

Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore CICFamily.com • BibleStudyDownloads.org

#### The Often Quoted Saying

In the Bible?

'God helps those who help themselves"

2 Heresies 4:7

#### The Not-So-Often Quoted Saying

In the Bible!

"God helps those who help others"

#### Theme

#### God Rewards the Selfless

Ruth



#### God Rewards the Selfless

Ruth

Dr. Rick Griffith • Singapore Bible College • BibleStudyDownloads.org

### Rewards

Ruth

# **How** does God reward us when we care for others?



Let's Study
Through
Scripture

The Bible:
Book by Book



"In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit."

Judges 21:25 (NIV)

**\*\* Ruth takes place at the time of the judges (1:1).** 

- In Judges, Samuel records the moral & spiritual failure of Israel ending with 2 horrible accounts:
  - A Levite pagan priest blesses Dan's ungodly migration (Judges 17–18).
  - Benjamites murder a concubine so the other tribes nearly destroy this tribe (Judges 19–21).
- ★ The story of Ruth is a third illustration of life at this time, but provides the other side of the story.

"The Book of Ruth gleams like a beautiful pearl against a jet-black background."

- Perhaps Samuel saw the need to balance the negative picture of the judges era with godly examples (Ruth & Boaz) who lived by the law of God despite national unfaithfulness.
- ★ One key theme of Ruth is similar to that of Judges–God's redemption–with this key difference:

#### Judges

Redemption through deliverers

Buth

Redemption through a godly couple

#### **Contrasts**

### Judges

Faithlessness Immorality

**Idolatry** 

Decline, debasement, disloyalty

Lust

War

**Cruelty** 

**Bethlehem Bad** 

**Anarchy** 

**Tribal** 

Saul

Disobedience leads to sorrow Spiritual darkness

**Faithfulness** 

Fidelity, righteousness, purity

**Following the true God** 

Devotion

Love

Peace

**Kindness** 

**Bethlehem Benefits** 

Monarchy

**National** 

David

Obedient faith leads to blessing

Spiritual light

# How does God reward us when we care for others?



How does God reward us when we care for others?

#### I. God meets our own needs.

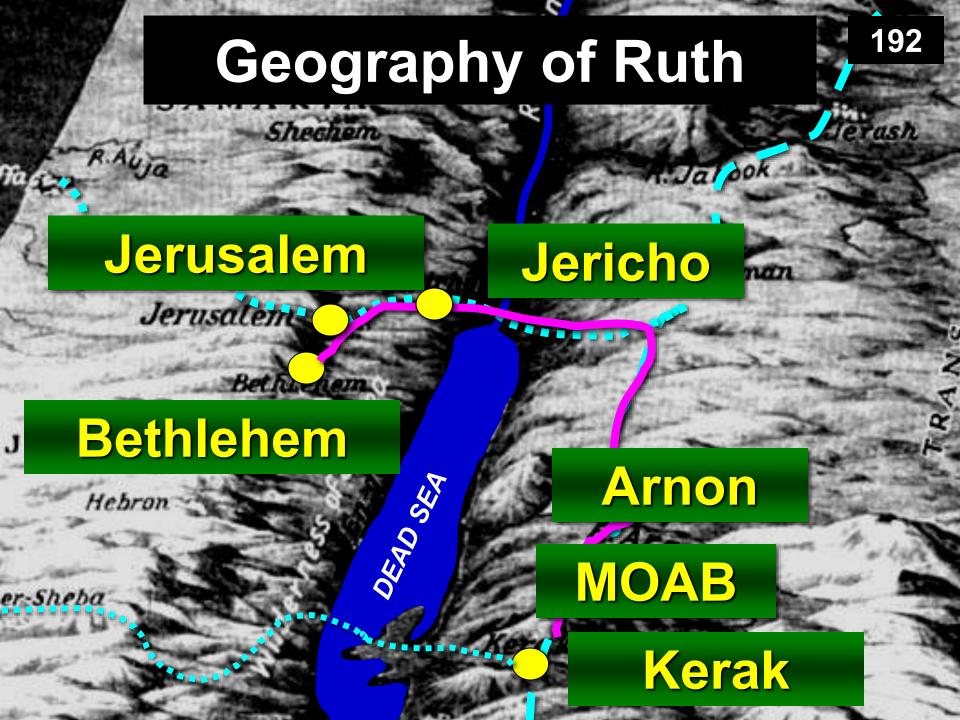




#### **God Rewards the Selfless**

Devotion Brings Food & Protection		Devotion Brings  Messianic Ancestry	
Love Revealed		Love Rewarded	
Ruth and Naomi		Ruth and Boaz	
Return		Romance	
Chapters 1–2		Chapters 3–4	
Selflessness Shown	Temporal Rewards	Redemption Requested	Eternal Rewards
Return	Reward	Romance	Redeem 💮
Death of a Family Moab	Ruth Cares for Naomi Fields in Bethlehem	Boaz Cares for Ruth Threshing Floor in Bethlehem	Birth of a Family Gate in Bethlehem
	30	Years	





**Choices** 1:6-18

Consider the possibilities 6-10

v In Judah 6-7

v In Moab 8-10

Contemplate the probabilities
11-14





Ruth refuses to leave Naomi

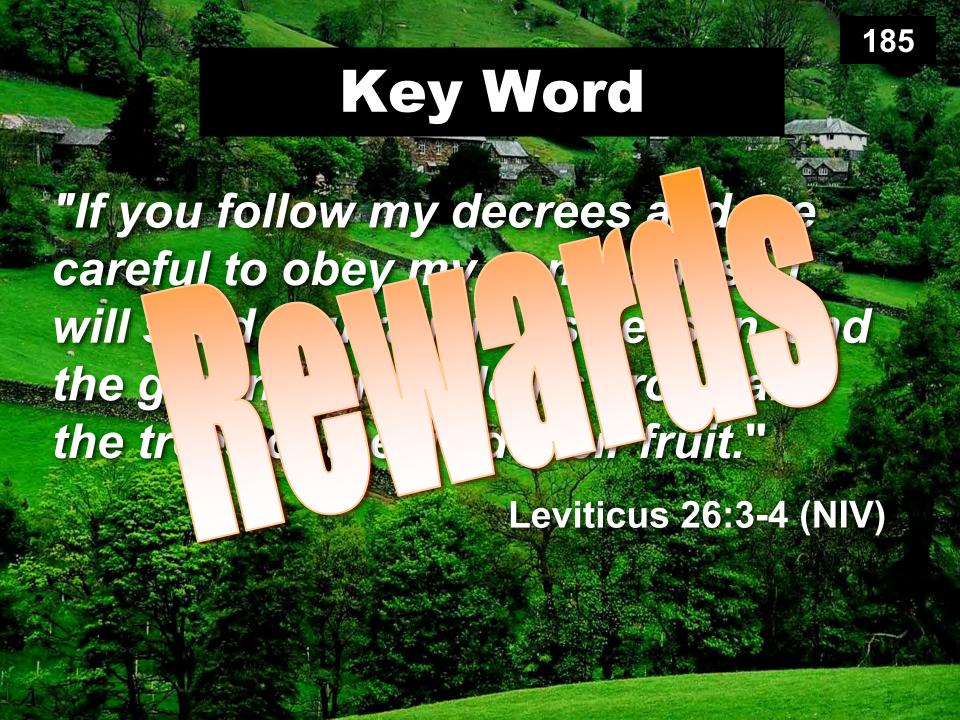
#### **Key Verses**

#### Devotion

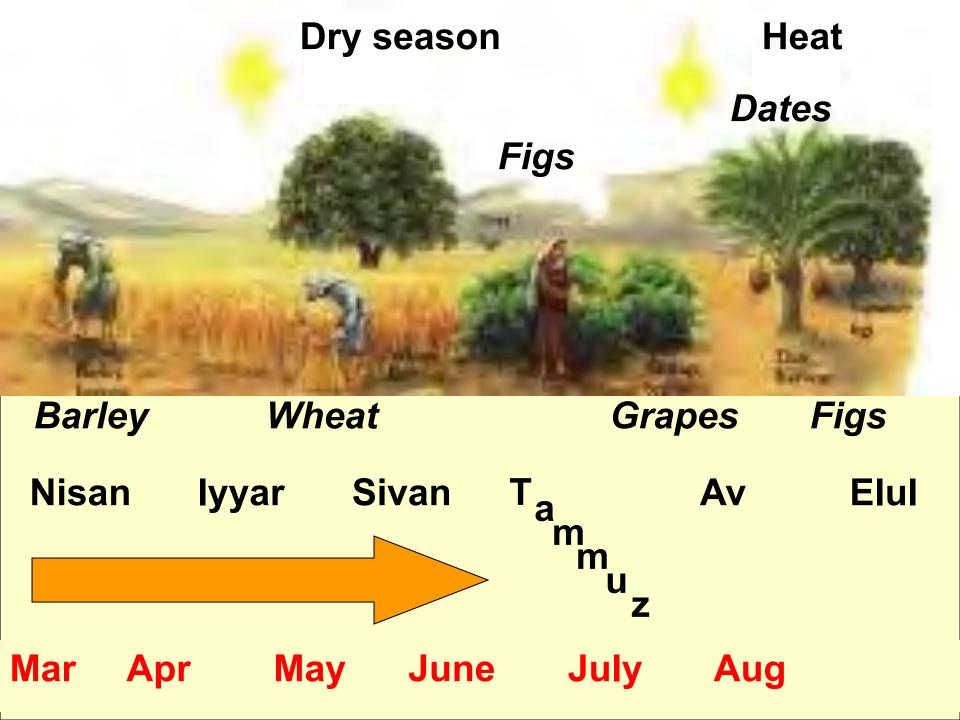
"... Ruth replied, 'Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried..."

