

GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

HOW TO RECOVER FROM A FAILURE OF FAITH GENESIS 13

GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

Three biblical principles of recovering from our failure to be faithful to the Lord.

Renouncing (v1) "So Abram went up from..."

This is the 'no' we say to ourselves when sin is crouching at the door or when we've turned to confess our sins to God.

We begin by putting off, laying aside the sinful attitudes and actions—we must stop sinning.

Renouncing (v1)

Retaining (v2)

Returning (v3) "...to the place where his tent had been at the beginning..."

Renouncing (v1)

Retaining (v2)

Returning (v3)

Remembering (v4)

As God deals with us in our sinful failure, He <u>exposes</u> the idols of our hearts to us through the <u>trials</u> and <u>challenges</u> He brings to our lives. Our sinful responses <u>reveal</u> our true desires and loyalties. This is when we face the temptation to hide, to pride, and to fear what God is showing us.

Abram needs the Lord to teach him to hate his sin.

Don't <u>focus</u> on your sins, <u>forsake</u> them. God is <u>not</u> making Abram <u>focus</u> on his sins. God is leading Abram to truthfully and biblically <u>reflect</u> on his failure for the purpose of God leading him in <u>forsaking</u> that failure.

In other words, Abram forsaking his sin involves owning, confessing, turning away from, and then <u>replacing</u> the sin with what pleases God. For us and for Abram to do those things, <u>we must take stock</u> of what we've done.

Renouncing (v1)

Retaining (v2)

Returning (v3)

Remembering (v4)

Replacing

This situation with Lot is like what Abram faced in his circumstances with Sarai, the famine, and Pharoah:

- 1. Abram is coming off a time of worship with God.
- 2. He is dealing with someone close to him (family).
- 3. He is in a position of power and his decision will stand.
- 4. His decision will affect many people for good or bad.
- 5. Abram is faced with the choice of self-promotion or self-denial.

Those differences emphasize the principle of reaping what we sow.

II. Reaping (Genesis 13:5-13)

Reaping the Benefits of Submissive Repentance.

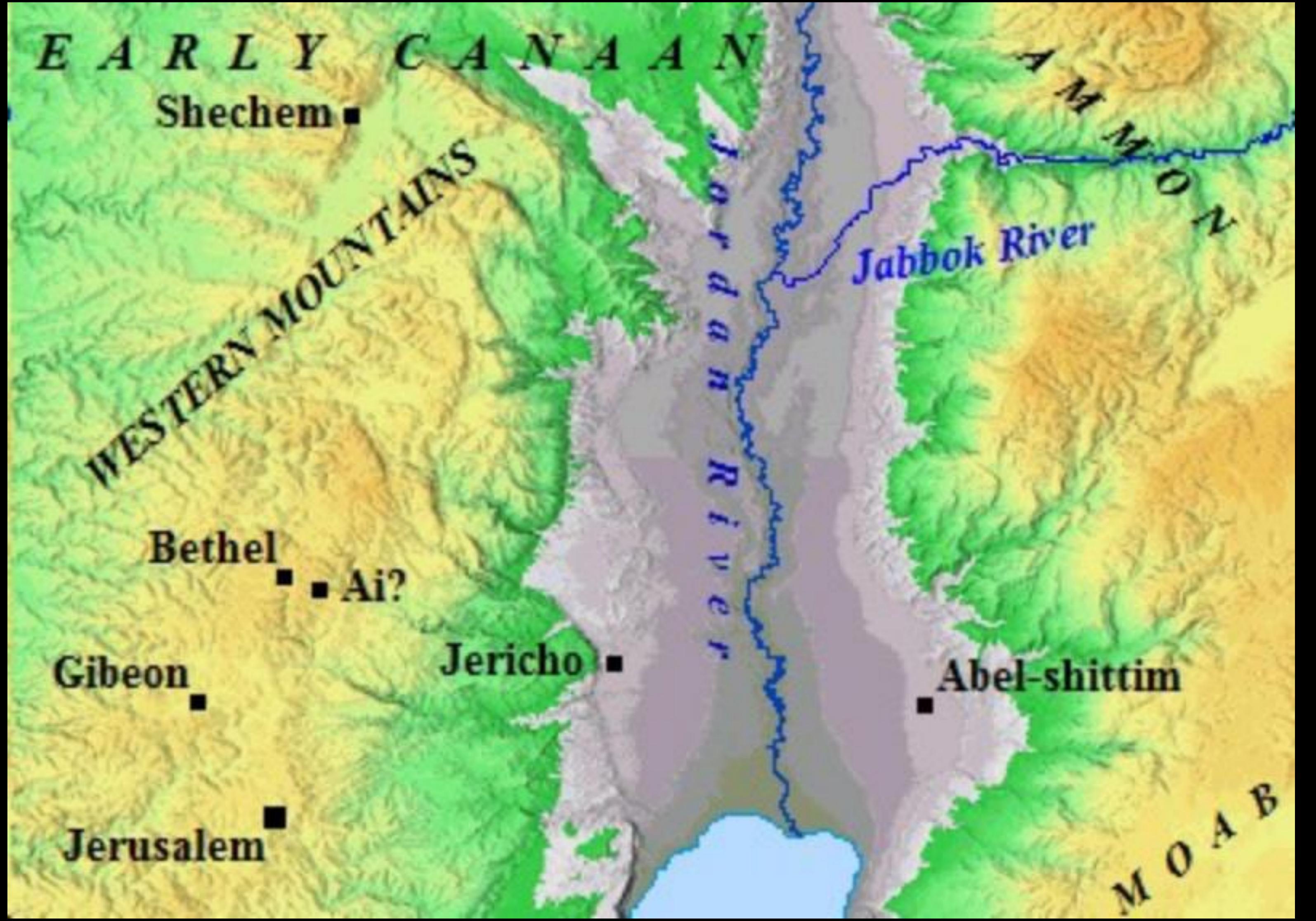
"...for we are brothers."

