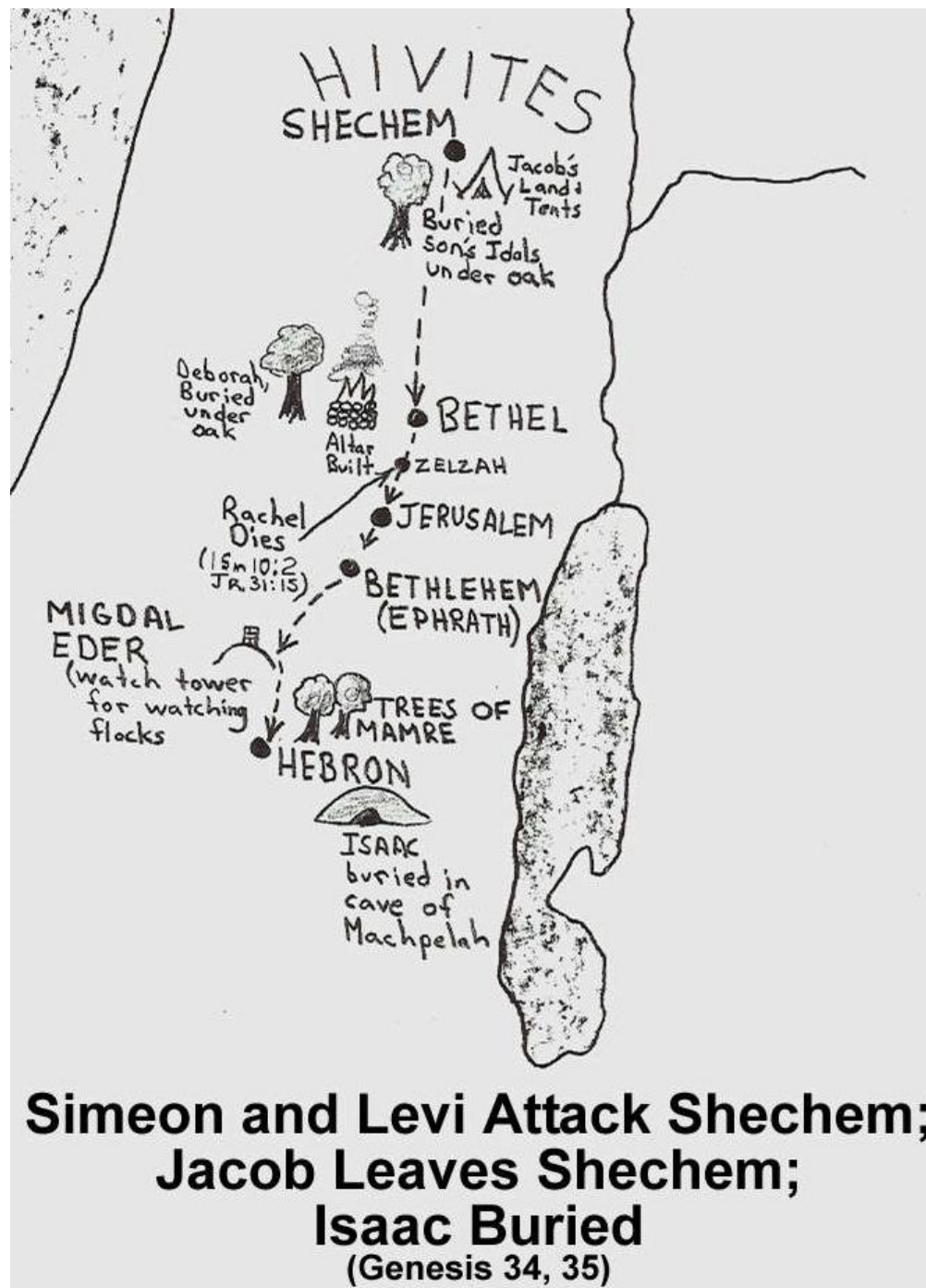


# Genesis 35:1-29

1. *Toledot* – “written account”, “generation record”
  - a. Gen. 25:10-11 – ends *toledot* of **Abraham**
  - b. 25:12-18 – *toledot* of **Ismael**
  - c. 25:19 – begins *toledot* of **Isaac**
  - d. 35:29 (here) – ends *toledot* of **Isaac** (this chapter ends the account began in 25:19)
  - e. 36:1-43 – *toledot* of **Esau**
  - f. 37:2 – *toledot* of **Jacob** begins (ends at ch. 50)
2. Main point of Genesis 35: God appears again at Bethel to Jacob (35:9)
  - a. First Time God appeared to Jacob at Bethel in 28:10-22
  - b. Second Time God appeared and blessed Jacob is at Peniel in 32:29
  - c. This “Again” refers to this time God is appearing to Jacob for the second time at Bethel
3. Chapter 35 has four burials (the foreign images and three people)
  - a. Foreign gods and cultic symbols (35:4)
  - b. Deborah - 35:8
  - c. Rachel - 35:19
  - d. Isaac - 35:28
4. At Bethel (35:6)
  - a. God fulfills his promise to Jacob (35:7)
  - b. Jacob fulfills his vow to God (35:14)
    - i. 28:13-15 – “I am the **Lord**, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. 14 Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 15 Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”
    - ii. 28:20-22 – “Then **Jacob** made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, 21 so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God, 22 and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you.”
    - iii. 31:3 – Then the **Lord** said to Jacob, “Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you.”
    - iv. 31:13 – “I am the **God** of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and made a vow to me. Now arise, go out from this land and return to the land of your kindred.”
5. It is considered that Jacob has had a moral transformation in Gen. 32-33
6. The progression from Shechem to Bethel to Hebron shows Jacob moving south through Canaan back to his home with his father Isaac.
7. God has guided Jacob these last 20 years (35:3; 28:15; 31:3; 46:4)
8. Both Rebekah (Jacob’s mother) and Rachel (the wife he loved) will have died.



