

# A proposed location for Sodom from a Quranic interpretation

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I wrote about this subject in more details in an Arabic article (39# in omr-mhmd.yolasite.com) in 2019 and this is an overview.

I am going here to derive a proposition for the location of Sodom by following some Quranic legitimate interpretations. But this work can be conducted by either a believer or non-believer, therefore, this is an academic work rather an apologetic one.

However, I need to clarify that the interpretations here are not the only legitimate interpretations for the related Quranic verses. But even if the proposed location for Sodom was inaccurate, still, it is **highly likely** that there are ancient hidden ruins beneath the soil at the proposed location.

In Quran 15:76 (translated by Quran.com): “Their ruins still lie along a known route”.

This is related to Sodom (i.e. the city of the people of Lot). But this isn't the right translation, because the Arabic words are: “Sabeel” (road) “Muqem” (resident). So, the more accurate translation would be: It lies on a resident road, meaning that it is a road that is used at the time of the Quran.

In Quran 15:79 (translated by Quran.com): So, We inflicted punishment upon them. The ruins of both nations still lie on a well-known road.

This is related to both the city of Sodom and the city of Midian. Also, the above isn't the right translation because the Arabic words are: “Imam” (road) “Mubeen” (clearly-visible). So, the more accurate translation would be: It both still lie on a clearly-visible road.

“Sabeel” and “Imam” can both be used for roads, but “Sabeel” does imply a more recent used road.

In Quran 37:137-138 (translated by Quran.com): You ‘Meccans’ certainly pass by their ruins day and night. Will you not then understand.

This is a legitimate translation for the meaning of the verse, and there is an underline for the word “meaning” because the word “ruins” are not in the Arabic verse (and it is not in the previous verses) but that what is understood from these verses. Also, the word “Meccans” are not mentioned in the Arabic verse, but this also clearly understood.

Now ... it has been thought that the clearly-visible road is the same as the resident road, and this is a legitimate interpretation, but it doesn't really portrait the location.

But there is another legitimate interpretation which is to say that Sodom is in the intersection between two roads: a resident road and a clearly-visible one.

Taking this interpretation with Quran 37:137 (above) we can conclude that the resident road is the road that is used by the Meccans at the time of the Quran.

This interpretation can easily present a location for Sodom.

**There are 6 figures in the appendix of this article:**

**Figure-1:** This is a general view to the area north of Arabia and south of Levant. The view is above the city level; therefore, you cannot recognize the streets and cities, but you can easily recognize the traces of the torrential rains through the thousands of years before. It almost looks like a complex magnificent veins.

However, if you look carefully, you will notice some lines that cross these traces of torrents. These lines are the ancient caravan routes that were used for thousands of years. The continuous steps of camels on these roads over time formed these lines, which can be seen from high altitudes above the surface.

**Figure-2:** It is the same as figure-1 but with two colored lines: the blue and orange, which clarify the ancient caravan routes. The blue line is the road that was used by the Meccans in their trade to “Bosra” in Levant. This road was renamed after Islam as the Hajj road, because it is the road that is used by the people in Levant to go to Mecca for the pilgrimage (Hajj). This road passes by many villages from the time before Islam.

I am assuming here that this is the resident road that was mentioned in Quran 15:76.

The orange line is an empty road. There are no villages by it, but it is a very clearly-visible road, which seems that this road was very active at the ancient times much before Islam probably at the times when Arabia was the main international trading hub:

From about 2000BC until about 200BC the Indians and Chinese ships were porting cargos to the east of Arabia, and then the Arabs would take these cargos by camels to the Canaanite at the east of the Mediterranean. However, at about 200BC the Greek in Egypt and the Greek in Iraq managed to make the Red sea and the Euphrates navigable, therefore taking out Arabia as the international trading hub.

I am assuming here that this is the clearly-visible road that was mentioned in Quran 15:79.

**Figure-3:** In this figure we highlighted the intersection “X” between the blue and orange roads. Also, this location does fit with the Jewish Bible; because the distance from X to the cave of Lot is about 52 km, which is a distance that can be crossed from sunset to sunrise (the time there between sunset to sunrise at winter is about 14 hours).

[The location of X is at 30 45 30 , 35 55 47 (latitude , longitude). When you enter this coordinate in Google-Earth/Map then make sure that there is a space before and after the comma].

