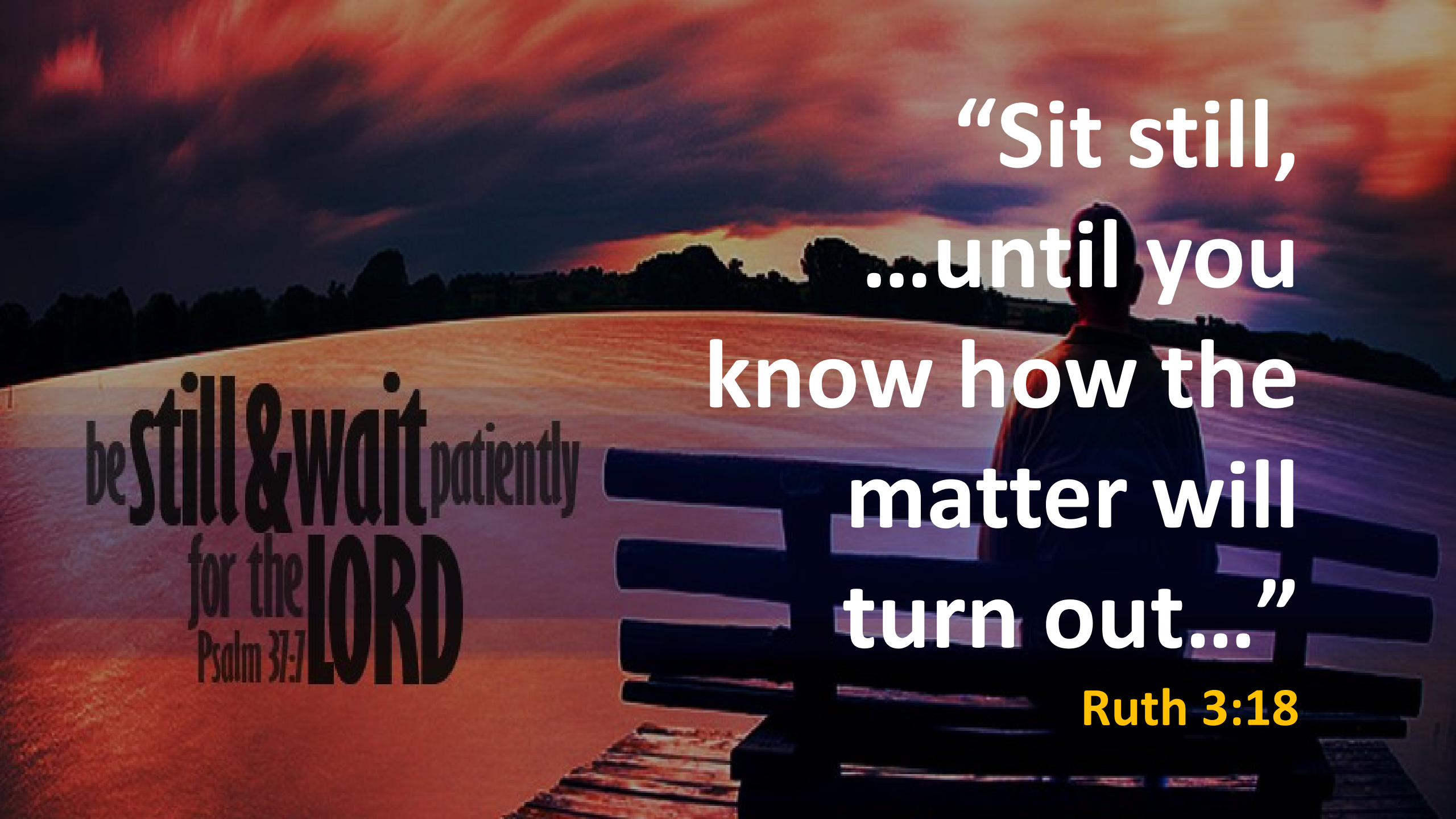
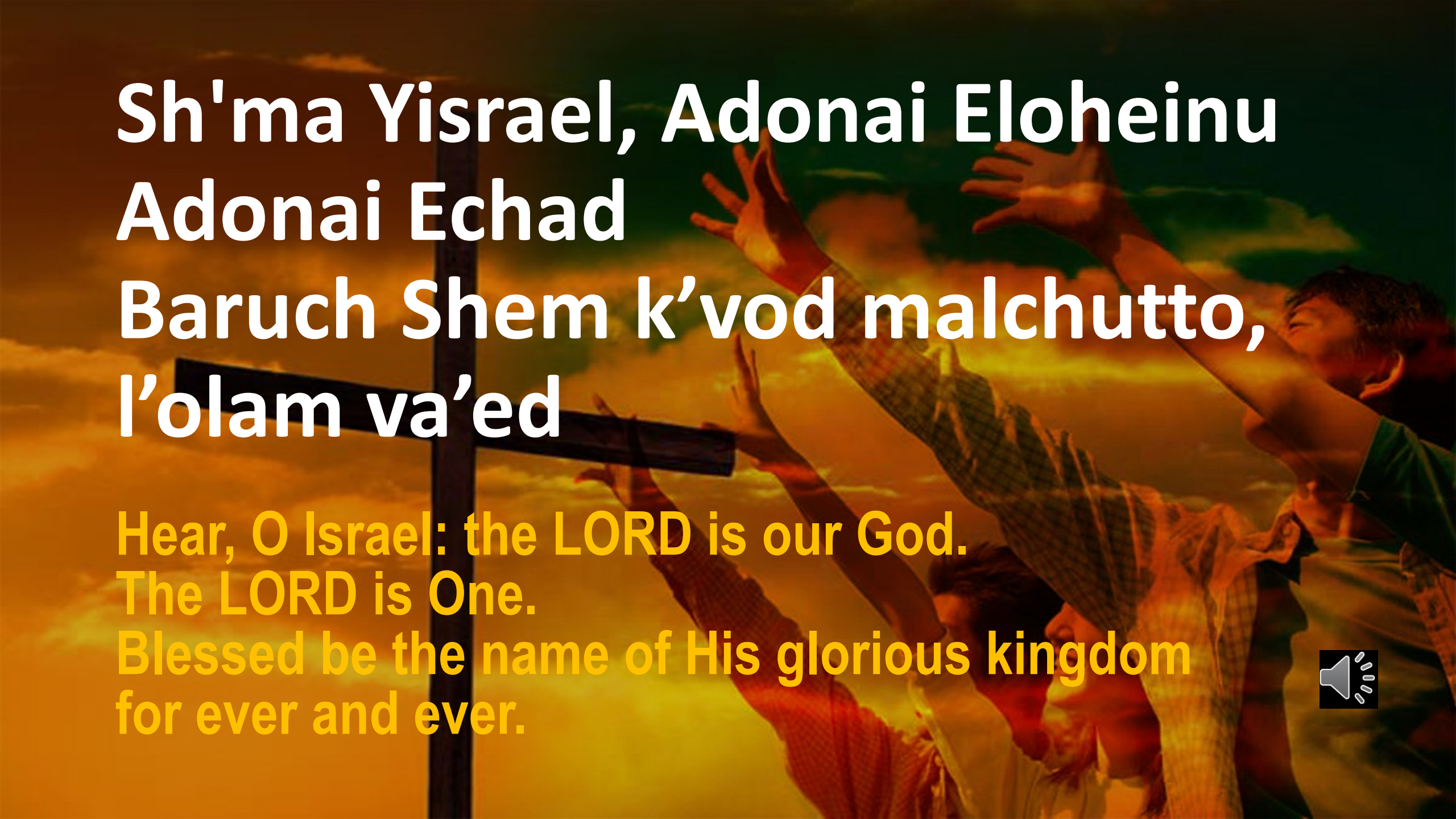