### Shechem to Bethel (35:1-15)

God said to Jacob, “Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there. Make an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau.”

2 So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, “Put away the foreign gods that are among you and purify yourselves and change your garments. 3 Then let us arise and go up to Bethel, so that I may make there an altar to the God who answers me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone.” 4 So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods that they had, and the rings that were in their ears. Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree that was near Shechem.

35:1 –

1. God speaks to Jacob
  - a. First Theophany was at Bethel in 28:10-22
  - b. 28:20-22 – “Safely to your father’s house” (fulfilled in 35:27)
  - c. 31:13 – “Now leave this land (Padan Aram)
  - d. 35:1 – (here) “Go up to Bethel”
2. God says build an altar
  - a. This is the only direct, specific instruction from God to a patriarch to build an altar
  - b. Abraham and Isaac had previously built altars
  - c. No altar is mentioned to have been built by Jacob at Bethel in Gen. 28:10-22, but Jacob’s vow and worship in 28:22 seems to indicate there was an altar built

35:2 – Jacob speaks to family (including wives, sons, servants and slaves from Shechem

1. Purification
  - a. They had bought land and settled with the Hivites at Shechem. Wrong.
  - b. They would have intermarried with Hivites ending the Abrahamic nation
  - c. Dinah had gone out to visit the women of the land
  - d. Jacob’s family would have become Hivites and lived like Hivites
  - e. Jacob’s family leaves Shechem having practiced deception, murder, plunder
2. Jacob’s two commands:
  - a. Remove foreign cultic items:
    - i. Laban’s
    - ii. Taken from Shechem in plunder
    - iii. Others
  - b. Purify themselves:
    - i. Physical washing
    - ii. Change clothes
    - iii. Remove earrings
3. Moving to Bethel is a separation from mistakes of past
4. Mention of Esau at the beginning (35:1) and at the end (35:29) of the chapter indicates Jacob’s travels and fleeing from Esau are over.