(Ruth 1:16-17a).













**Gleaning Prohibited for Landowners** 

"When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest."



Leviticus 19:9 (NIV)

Gleaning Commanded for Poor

"Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the LORD your God."



Leviticus 19:10 (NIV)

"When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the LORD your God."

**Commanded Again** 

Leviticus 23:22 (NIV)

"When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the alien, the fatherless and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands."











### God expects hard work

"We were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you.'

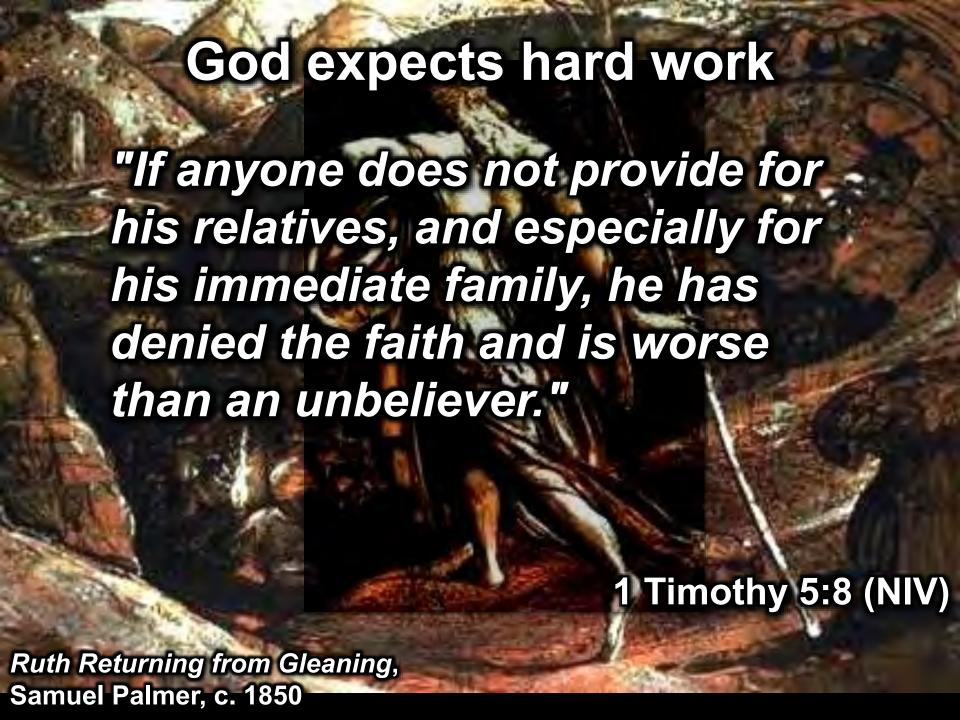
2 Thessalonians 3:7-8 (NIV)

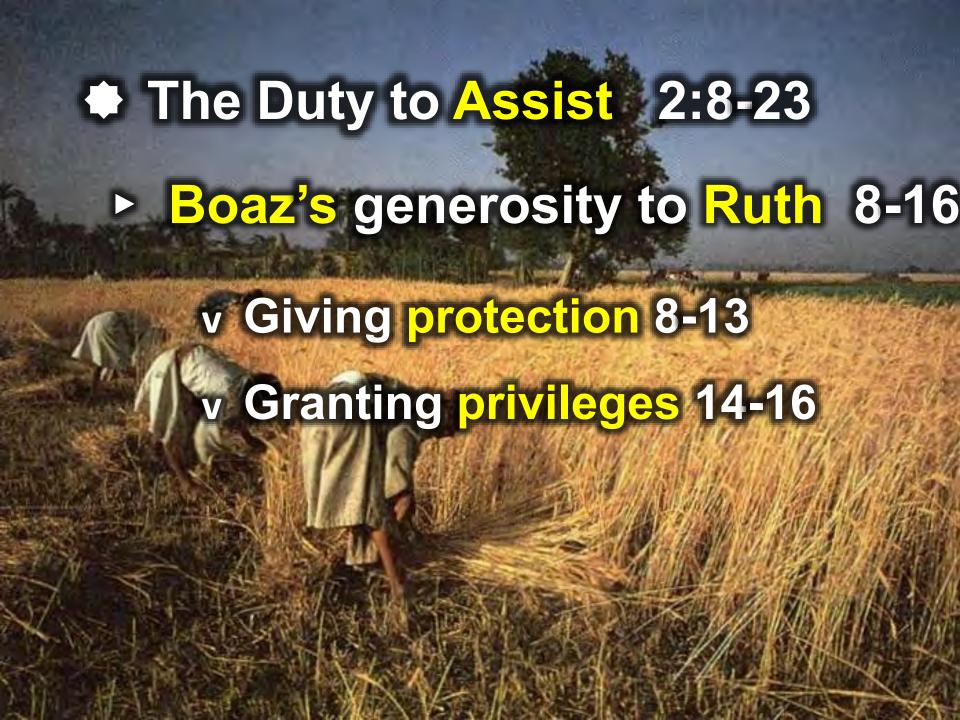
### God expects hard work

"We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow. For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule:"

