

Story 1:
The Call of Abram
Genesis 11:27 - 13:4



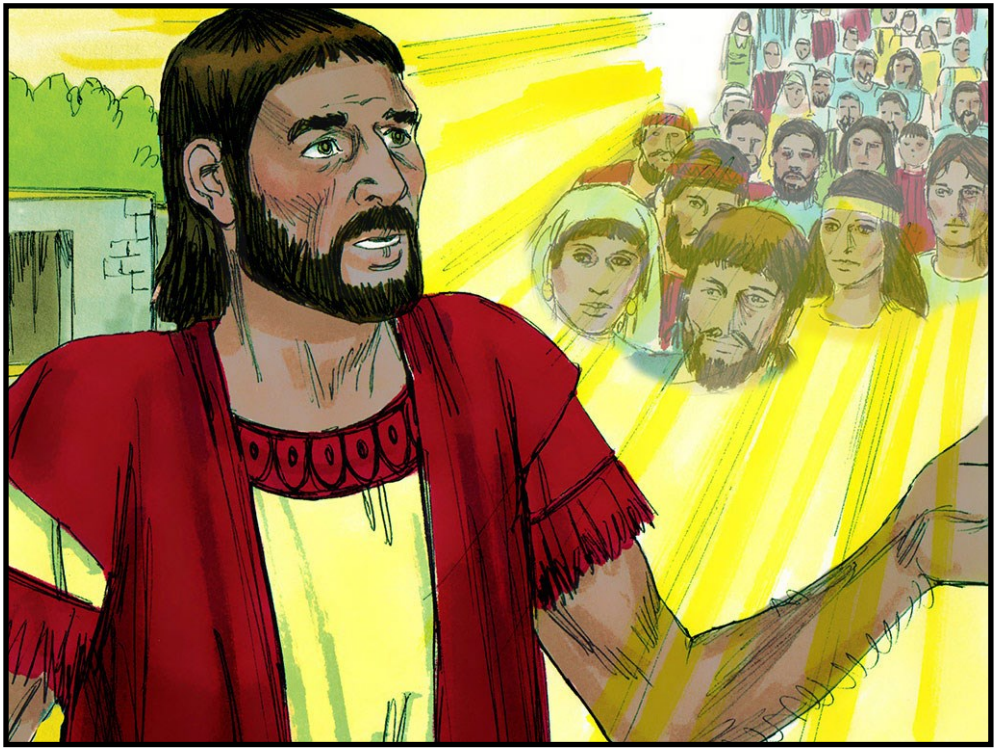
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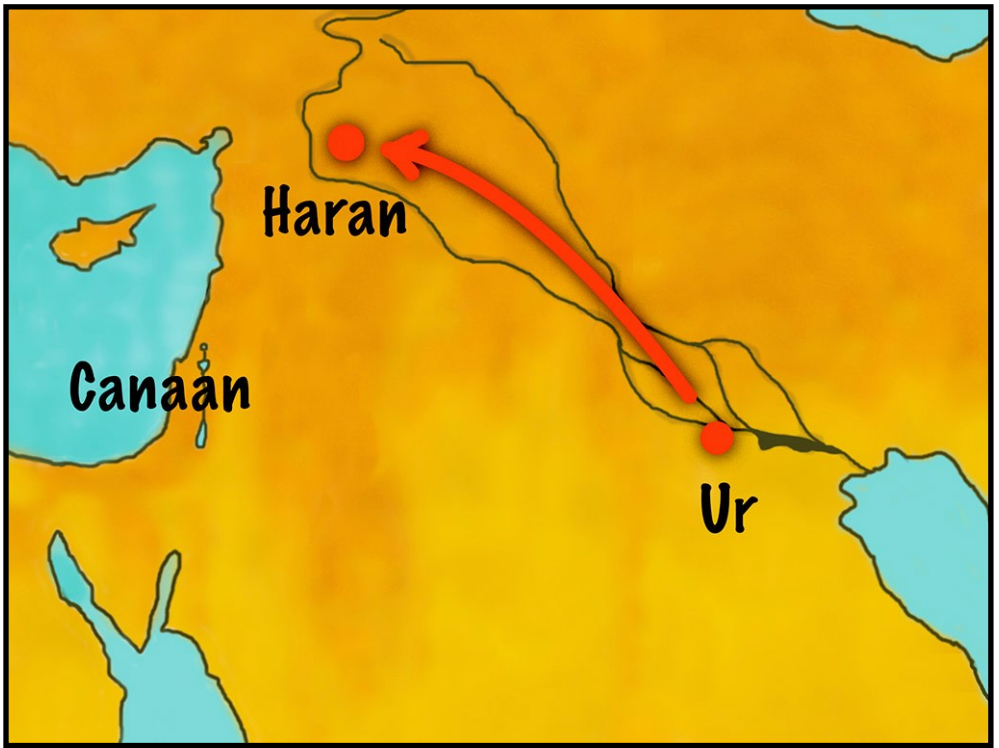
Abram and his beautiful wife, Sarai, lived in a city called Ur in the land of the Chaldean people. God told Abram to leave the city, travel on a long journey, and live in a new place —the land of Canaan.