35:3 – Explains purpose for purification

1. God answered Jacob on day of distress:
  - a. Esau
  - b. Laban
2. God was with Jacob wherever he went

35:4

1. Buried under “oak” (ela) near Shechem
  - a. Judges 9:6 – “All the leaders of Shechem came together, and all Beth-millo, and they went and made Abimelech king, by the oak (elon) of the pillar at Shechem.”

**5 And as they journeyed, a terror from God fell upon the cities that were around them, so that they did not pursue the sons of Jacob. 6 And Jacob came to Luz (that is, Bethel), which is in the land of Canaan, he and all the people who were with him, 7 and there he built an altar and**

called the place El-bethel, because there God had revealed himself to him when he fled from his brother. 8 And Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died, and she was buried under an oak below Bethel. So he called its name Allon-bacuth.[b-Allon-bacuth means oak of weeping]

35:5 –

1. Jacob had feared the “nations” in Gen. 34, but now the fear of Jacob is on those same nations

35:6 –

1. “El Bethel” means “God House of God” or “the God of the House of God”
  - a. This is focusing on “The God” not the place
2. “Luz” is the original name of the place. It is mentioned because the NEW name of Luz is the focus. Luz is repeated in:
  - a. Gen. 48:3 – “And Jacob said to Joseph, “God Almighty appeared to me at **Luz** in the land of Canaan and blessed me, 4 and said to me, ‘Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a company of peoples and will give this land to your offspring after you for an everlasting possession.’
  - b. Joshua 16:2 –
  - c. Joshua 18:3 –
  - d. Judges 1:23 –
  - e. Judges 1:26 –

35:7 –

1. “There” appears 2x because it is an important location.
2. Bethel is significant in Israel’s history
3. Built an altar
  - a. Abraham – 12:7-8; 13:18
  - b. Isaac – 26:25
  - c. Jacob – here
4. God appears to Jacob here:
  - a. “revealed himself” means “to show oneself”
  - b. “appeared” means it was a theophany
  - c. “reveal” (35:1, 9) show God’s will and word