2 Thessalonians 3:9-10 (NIV)



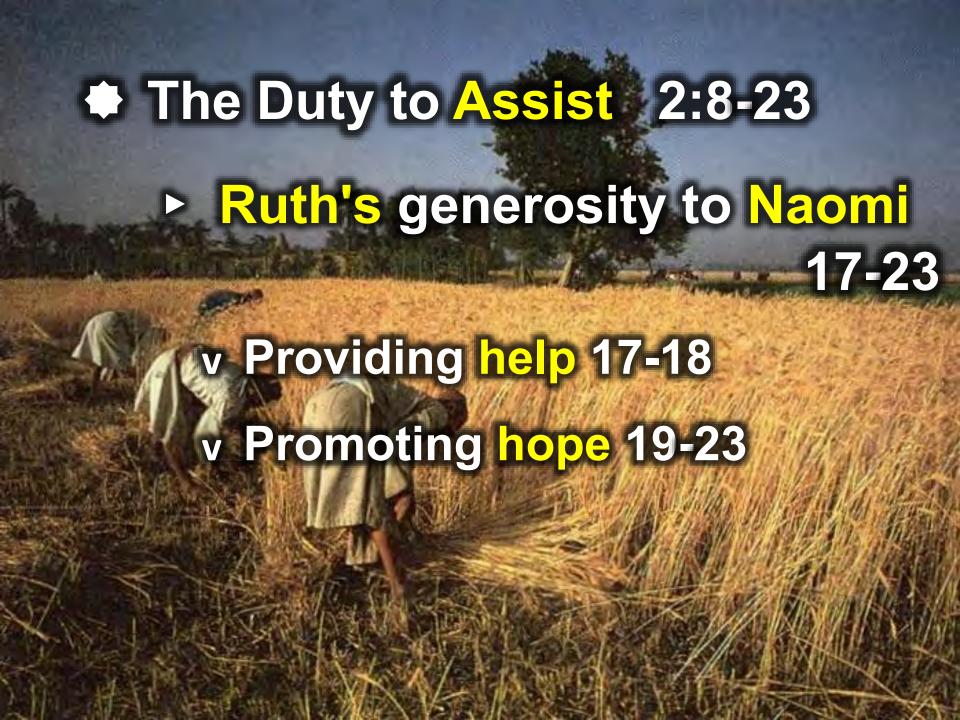








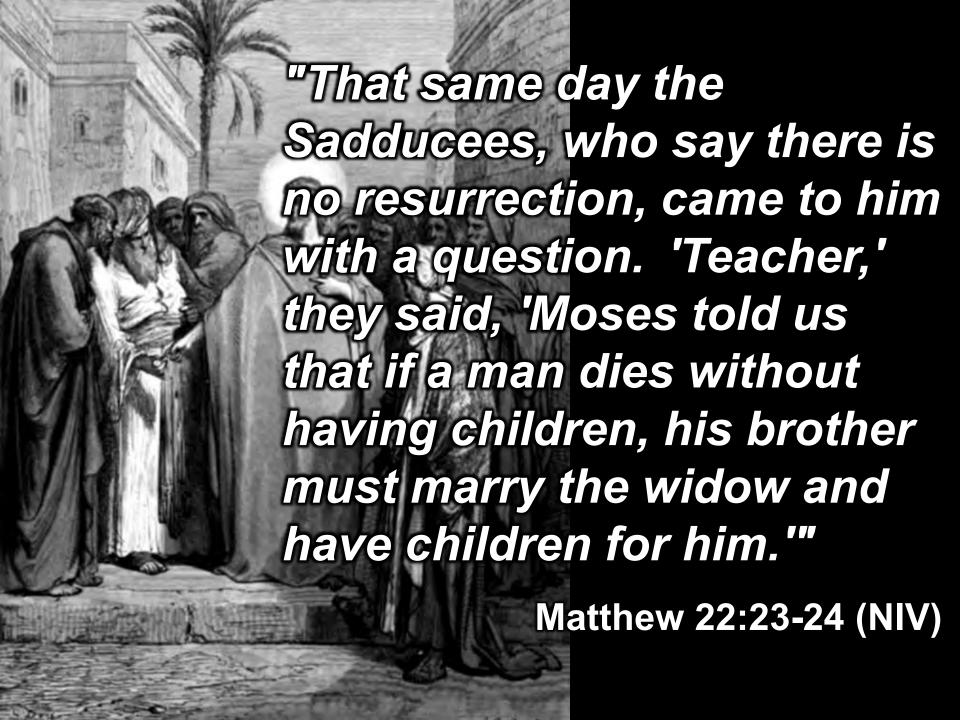




"If one of your countrymen becomes poor and sells some of his property, his nearest relative is to come and redeem what his countryman has sold."

Leviticus 25:25 (NIV)

"If brothers are living together and one of them dies without a son, his widow must not marry outside the family. Her husband's brother shall take her and marry her and fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to her. The first son she bears shall carry on the name of the dead brother so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel."





"Now there were seven brothers among us."

Matthew 22:25 (NIV)



"The first one married and died, and since he had no children, he left his wife to his brother."

Matthew 22:25 (NIV)

"The same thing happened to the second and third brother, right on down to the seventh."

Matthew 22:26 (NIV)

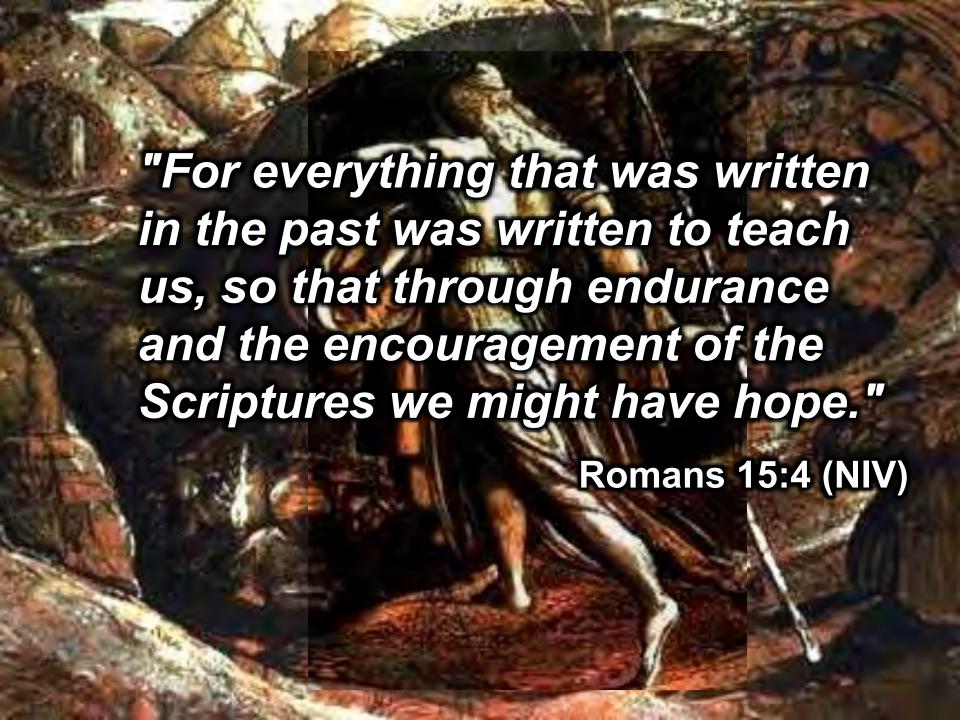
"Finally, the woman died."

Matthew 22:27 (NIV)



"Now then, at the resurrection, whose wife will she be of the seven, since all of them were married to her?"

Matthew 22:28 (NIV)



# **How** does God reward us when we care for others?



How does God reward us when we care for others?

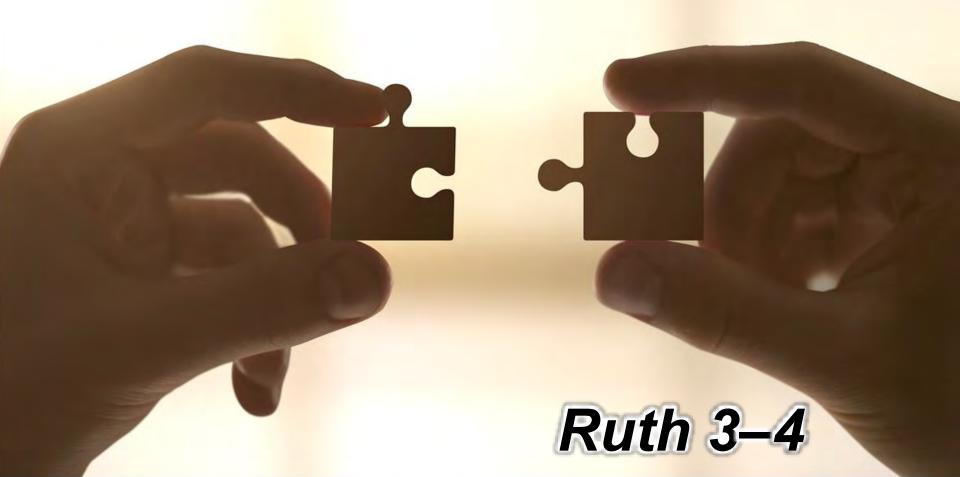
#### I. God meets our own needs.



## Ruth 3

How does God reward us when we care for others?

## II. God sometimes rewards us more than we ever dreamed!



## Hatching a Plan (3:1)





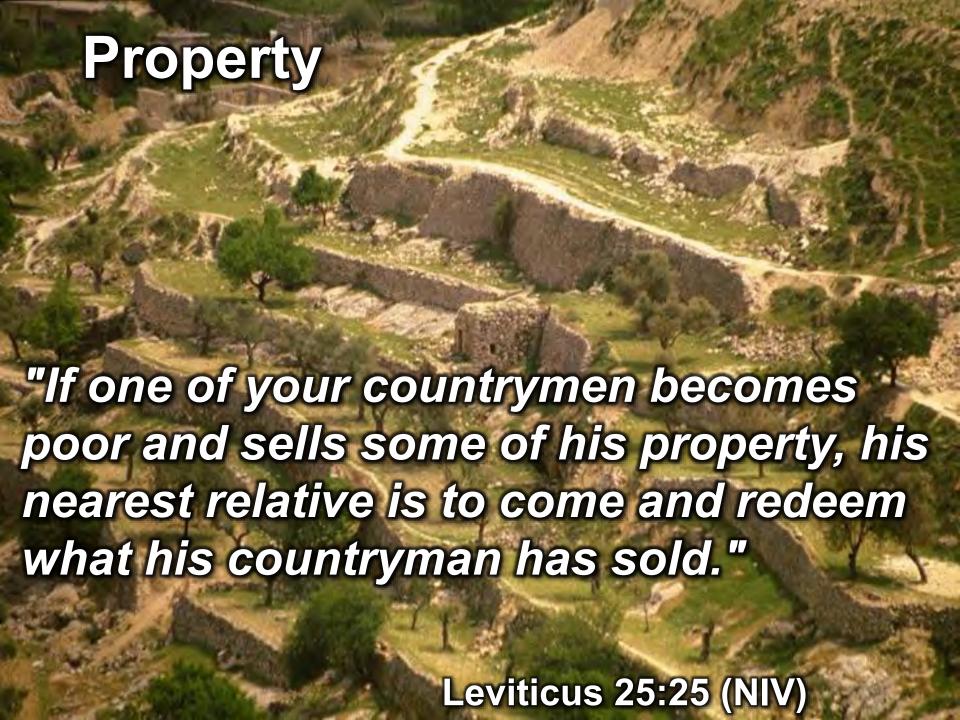
- **♣ Naomi's Contribution 3:1-4** 
  - ► Taking responsibility 1
  - Demonstrating creativity 2-4
- Ruth's Courage 3:5-9
  - ► The Plan 5-7
  - ► The Proposal 8-9







