

Great Grandparents to a King

The Story of Ruth and Boaz

Part 2
A Testimony of Hope
Ruth 1-2



A Little Review from last week:

- Naomi and her husband Elimelech and their two sons (Mahlon and Chilion) leave Bethlehem and travel to Moab because there was a famine in the region of Judah
- While in Moab – Elimelech will die leaving Naomi a widow in a country (**Moab**) where wickedness, perversion and the worship of false gods was the norm



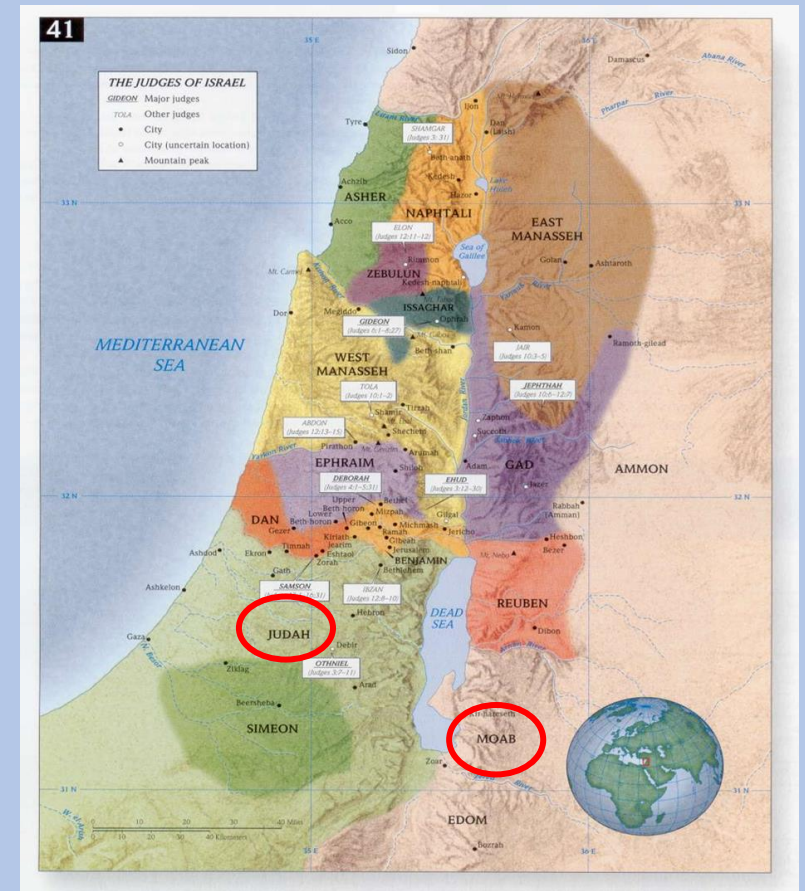
A Little Review from last week:

- Mahlon will marry Ruth (a Moabite)
- Chilion will marry Orpah (a Moabite)
- Both Mahlon and Chilion will die after living in Moab about 10 years
- The Moabites were the enemies of the Israelites and constantly oppressed them during the period of the Judges



A Little Review from last week:

- Naomi decides to return to Bethlehem
- Naomi recognized that it was God who is the supplier of all things, and she begins to return to her land and her faith
- Naomi turns her back on Moab showing signs of repentance and heads in the direction of where God's blessings are





God Provides Hope for the Hurting

Ruth 1:19-22

God Provides Hope for the Hurting

“So, they both went until they came to Bethlehem. And when they had come to Bethlehem, all the city was stirred because of them, and the women said, is this Naomi? She said to them, do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitter with me” (Ruth 1:19-20)



God Provides Hope for the Hurting

“I went out full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why do you call me Naomi since the Lord has witnessed against me and the Almighty has afflicted me. So, Naomi returned, and with her Ruth the Moabite, her daughter in law, who returned from the land of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest”

(Ruth 1:21-22)



***By the time Naomi returns to Bethlehem
her emotional state was in shambles
and she was in desperate need of rescue
and repair***

- During her time in the land of Moab she probably faced:
 - ✓ Doubt and Depression
 - ✓ Bitterness and Grief
 - ✓ Pain, Suffering and Hurt



Naomi knew she needed to be right in the center of God's will, so she placed herself in the place of God's blessing

- Going to Moab was the not the smartest move for Naomi and Elimelech:
 - ✓ Naomi was feeling that all hope was lost
 - ✓ Naomi sensed she was under judgment
- Moving toward God was her best decision



