

Genesis 16:1-16



**SARAI'S PLAN AND THE RESULTING
CONFLICT WITH AND HAGAR AND BIRTH OF
ISHMAEL**

Notes on Reading, Genesis 16



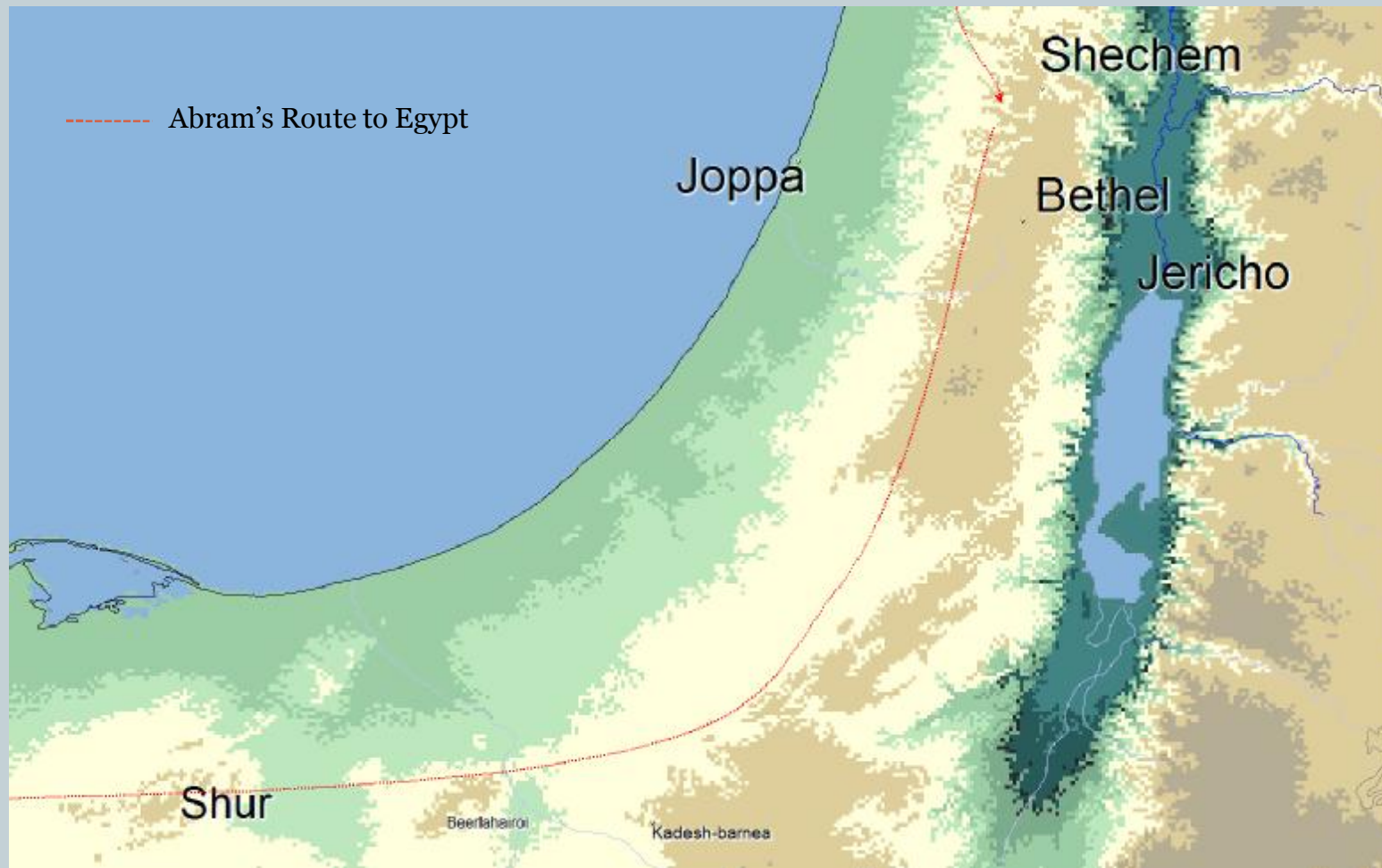
- v. 1 - "She had a handmaid."
- v. 2 - "It may be that I may obtain children by her."
- v. 7 - "The angel of the LORD."
- v. 11 - "Thou shalt call his name Ishmael."
- v. 12 - "He shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren."
- v. 13 - "She called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, 'You are God who sees me.' "
- v. 14 - "There the well was called Beer-lahai-roi."

Who Is “The Angel of the Lord?”



- Many occurrences in the Pentateuch and Joshua and Judges.
- The Angel and Yahveh are sometimes distinguished (angel will lead them into the promised, but “I will not go up in your midst”) but also frequently merged (“My name is in him” he can forgive sin), Ex 23:20ff; 32:34-33:17
- Possibilities:
 - 1) an angel with a special commission
 - 2) an appearance of God himself
 - 3) pre-incarnate Lord, cf. Gal 4:14

The Well of Lahai-roi, Genesis 16



Ishmael's Importance



- Older Half-brother of Isaac
- Had twelve sons also (Gen 25:13-17)
- Regarded generally as the progenitor of the Arabs and specifically of the Bedouin Arabs
- Paul uses Hagar and Ishmael as a illustration of being “born according to the flesh” (Gal 4:21-31)

Paul's Allegory, Gal 4:21-31



Hagar and Ishmael	Sarai and Isaac
In Slavery	Free
Born according to the flesh/through circumcision	Born according to the Spirit/through the promise
Under the Mosaic Covenant and Law of Sinai	Under the Abrahamic Covenant (3:15-18) and “Law of Christ” (6.2)
Mt. Sinai/Judaism	“Jerusalem Above”

Paul here “allegorizes” the Old Testament, i.e., he finds an illustration in the form of a parable to illumine history. He uses Ishmael as a pattern of those who cling to paternal religion and are unable to discern the transient character of the OT institutions, e.g. circumcision in the Mosaic law. Instead of embracing the grace of God offered through redemption in Christ, they fight the central doctrines of free grace and persecute its advocates.

Names of God in Genesis (so far encountered)



Hebrew Name	English Equivalent
El(ohim)	“God”
Yahveh, read “Adonai”	“LORD,” Gen 15:7
Yahveh Elohim, read “Adonai Elohim”	“LORD God,” Gen 2:4
Adonai Yahveh, read “Adonai Elohim”	“Lord GOD,” Gen 15:2,8
El Elyon, Yahveh El Elyon	“God Most High,” “LORD God Most High,” Gen 14:18 ff.
El Roi	“God who sees,” Gen 16:13