- **♦** Boaz's Commitment 3:10-15
  - ► His promise 10-11
  - ► His problem 12
  - ► His protection 13-14
  - His provision 15
- **♣ Naomi's' Confidence** 3:16-18



"If brothers are living together and one of them dies without a son, his widow must not marry outside the family. Her husband's brother shall take her and marry her and fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to her."

**Deuteronomy 25:5 (NIV)** 

"The first son she bears shall carry on the name of the dead brother so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel."

**Deuteronomy 25:6 (NIV)** 

"However, if a man does not want to marry his brother's wife, she shall go to the elders at the town gate and say, 'My husband's brother refuses to carry on his brother's name in Israel. He will not fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to me."

**Deuteronomy 25:7 (NIV)** 

"Then the elders of his town shall summon him and talk to him. If he persists in saying, 'I do not want to marry her,' his brother's widow shall go up to him in the presence of the elders, take off one of his sandals, spit in his face..."

Deuteronomy 25:8-9 (NIV)

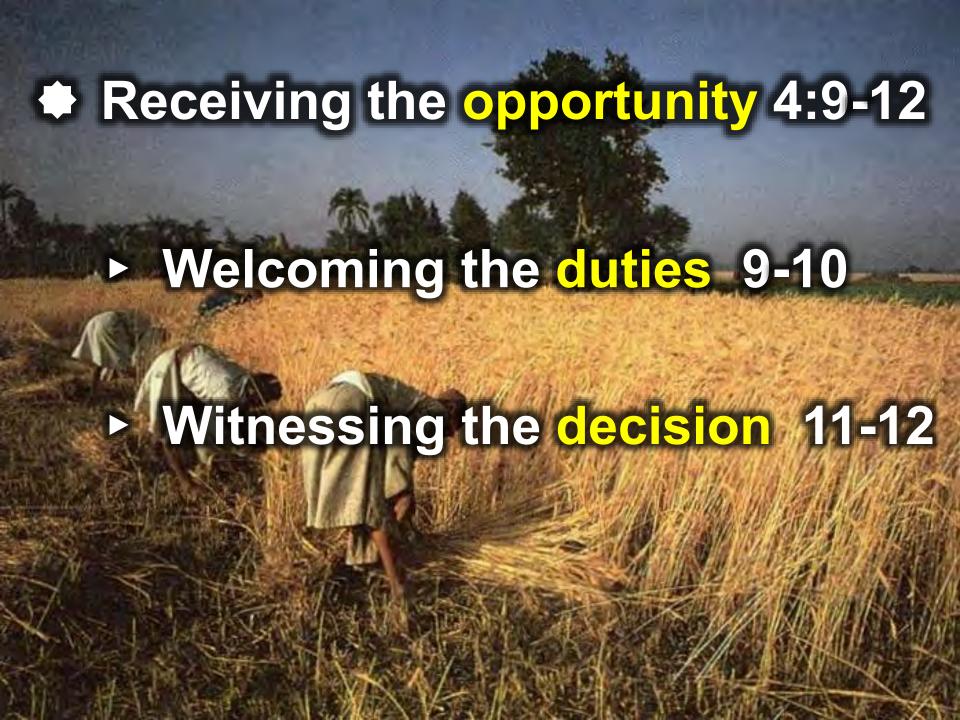
### **Posterity**

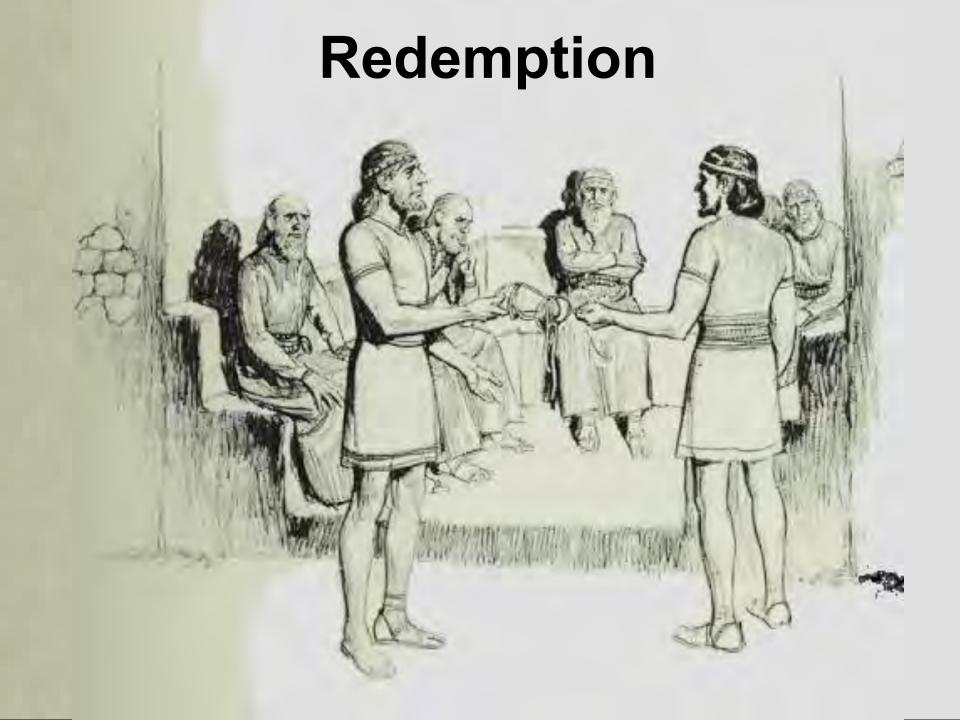
"and say, 'This is what is done to the man who will not build up his brother's family line.' That man's line shall be known in Israel as The Family of the Unsandaled."

# Ruth 4

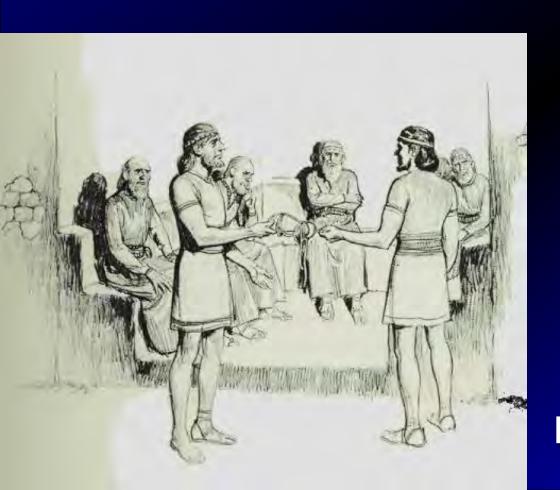


- Refusing the obligation 4:1-8
  - Convening the court 1-2
  - Considering the case 3-8
    - v Property 3-4
      - v Posterity 5-8





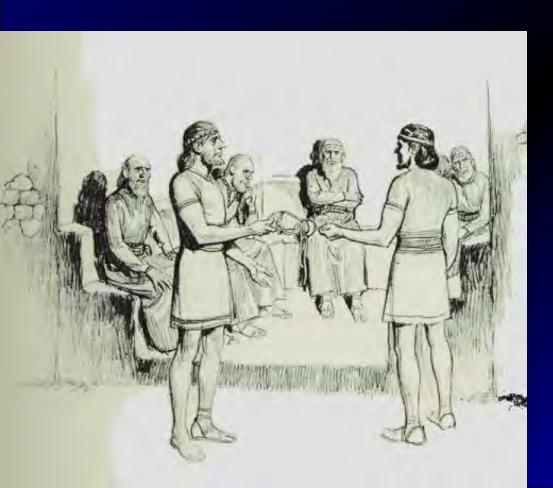
### **Property**



"... those who are God's treasured possession..."

