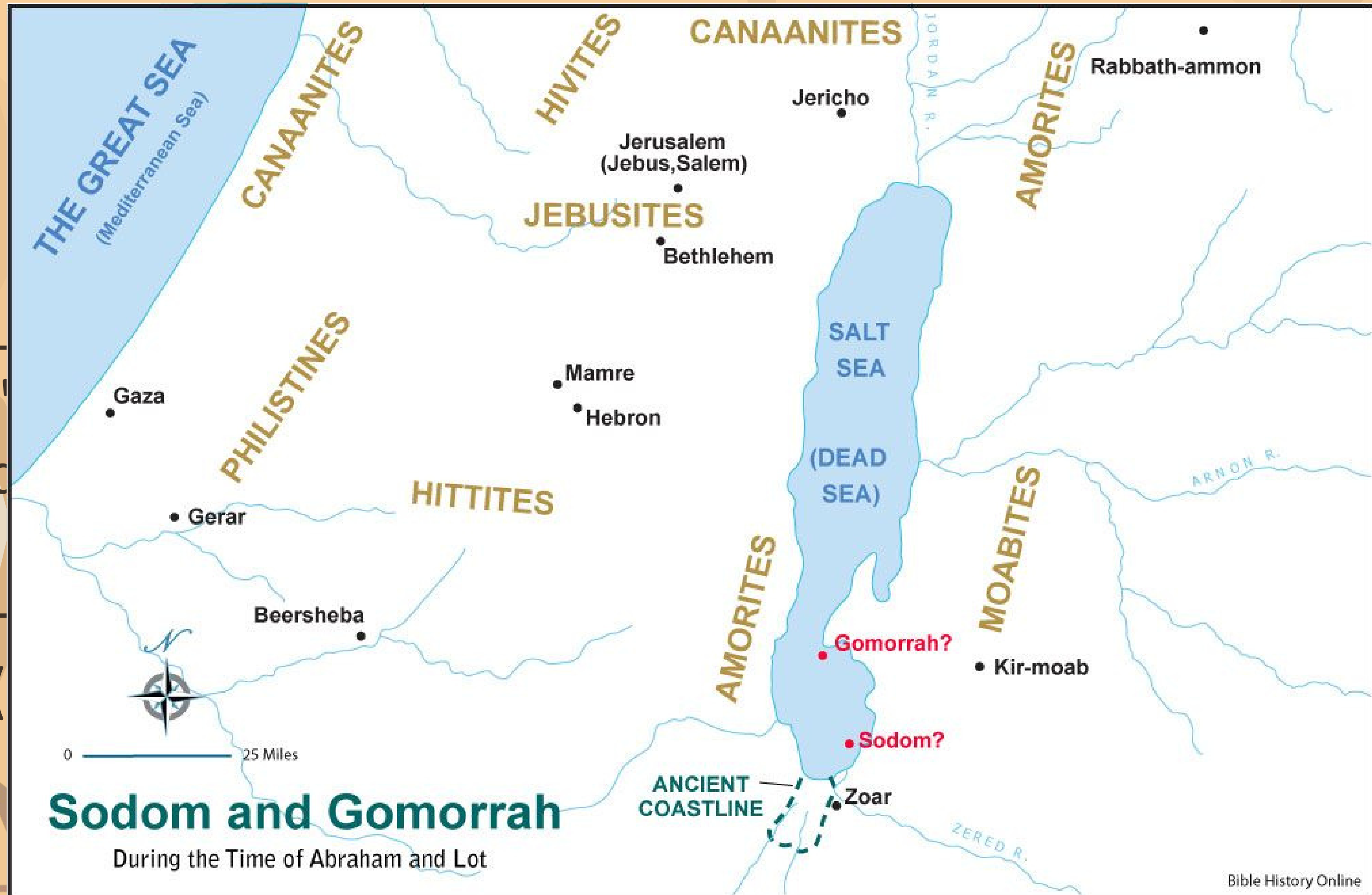
~~Homosexuality?~~

Adultery Pridefulness  
Uncharitableness/Unhospitable

# Genesis 19: Lot's Escape and His Daughters

Lot tries to bring his family but his son's in law are "jesting" so so he flees with his wife and two daughters.