“Sit still,
...until you
know how the
matter will
turn out...”

Ruth 3:18

be **still & wait** patiently
for the **LORD**
Psalm 37:7



Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu
Adonai Echad
Baruch Shem k'vod malchutto,
l'olam va'ed

Hear, O Israel: the LORD is our God.
The LORD is One.
Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom
for ever and ever.



The Book of Ruth
God's Plan of Redemption
in a Love Story

Chapter 3

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

¹ Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you? ² Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. ³ Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴ Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do.”

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

⁵ And she said to her, “All that you say to me I will do.”

⁶ So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her. ⁷ And after Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was cheerful, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay down.

⁸ Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet. ⁹ And he said, “Who are you?”

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

So she answered, “I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative.”

¹⁰ Then he said, “Blessed are you of the Lord, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich. ¹¹ And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman.

¹² Now it is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I.

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

¹³ Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be that if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you—good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as the Lord lives! Lie down until morning.”

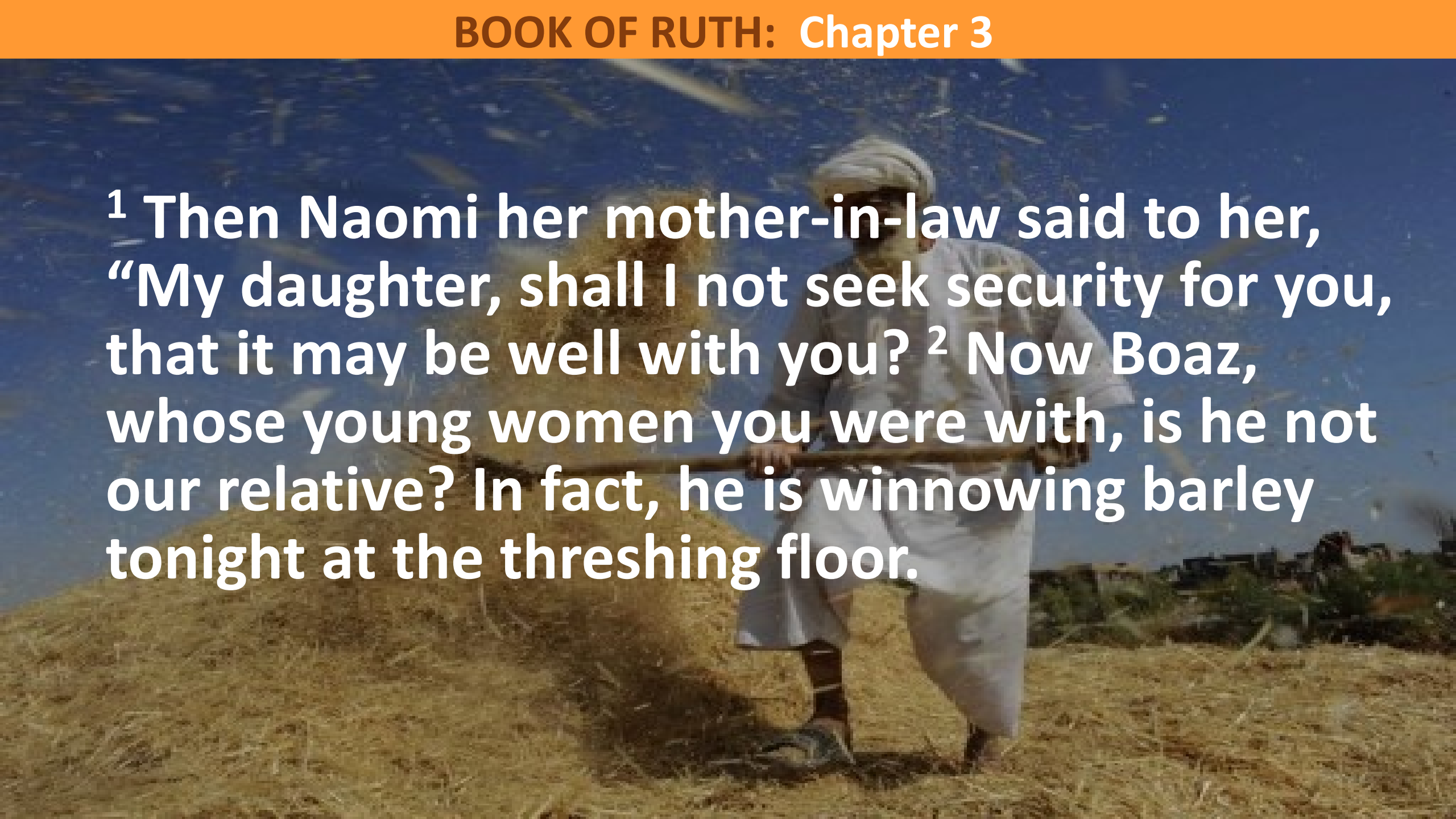
¹⁴ So she lay at his feet until morning, and she arose before one could recognize another. Then he said, “Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor.” ¹⁵ Also he said, “Bring the shawl that is on you and hold it.” And when she held it, he measured six ephahs of barley, and laid it on her. Then she went into the city.

