

PÄIVI RÄSÄNEN

member of the Finnish Parliament since 1995

former Minister of the Interior

former chair of the Christian Democrats

medical doctor, mother of five and grandmother of six

member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland



facing six years imprisonment for allegedly committing three crimes, including “hate speech,” for sharing her opinion on marriage and human sexuality on social media, on television and in a pamphlet.

About the pamphlet, ADF International (Alliance Defending Freedom) explained that Räsänen wrote it more than [16] years earlier to outline the official teaching of her own church on human sexuality. “Despite the police previously concluding that no crime had been committed, the Prosecutor General re-opened the file,”

In 2019, Räsänen wrote a tweet questioning the leadership of her church for sponsoring the LGBT event “Pride 2019,” it was accompanied by an image of a Bible verse. As a result, she was accused of hate speech and interrogated by the police.

In her [2019 tweet](#), she cited Romans 1:24-27 and posted a picture of the passage from the Bible.

Räsänen has repeatedly said “the **teachings concerning marriage and sexuality in the Bible arise from love, not hate**”, because “the core message of faith, i.e. grace and atonement, is founded on the Christian view of humanity seen in creation, on the one hand, and the great fall, on the other”.

She also has made clear that she supports the dignity and human rights of all homosexuals, because “the Christian view of human beings is based on the **inherent and equal dignity of all persons**”.

“I do not consider myself guilty of threatening, slandering or insulting anyone. My statements were all based on the Bible’s teachings on marriage and sexuality.”

According to the Prosecutor General Office, Räsänen wrote, "He created them as men and women. Gay relationships challenge the Christian conception of man."

ACQUITTED of charges March 2022

Prosecution files appeals

Probably up to Finland Supreme Court

Finnish lawmaker Päivi Räsänen, ...believes that a "heavy hatred for Christian values" in Western society will cause many Christians to censor themselves for social acceptance.

As she faced a possibility of up to six years imprisonment, the 62-year-old politician attributed her prosecution to Finland becoming a "post-Christian world" where "Christian values are, in fact, a minority."

"The change has been so fast that it is difficult to understand what is happening,"
She said.

"We all are sinners and we need Jesus. But now, I think there is a heavy hatred against Christian values in our society," Räsänen said. "If you speak about gender issues — that there are two genders or that marriage belongs to one woman and one man — it arouses hatred against you in our society."

Räsänen told CP that she "never thought" she would face prosecution for expressing support for "classical Christian doctrines about marriage and sexuality" as she openly discussed her "Christian values" and beliefs about "marriage and sanctity of human life" throughout her time in Parliament.

"Nothing has changed in my faith and in my conviction, but suddenly I was like a criminal because of this hate," she said.

"The world has changed," she concluded. "I think that my conviction has not changed but the world has changed very [quickly] in Finland and I think that also in other Western countries, post-Christian countries."

She praised her acquittal of hate crime charges by a Helsinki District Court as "a victory for me." Still, She said a "possible victory from Appeal Court and especially from Supreme Court" is an "even bigger victory for freedom of speech ... and freedom of religion" because it would create "legal guidance for other cases."

"I think that this is all in God's hands, and I believe in His guidance that there is some meaning that this process continues," she added.

Räsänen said the ordeal and her platform with the Finnish media provided an opportunity to "hold up the biblical values in public and also testify about Jesus" and give people "the answer to the problem of sin that Jesus has died for all people and that this is the way to salvation."

Räsänen maintained that the prosecutor classified the Christian doctrine of "love the sinner, hate the sin" as "insulting and defaming" because "according to her [prosecutor], you cannot make a distinction between the person's identity and his actions, so if you condemn the act, you also condemn the human being and regard him inferior."

She [Rasanen] pushed back on this analysis, classifying the idea of "loving the sinner" and "hating the sin" as "the core of Christianity and the message of the Bible."

"If this is denied, if this kind of speech and teaching is denied, then also the core of Christianity is dead," she contended.

FAITHBUILDERS BIBLE CLASS

- **Purpose:** To know WHAT we believe
and WHY we believe it
- **Mission:** If your Sundays don't change your Mondays,
then what's the point?