There is also point “Y” in figure-3 (30 33 09 , 36 07 25) which is a proposed location for the city of Midian:

Quran 15:79 (discussed previously) has clarified that Sodom and Midian are in a clearly-visible road. Also, Quran 11:89 does indicate that Midian is not far from Sodom. If I am going to suggest an initial location for Midian in the orange road, then I would suggest point “Y” as it is located in the intersection between the orange road and another thin (but clearly visible) road that comes from the east.

There is also point “Z” in figure-3, which is a funny random formation from nature.

**Figure-4:** Zoomed view for figure-3.

**Figure-5:** Same as figure-4 without the colors.

**Figure-6:** A large view for point “Z” in figure-3. This is a funny random formation from nature caused by the thousands of years of erosions which almost look like a face looking at point “Y”.

Now ... This proposition was derived by following some Quranic legitimate interpretations. However, even if this proposition wasn't accurate for Sodom, still, there is an intersection between two busy ancient caravan routes, which would lead me to say that there is a high probability for an ancient ruins beneath the soil at that location.

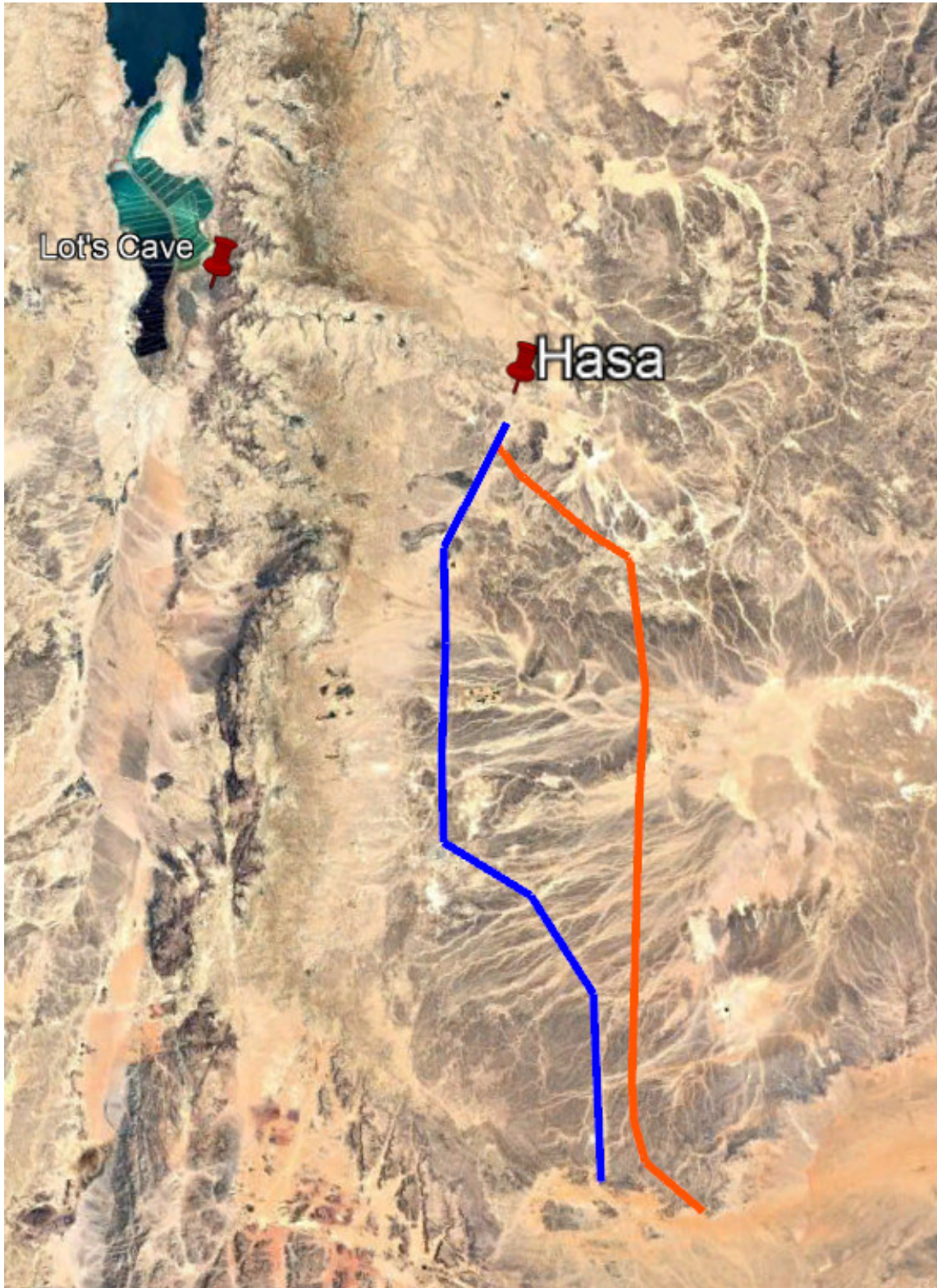
## The Appendix

The figures for this article [All the figures here are from [Google-Earth](#)].

