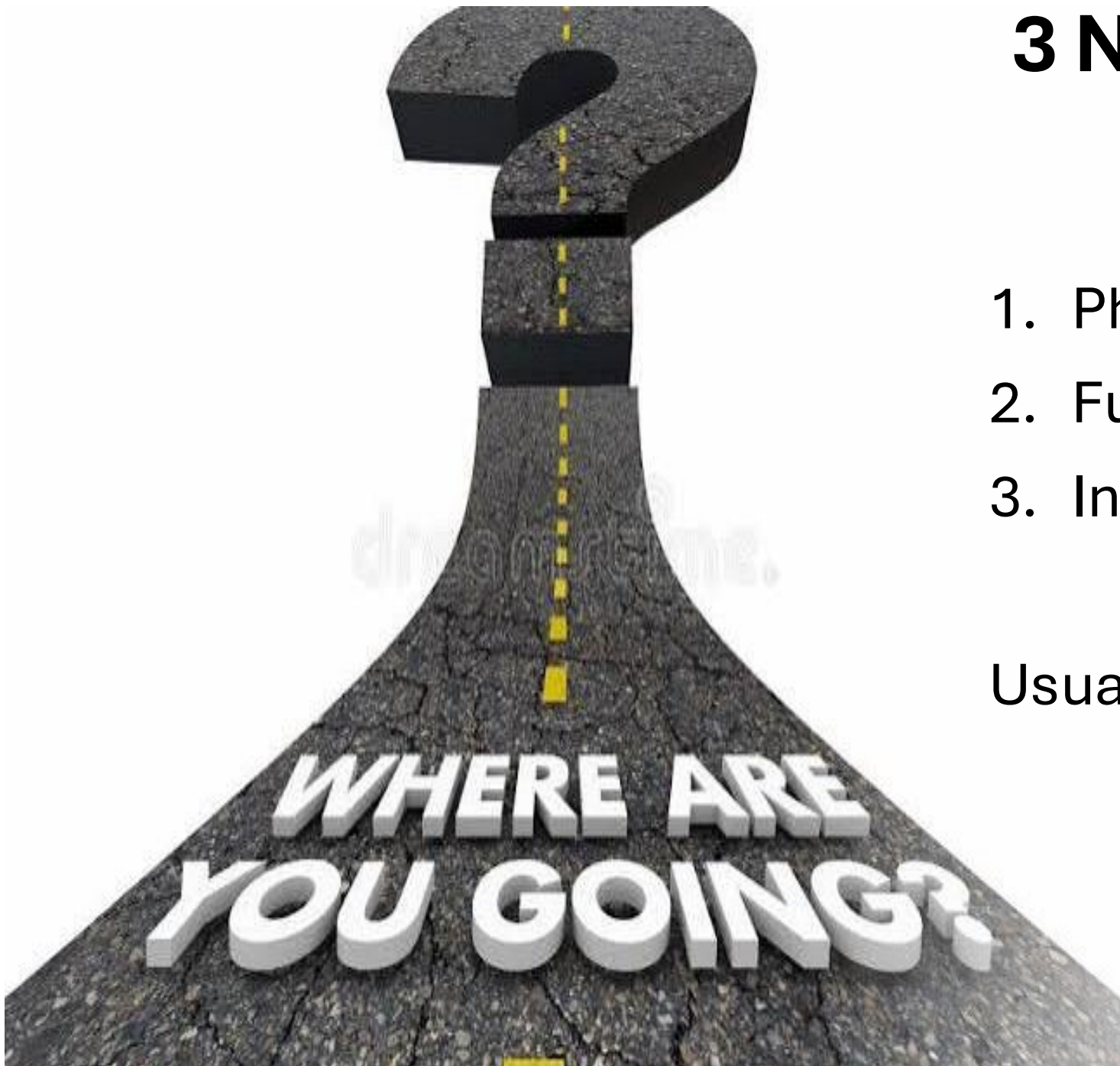


Where Are You Going?