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

¹⁶ When she came to her mother-in-law, she said, “Is that you, my daughter?”

Then she told her all that the man had done for her. ¹⁷ And she said, “These six ephahs of barley he gave me; for he said to me, ‘Do not go empty-handed to your mother-in-law.’ ”

¹⁸ Then she said, “Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day.”

A man wearing a white thobe and a ghutra is standing in a field of golden grain, winnowing it with a long wooden staff. The background shows a clear blue sky and some distant structures.

¹ Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her,
“My daughter, shall I not seek security for you,
that it may be well with you? ² Now Boaz,
whose young women you were with, is he not
our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley
tonight at the threshing floor.

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

- Not told how much time elapsed from end of chapter 2 to beginning of chapter 3. Ruth worked in fields through end of wheat harvest, mid-late spring to late summer.
- In threshing process now, last steps of any harvest.
- ***“My daughter...”*** Naomi adopted Ruth as her own. Any mother wants to provide well for her daughter.
- Naomi’s wheels turning since she realized where Ruth was working. Probably had plan to allow relationship to continue until she saw *perfect opportunity to move*.

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

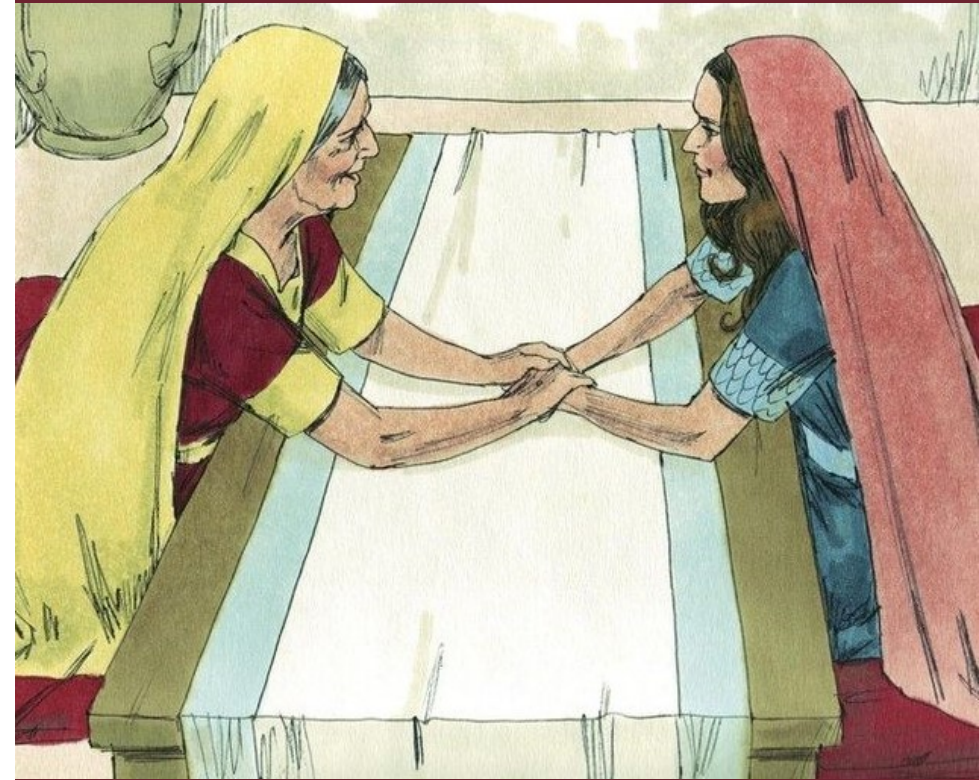
- In Levirate marriage, **no obligation** on part of kinsman-redeemer to step forward. Usually *woman in need must make request*.
- “Security” = Hebrew *manowach* = rest, resting place, state or condition. Used frequently to = marriage for woman. **Marriage considered “restful”** (*as in security*) state for woman.
- Thought to be best way to provide for woman. In those days it was. Women had few rights. Unmarried woman, including widow, could expect little in life, relied on kindness and provision of others.