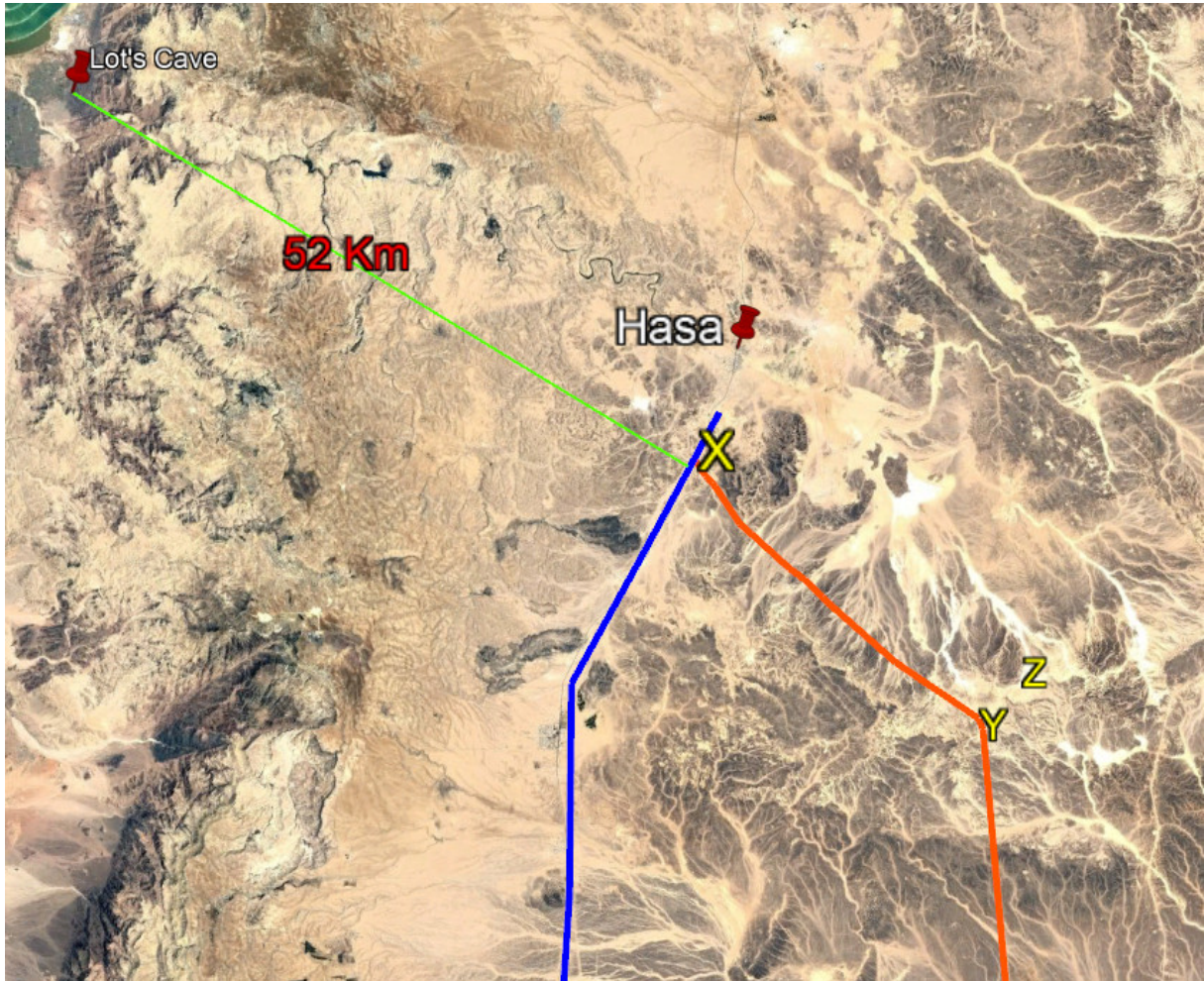
**Figure-1:** Notice the traces of the torrential rains in the landscape through the thousands of years before, and notice that there are two white lines crossing these traces.