What's Your Answer Series
Solid Rock Church
Pastor Elliott Anderson





3 Normal Intentions for this Question

1. Physical destination?
2. Future plans?
3. Internal growth and change?

Usually asked for accountability

Parents asks child

Wife asks husband

We ask ourself

1. Going Somewhere?

Bible Heroes Changing Destination

Noah: Into the ark for over a year

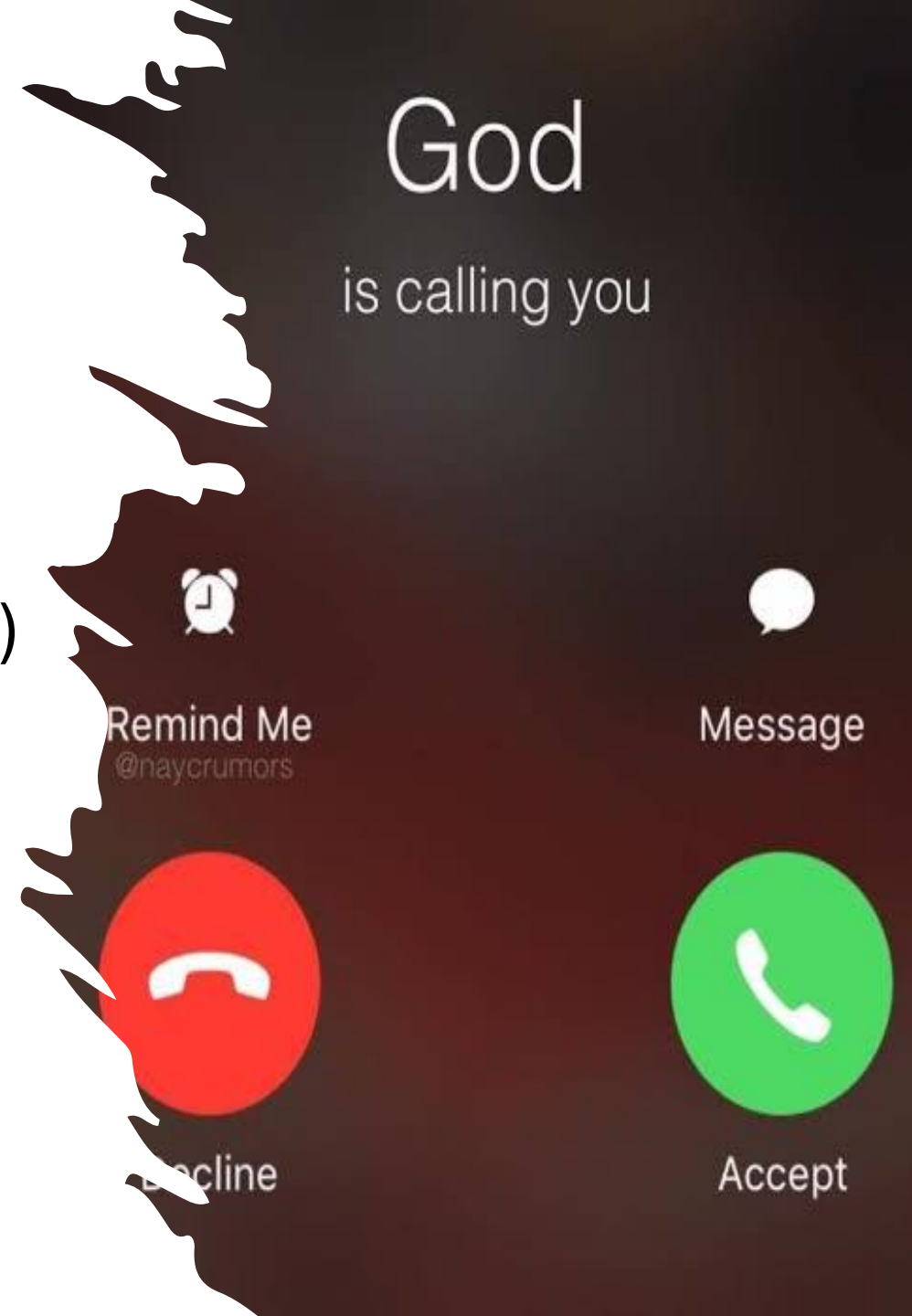
Jacob: Beersheba to Paddan (500 miles)

Joseph: Canaan to Egypt (250 miles)

Jonah: Israel to Nineveh (500 miles)

12 Disciples: (3,000 miles / 200 towns)

Paul: (12,000 miles / over 50 cities)





2. Going Somewhere?

Future Plans Changed

Joseph	shepherd to foreign leader
Moses	prince to shepherd
David	shepherd to King
Esther	orphan to Queen
Mary	peasant to mother of Jesus
Peter	fisherman to disciple
Mary	prostitute to disciple
Paul	pharisee to apostle



Where Is Abram Going?

Gen 12:1, Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

Abram's Call

Spanned the Fertile Crescent, moving from Ur in Southern Mesopotamia, north to Haran, and then southwest into Canaan, with sojourns into Egypt.

1,500 – 1,600 miles
(6 - 8 months)
Haran to Canaan





Abram Lived in the Middle Bronze Age

2100 – 1750 BC

Clan Lords, contracts, land purchases, and tribal hospitality

Nomadic Pastoralism

Nomadic Pastoralism

Wandering shepherds
of power and prestige.

Abram and his
household lived in
black goat-hair tents,
moving with flocks of
sheep, goats, and
cattle to find seasonal
pasture and water.



Clan Lords

Man in charge of a large household - family, servants, herdsman, and armed warriors.

Genesis 14:14, When Abram heard that his kinsmen had been taken captive, he led his trained men, born in his house, 318 of them, in pursuit...



Abram's Questions in Genesis 15

An heir to his kingdom?

- **15: 2**, Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless?”

The land rights to build the nations?

- **15: 8**, O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?

God's Answers in Genesis 15

15:4, And behold, the Word of the Lord came to him, “Your very own son shall be your heir.”

15:18, On that day, the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river of the Euphrates.”