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

- ***“That it may be well with you?”*** Well = *yatab* = well, good, to be glad, be joyful, be well with, go well with, to *make a " thing good or right or beautiful.”* Naomi wants to provide well for Ruth, sees opportunity through Boaz.
- Note Naomi’s idea first. Don’t hear Ruth mentioning this. She may not know of possibility. *In types, may have some significance.*
- Naomi **type for believing Hebrew (*Jews today*) remnant.** Her idea to bring redemption to Ruth, thereby receiving it herself.

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

- Faith of first Jews brought redemption to “Church.” *Also God’s plan for Church to bring salvation and redemption back to Jews.*
- **Possible scheming by Naomi** but doesn’t matter. God puts in minds of those who serve Him all thoughts they need to do His will.
- Naomi likely acting out of love for Ruth. Wants her to have secure future, not as perpetual gleaner.



BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

- Deals with two customs of ancient Israel: Levirate Marriage and custom of GOEL who can redeem land.
- Initially, in literal terms, **Naomi has first right** to both these. Dead husband Elimelech owned land. She is widow, land gone, so *she has right* to these customs.
- Love for Ruth likely motivating her to set Ruth up in these roles. Or, may figure she is way too old to remarry and provide another heir to land. *In a sense, she is waiving her rights here.*

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

- Interesting in light of TYPES. **Jews, in a sense, waived rights to Messiah** at His first coming *by their rejection*.
- Keep in mind Boaz to perform two acts 1) **redeeming land** for Elimelech's family, and 2) **marrying widow** Ruth to provide heirs for dead man. Not only kinsman-redeemer, but also bridegroom. Important!
- Naomi reminds Ruth, Boaz = eligible kinsman-redeemer. Ruth had plenty of time to see him and know him. Has extended her grace and favor.

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

- Plot thickens later with another nearer kinsman-redeemer, likely Naomi already knew of this man, but chose Boaz instead. Has already seen favor toward Ruth.
- **Threshing of harvest big event** in life of ancient Israel. Meant sustenance and well-being for coming year.
- Threshing done at night to take advantage of prevailing night winds (*certain times of year*). Grain threshed, then winnowed, thrown in air and breezes take chaff away and carry it away from town.

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

- Exhausting process, continued as long as winds prevailed (*late afternoon til after sundown, even midnight*).
- Naomi knew Boaz would be there overseeing huge process.

CONCEPTS OF THRESHING scriptural theme also...

- THRESHING: Hebrew *dush*, to trample out, *havat*, to beat out or off, *darakh*, to tread. Done one of two ways, beating sheaves with rod, or trampling them under feet of oxen pulling wood sled around threshing floor.

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

- Loosens grain from stalks. Done outdoors on hard surface or packed ground. Usually hill tops.
- **THRESHING FLOOR:** Hebrew *goren*, Place where grain threshed. Usually clay soil packed to hard smooth surface. Sheaves of grain spread on floor. Grains separated, everything gathered then winnowed.
- **WINNOWING:** Method to separate chaff (stalks, bugs, dirt, etc.) from grain. Grain heavier, so all tossed in air (*using winnowing fork*) lighter materials blown off leaving grain heads (*heavier*) to fall back down. If no winds, shovel and fans used.

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

- **CHAFF:** *stuff you don't want!* Refuse of grain after threshed and winnowed. Partly dust, partly dirt, partly hard inedible seed coating of grain. Chaff usually burned.
- **Entire harvest process well played scriptural theme** from preparing ground, sowing seeds, weeding and tending, harvesting, threshing, and winnowing. *Each phase portrays spiritual concepts.*
- **Threshing representative of punishment, discipline, crushing**, etc. Payback to Israel's enemies (judgment), discipline for His children, etc.
- **Winnowing = separation of good from evil.** Chaff figurative for worthless or godless people, nations or evil in general.

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

Oh, my threshing and the grain of my floor! [“oh my people, crushed on the threshing floor” TLV] *That which I have heard from the LORD of hosts, The God of Israel, I have declared to you.* (Isaiah 21:10) (Babylonian conquest, Judah)

“Fear not, you worm Jacob, You men of Israel! I will help you,” says the LORD And your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. “Behold, I will make you into a new threshing sledge with sharp teeth; You shall thresh the mountains and beat them small, And make the hills like chaff. You shall winnow them, the wind shall carry them away, And the whirlwind shall scatter them; You shall rejoice in the LORD, And glory in the Holy One of Israel. (Isaiah 41:14-16)
(Israel will one day become the one who threshes her enemies)