***Sometimes bad things happen to
good people:***

*“There is futility which is done on
the earth, that is, there are
righteous men to whom it
happens according to the deeds of
the wicked. On the other hand,
there are evil men to whom it
happens according to the deeds of
the righteous. I say this too is
futility” (Ecclesiastes 8:14)*





THE STORY
behind the Hymn

“IT IS WELL WITH
MY SOUL”



THE story of the Hymn “IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL”

Horatio Gates Spafford was born in New York, on 20th October 1828, but it was in Chicago that he became well-known for his clear Christian testimony. He and his wife Anna were active in their church, and their home was always open to visitors. They counted the world-famous evangelist, Dwight L. Moody, among their friends. They were blest with five children and considerable wealth. Horatio was a lawyer and owned a great deal of property in his home city.

Not unlike Job in the Old Testament of the Bible, tragedy came in great measure to this happy home. When four years old, their son, Horatio Jnr, died suddenly of scarlet fever. Then only a year later, in October 1871, a massive fire swept through downtown Chicago, devastating the city, including many properties owned by Horatio. That day, almost 300 people lost their lives, and around 100,000 were made homeless. Despite their own substantial financial loss, the Spaffords sought to demonstrate the love of Christ, by assisting those who were grief-stricken and in great need.

THE story of the Hymn “IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL”

Two years later, in 1873, Spafford decided his family should take a holiday in England, knowing that his friend, the evangelist D. L. Moody, would be preaching there in the autumn. Horatio was delayed because of business, so he sent his family ahead: his wife and their four remaining children, all daughters, 11 year old Anna, 9 year old Margaret Lee, 5 year old Elizabeth, and 2 year old Tanetta.

On 22nd November 1873, while crossing the Atlantic on the steamship, Ville du Havre, their vessel was struck by an iron sailing ship. Two hundred and twenty-six people lost their lives, as the Ville du Havre sank within only twelve minutes. All four of Horatio Spafford's daughters perished, but remarkably Anna Spafford survived the tragedy. Those rescued, including Anna, who was found unconscious, floating on a plank of wood, subsequently arrived in Cardiff, South Wales. Upon arrival there, Anna immediately sent a telegram to her husband, which included the words “Saved alone....”

THE Story of the Hymn “IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL”

Receiving Anna's message, he set off at once to be reunited with his wife. One particular day, during the voyage, the captain summoned him to the bridge of the vessel. Pointing to his charts, he explained that they were then passing over the very spot where the Ville du Havre had sunk, and where his daughters had died. It is said that Spafford returned to his cabin and wrote the hymn “It is well with my soul” there and then, the first line of which is, “When peace like a river, attendeth my way..”

THE Hymn “IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL”

When peace like a river attendeth my way

When sorrows like sea billows roll;

Whatever my lot, though has taught me to say,

It is well, it is well, with my soul

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,

Let this blest assurance control,

That Christ has regarded my helpless estate

And hath shed his own blood for my soul

THE Hymn “IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL”

My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought!

My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord O my soul!

It is well, with my soul,

It is well, with my soul,

It is well, it is well, with my soul

Naomi's spirit was wounded and the circumstances she faced were simply the result of life:

- The challenges she faced may have been the result of bad choices and maybe not
- She was clearly in pain and was hurting
- Instead of remaining in Moab and sulking she chose to act in obedience to God which allowed the healing process to begin
- The restoration and healing for Naomi doesn't come immediately and in fact it comes in a rather indirect way through the life of Ruth. It also comes at just the right time and in just the right way



Perhaps you are hurting today, or carrying burdens and weights of grief and pain?

- Like Naomi, you are not alone, and your pain may seem **greater than you can bear** which might be why Peter wrote these words;

“Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your cares upon Him for He cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7)





God Provides Hope for the Helpless

Ruth 2:1-9

God Provides Hope for the Helpless

“Now Naomi had a kinsman of her husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, please let me go to the field and glean from among the ears of grain after one in whose sight I may find favor. And she said go my daughter.”
(Ruth 2:1-2)



God Provides Hope for the Helpless

“So, she departed and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers; and she happened to come to the portion of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech. Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem and said to the reapers, may the Lord be with you. And they said to him, may the Lord bless you.” (Ruth 2:3-4)