God promised Abram that He would bless him and make him the father of a great nation. He told Abram that if anyone blessed his descendants, that those people would be blessed, but if anyone cursed his descendants, those people would be cursed. God told Abram that all the people on earth would be blessed through him and his family.



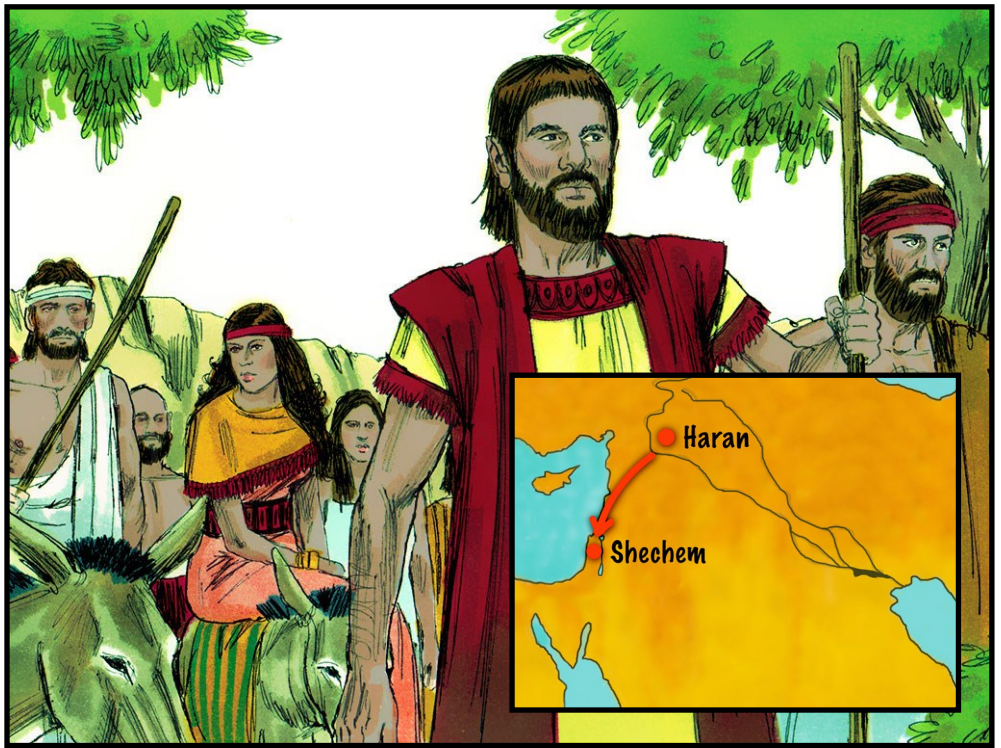
Abram obeyed God and set off for the land of Canaan with all his things. He also brought some of his family—his wife Sarai, his father Terah, and his nephew Lot.



After traveling from Ur they stopped in a place called Haran and settled there for a short time. While they were there, Abram's father, Terah, died.



