

Promise Land Class
Summer Series 2021
May 19 thru August 25
Wednesday 7:00 to 7:45p
“A River to Cross and A Covenant to Keep”



Resource Credits

The Daily Bible: F. LaGard Smith

NIV Chronological Daily Bible Readings

NIV Chronological Study Bible: Thomas Nelson

Historical and Archeological Notes

LOGOS Bible Study – Dr. Bill Creasy

University Bible Lectures (not Sermons)

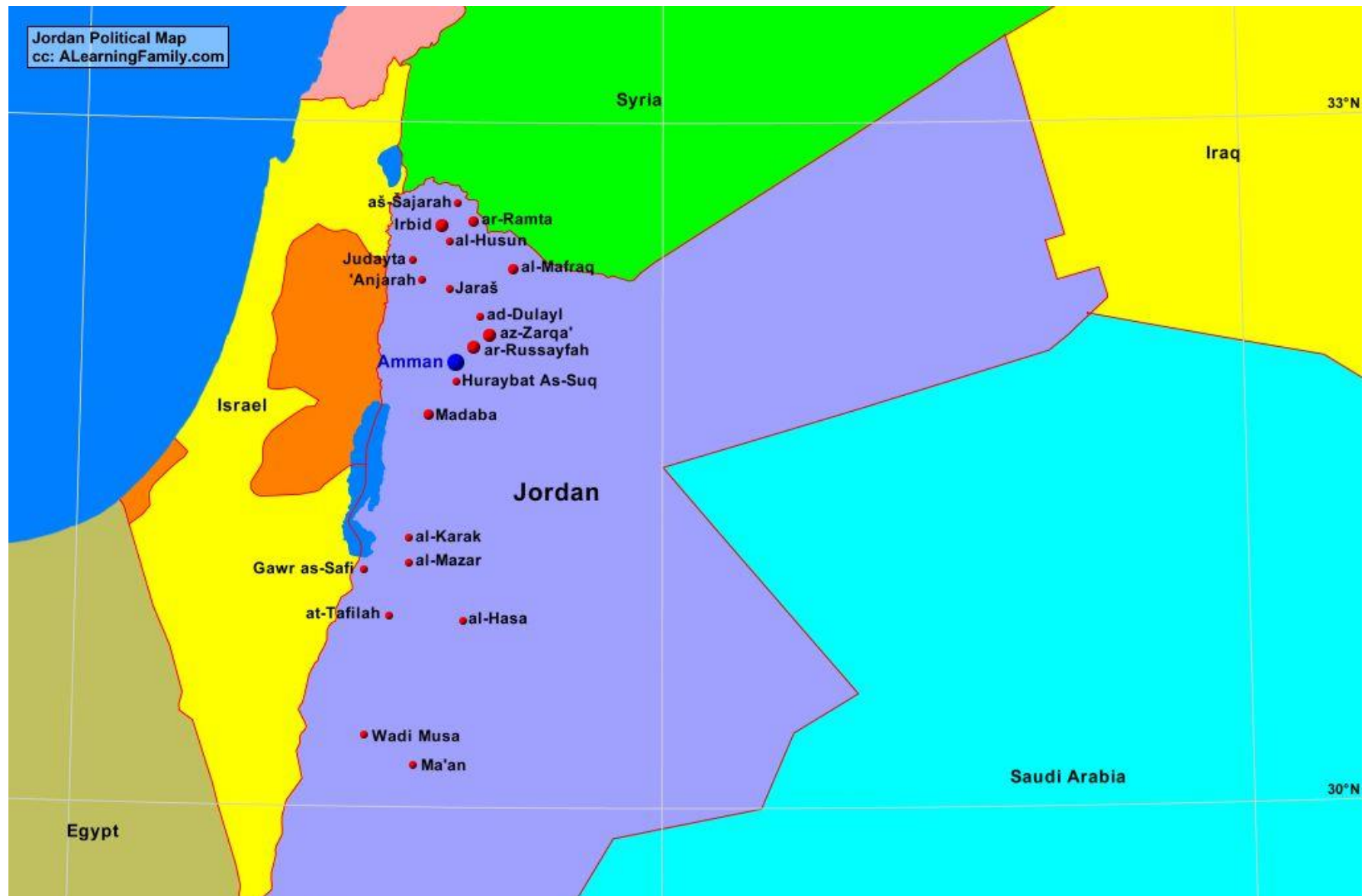
Historical and Archeological Trip Notes

Included Quotes: NIV and ESV Translations

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- Resource Credits



- A Little Perspective on the Size of Biblical Lands



- Israel, Gasa, Jordan and the West Bank
- Modern Day Middle East

Introduction

What a blessing it is to be back together and engaging in a Bible Study to better understand what God expects of us when faced with **“a river to cross and a covenant to keep”**.