**Ephesians 1:14 (NIV)** 

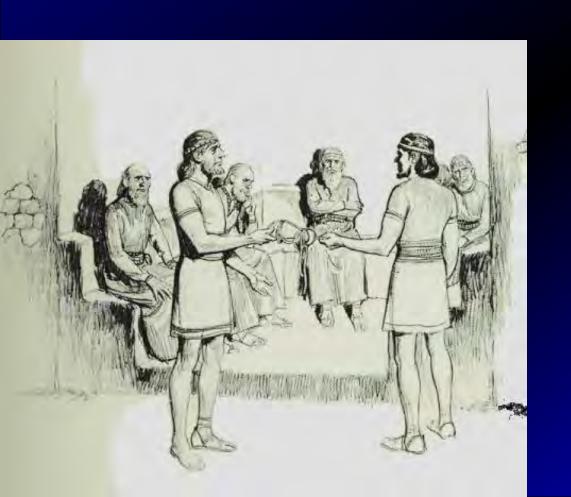
### **Posterity**



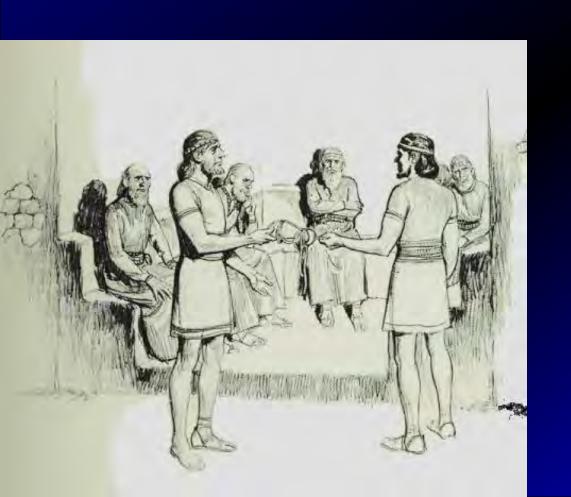
"He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created."

James 1:18 (NIV)

- Need
- Redeemer
  - Related Willing Able
- Payment
- Acceptance



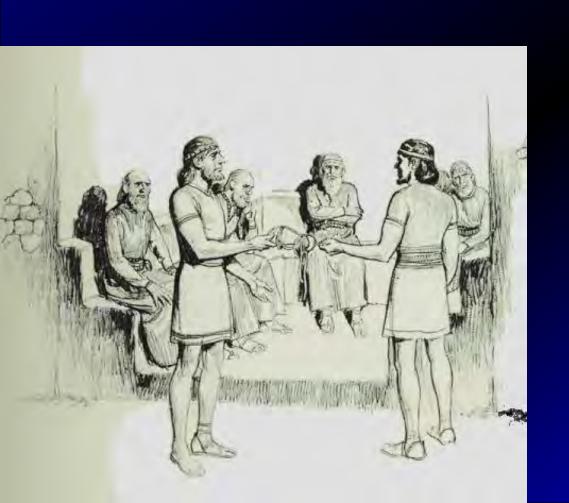
- Need
- Redeemer
  - Related Willing Able
- Payment
- Acceptance



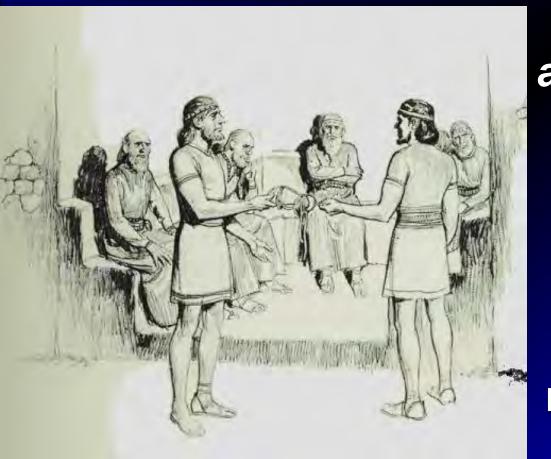


Redeemer

- Payment
- Acceptance



"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of



the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient."

Ephesians 2:1-2 (NIV)

"All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires



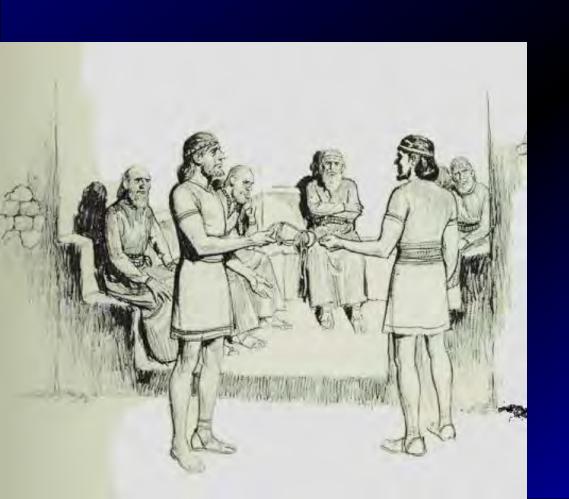
and thoughts.
Like the rest,
we were by
nature objects
of wrath."

**Ephesians 2:3 (NIV)** 



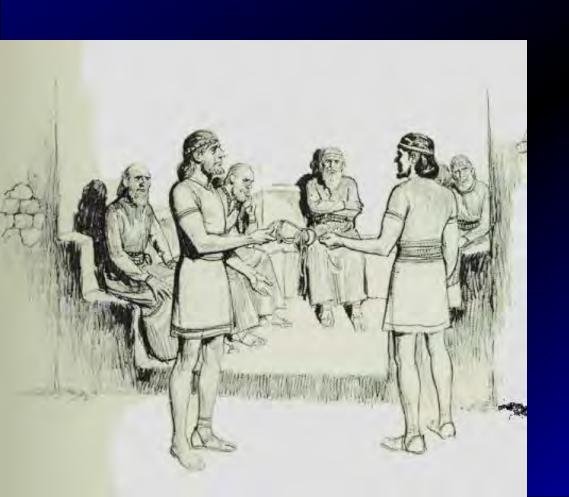
Redeemer

- Payment
- Acceptance



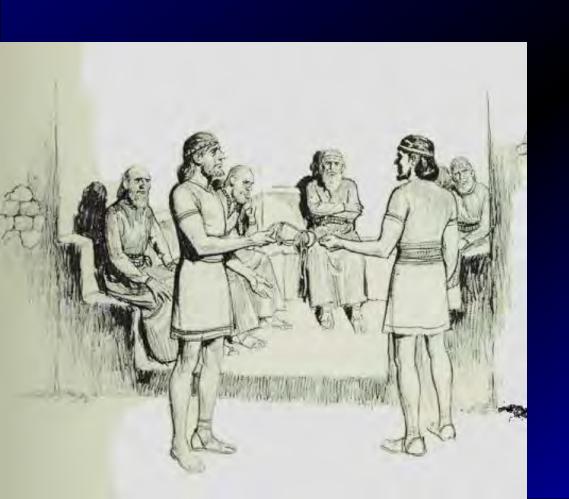
- Need
- Redeemer

- Payment
- Acceptance

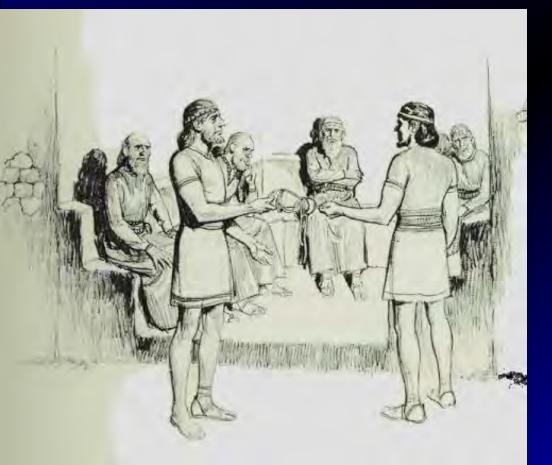


- Need
- Redeemer

- Payment
- Acceptance



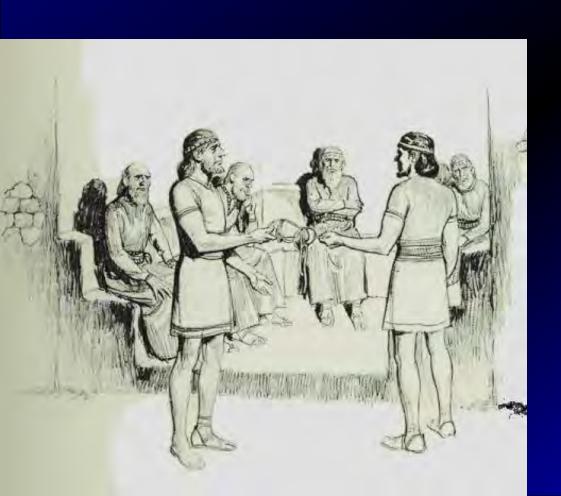
"Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy



him who holds the power of death that is, the devil—"