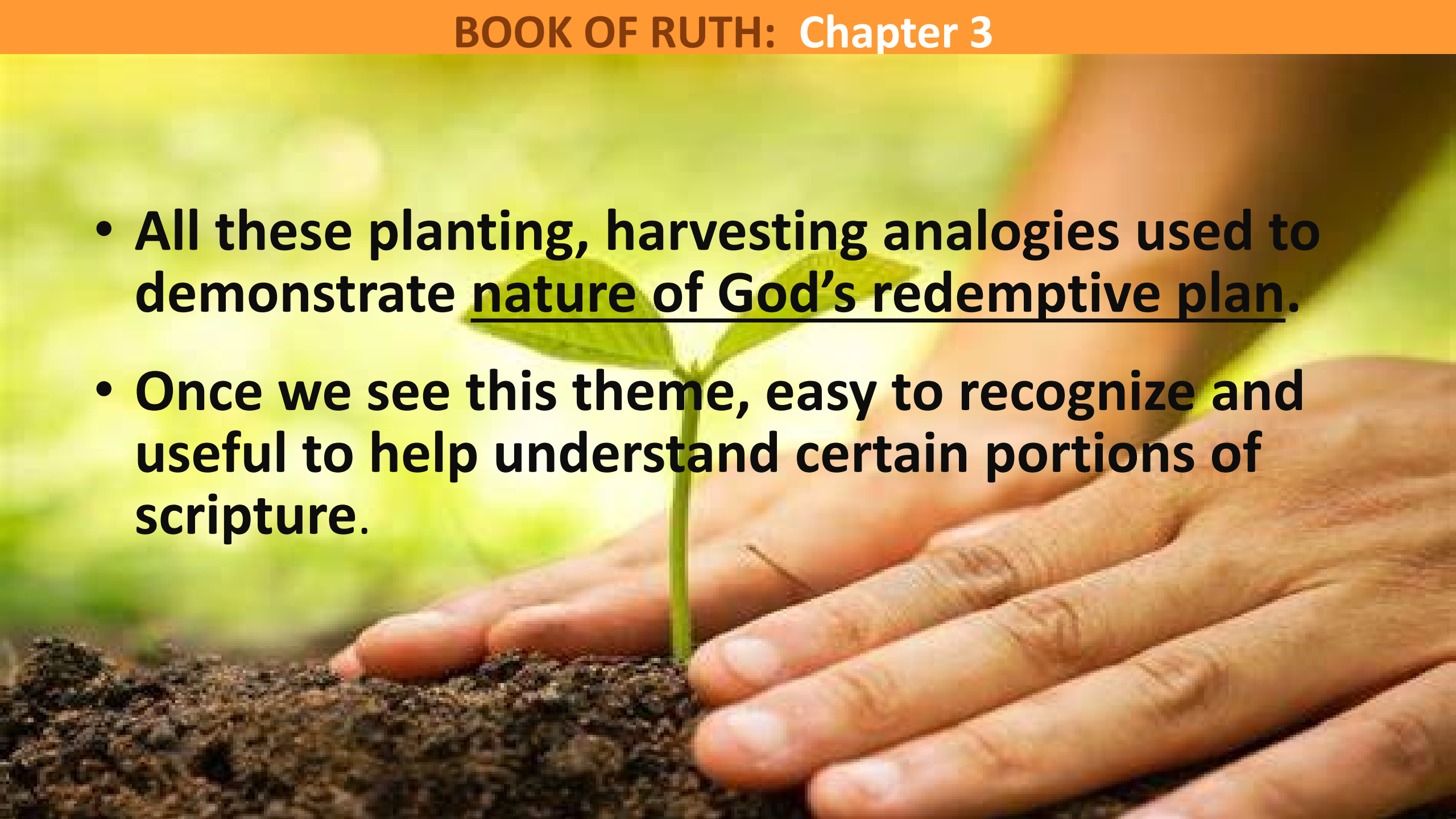
BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

But they do not know the thoughts of the LORD, Nor do they understand His counsel; For He will gather them like sheaves to the threshing floor. “Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion; For I will make your horn iron, And I will make your hooves bronze; You shall beat in pieces many peoples; I will consecrate their gain to the LORD, And their substance to the Lord of the whole earth.” (Micah 4:12-13)

