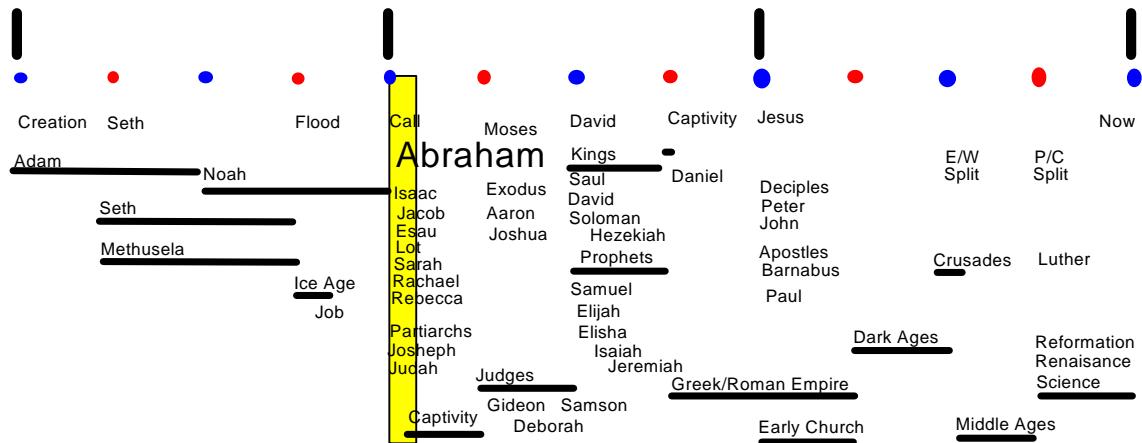


Abraham

ABRAHAM

The 13 Dots of History, The Movement of God In History, The Lord of History

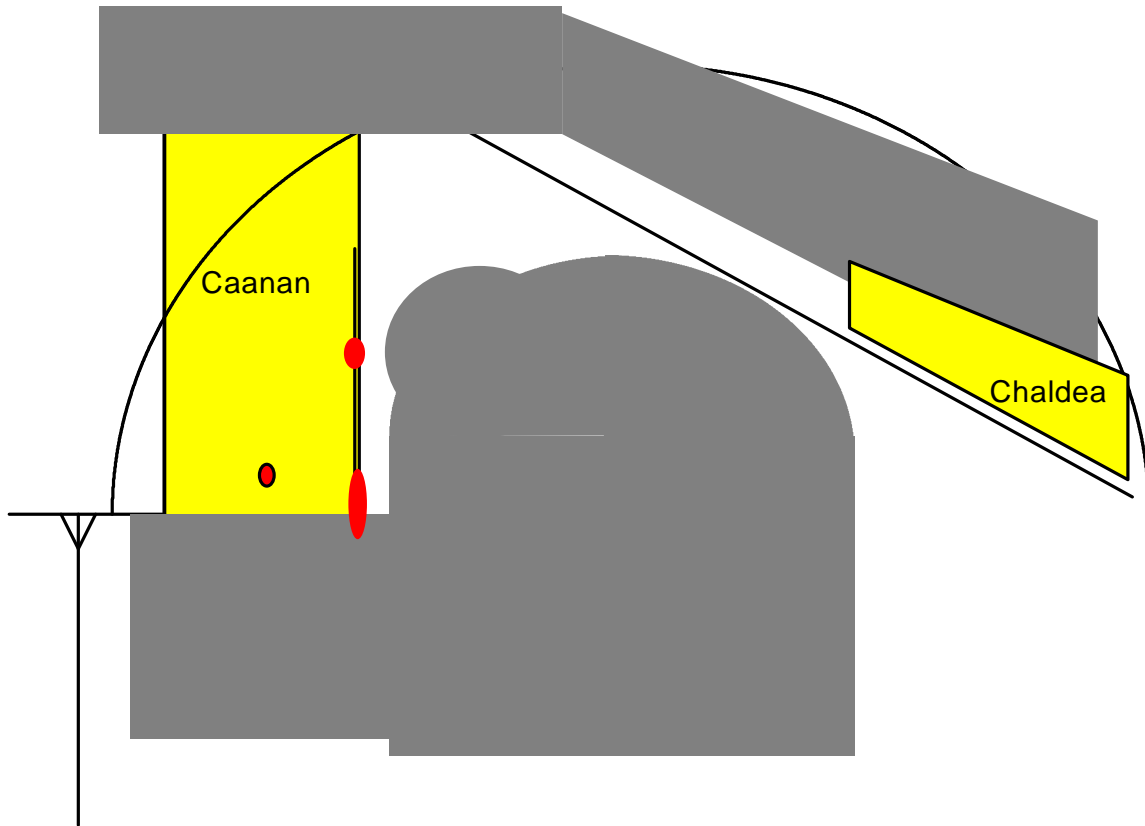




Abraham

God called Abram to migrate to Canaan,
assuring him that he would father a vast nation (Gen. 11:31).