Mediterranean Sea

IRAQ

Euphrates River

**Promised Land
to Abraham**

West
Bank

Gaza

Sinai

EGYPT

JORDAN

SAUDI ARABIA



Promised Land to Abraham



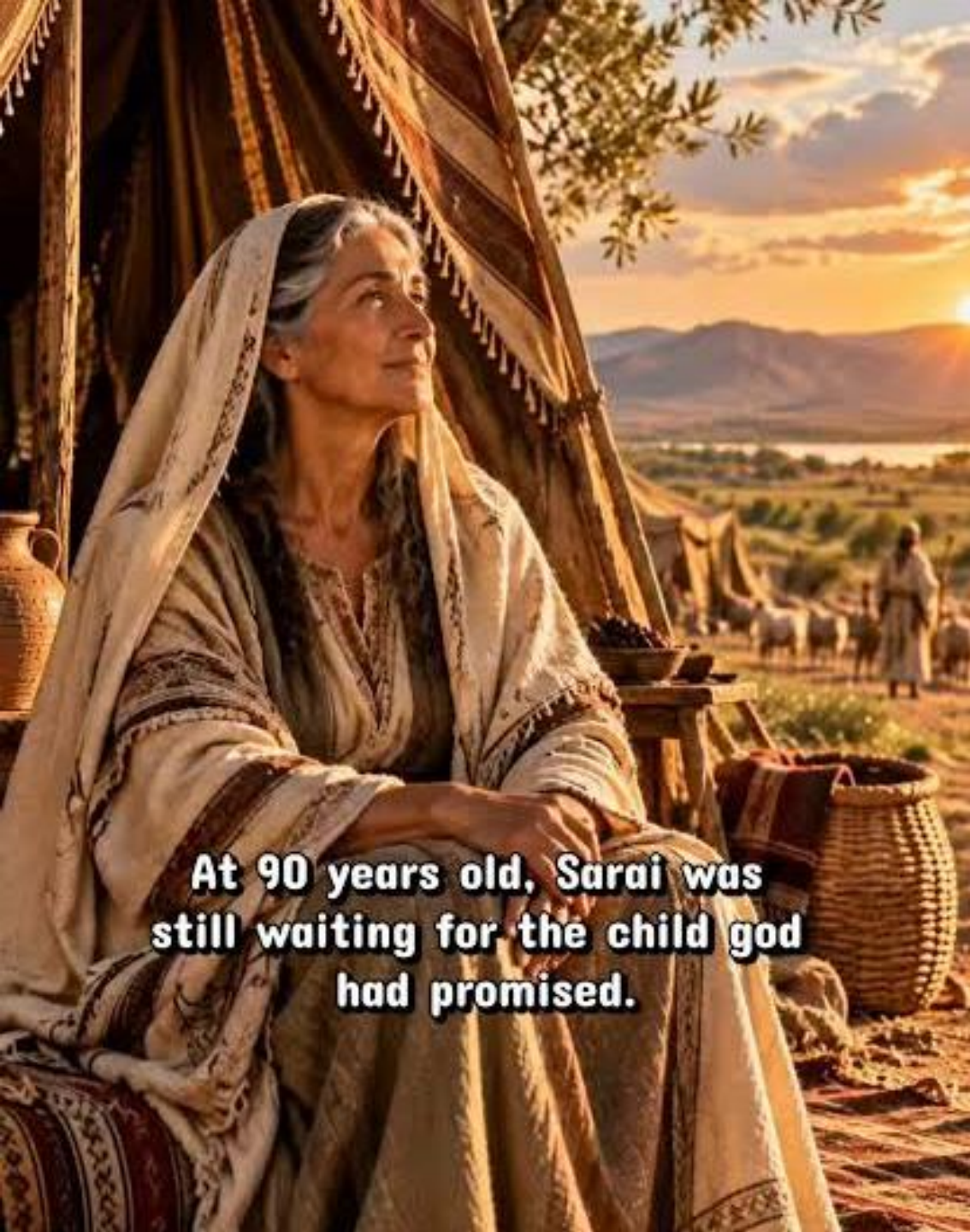
Modern State of Israel

God's Call and Promise Didn't Say When

Genesis 12: Abram 75 Sarai 65
Abram called

Genesis 16: Abram 86 Sarai 76
Ismael born

Genesis 21: 100 and 90 Isaac born



At 90 years old, Sarai was
still waiting for the child god
had promised.