God Provides Hope for the Helpless

“Then Boaz said to the servant who was in charge of the reapers, whose young woman is this? The servant in charge of the reapers replied, She is the young Moabite woman who returned with Naomi from the land of Moab” (Ruth 2:5-6)



God Provides Hope for the Helpless

“And she said, please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves. Thus, she came and has remained from the morning until now; she has been sitting in the house for a little while. Then Boaz said to Ruth, listen carefully, my daughter. Do not go to glean in another field; furthermore, do not go on from this one, but stay here with my maids” (Ruth 2:7-8)



God Provides Hope for the Helpless

“Let your eyes be on the field
which they reap and go after
them. Indeed, I have
commanded the servants not to
touch you. When you are thirsty,
go to the water jars and drink
from what the servants draw.”
(Ruth 2:9)



Boaz became the instrument that God would use to demonstrate His provision of hope to someone who was completely helpless

- Boaz was a near relative (a kinsman) of Elimelech
- Boaz was from the tribe of Judah (the lineage in which the Messiah would be born)
 - His father was Salmon (Ruth 4:21, I Chronicles 2:11, Matthew 1:5)
 - His mother was **Rahab** – the prostitute who helped the Israelite's when they conquered Jericho
- Boaz would become the **great grandfather to King David**



Boaz became the instrument that God would use to demonstrate His provision of hope to someone who was completely helpless

- Not all of the people in this royal lineage were perfect and some (like Ruth) were outside the commonwealth of Israel (For example **Rahab the Harlot** – she was a Canaanite who became Boaz's mother)
- This is evidence that a person doesn't have to be perfect to come to God – but that same person needs to allow God to make them perfect in Christ!



Boaz was an upstanding or “worthy” man

- He genuinely cared for the needs of others
- He cared for the spiritual well being of others
- His workers respected him
- He motives and actions toward Ruth were pure



Boaz was obedient to the Lord

- He didn't compromise himself in any way
- His love for Ruth didn't change his commitment to the Lord
- He recognized his position but didn't take advantage of Ruth





God Provides Hope to the Hopeless

Ruth 2:10-22



God Provides Hope for the Hopeless

At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him, “Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me a **foreigner**?” Boaz replied, “I’ve been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, how you left your father and mother and your homeland and **came to live with a people you did not know before**. May the Lord repay you for what you have done. **May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.**” (Ruth 2:10-12)



God Provides

Hope for the Hopeless

“May I continue to find favor in your eyes, my lord,” she said. “You have put me at ease by speaking kindly to your servant **though I do not have the standing of one of your servants.**” At mealtime Boaz said to her, “Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar.” When she sat down with the harvesters, he offered her some roasted grain. She ate all she wanted and had some left over. As she got up to glean, Boaz gave orders to his men, “Let her gather among the sheaves and don’t reprimand her. Even pull out some stalks for her from the bundles and leave them for her to pick up, and don’t rebuke her.”
(Ruth 2:13-16)



God Provides

Hope for the Hopeless

So, Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. Then she threshed the barley she had gathered, and it amounted to about an ephah. She carried it back to town, and her mother-in-law saw how much she had gathered. Ruth also brought out and gave her what she had left over after she had eaten enough. Her mother-in-law asked her, “Where did you glean today? Where did you work? **Blessed be the man who took notice of you!**” Then Ruth told her mother-in-law about the one at whose place she had been working. “**The name of the man I worked with today is Boaz,**” she said.
(Ruth 2:17-19)



God Provides Hope for the Hopeless

“The Lord bless him!” Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. “He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead.” She added, “That man is our close relative; he is one of our guardian-redeemers.” Then Ruth the Moabite said, “He even said to me, ‘Stay with my workers until they finish harvesting all my grain.’” Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, “It will be good for you, my daughter, to go with the women who work for him, because in someone else’s field you might be harmed.” So, Ruth stayed close to the women of Boaz to glean until the barley and wheat harvests were finished. **And she lived with her mother-in-law.** (Ruth 2:20-23)

Prior to Ruth's declaration of faith in God she was completely without hope

- Her family upbringing placed her on a path that was not where God was
- Her time spent with Naomi exposed her to the God who loves her
- Her time spent with Boaz offered her an opportunity to love and be loved.
- Ruth, once a woman with no hope now becomes a woman with nothing but hope!
- **Boaz was clearly in love with Ruth – but being a man of character there was a process and a “right way” to get there. This will be the topic of our next lesson – stay tuned!**

