

THE STUDY OF

GENESIS

“IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED
THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH.”

Silence, Sin, and Shechem

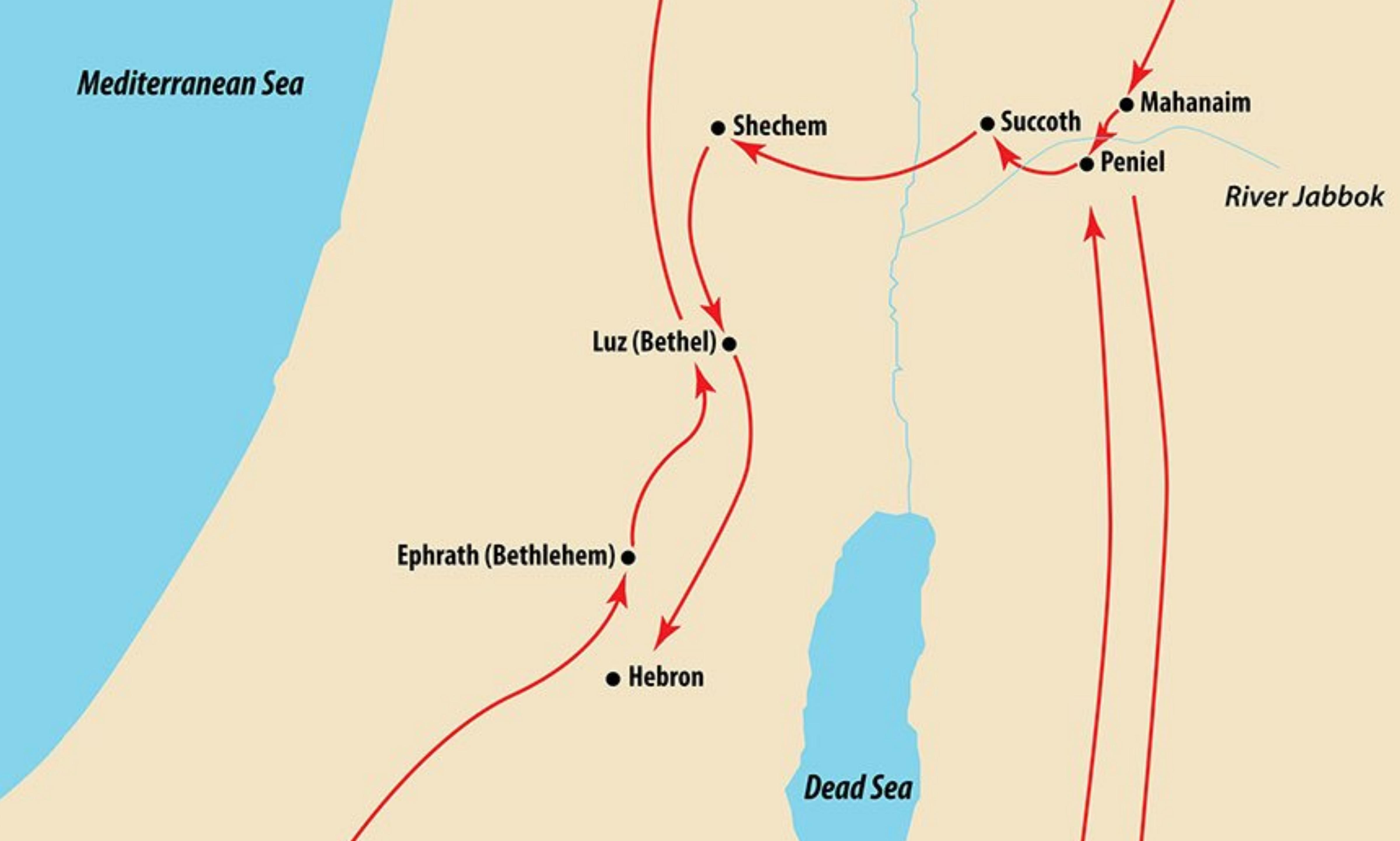
Genesis 34:1-31

THE REDEMPTION STORY: FROM GENESIS TO JESUS

- The Bible is one beautiful story of Jesus and redemption (Ephesians 1:7-10)
- Scripture presents a purposeful narrative revealing God's redemptive plan (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Big Picture