This study stresses the personal application of the transition adverb “Therefore...” in Hebrews and Romans and the implication of making a spiritual “covenant”.

- An Introduction to a Study of Joshua, Judges, Ruth
- How the heroes in Hebrews 11 challenge us
- Romans 12:1-2 issues the challenge this give us real ways to express our covenant relationship with Jesus

“Therefore?” **A CALL TO ACTION**

Let us talk about “covenants” for a minute.

Anybody ever made a “covenant”? Why? Who? Did you have any “rivers to cross” after you made it?

As Christians have, we made a covenant? With whom? When? Why? Any “rivers to cross”? Did Jesus make a covenant with us? Matt. 28:18-20 Great Commission.

On a personal level, when did we enter a covenant with Jesus?

- Did Jesus offer us a covenant in Matt. 28:18-20?
- What was it?
- What would consider a “river to cross”?

Joshua

So by example we are going to watch Joshua and Israel “cross a river and keep a covenant” mostly, kinda sorta.

Judges

And in the chaos of the Judges comes the story of heroes and covenant breakers.

Ruth

The story of Ruth takes place in Moab and Israel during the time of the Judges. It is indeed a love story but it is also a much bigger lesson for us on how life can be when love is the first consideration.


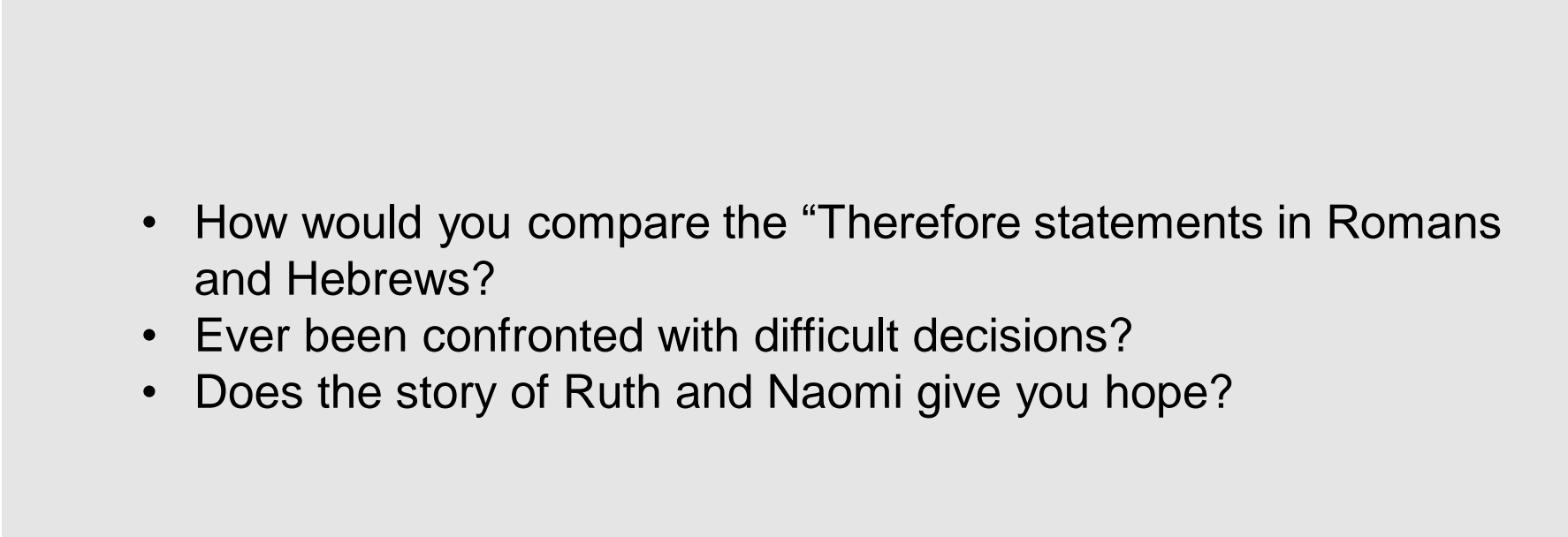
- How would you describe Joshua?
- Any judges of Israel come mind?
- What one word describes Naomi?