Location - Chaldea

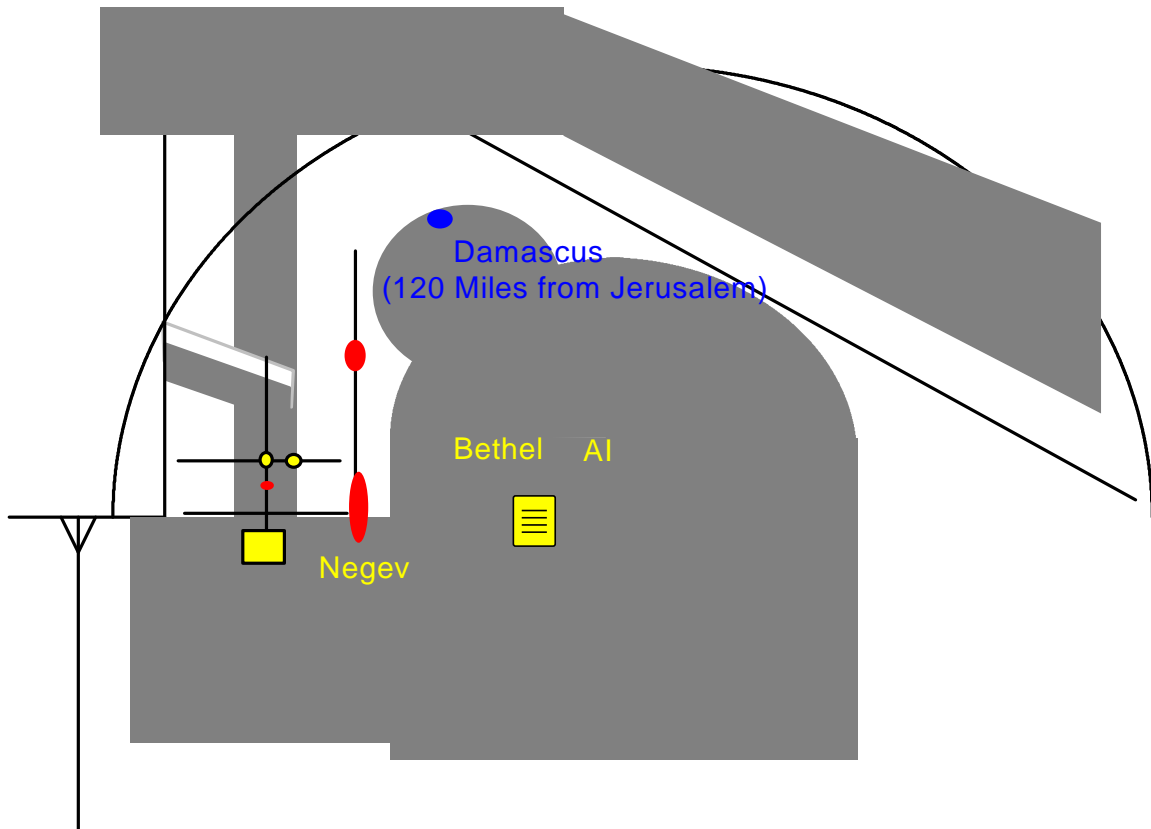


Abraham

Abraham and Lot Settle Between Bethel and Ai

After traveling throughout Canaan and into Egypt, Abraham and Lot finally settled between Bethel and Ai, about ten miles north of Jerusalem (Gen. 13:3). Abraham and Lot acquired herds and flocks so large that the land was unable to support both (Gen. 13:2,5). In addition, the herdsmen of Abraham and Lot did not get along (Gen. 13:7).