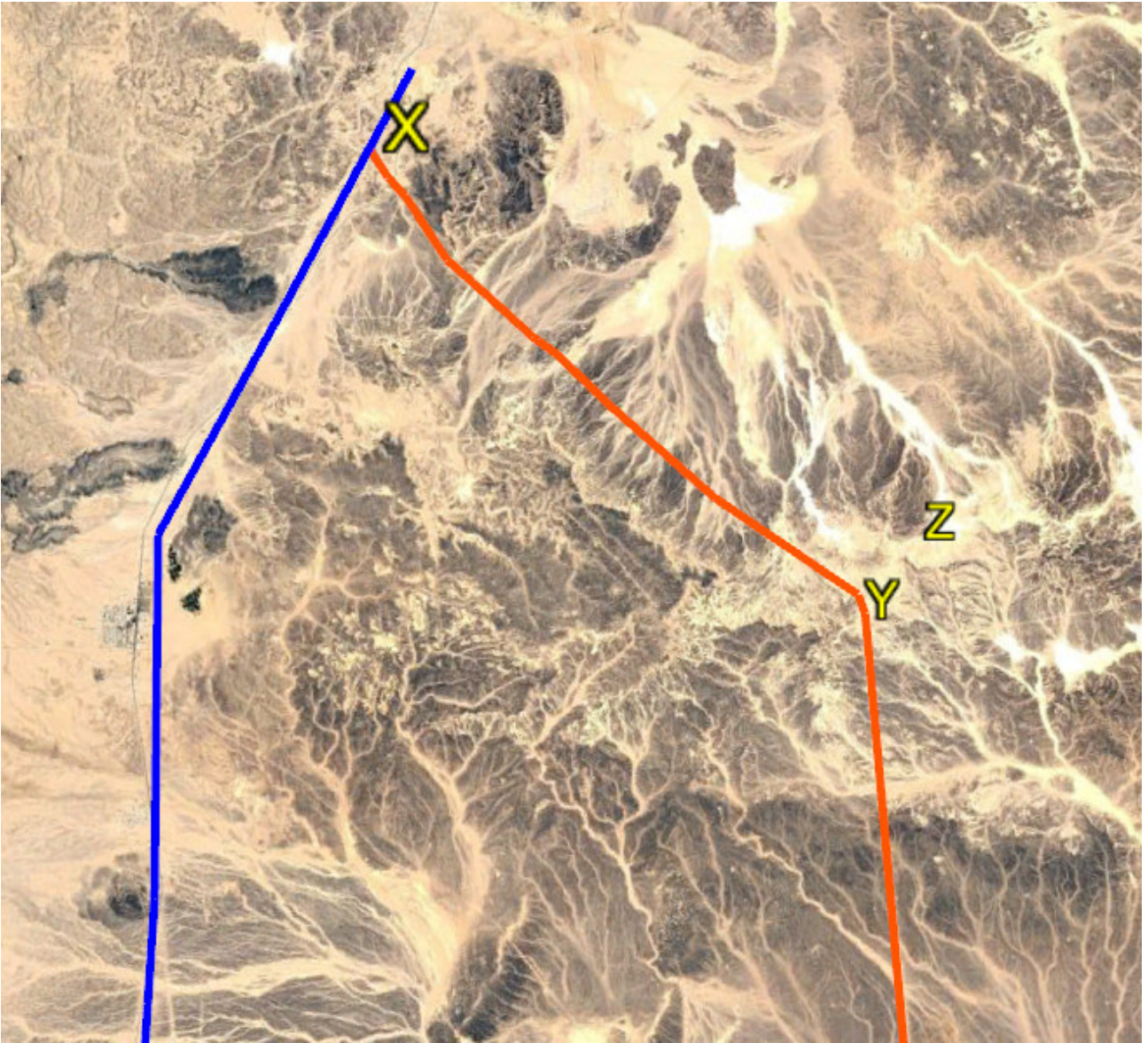
**Figure-2:** Same as figure-1 but with two lines (Blue and Orange) highlighting the crossing white lines. These white lines are actually the ancient caravan routes that was marked by the steps of thousands and thousands of camels in the past thousands of years.