Looking Back

And in our last lesson we will take a fresh look at the two “therefore” statements in Romans 12:1-2 and Heb 12:1-2.

I freely admit that our study will be very challenging but equally rewarding. A serious deep dive into Joshua, Judges and Ruth bring things to our minds that do not always fit our moral and ethical understanding in this post resurrection era.

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- How would you compare the “Therefore statements in Romans and Hebrews?
 - Ever been confronted with difficult decisions?
 - Does the story of Ruth and Naomi give you hope?




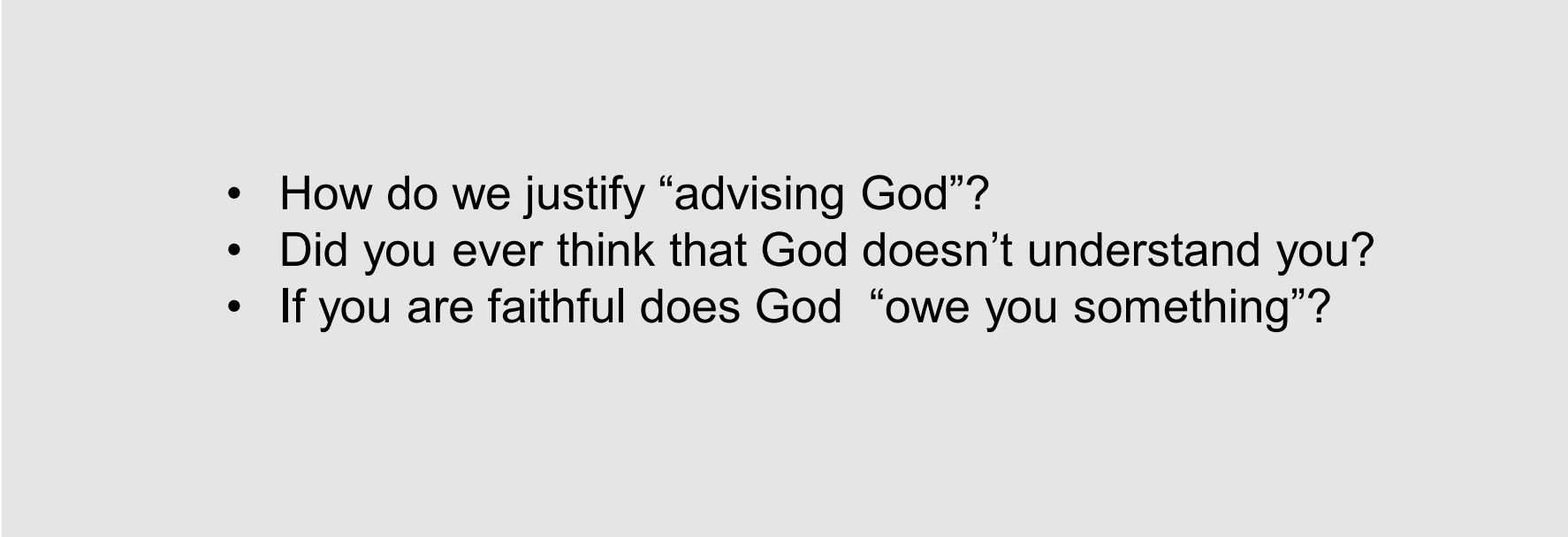
Grab your bible and turn with me to Romans 11:33 - 12:1-2.

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

³⁴ “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?”

³⁵ “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?”

³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

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- How do we justify “advising God”?
 - Did you ever think that God doesn’t understand you?
 - If you are faithful does God “owe you something”?

A Living Sacrifice

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 11:33 - 12:2

- What is a “living sacrifice?”
- What is “spiritual worship?”
- How do you renew your mind?
- Why would you want to “renew your mind”?

Sh'ma (Hebrew)

⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.
Deuteronomy 6:4-9

- Who is speaking?
- Who is the writer speaking to?
- Who does this apply to?
- What options does the writer present?
- Using “I” statements, how might you apply this?
- Will anybody notice if you apply it?

The Blessings

¹ “And if you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. ² And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you if you obey the voice of the LORD your God. ³ Blessed shall you be in the city and blessed shall you be in the field. ⁴ Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. ⁵ Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. ⁶ Blessed shall you be when you come in and blessed shall you be when you go out. Deuteronomy 28:1-6

- Who were the people involved?
- Who does this apply to?
- What options does the writer present?
- Do you have options? What are they?
- Will your life be easier if you apply this?
- Have you had to make this kind of decision before?