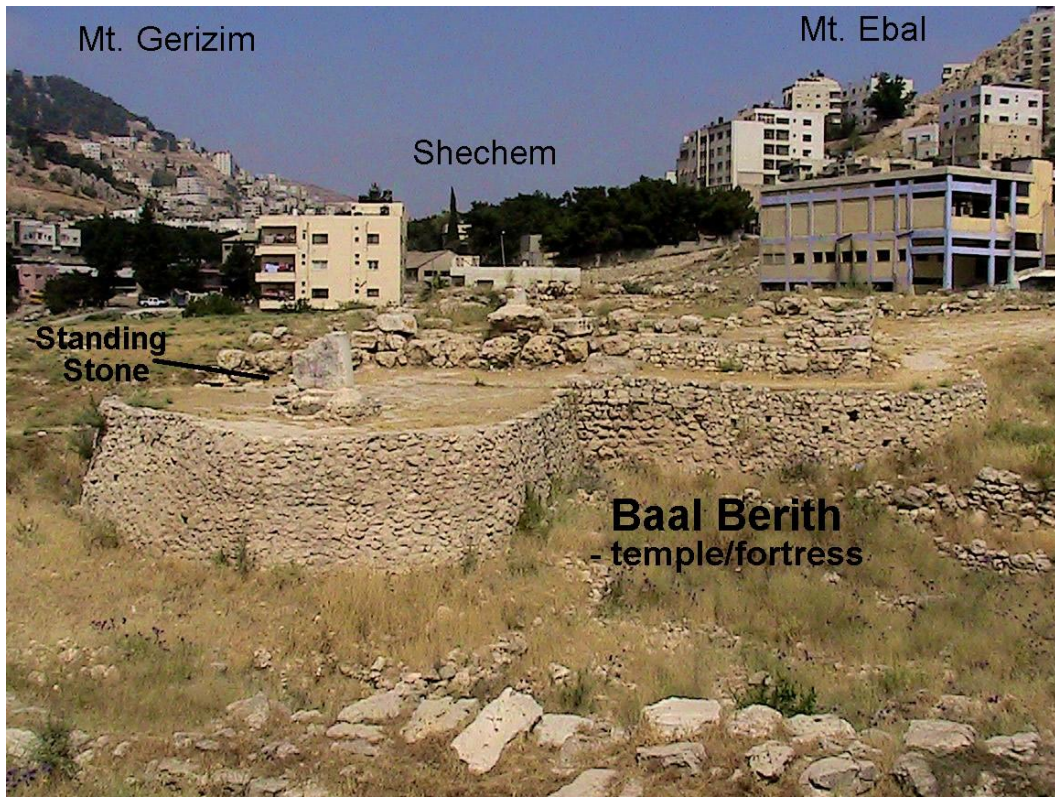
35:8 –

1. Deborah
  - a. Rebekah’s nurse
    - i. 24:59 came with Rebekah from Padan-aram when she came to marry Isaac: “So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse, and Abraham's servant and his men.”
    - ii. 27:43-45 – “Now therefore, my son, obey my voice. Arise, flee to Laban my brother in Haran 44 and stay with him a while, until your brother's fury turns away— 45 until your brother's anger turns away from you, and he forgets what you have done to him. Then I will send and bring you from there. Why should I be bereft of you both in one day?”
  - b. Deborah was older than Rebekah. So, she was very old by this time.
  - c. Deborah would have been a nursemaid who helped care for Jacob since his birth.
  - d. Deborah was likely sent back to Padan-Aram to get Jacob

- e. Rebekah's death and burial is not mentioned until Genesis 49:31
- f. Deborah is buried under an oak tree and the site is called ALLON BACUTH meaning "oak of weeping"
- g. The passing of Deborah represents the passing of the previous generation

**9 God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Paddan-aram, and blessed him. 10 And God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name." So he called his name Israel. 11 And God said to him, "I am God Almighty:[d] be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body. 12 The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you." 13 Then God went up from him in the place where he had spoken with him. 14 And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he had spoken with him, a pillar of stone. He poured out a drink offering on it and poured oil on it. 15 So Jacob called the name of the place where God had spoken with him Bethel.**

1. The substance of the blessing
  - a. God speaks for the second time in Gen. 35
  - b. Similar to blessings declared to Abraham after the test with Isaac
  - c. The name Israel
    - i. For Jacob means he has been transformed (32-33)
    - ii. For the future it refers to the nation
      1. This is followed by formally listing the 12 sons and the 12 tribes in 35:23-26
  - d. The blessing speaks of:
    - i. Birth of future generations – the nation fo Israel
    - ii. Conquest wars of Joshua
    - iii. Movement from 12 tirbes to the period of Kings
    - iv. Goy – a nation
    - v. Goyim – community of nations, or Abraham's father of many nations in 17:4-6
    - vi. Royal offspring from Jacob
  - e. 35:12 – The promise of land for Abraham-Isaac-Jacob-descendants
2. The divine ascension in 35:13 makes it clear God had appeared and now left:
  - a. God ascended from Abrahm after covenatn of circumcision
  - b. God now ascends from this place of worship at Bethel
3. 35:14-15 –
  - a. Place of Revelation honored with:
    - i. Pillar
    - ii. Naming
    - iii. Two anointings
    - iv. Drink offering
  - b. Jacob promises to present 1/10 to the Lord and likely did so that day at the altar.