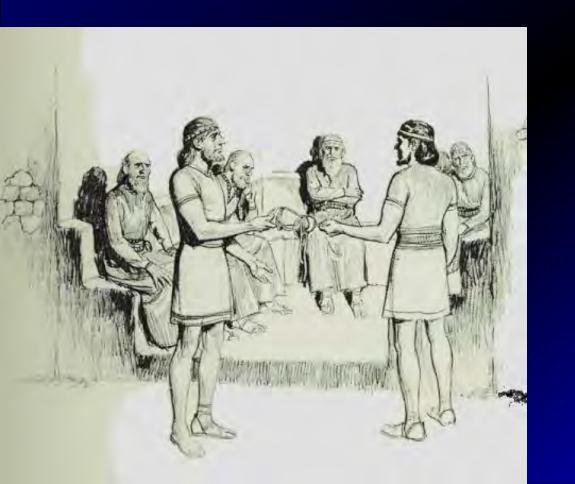
**Hebrews 2:14-15 (NIV)** 

## "and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death."



**Hebrews 2:14-15 (NIV)** 

"For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in

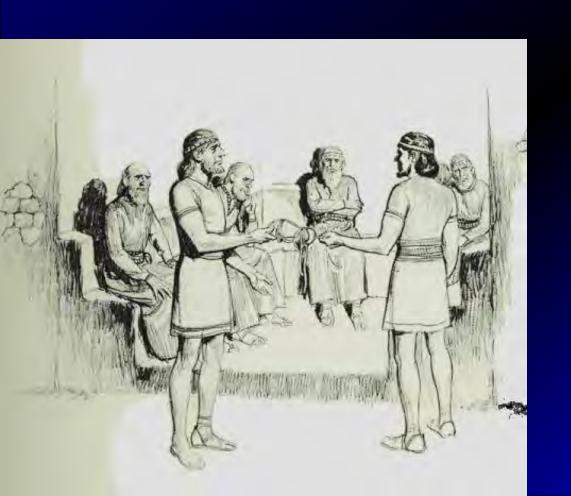


service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people."

Hebrews 2:17 (NIV)

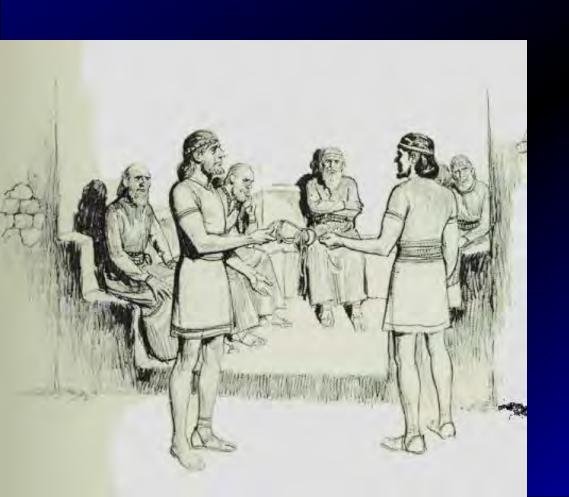
- Need
- Redeemer

- Payment
- Acceptance

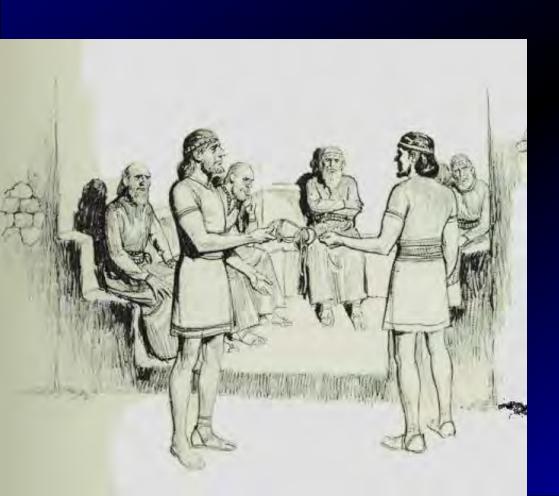


- Need
- Redeemer

- Payment
- Acceptance

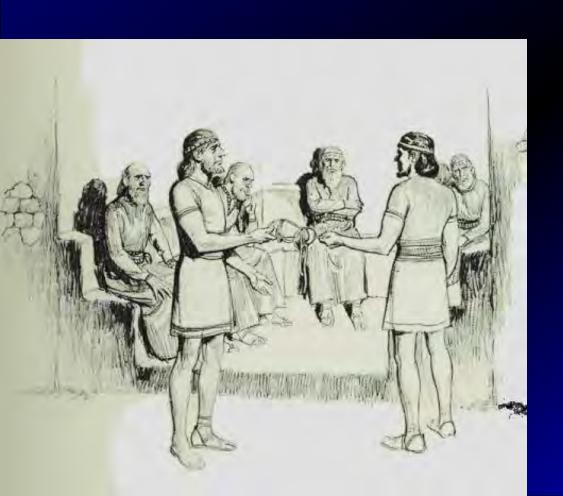


"And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!"



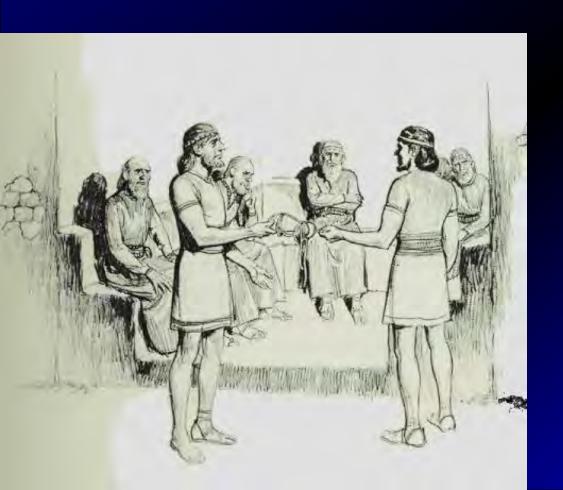
Philippians 2:8 (NIV)

"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed."



1 Peter 2:24 (NIV)

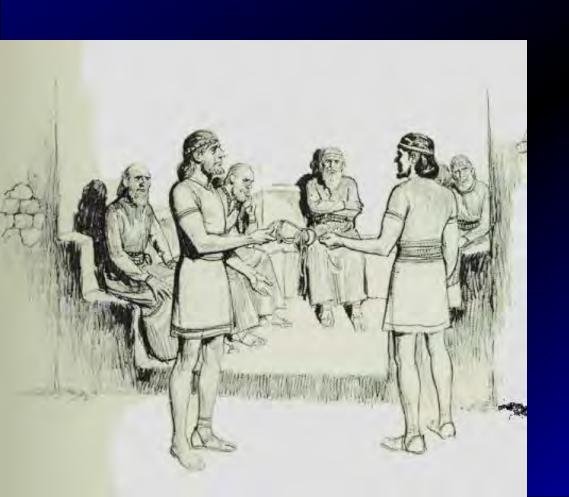
"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace."