Sarai's Impatient Solution: Polygamy

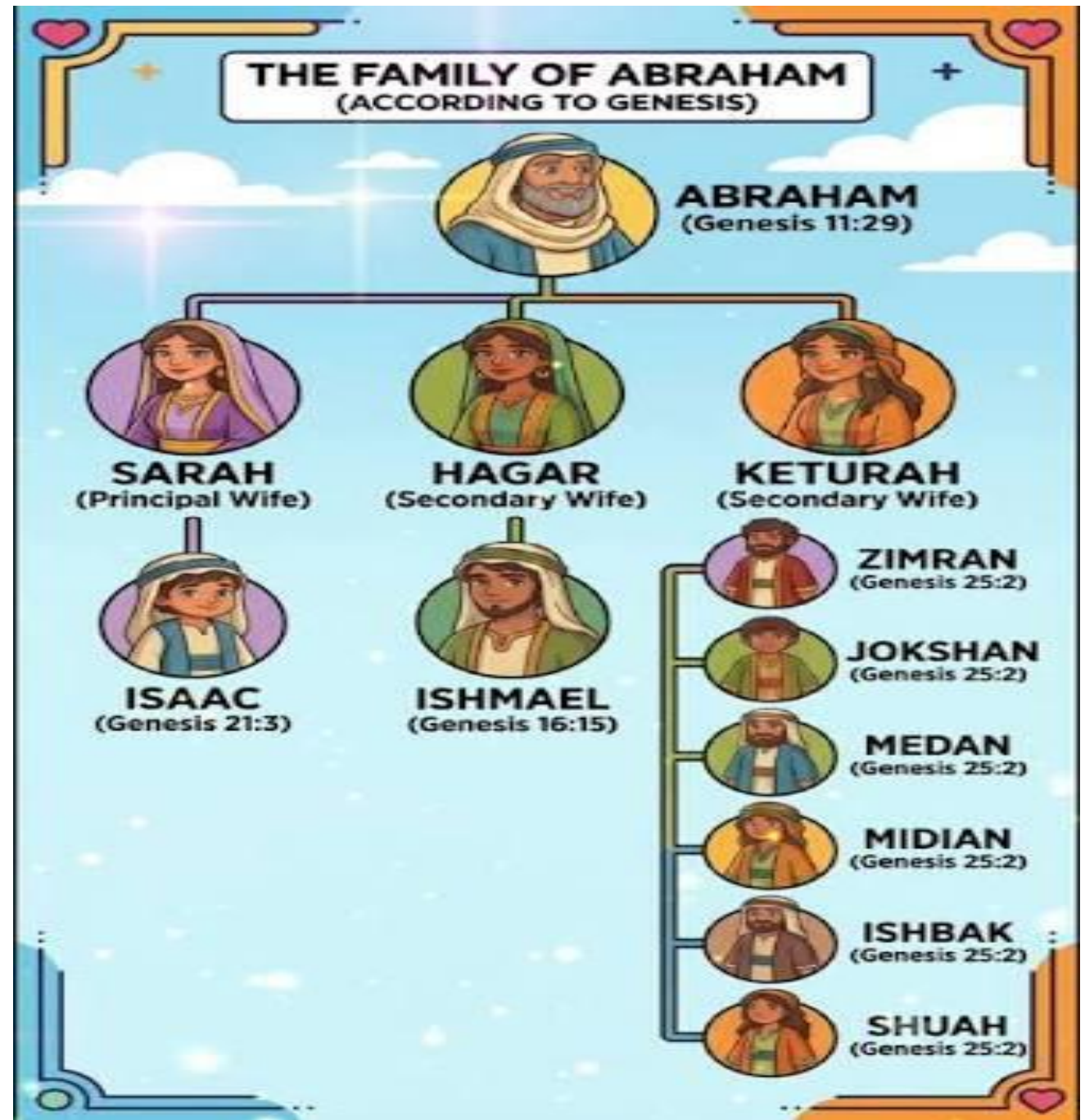
Genesis 16: 2, Behold, now the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Go into my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her. And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.

Genesis 16: 3 -4, Abram's wife took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife. And he went into Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that Hagar had conceived, Sarai looked with contempt on her mistress.

Sonship Tree of Abraham

Monogamy was the general practice in Nomadic Pastoralism.

Polygamy was selectively practiced by high-status leaders to signal wealth, consolidate power and manage political alliance.



Result of Impatient
Solution!