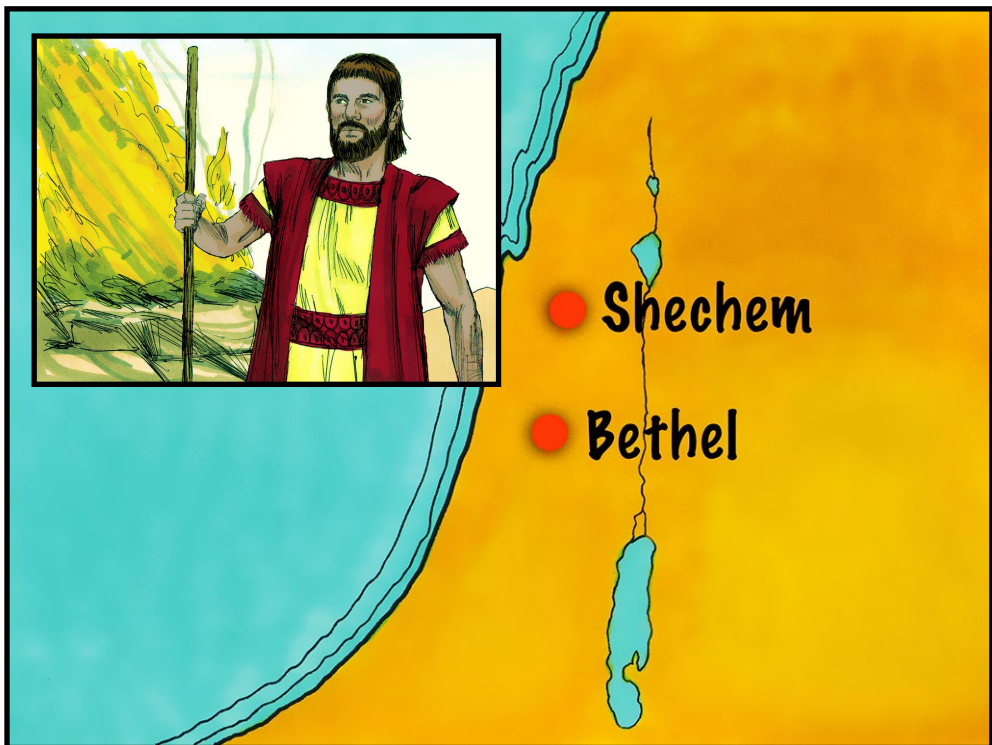
After his father died, God told Abram to continue on his journey to the land of Canaan. By this time he was 75 years old.



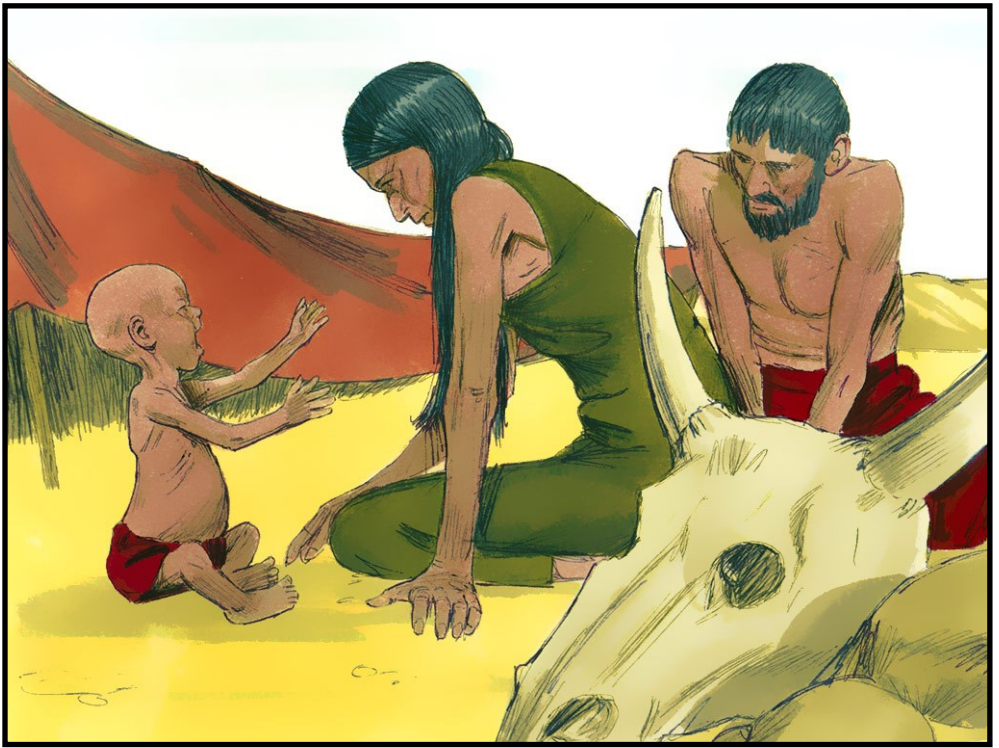
Abram obeyed God. He traveled south into the land of the Canaanites. His group came to a place called Shechem. At Shechem there was a great tree called the oak of Moreh. Abram settled there.