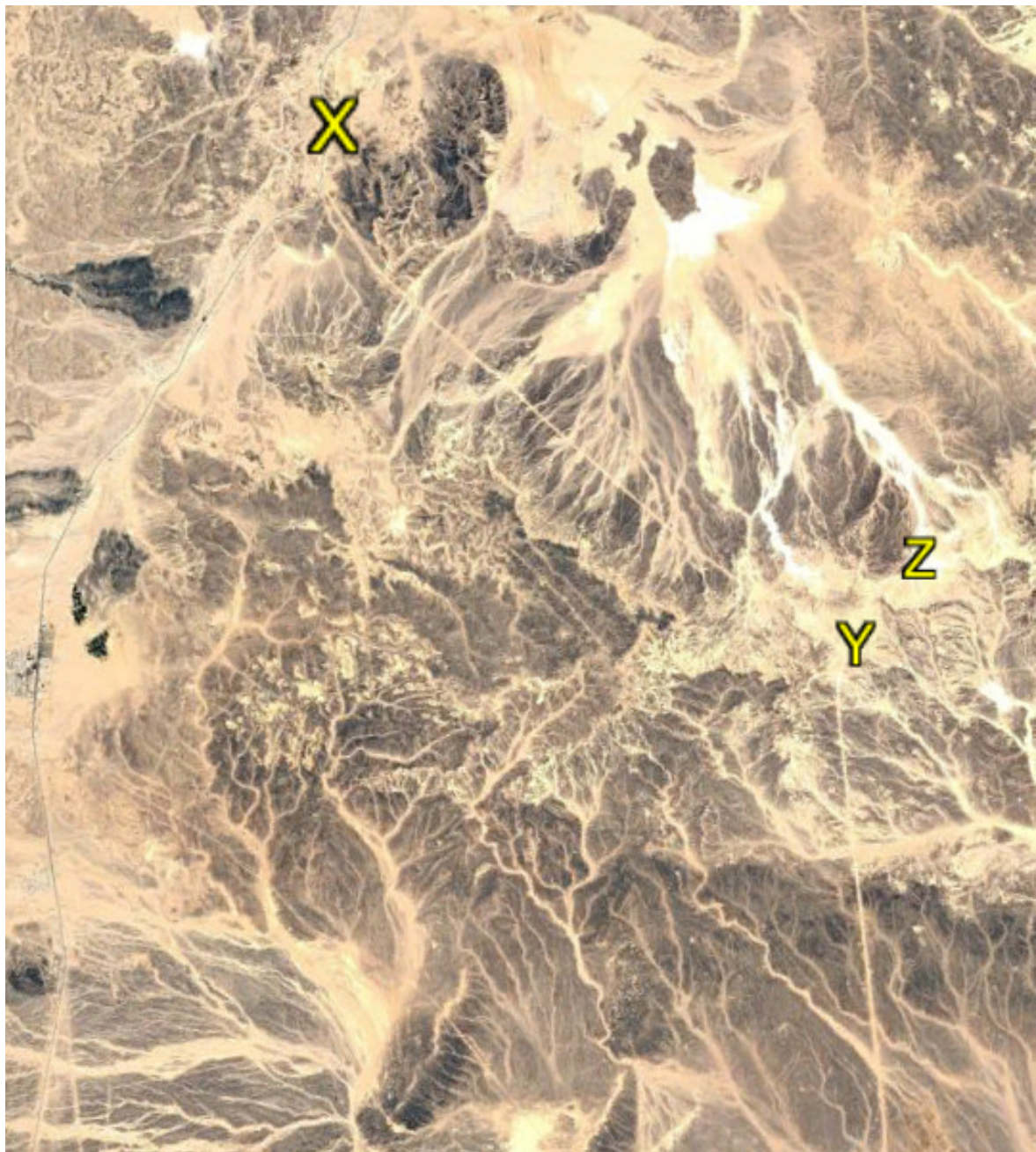
**Figure-3:** Points X (30 45 30 , 35 55 47), Y (30 33 09 , 36 07 25) and Z (30 33 36 , 36 09 34) as explained in the article. When you copy these coordinates in Google Earth/Map then make sure that there is a space before and after the comma.



**Figure-4:** Zoomed view for figure-3.



**Figure-5:** the same as figure-4 without the colors.





**Figure-6:** Point Z (30 33 36 , 36 09 34) in the article, which represents a funny random formation from nature caused the thousands of years of erosions which almost look like a face looking at point Y. Notice the thin caravan ancient route below the face coming from the east.