Sarai's Projected
Pain

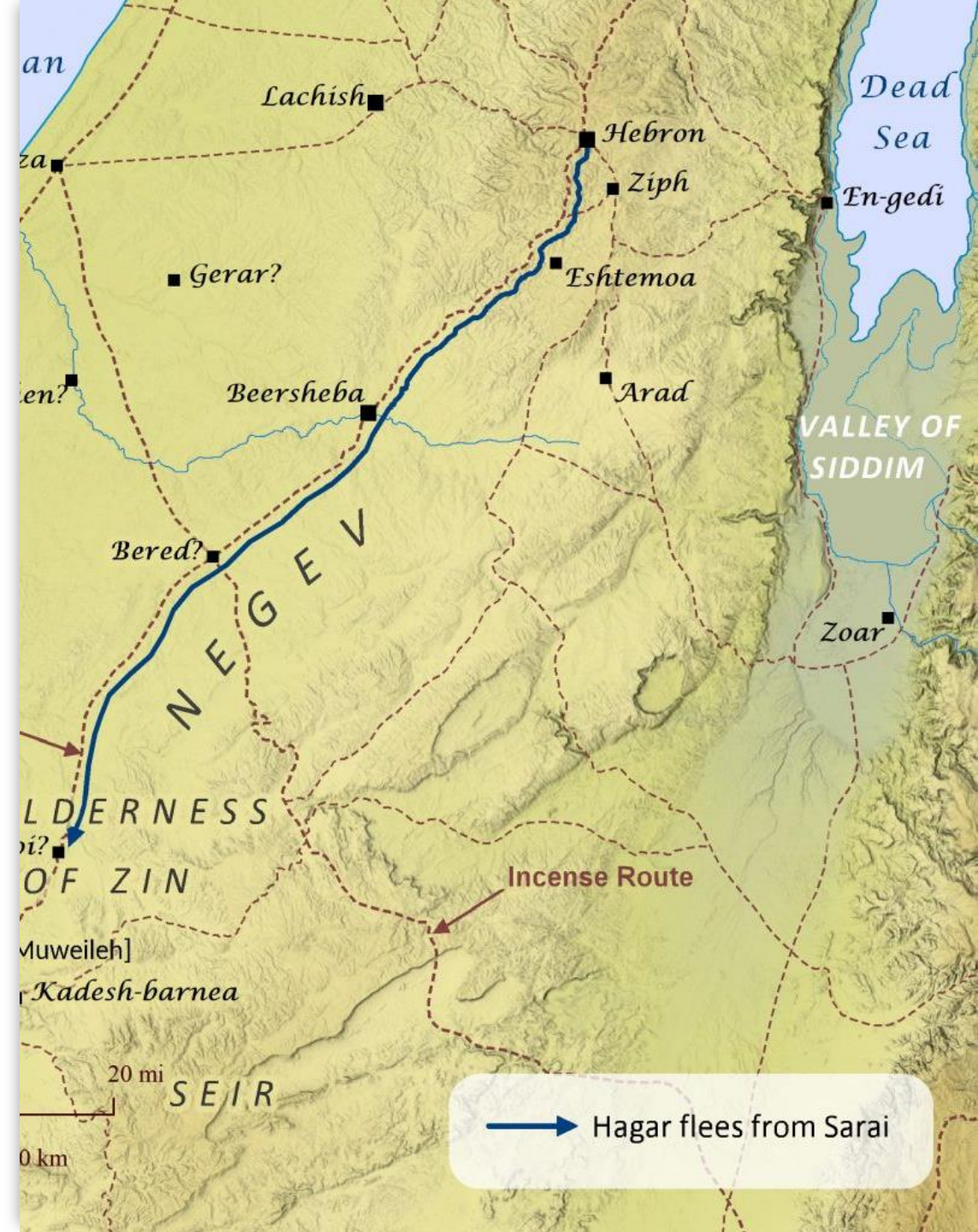
Abram's Passive
Permission

Genesis 16: 5 – 6, I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt...But Abram said to Sarai, “Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please.” Then Sarai dealt harshly with Hagar, and Hagar fled from her.

Hagar's Flight Path

Genesis 16:7, *The Angel of the Lord* found Hagar by the spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur.

70 miles of rough terrain
4 – 5 days – while pregnant!





Who Visited Hagar? A Theophany

A theophany is a temporary visible, or audible manifestation of God.

Theos = God *Phaino* = to appear

“Angel of the Lord”

The message carrier of God
Jesus before Jesus was man

Forms of Theophanies in Old Testament

65X

Natural Elements: Thunder, fire, smoke, and earthquakes.
(burning bush, pillars of cloud and fire).

Human or Angelic Form: Encounters appears as human.
(Hagar, Jacob, Moses, Daniel)

Auditory Manifestations: Spoken words or dreams.
(Isaac, Moses, Samuel, Peter, Paul)

The Question and Answers with Hagar

Genesis 16:8 - 9, And the Angel of the Lord said, “Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and **where are you going?** Hagar replied, “I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai.” The Angel of the Lord said to her, “**Return** to your mistress and **submit** to her. I will surely multiply your offspring so that they can’t be numbered.”



Sarai and Hagar Where Are You Going?

Sarai: Impatience with God's call brought harsh results.