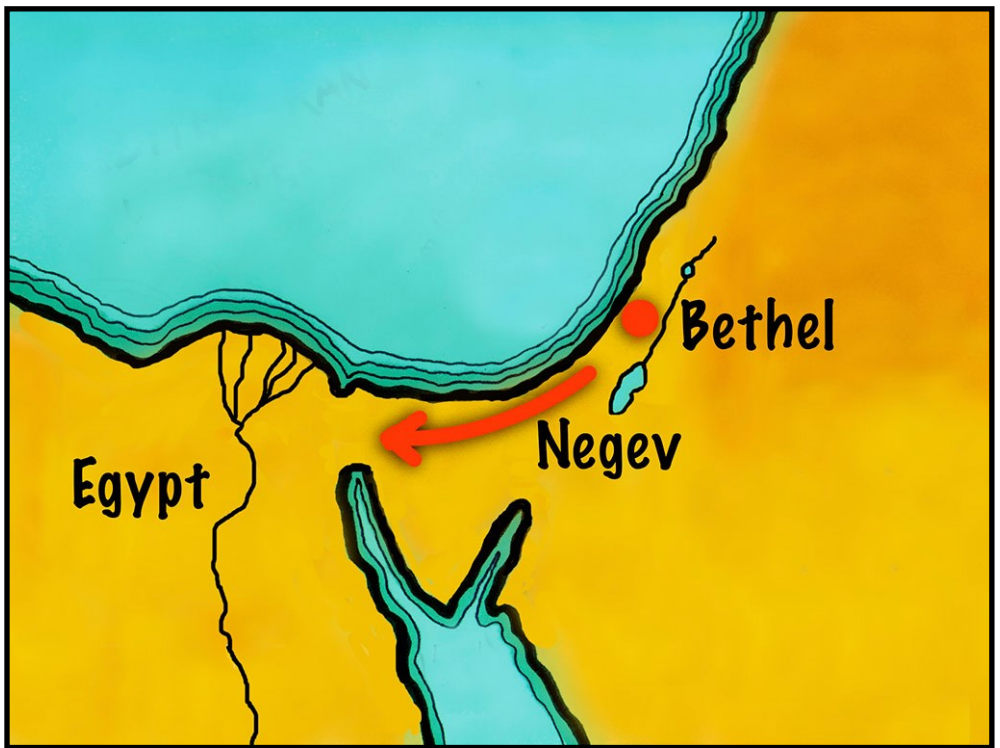
The LORD appeared to Abram and told him, “I will give this land to your descendants.” So, Abram built an altar to the LORD at Shechem and worshipped Him there.