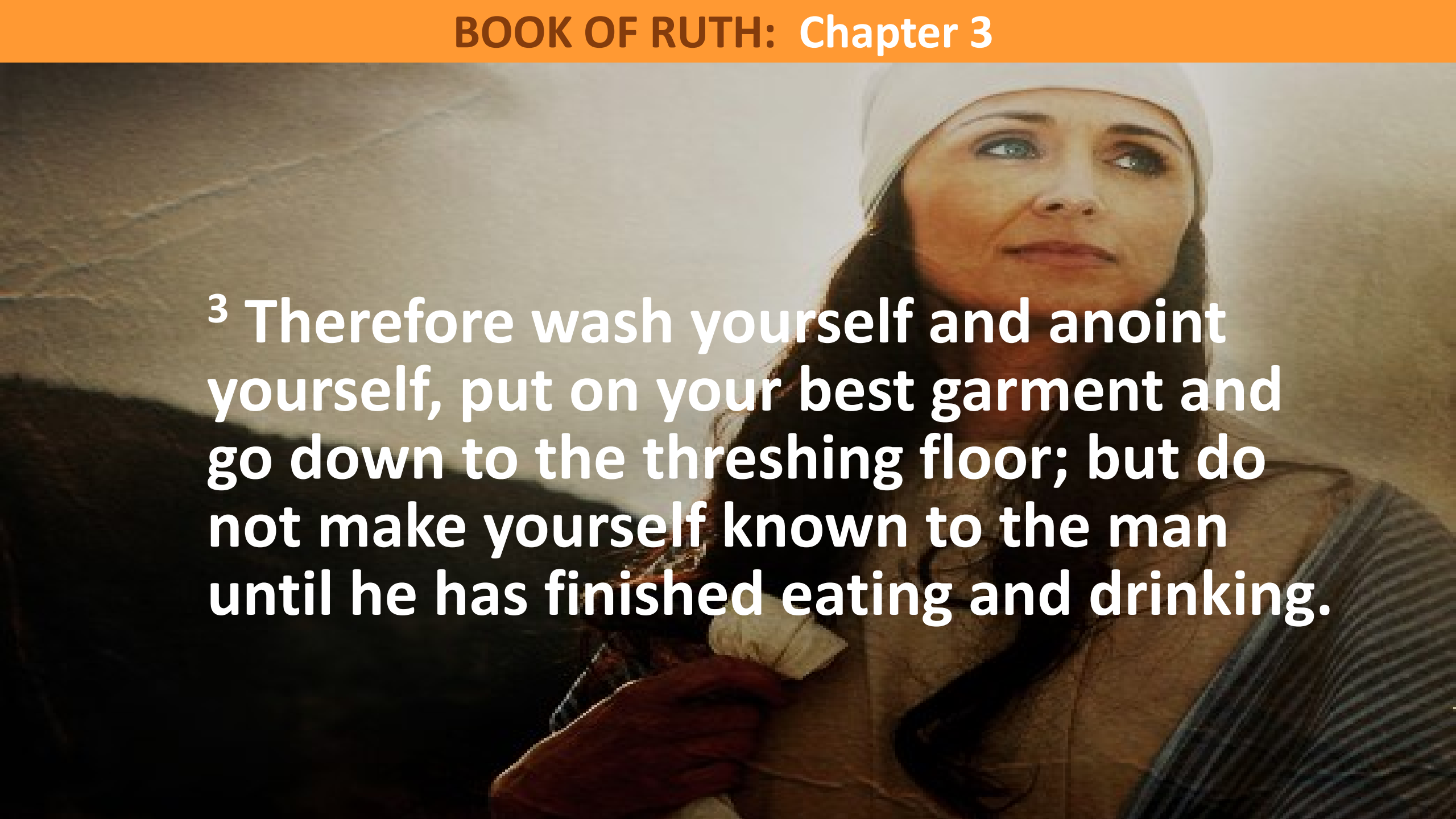
Bread flour must be ground; Therefore he does not thresh it forever, Break it with his cartwheel, Or crush it with his horsemen. This also comes from the LORD of hosts, Who is wonderful in counsel and excellent in guidance. (Isaiah 28:28-29)

(Israel's punishment won't last forever, unlike that of her enemies.)

- All these planting, harvesting analogies used to demonstrate nature of God's redemptive plan.
- Once we see this theme, easy to recognize and useful to help understand certain portions of scripture.



³ Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a white headscarf and a brown robe, is shown from the chest up. She is looking upwards and to the right with a contemplative or hopeful expression. Her hands are holding a rolled-up scroll. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape with rolling hills under a hazy sky.

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3



- **Naomi already hatched plan.** Gives Ruth careful instruction. Ruth to get herself looking pretty, presentable and clean. *But not to advertise her presence until after festivities.*
- Threshing and winnowing hard work. Each night generally feasting and drinking. *Not a place for women.*
- What Naomi tells Ruth to do also types, **symbols for all sinners who approach their Kinsman-Redeemer.**

As sinners, we are also told to...

1) Wash yourself –washed by Word of God. Examine ourselves by God's Word, find ourselves lacking, big time. Need for atonement and covering.

Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. (Ephesians 5:25b-27)



BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

Also to be **born again**, take **spiritual bath through baptism**, symbol/confession of faith. Not about making ourselves clean, but recognizing we are filthy, need HIS cleansing power.

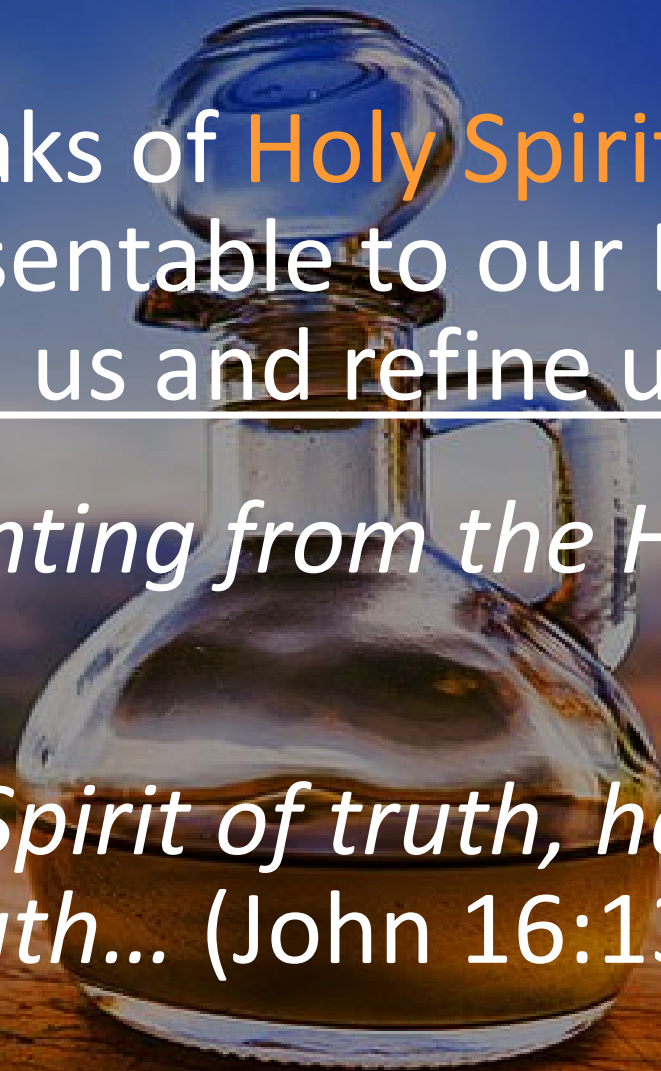


“But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,...” (Titus 3:4-6)

2) Anoint yourself –speaks of Holy Spirit's work in our lives, making us presentable to our Bridegroom. Work of Holy Spirit to fill us and refine us.