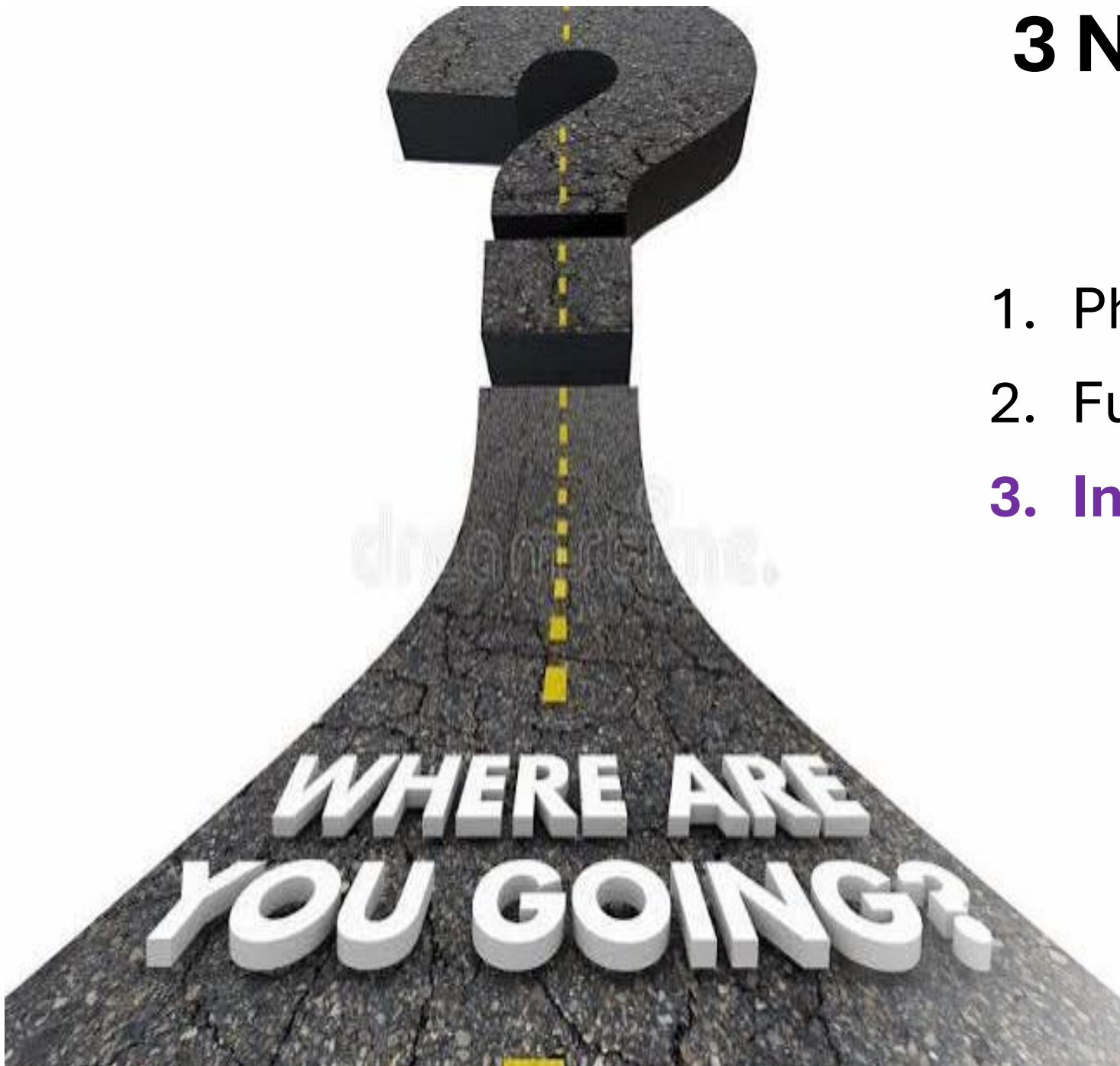
Hagar: Fleeing from problems brought danger and isolation.

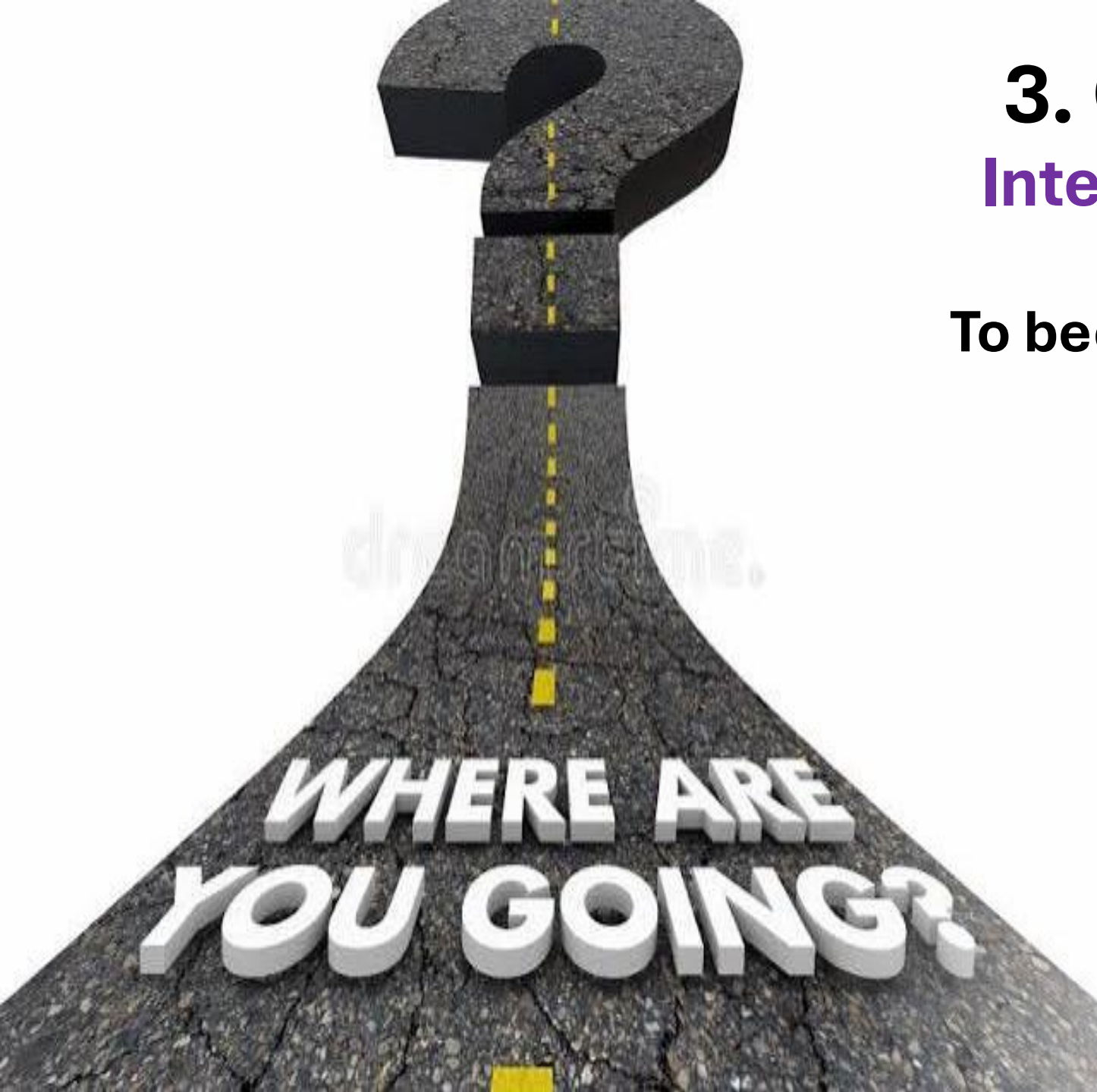
God: Fulfills His calling despite our sinful choices.