His wife turns back and turns into salt (this is present day Dead Sea/Salt Sea)



# Sodom and Gomorrah

During the Time of Abraham and Lot

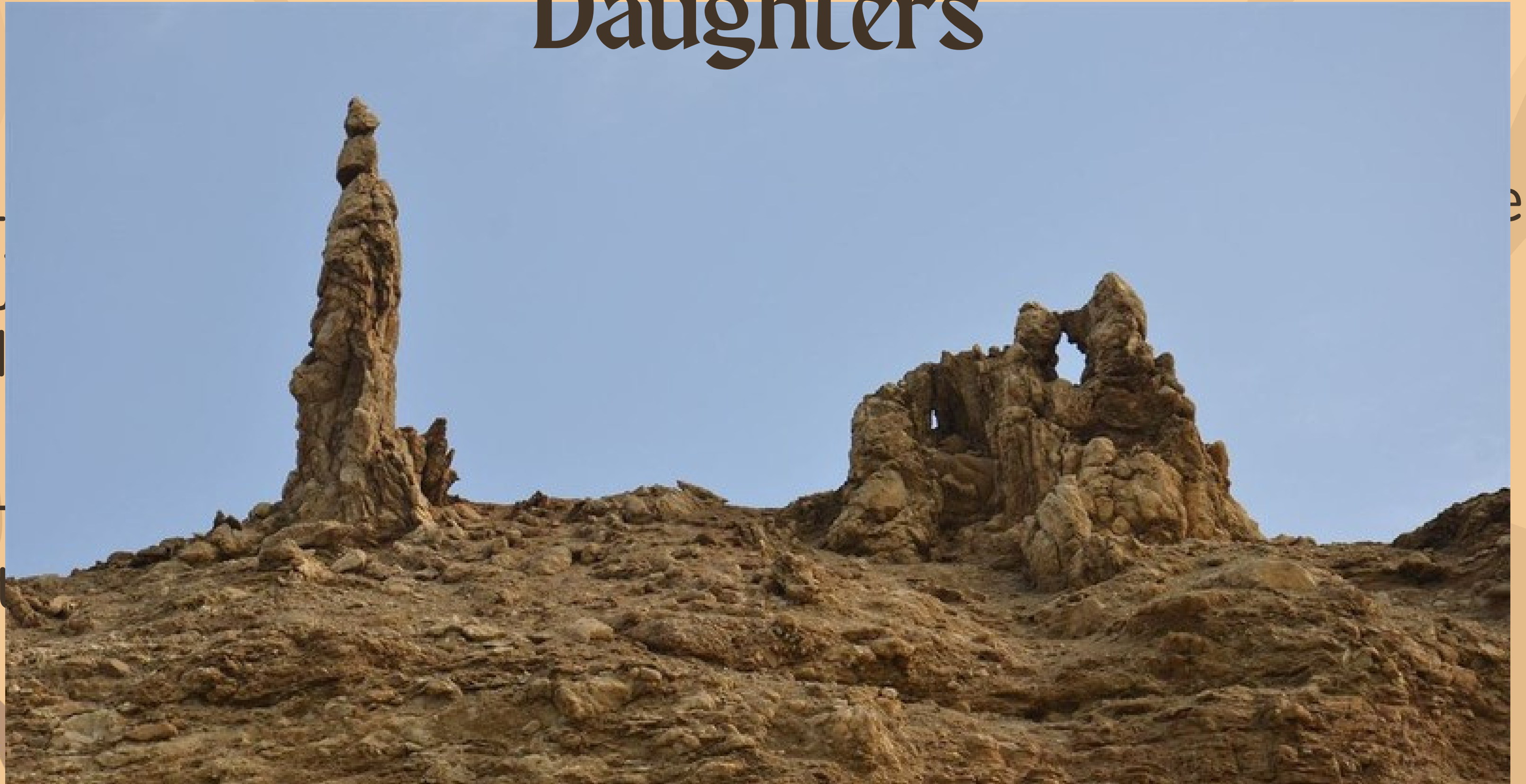
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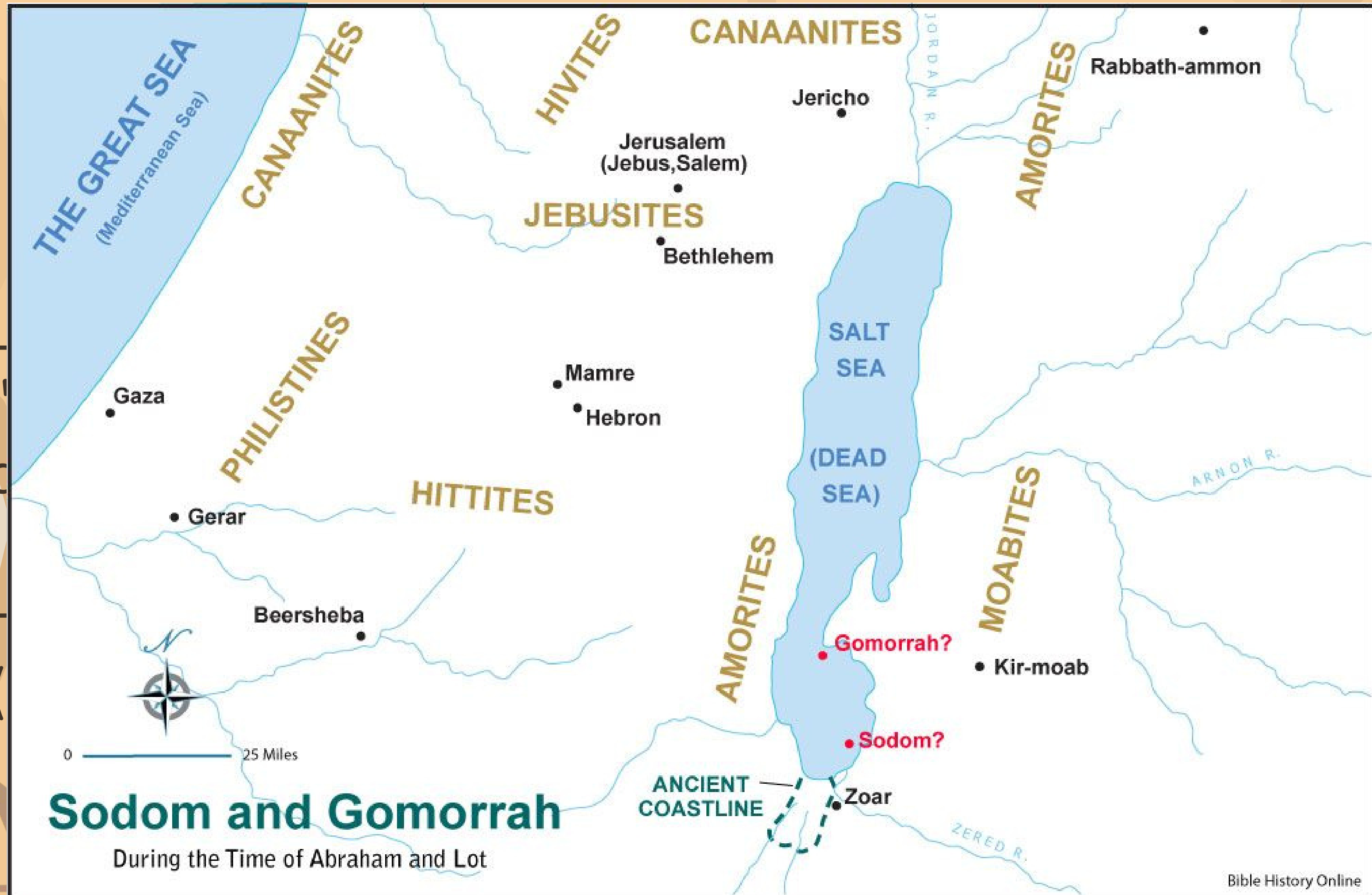
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# Genesis 19: Lot's and His Girls...







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# Genesis 20: Sister Fib Part 2

We see a repeat of chapter 12 that mirrors three stories

- Abraham and Sarah in Egypt (Gen 12);
- Abraham and Sara in the Philistine city of Gerar, with king Abimelech as the antagonist (Gen 20);
- Isaac and Rebekah, again with Abimelech in Gerar (26:1–11).

# Genesis 20: Sister Fib Part 2

Genesis 20-22 begins the Elohist source.....

Now the pagan king is seen more "favorably"  
Suddenly Abraham is a prophet.

These parallels are part of the chiastic structure.