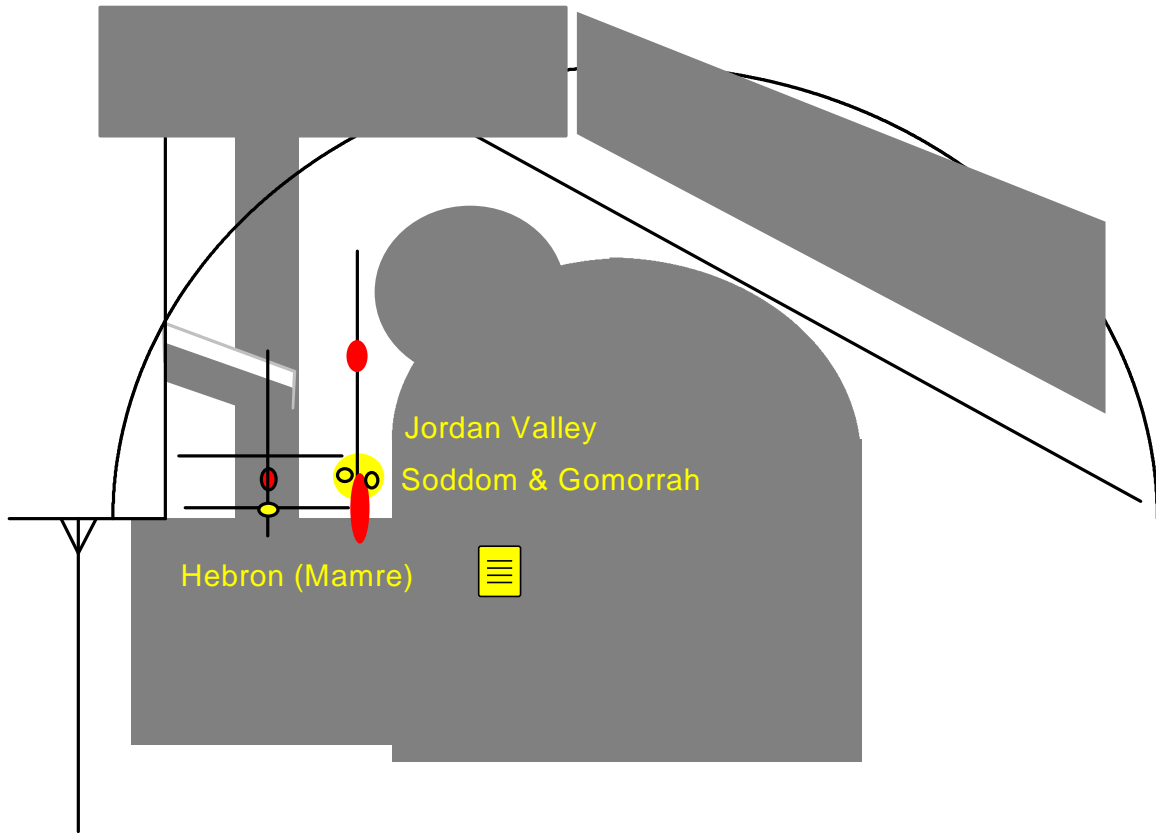
Location -- Up from Negev to settle between Bethel and Ai



Abraham

Lot chooses Sodom, in the Jordan valley

Location -- Sodom



Thus, to secure ample pasturelands for their flocks and to avoid any further trouble, Abraham suggested they separate. Abraham allowed Lot to take his choice of the land. Lot took advantage of Abraham's generosity and chose the well-watered Jordan Valley where the city of Sodom was located (13:8-12).

Abraham

Garden of the Lord

Some interesting details of the split between Abraham and Lot remind the reader of earlier events in Genesis. For example, the Jordan Valley is described as **being well watered "like the garden of the Lord"** (Gen. 13:10) reminding one of the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. One wonders if Lot would be more successful in this garden spot than Adam and Eve had been. The prospect of success was thrown in doubt by the way Lot's journey is described--he journeyed east, a description that recalls Adam's and Eve's journey after their expulsion from the garden (Gen. 3:24).

Negative connotation of fertile valleys

The Jordan Valley is also described as **being fertile like Egypt** (Gen. 13:10). This detail not only **recalls Abraham's nearly disastrous journey to Egypt** to avoid the famine in Canaan (Gen. 12:10-20) but also foreshadows the journey that **Jacob** and his family would later make (Gen. 42-50)--**a journey that did have disastrous consequences** (Ex. 1:8-14).

Negative connotation of cities

The mention of the cities of the Jordan Valley also carries negative connotations. One is reminded of the story of the **tower of Babel** where the people had gathered in one place (they had migrated from the east) to build themselves a city and make a name for themselves, so that they would not be scattered over the face of the earth and live like sojourners (Gen. 11:1-4). One is also reminded that **Terah gave up his pilgrimage** to Canaan to settle in the city of Haran (Gen. 11:31). To add to the negative connotations that cities have in the stories of Genesis, we are told that the **people of Sodom were great sinners against the Lord** (Gen. 13:13).