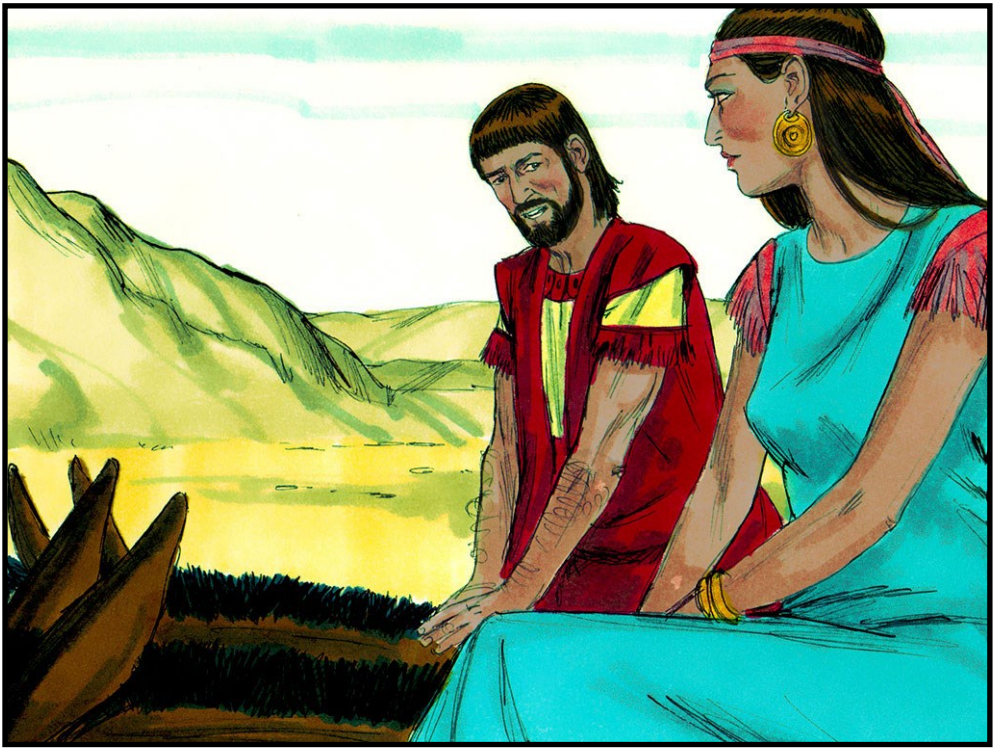
Abram and all those who were with him traveled south to a place called Bethel where he set up his tent. He built another altar to God, and he continued calling on the LORD and praying to Him.



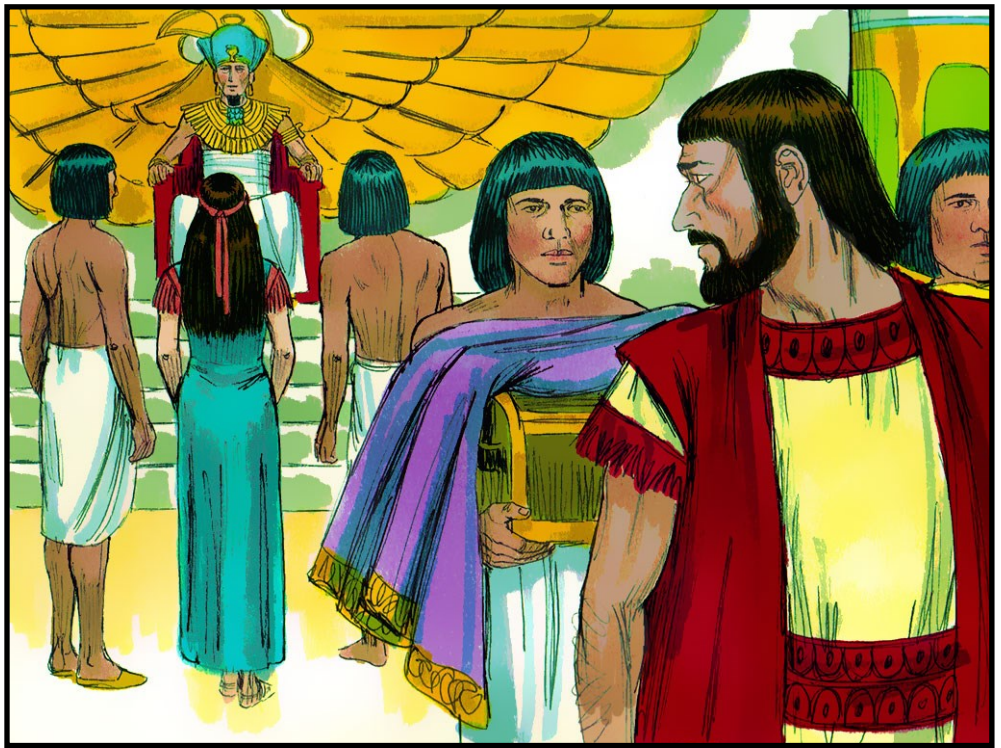
Just as Abram was getting settled, a famine started in the land. A famine is when it does not rain for a long time and the food stops growing. Many people and animals were very hungry.