# Stone Pillar and Sacred Site at Shechem

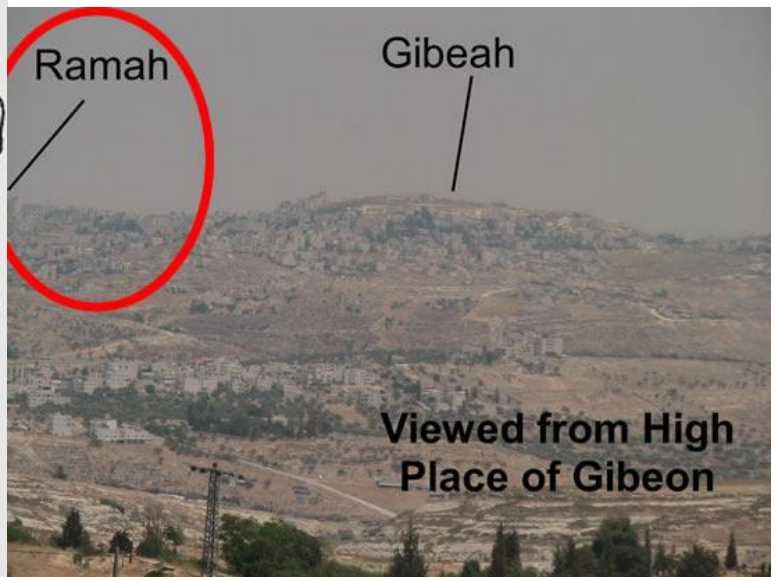
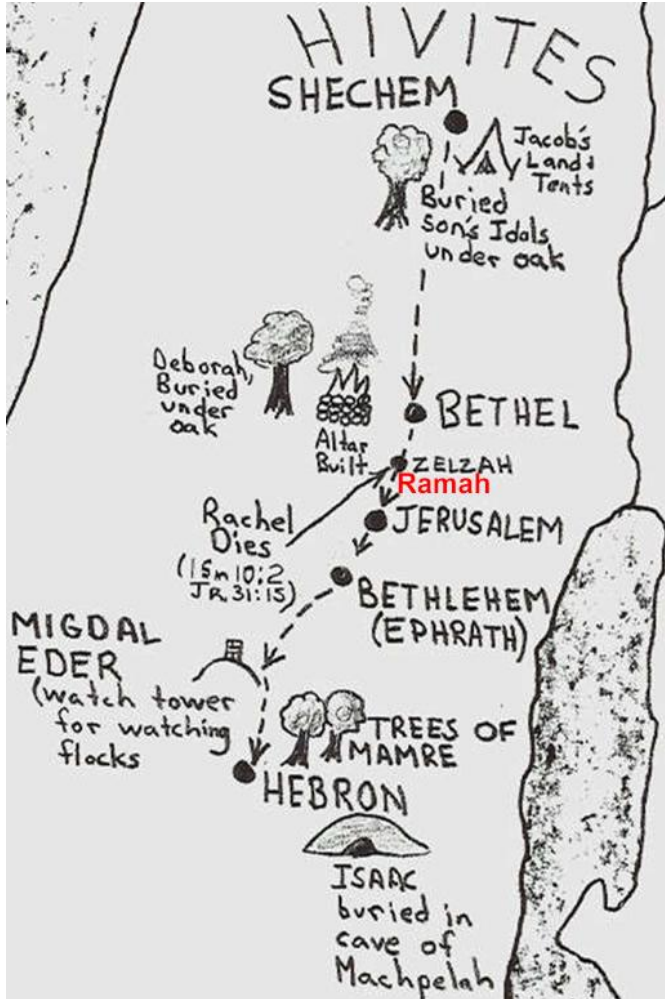
(between Mt. Gerizim and Mt. Ebal)