3 Normal Intentions for this Question

1. Physical destination?
2. Future plans?
3. Internal growth and change?





3. Going Somewhere?

Internal Growth and Change

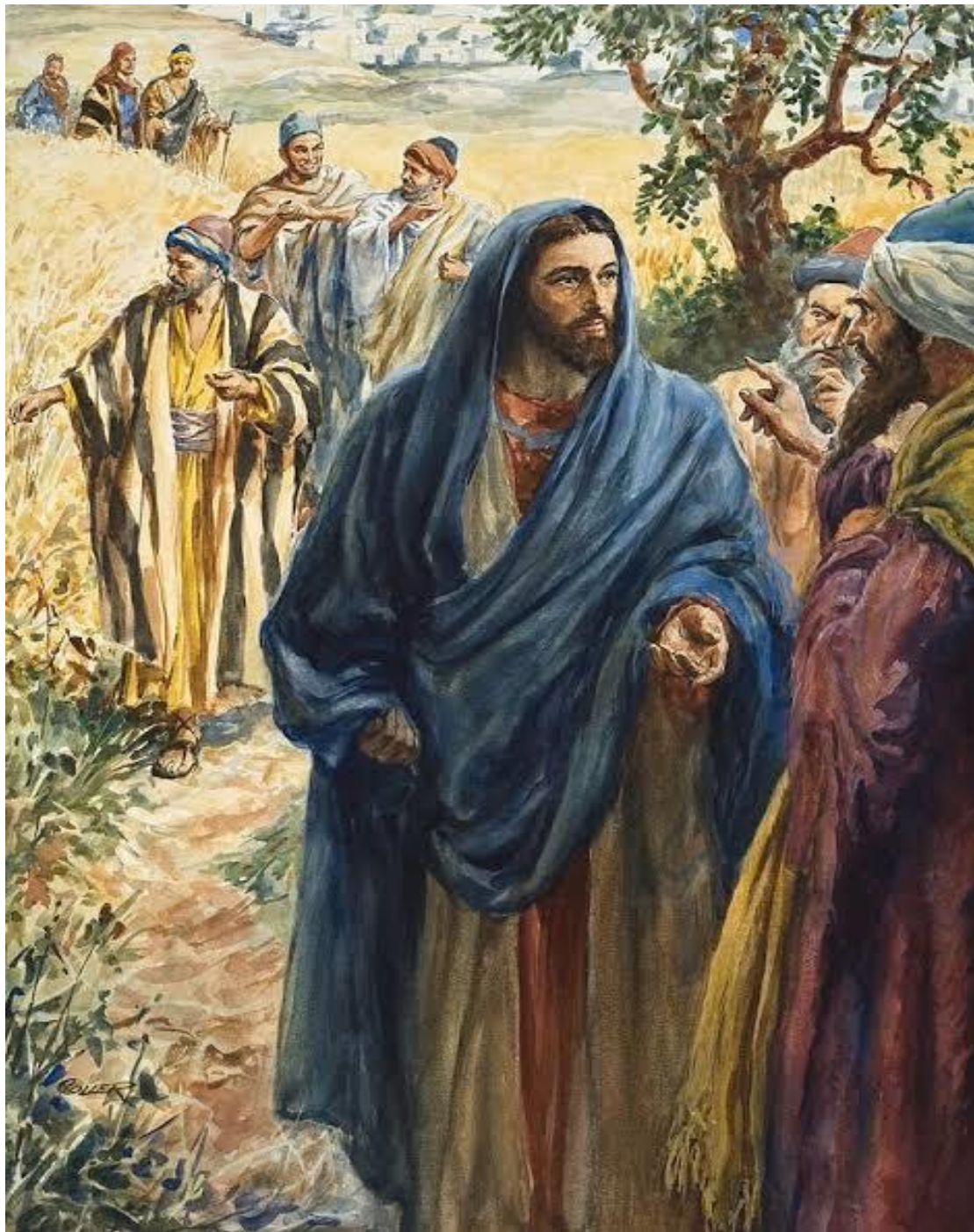
To become more like Jesus

Honest reflection

Heart, Habits, Relationships

Ephesians 5:1, Therefore be imitators of God...

1st Corinthians 1:11, Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.



Where Are You Going?

Internal Growth and Change Following Jesus!

Jesus never asked the disciples where they were going.

Jesus + Disciples 3X reflect on ?
In the Gospel of John (last days).

Disciples were blocked by 3 common responses to life.

