



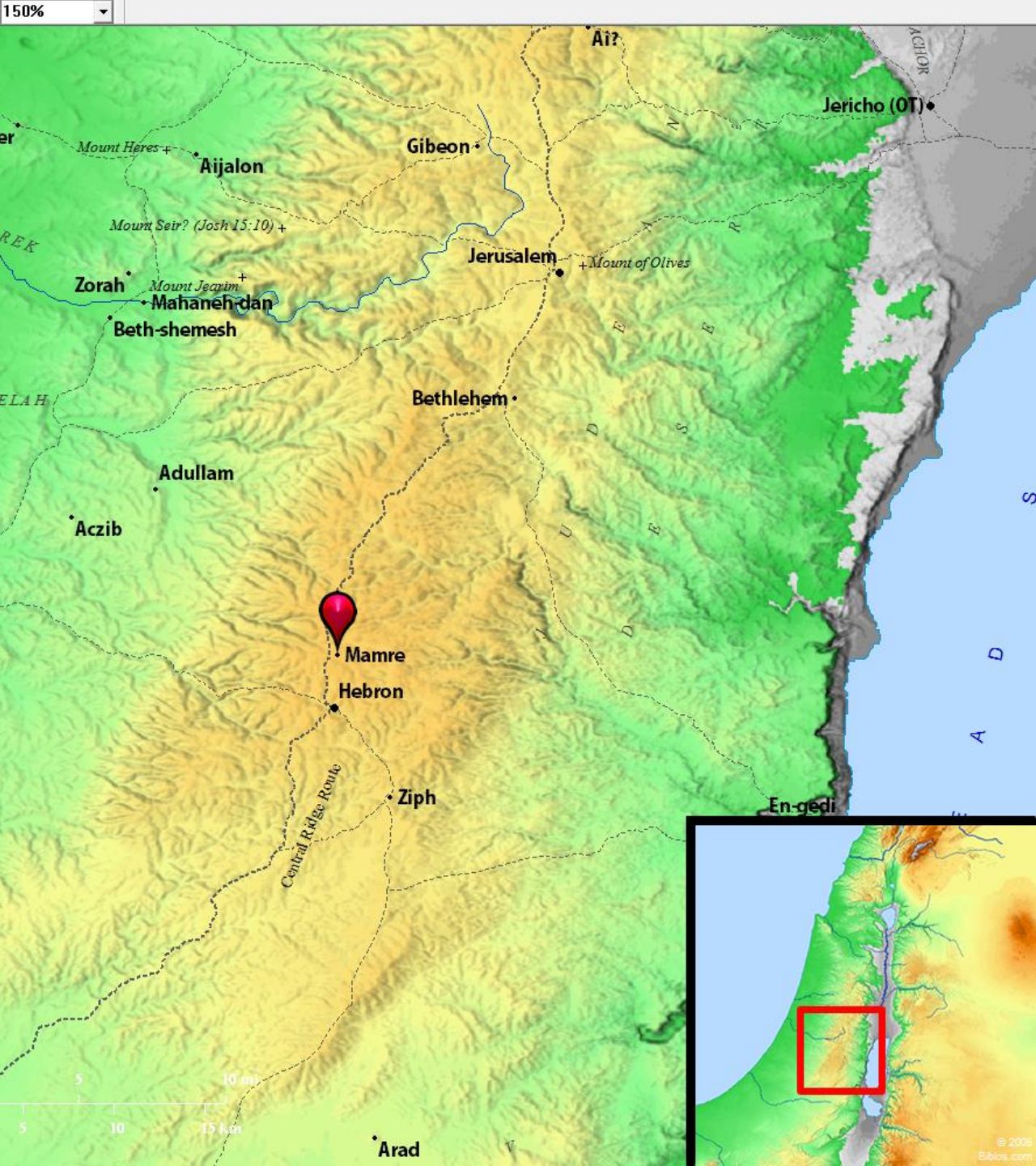
ABRAHAM

father of the faithful

A close-up, low-angle shot of a man with a beard and short dark hair, laughing heartily. His head is tilted back, and his eyes are closed. The background is a clear, bright blue sky. A semi-transparent black rectangular box is overlaid on the lower half of the image, containing white text.

Isaac = Laughter

God said, “No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. Genesis 17:19



“The sun sat high over Abraham’s encampment under the great trees of Mamre outside Hebron. The morning chores were complete, and workers had returned to their tents for the customary siesta. The sheep, donkeys and camels were clumped under the shade of the trees in midday languor. And Abraham was sitting at the shaded entrance of his tent enjoying his respite. Perhaps he had nodded off because as he looked up he saw three men standing nearby. Abraham had neither seen nor heard their approach. They were simply there, looking at him.”