## Death of Rachel (35:16-21)

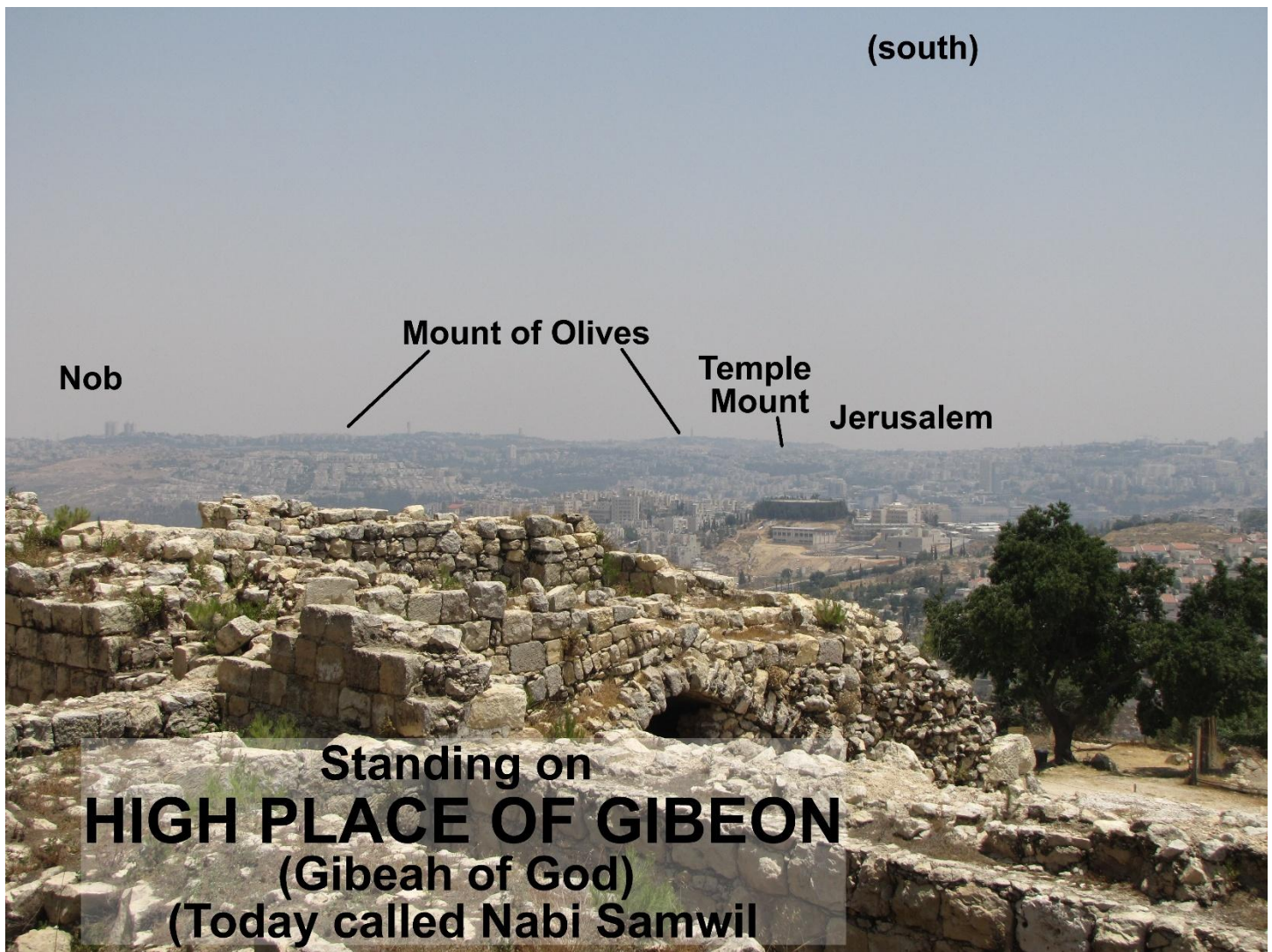
16 Then they journeyed from Bethel. When they were still some distance<sup>[f]</sup> from Ephrath, Rachel went into labor, and she had hard labor. 17 And when her labor was at its hardest, the midwife said to her, “Do not fear, for you have another son.” 18 And as her soul was departing (for she was dying), she called his name Ben-oni;<sup>[g]</sup> but his father called him Benjamin.<sup>[h]</sup> 19 So Rachel died, and she was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem), 20 and Jacob set up a pillar over her tomb. It is the pillar of Rachel's tomb, which is there to this day. 21 Israel journeyed on and pitched his tent beyond the tower of Eder.