Ephesians 1:7 (NIV)

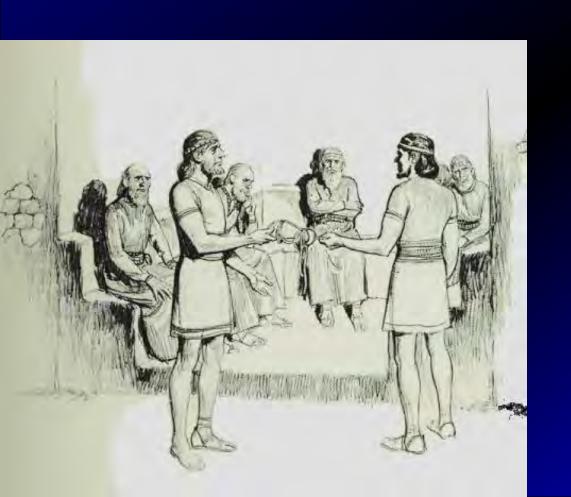
- Need
- Redeemer

- Payment
- Acceptance

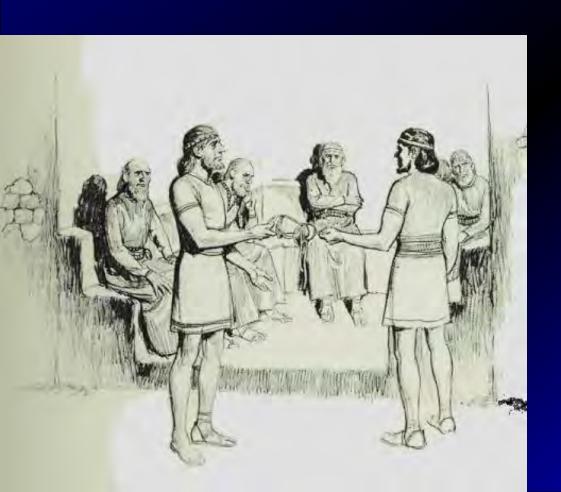


- Need
- Redeemer

- Payment
- Acceptance

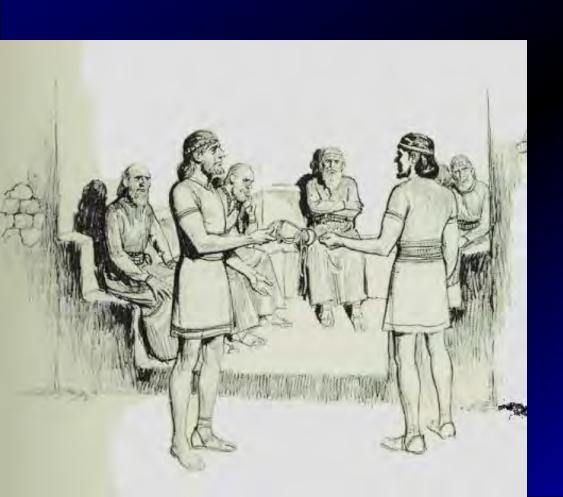


"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."



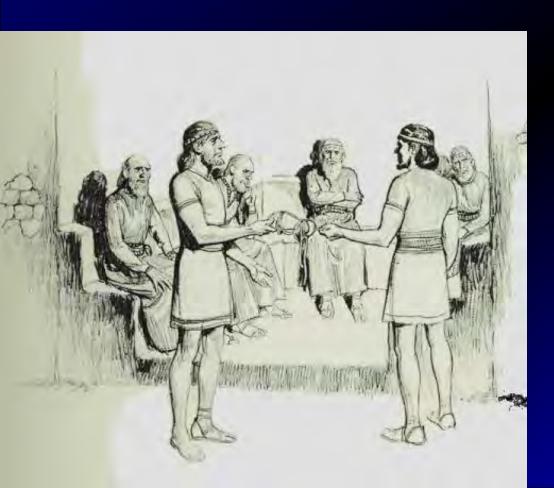
**John 3:16 (NIV)** 

## "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."



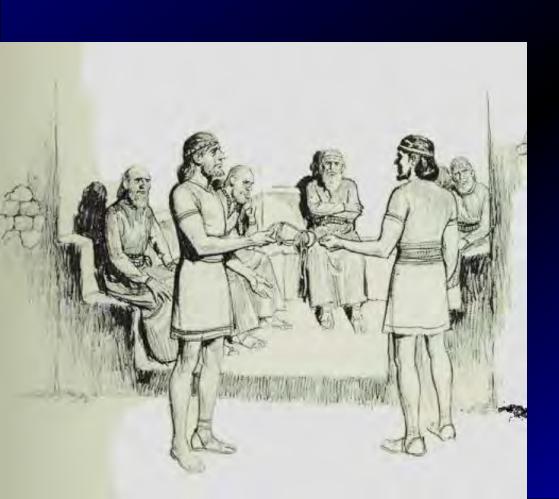
Acts 16:31 (NIV)

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast."



Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

### Is He your redeemer?



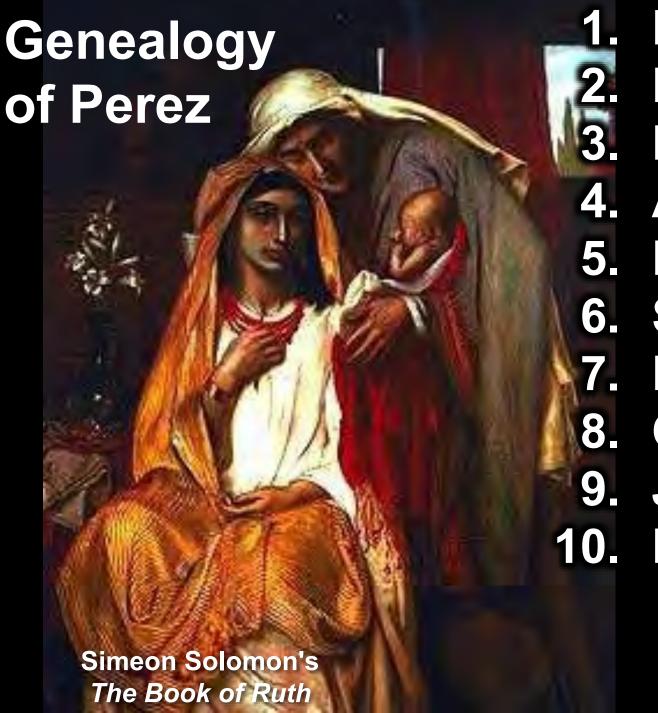


### Baby Obed



### Ruth 4

- **♦** God's grace to a family 4:13-17a
  - ► Boaz 13a
  - Ruth 13b
    - ► <mark>Naomi</mark> 14-17a
- God's grace to a nation v. 17b
  - **◆** God's grace to the world vv. 18-22



1. Perez 2. Hezron 3. Ram 4. Amminadab 5. Nahshon 6. Salmon 7. Boaz 8. Obed 9. Jesse 10. David

Ruth 4:18-22



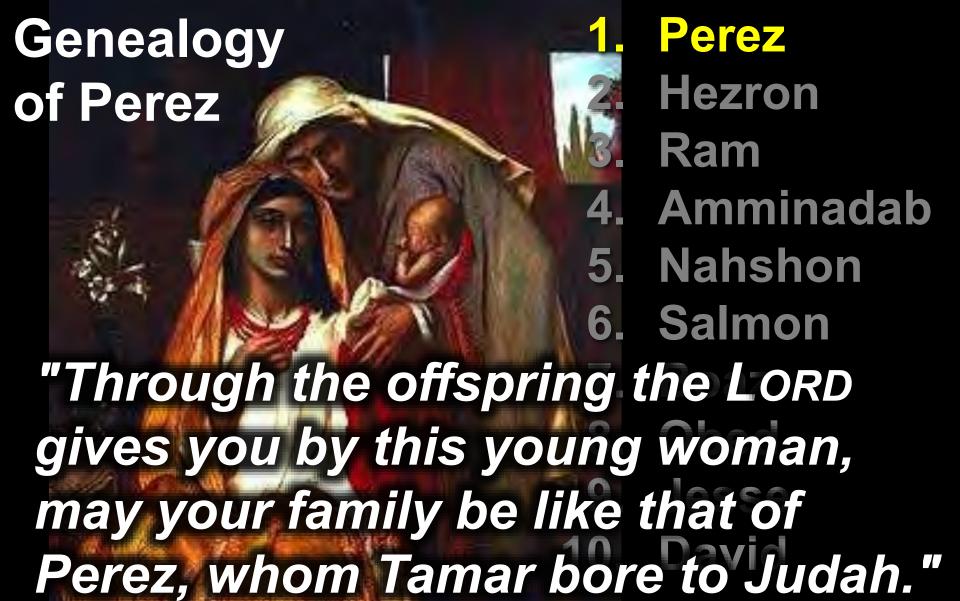
Genealogy 1. Of Perez 4. 5. 6.

Perez
 Hezron
 Ram
 Amminadab
 Nahshon
 Salmon

"Through the offspring the LORD gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah."