SCATTERING OUT; GATHERING IN

A 4000 year-old promise

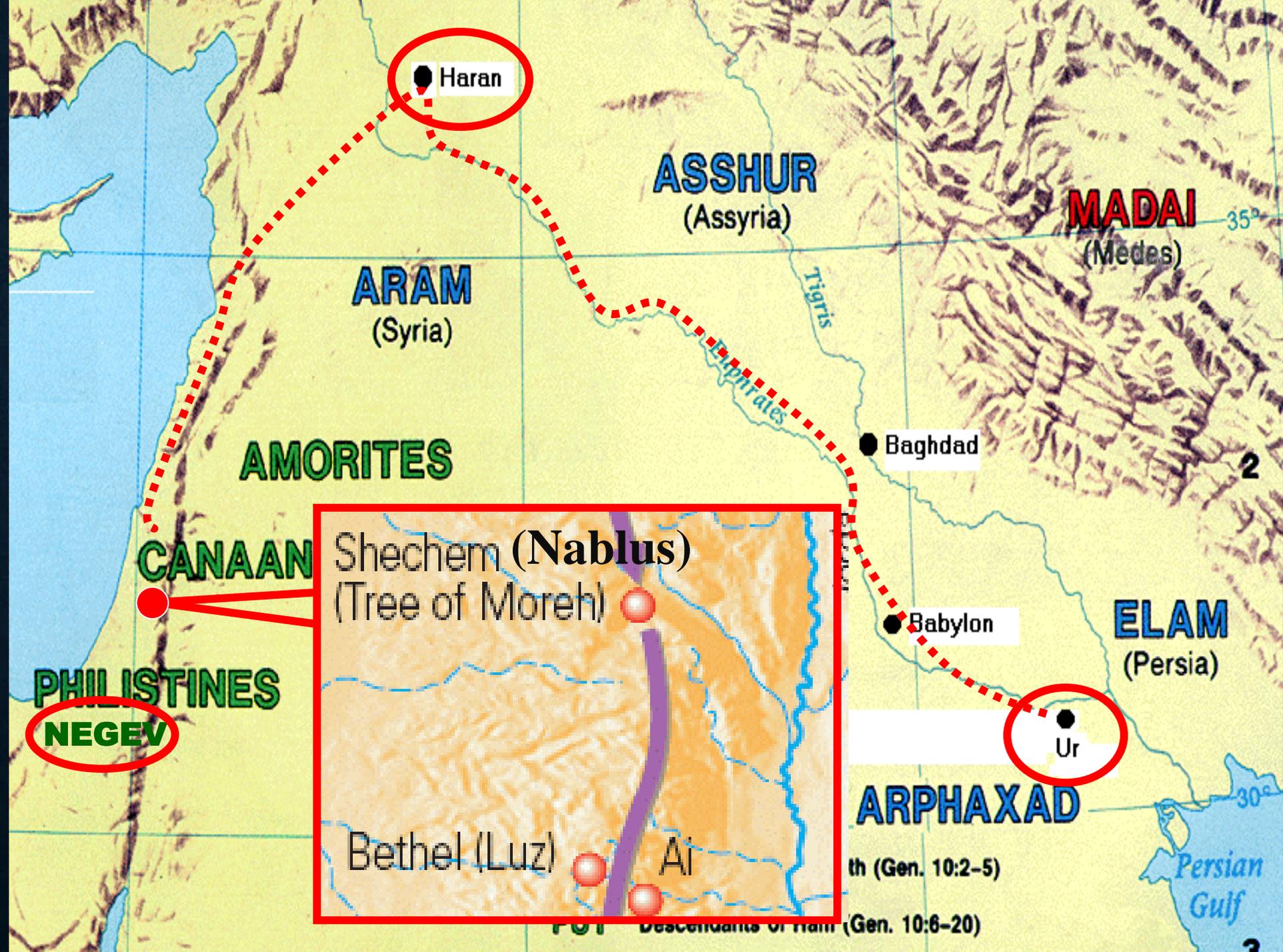
SCATTERING OUT; GATHERING IN

Genesis 11:31 - 12:9

Which land? – vs 5 - Canaan

~ 2000 B.C.

Abram



SCATTERING OUT; GATHERING IN

Genesis 15

A son, innumerable offspring and
“To your descendants I give this land...”

~ 2000 B.C.

SCATTERING OUT; GATHERING IN

Genesis 17: 1-8

“...I will give you as
an everlasting possession...”

~ 2000 B.C.