- Redeemer/Seed Hunt Gen. 3:15;
12:1-3 (There is one Hero... Jesus)
- Past promises point to future
faithfulness, different times - same
Lord
- Continuity – From Abraham to Christ
(Heb 11:13-16; Gal 3:29)



v.1-4 — Dinah

1. Dinah goes out to “see the women of the land” → covenant boundary crossed (cf. Gen 24:3; 28:1; Deut 7:3)
2. Hivites were descendants of Ham through Canaan (Gen 10:17)

3. Shechem “saw... took... lay with...
humiliated” → seizure/violation
language (Gen 34:2)

4. Culture: unattended women
vulnerable in Canaan (cf. Ruth 2:8–9)

5. Shechem claims “love,” yet treats her as property—“get me this girl” (Gen 34:3-4)

6. True love seeks to give, not take (1 Cor 13:4-7)

v.5-7 — Grace Runs Faster Than Fear

1. Jacob Silent, Sons Enraged (v. 5-7)
2. Jacob hears and “held his peace” → leadership failure (v. 5)
3. Sons are “indignant and very angry” — an outrage in Israel (v. 7)

4. Fathers carried marriage duties in A.N.E. culture (cf. Gen 24:50–60)
5. When heads fail to lead, sin fills the void (Eph 5:25; Eph 6:4)

v.8-12 – The Evil Bargain

1. Hamor proposes intermarriage + commerce (v.8–10)
2. “Name your price” cannot erase disgrace (v.12)
3. Danger: covenant family becoming “one people” with Canaan (v. 16, 22)

4. OT Echo: Babel's false unity (Gen 11:6)

5. NT: Do not be unequally yoked (2 Cor 6:14–17)

v.13-17 - Religion Weaponized

1. Sons answer deceitfully (v. 13)
2. Covenant sign (Gen 17:10–11) used as a weapon
3. Intended for separation—turned into assimilation
4. NT: Using godliness for gain (1 Tim 6:5); zeal without knowledge (Rom 10:2)

v.18-24 – City at the Gate

1. Decision made at the gate = public authority (v. 20; cf. Ruth 4:1–2)
2. Motive exposed: “their livestock will be ours” (v. 23)
3. Prosperity without repentance
4. NT: What profits a man to gain the world? (Mark 8:36)

v.25-26— Massacre, Not Justice

1. 3rd day weakness exploited (v. 25)
2. Simeon & Levi kill all males → vengeance not justice
3. NT: “Vengeance is Mine” (Rom 12:19);
Wrath/anger of man doesn’t produce
God’s righteousness (James 1:20)

v.27-31 - No prayer, grief, repentance

1. Sons plunder wealth and households
(v. 27-28)
2. Take wives and little ones—replicating
the very violation (v. 29)
3. Jacob fears for his reputation (v. 30)

4. Sons reply: “Should he treat our sister like a prostitute?” (v. 31)

5. NT: Overcome evil with good, not evil with evil (Rom 12:21) Walk worthy of your calling (Eph 4:1); don’t live as Gentiles do (Eph 4:17–24)

Cost of Fear, Pride, and Justification

1. God's Verdict & Aftermath (Gen 49:5–7; Exod 32:26–28)
2. Later judgment on Simeon & Levi (Gen 49:5–7)

3. Both scattered:

- a. Simeon absorbed (Josh tribal allotments)
- b. Levi scattered yet redeemed for priesthood (Exod 32:26–28)

4. NT: God redeems consequences without excusing sin (Gal 6:7–9)

Takeaways -

1. Don't stay Silent in the Face of Evil

“Rescue those being led away to death... if you say, ‘We did not know,’ does not He who weighs the heart perceive it?” – Prov

24:11–12

“Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.” – Eph 5:11

2. Don't weaponize or Justify

“The anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.” – James 1:20

“If I speak... but have not love, I am a noisy gong.” – 1 Cor 13:1

“Let all bitterness, wrath, and anger be put away... be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving.” – Eph 4:31–32

3. Mercy Is Greater Than the Mess

Failure is not final when we repent.

Grace pursues what sin destroys.

“It is the kindness of God that leads you to

repentance.” – Rom 2:4 “Where sin

increased, grace abounded all the more.”