Simeon Solomon's The Book of Ruth

**Ruth 4:12** 

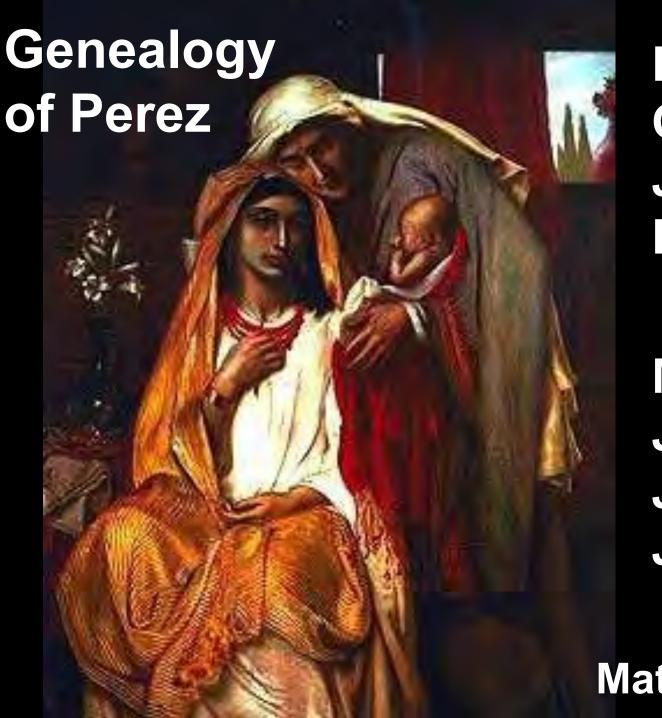


**Ruth 4:12** 







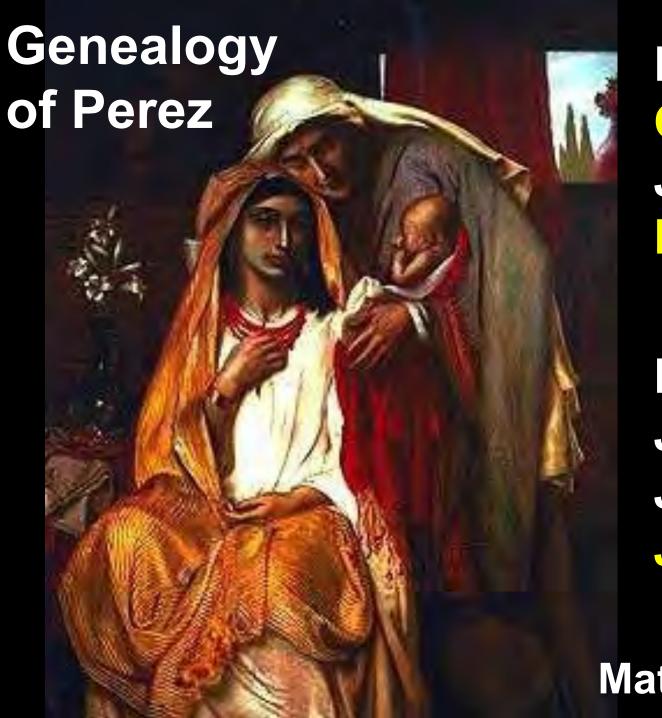


Boaz Obed Jesse David



Matthan
Jacob
Joseph
Jesus

**Matthew 1:1-17** 



Boaz Obed Jesse David



Matthan
Jacob
Joseph
Jesus

**Matthew 1:1-17** 

# **How** does God reward us when we care for others?





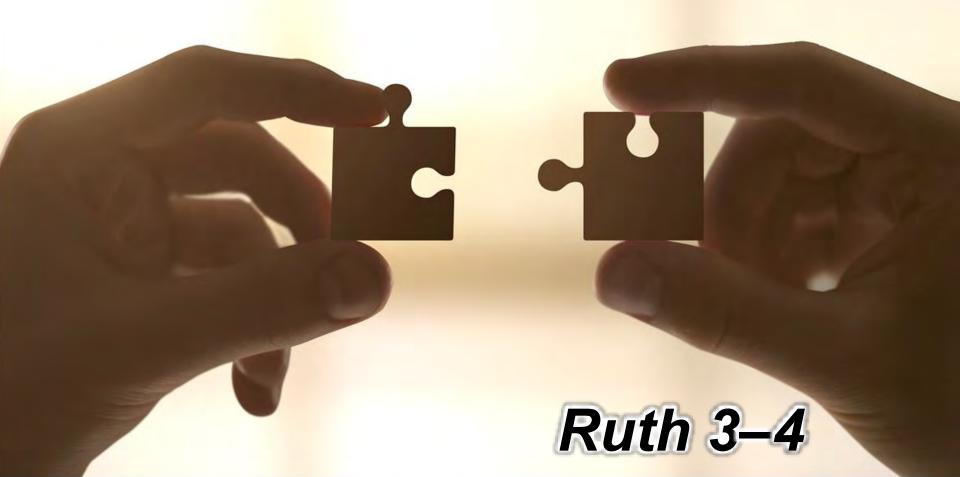
How does God reward us when we care for others?

#### I. God meets our own needs.



How does God reward us when we care for others?

## II. God sometimes rewards us more than we ever dreamed!





#### **God's Love is Impartial**

"Where you go I will go, and where you stay
I will stay. Your people will be my people
and your God my God" Ruth 1:16

- God accepted Ruth's worship
- God blessed Ruth with protection, provision and family

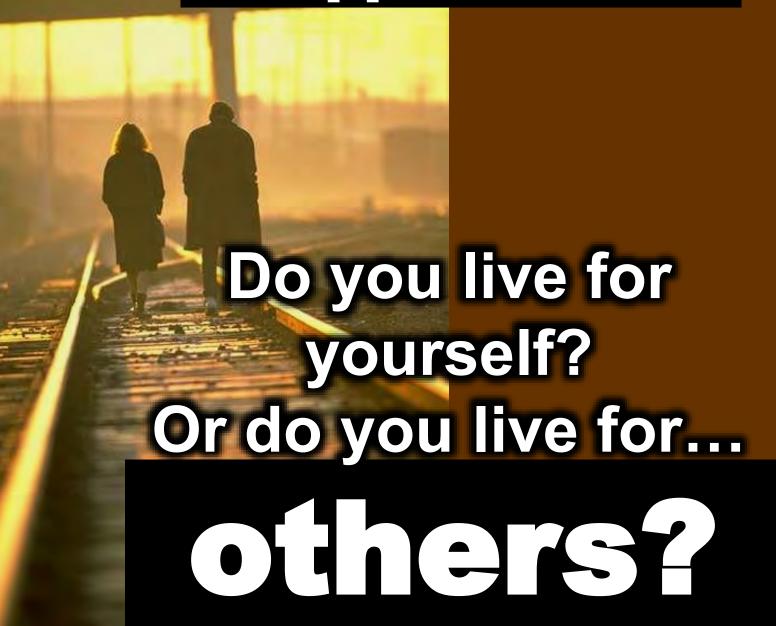
"God accepts men from every nation who fear Him and do what is right"

Acts 10:35

### **Summary Statement**

Ruth's devotion to Naomi benefits both of them by God's provision of food, a home, and participation in the Davidic and messianic line to show how God blesses those who help others.

### Application





Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore CICFamily.com • BibleStudyDownloads.org

## Which person in *your world* is God telling you to help?



#### Get this presentation and script for free!



Home

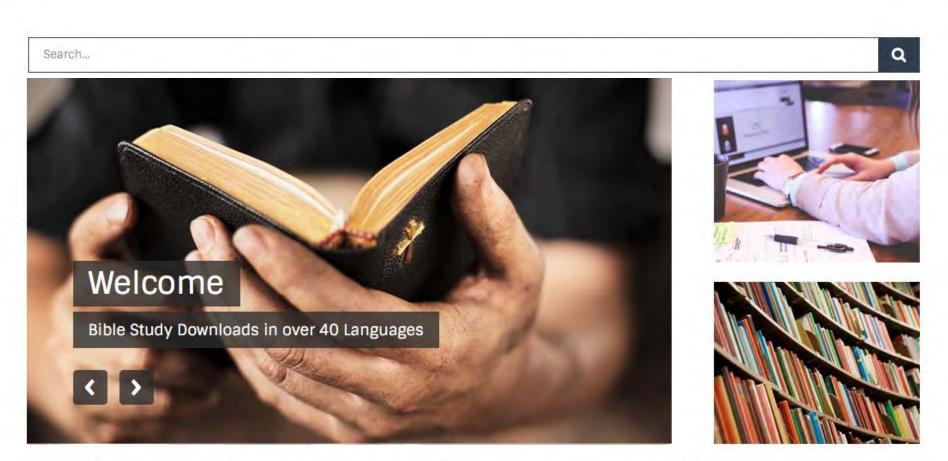
Downloads

FAQ

Links

Contribute

Contact



Bible Study Downloads has thousands of PowerPoint® and Word files in 42 languages for free download here.

#### OT Preaching link at BibleStudyDownloads.org