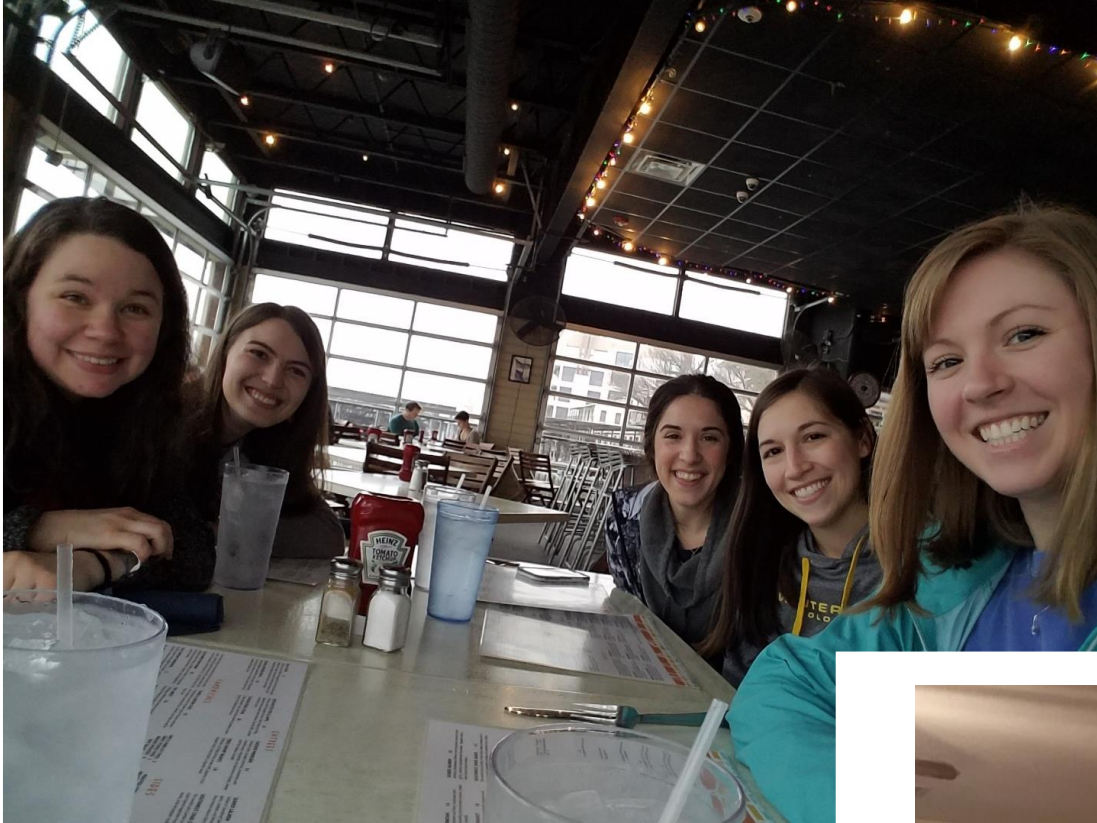
Kent Hughes

Abraham's Response	Our Common Response
He ran!	We interrogate.
He responded in reverence.	We are casual.
He served.	"What's in it for me?"
He went quickly.	We might get to it eventually.

“We will fellowship together, we will have dinner together. This is not simply private enjoyment, not just a social hour for our own pleasure. This is a picture of the Lord using us as an instrument to meet the need of those around, and, in so doing, we enter into fellowship with the heart of Christ. When Christ comes into us, he doesn't come in merely to give us a good time, to bless us, and make it an enjoyable experience. He comes in to fulfill his long-standing desire to be what he came into the world to be -- a Savior to seek and to save that which was lost, to give and show compassion to others, to minister to human needs whatever they may be, through us.”

Ray Steadman







A photograph of a person with blonde hair, wearing a dark coat and a backpack, standing in front of a large, weathered wooden door. The door is made of vertical wooden planks and has a small window. The person is looking at the door. The background is a solid orange color.

**Is there anything too
hard for the Lord?**



Is there
anything too
hard for the
Lord?

GOD WAITS UNTIL IT IS HUMANLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE CHILD OF
THE COVENANT TO BE BORN IN ORDER TO SHOW THAT IT IS NOT
BY HUMAN EFFORT THAT THE COVENANT PEOPLE WILL BE CREATED.
IT IS A WORK OF DIVINE AND SOVEREIGN GRACE. THE FORMATION
OF A PEOPLE OF GOD FOR THE SAKE OF HIS NAME FROM ALL THE
FAMILIES OF THE EARTH IS NOT A HUMAN CREATION.

JOHN PIPER

**DID GOD BRING FORTH THE CHILD OF THE
COVENANT FROM FERTILE HAGAR OR BARREN
SARAH? DID GOD BRING FORTH JESUS FROM
MARRIED ELIZABETH OR VIRGIN MARY? DID
HE SAVE YOU FROM UNBELIEF BY YOUR
OWN POWER OR HIS? IS ANYTHING TOO
HARD FOR GOD? PIPER**