"...But you have an anointing from the Holy One,..."
(1 John 2:20)

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth... (John 16:13)



3) **Put on your best clothes** – Our robes, covering of righteousness, provided by God for us. We cannot provide them. Speaks of life desiring to please God.



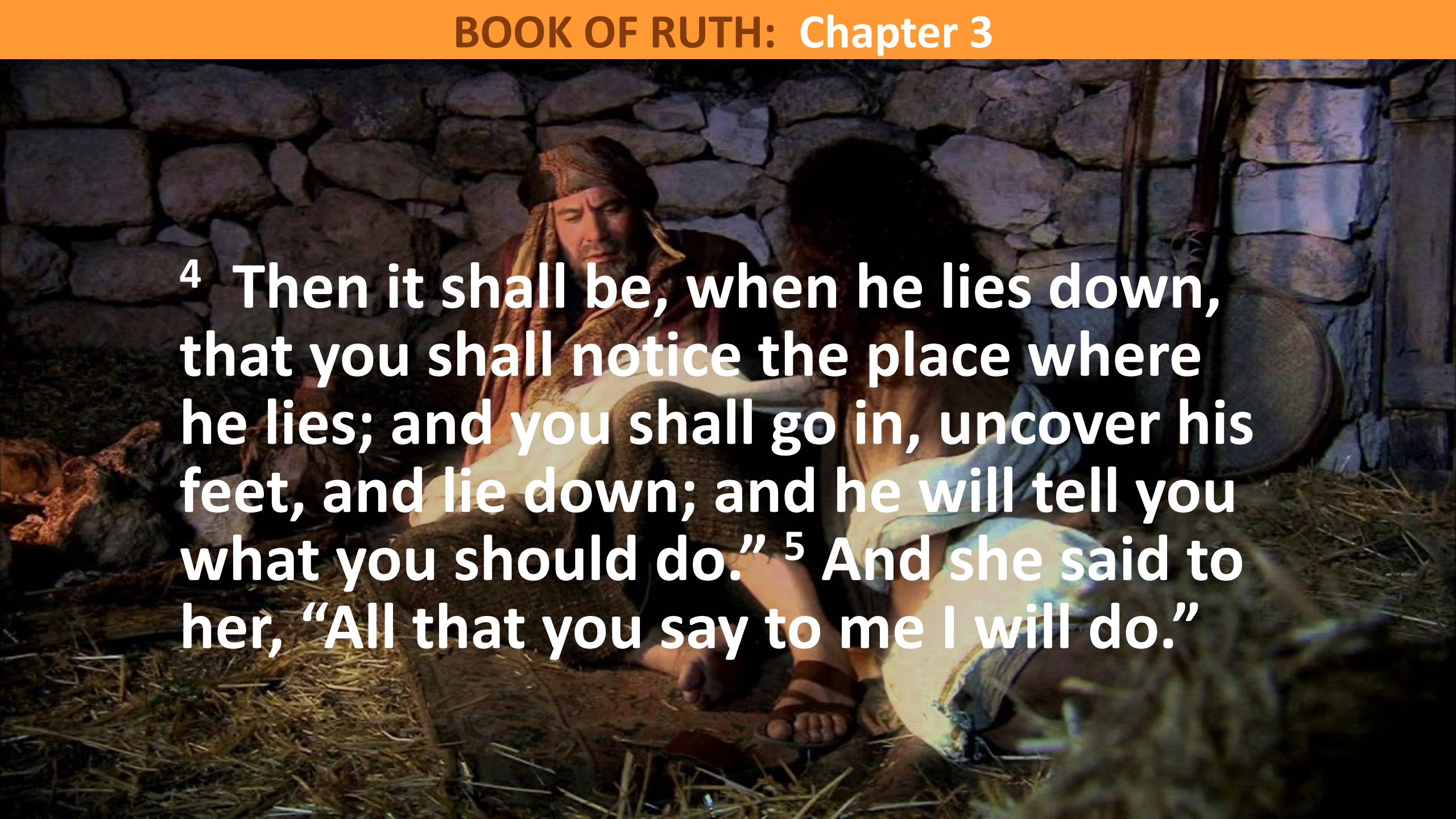
These robes are given *“And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright...”* (Revelation 19:8)
Robes of righteousness not earned. Given by God’s grace.

Our “righteousness” = filthy rags before God (Isaiah 64:6)
But still we are expected to do our best in living rightly, covered with righteousness of perfect sacrifice, Jesus.

4) **Stake Your Claim! Do it now!** – Naomi urged Ruth to do what she asked *now*. Timing everything, in God's Kingdom no excuses for delay. *“For He says: “In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.””* (2 Corinthians 6:2)

Also, Ruth had to make request of Boaz, he would not approach her with this. **Same with our Messiah.** We must come to Jesus with *our will yielded to Him*. We must also ask Him to perform His duty as our Redeemer. Won't “just happen” unless we ask, *we give Him permission*.