These block us also!

1 Where is Jesus Going?

Blocked by Timing

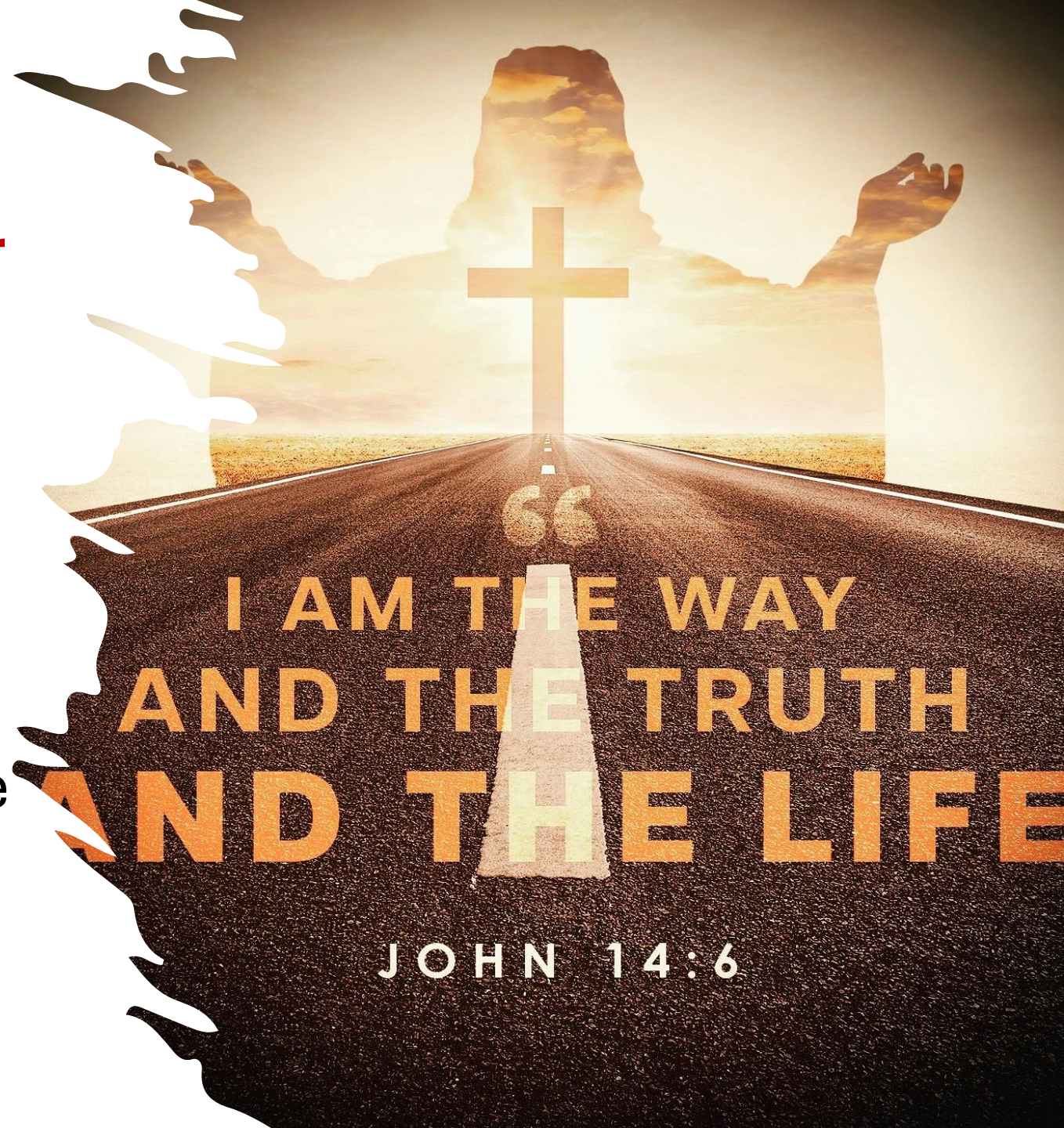
John 13:33, Little children, yet a *little while* I am with you...so now I also say to you, *“Where I am going you cannot come.”*

John 13:36, Peter said to Jesus, *“Lord, where are you going?”* Jesus answered Peter, *“Where I am going you cannot follow me now.”*



#2 Where Jesus is Going Blocked by Confusion /Fear

John 14: 5 – 6, Thomas said to Jesus, “Lord, **we do not know** the way to *where you are going*. **How can we know the way?** Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.





#3 Where Jesus is Going Blocked by Grief and Loss

John 16: 5 – 6, But now I am going to Him who sent me, and none of you asks me, “*Where are you going?*” But because I have said these things to you, **sorrow has filled your heart.**”

Where Are You Going?

3 Regular Blocks to Internal Change / Growth

3 of God's Answers

1. Inconvenient Timing
2. Confusion and Fear
3. Grieving and Loss

1. God's Timing
2. Knowledge and Faith
3. Hope in the New

Psalms 148:3, Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life

Where Are You Going?

Following Jesus

John 8:12, When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

John 12:26, Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be.



Christlike

Joy

Study

Love

Give

Humility

Prayer

Grace

Serve

Peace

Worship

Solid Rock Path