– Rom 5:20 “If we are faithless, He

remains faithful.” – 2 Tim 2:13

Read Ephesians:

You have a new identity in Christ—

BLESSED! (Eph. 1-3)... Now live like it

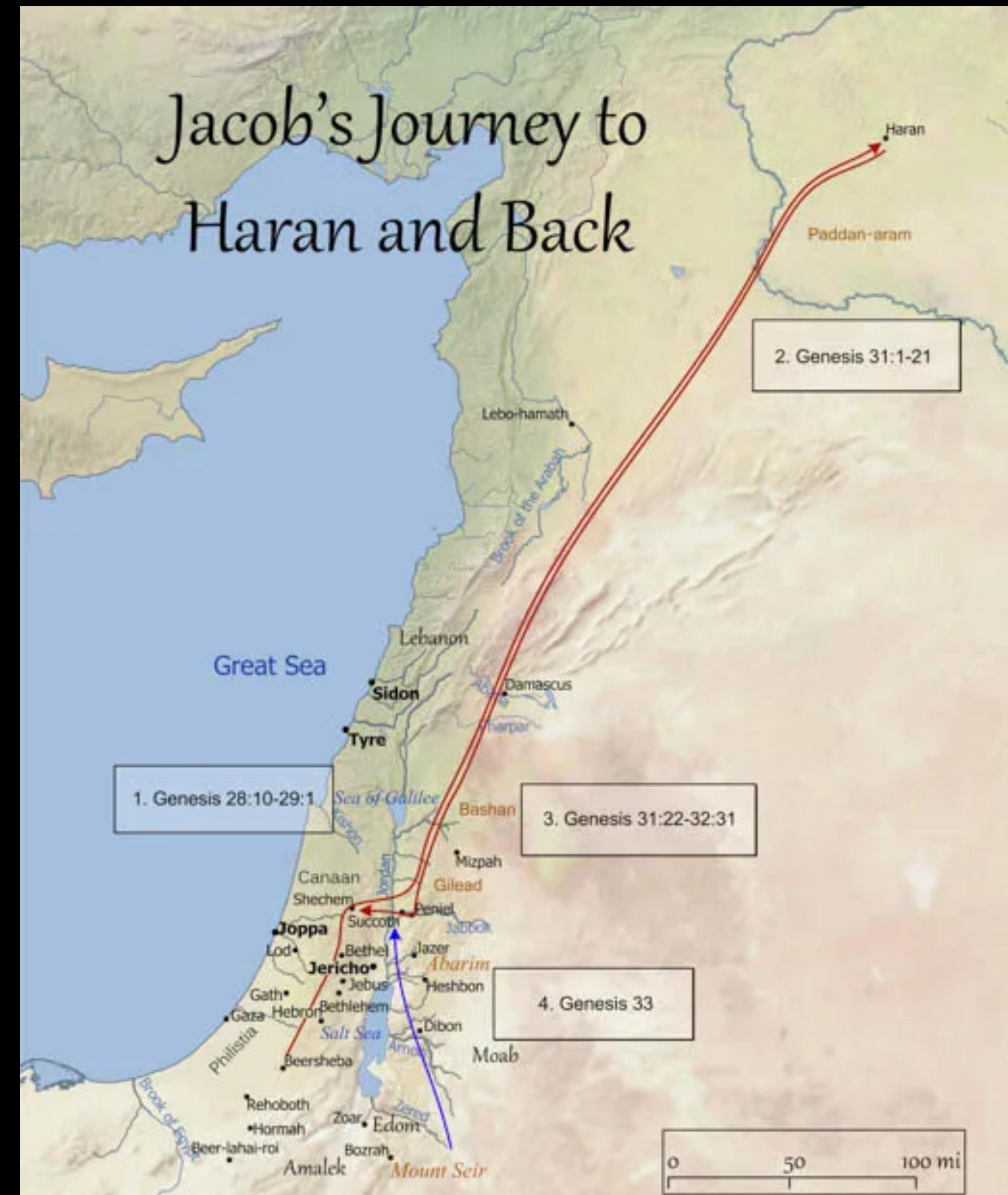
Don't walk as the world does, put off the
old self and put on the new (Eph. 4)

Be imitators of God and walk in love on
mission with Him (Eph.5-6)

Resources/ Bibliography:

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Jacob's Journey to Haran and Back



HEAT - THORNS - CROSS - FRUIT

Heat = pressure, trials, difficulty (Ps. 88; James 1:1-15)

Thorns = our sin, flesh response (Eph. 4-6; Heb. 4:14-5:10)

HEAT - THORNS - CROSS - FRUIT

Cross = God's gospel transformative power, changes our focus from self to Jesus, (Rom 1:16; 2 Peter 1:1-11)

Fruit = the new right, Holy Spirit, Grace- empowered response to life's struggles. (Ps. 1; Gal 5:22)