## **Reuben and Bilhah (35:22)**

**22 While Israel lived in that land, Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine. And Israel heard of it.**

1. Bilhah was the maidservant of Rachel who has just died.
2. Bilhah was the mother of Reuben's half-brothers Dan and Naphtali.
3. Reuben, son of Leah, is Jacob's oldest son and heir to the firstborn's blessing.
4. In Genesis 30:14 when Leah stopped having children Reuben brought her some mandrakes:  
"In the days of wheat harvest Reuben went and found mandrakes in the field and brought them to his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes."
5. Reuben may have been protecting his mother's place in the family
6. Reuben, more likely, was attempting to take family leadership from Jacob. In the OT there are several examples of a king's wives or concubines being slept with as a sign of the transference of power.
7. Genesis 49:3-4 Jacob speaks prophetically to his sons and their future. To Reuben he says:  
"Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might, and the firstfruits of my strength, preeminent in



dignity and preeminent in power. Unstable as water, you shall not have preeminence, because you went up to your father's bed; then you defiled it—he went up to my couch!”

# BETHLEHEM FIELDS



# BETHLEHEM FIELDS

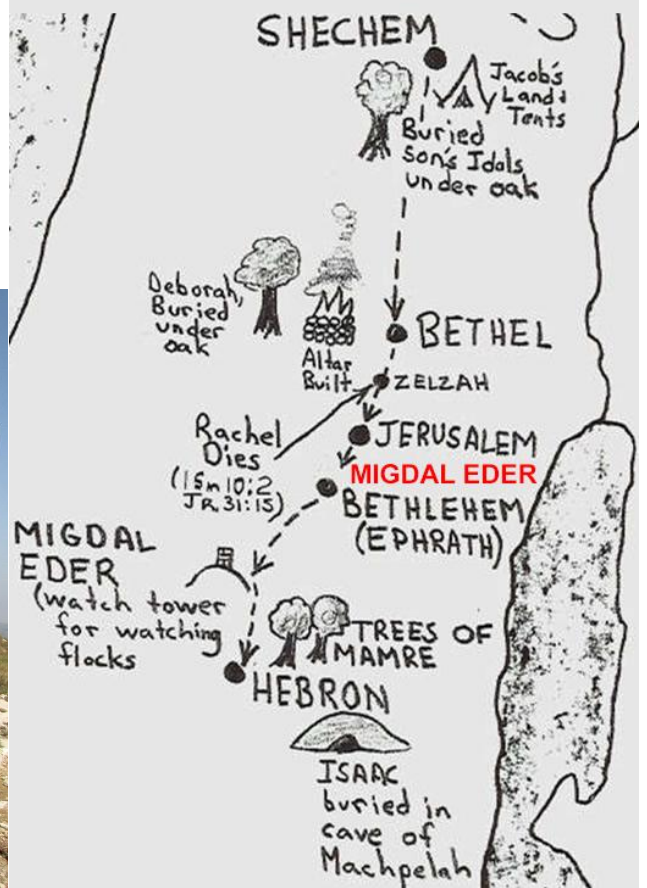




# BETHLEHEM FIELDS



**MIGDAL EDER** means **"TOWER OF THE FLOCKS"**



**BETHLEHEM FIELDS**



# BETHLEHEM FIELDS







## **Twelve Sons of Jacob (35:22-26)**

Now the sons of Jacob were twelve. 23 The sons of Leah: Reuben (Jacob's firstborn), Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun. 24 The sons of Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin. 25 The sons of Bilhah, Rachel's servant: Dan and Naphtali. 26 The sons of Zilpah, Leah's servant: Gad and Asher. These were the sons of Jacob who were born to him in Paddan-aram.

## **Isaac Dies in Hebron (35:27-29)**

27 And Jacob came to his father Isaac at Mamre, or Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had sojourned.

28 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.

1. Isaac is 180 years old at death.

Isaac was 60 years old when Esau and Jacob were born (Gen. 25:26)

Jacob then is 120 years old

Jacob dies at 147 (Gen. 47:28)