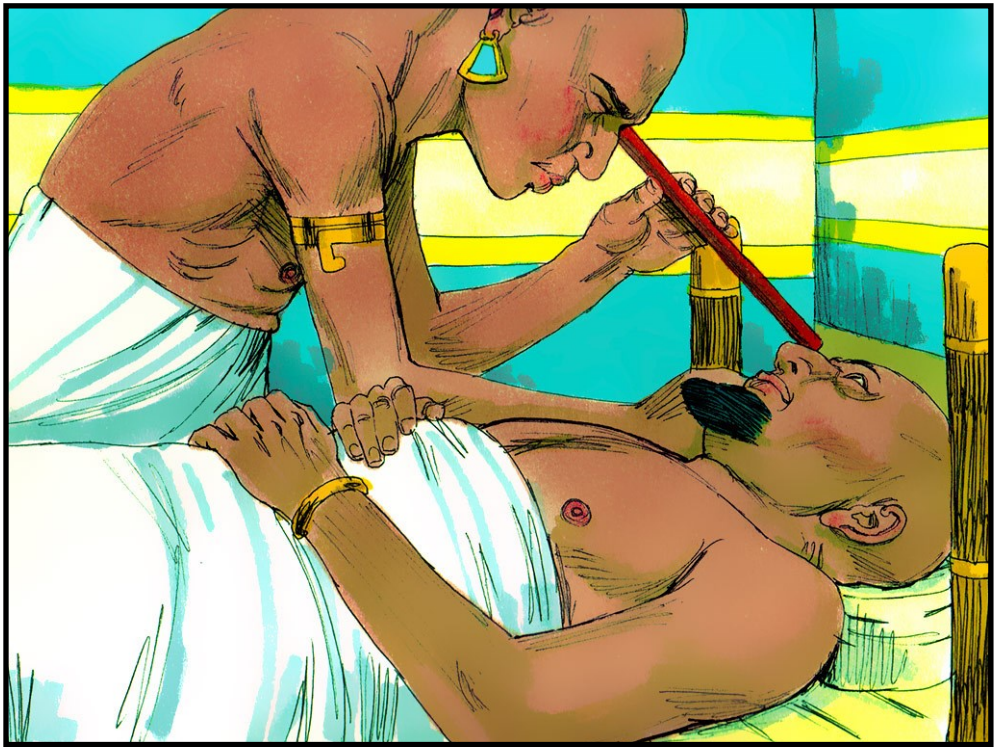
Because the famine was so bad, Abram and his family decided that they should travel further south. They went through the desert and into the land of Egypt to find food.



On their way to Egypt, Abram became very worried. His wife, Sarai, was very beautiful. Abram feared that the king of Egypt might kill him so that he could take Sarai to be *his* wife. So, as they were traveling, Abram asked Sarai to pretend that she was his sister instead of actually being his wife.

