

Finding Hope In A Disappointing World

Lesson Ten • Ruth 4:1-22

The Best Is Yet to Come

The Main Lesson of the Book of Ruth:

God will deliver His people from disappointment, and He will do so in the most SURPRISING ways!

The Best Is Yet to Come But...

1. God Will Surprise Us with His METHODS! *Ruth 4:1-12*

The Principle:

God may use a series of ZIGZAGS (and even setbacks) to deliver us rather than a straight line.

Signposts of God's Grace at Work:

- The GIFT of Ruth.

But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people will be my people, and your God, my God." Ruth 1:16

- The PRESERVATION of Boaz.

Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "Blessed be he of the Lord, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!" And Naomi said to her, "The man is a relative of ours, one of our near kinsmen." Ruth 2:20

- The CONCEPTION of Ruth's son.

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son. Ruth 4:13

2. God Will Surprise Us with His TIMING! *Ruth 4:13-17*

The Principle:

God may act SLOWLY to deliver us rather than speedily.

Two Observations About God's Timing of Deliverance:

- God may DELAY deliverance.

The neighbor women said, "Now at last Naomi has a son again!" Ruth 4:17 NLT

- God's purpose is to teach us ENDURANCE.

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. Romans 5:3-4 NLT

3. God Will Surprise Us with His PERSPECTIVE! *Ruth 4:17-22*

The Principle:

God always has His ultimate PURPOSE in view rather than our immediate comfort.

How do we find hope in disappointing times?

God will deliver us in disappointing times, but we must TURN to Him and then LOOK for the surprising ways that He works!