II. Reaping (Genesis 13:5-13)

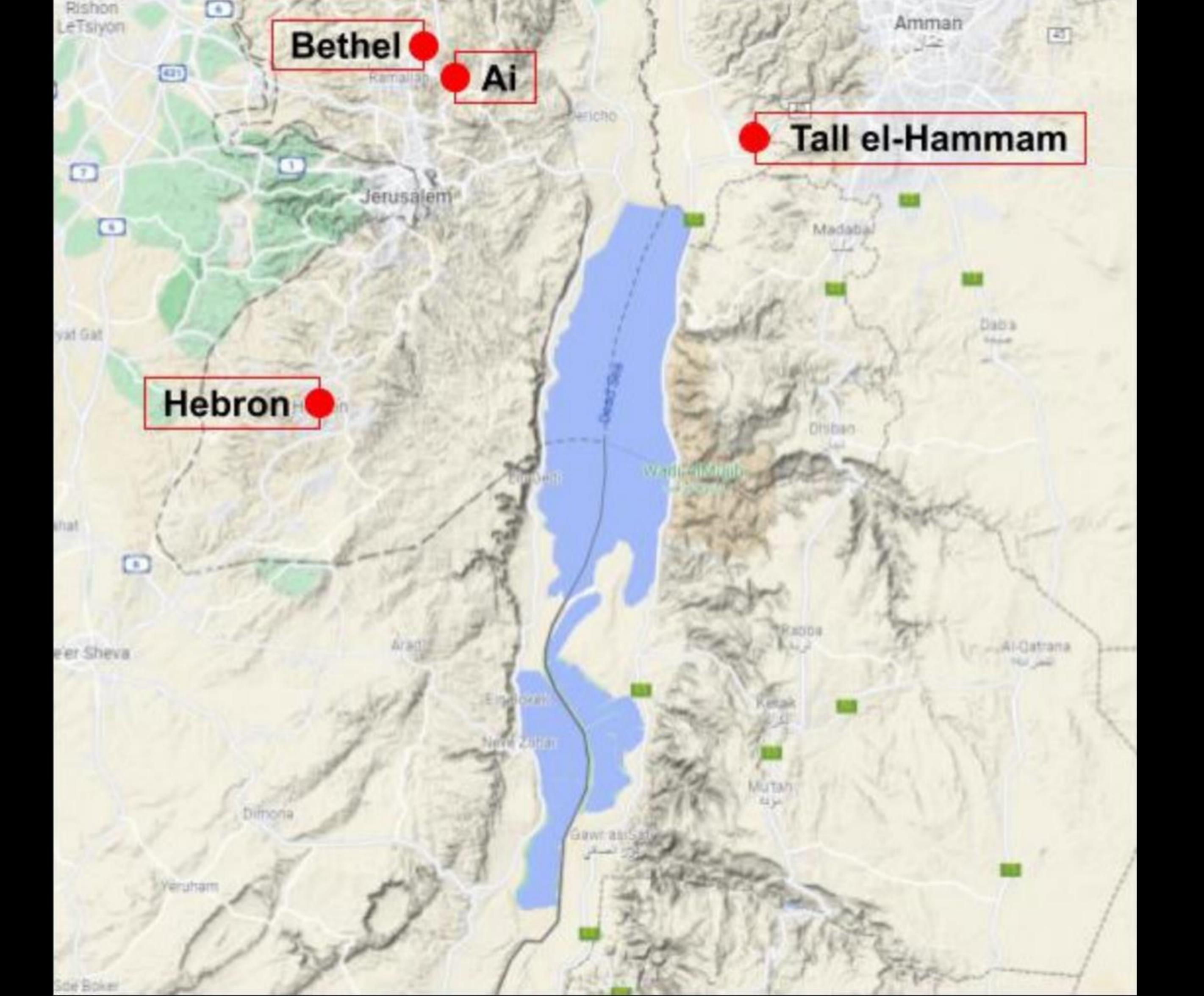
Reaping the Benefits of Submissive Repentance.

When we are faced with these difficult and emotional issues, we need to <u>narrow our focus</u> to this single priority:

Look only to God for the wisdom to do that which will allow you to be most faithful to God.







III. Restoration (Genesis 13:14-18)

This <u>future restoration</u> which is being promised to Abram and his descendants is:

- Based on the promises of God
- Bears the gracious riches of God
- Boasts of the goodness of God
- Brings about the worship of God





GRACE CHURCH WILLIAMSBURG