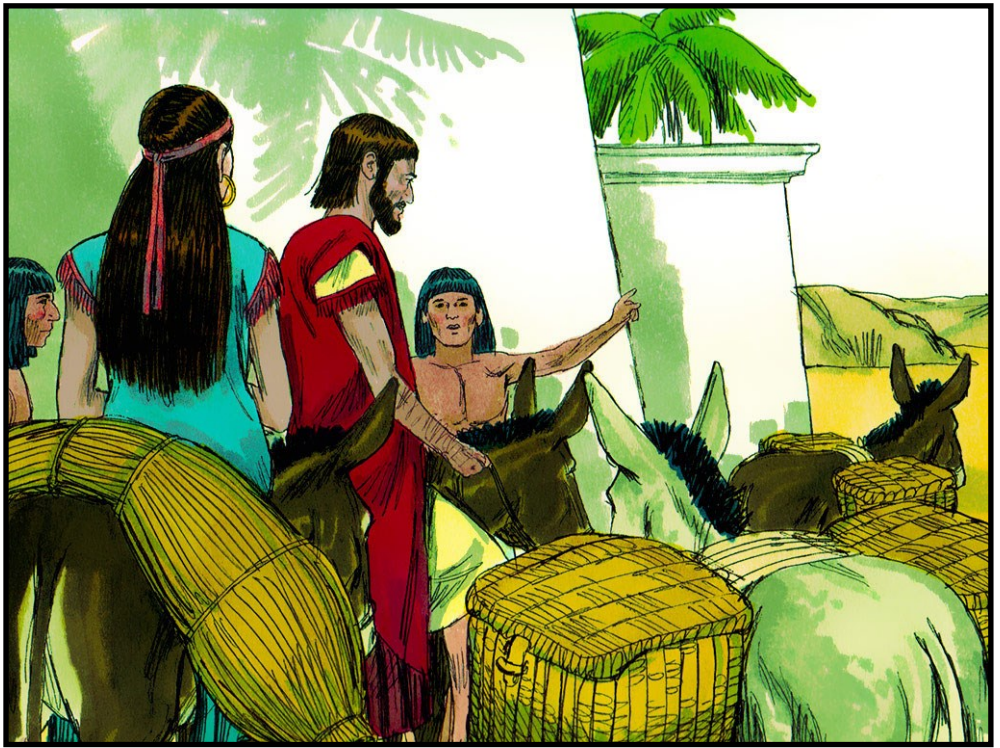


When Abram entered the land of Egypt, the Egyptians saw that Sarai *was* very beautiful. Pharaoh's workers saw her and began telling him how beautiful she was. Pharaoh decided to take Sarai into his palace and to treat Abram very kindly because of her. He gave Abram flocks of sheep, herds of cattle, donkeys, camels, and even servants.

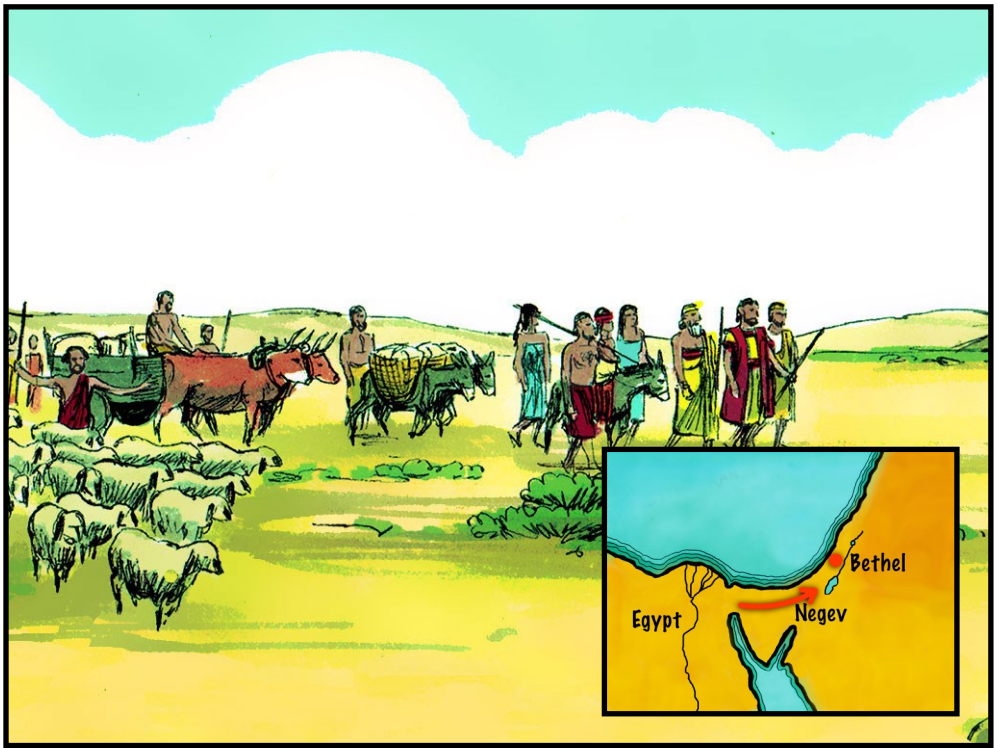


God didn't want Pharaoh to take Sarai as *his* wife so he sent serious diseases upon Pharaoh and his household. Pharaoh found out that Sarai was already married to Abram.

He summoned Abram and said, "What have you done to me? Why didn't you tell me that she was your wife? Take her and get out of here!"



Pharaoh gave orders to his officials to send Abram, Sarai, and all those traveling with him away from Egypt.



They went back to Canaan with all the cattle, servants, and gifts that Pharaoh had given them. Pharaoh had not taken the gifts back. Abram had become very rich in cattle, silver, and gold. Abram and those who were with him arrived back at Bethel and settled there. Abram prayed to God, and again, began calling on His name.



Abram could now settle in the land of Canaan—the land that God had promised to him and his descendants. However, he and his wife, Sarai, were unable to have children and they were both getting much, much older.

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