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

A man with a beard and a turban sits on the ground, looking down. A woman in a white dress and sandals sits next to him, her back to the camera. They are in front of a stone wall. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting night or dusk.

4 Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do.” 5 And she said to her, “All that you say to me I will do.”

- **Why come at night?** Naomi instructs Ruth to go after all night's work and festivities over so she would not interrupt, or embarrass Boaz. *Hopefully she would not be seen by anyone other than Boaz.*
- Tradition to party after threshing to celebrate harvest. She is to wait until after celebration, when they can speak in private.
- Customary to spend night on threshing room floor to guard grain.

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

- Ancient custom, acceptable, morally appropriate, when woman wanted to propose marriage to man (yes, *scripture indicates not a taboo!!*) **she would pull back slightly edge of his cloak or hem (or ask him to “uncover his feet”)**. She would then ask him to spread his robe or cloak over her.
- In chapter 2, Boaz told Ruth she had come to Yahweh, God of Israel ***“under whose wings you have come for refuge.”*** Phrase also used in levirate marriage concept. Idea = kinsman-redeemer would spread “his wings” of shelter/protection over woman requesting this service.

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

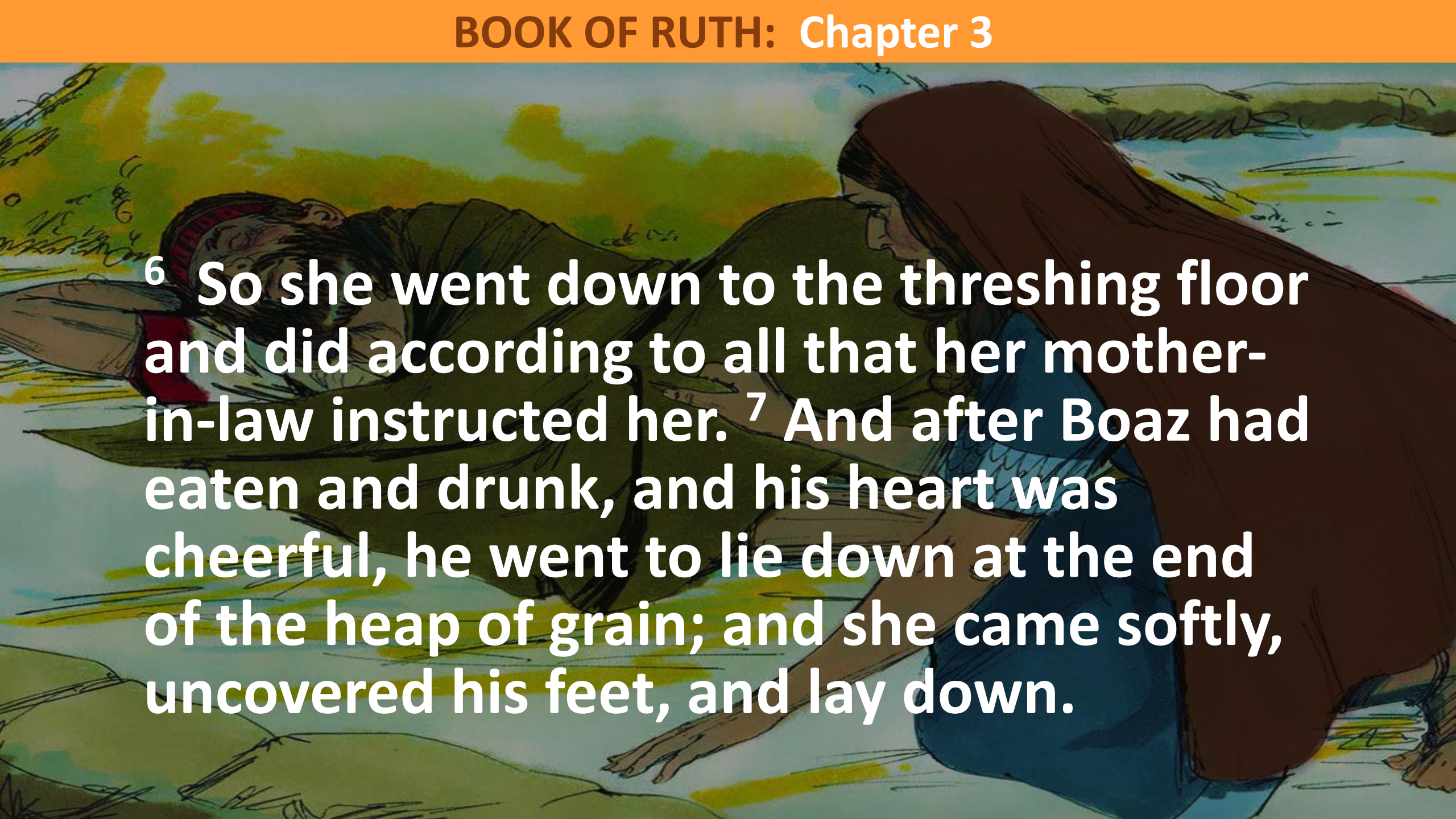
- Beautiful, symbolic act. God did this Himself for Israel: *“When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine,” says the Lord GOD.*” (Ezekiel 16:8, describing His great love, rescue of Israel, but she turned away from Him to play harlot with other gods.)



Represents covering God spreads over all His people.

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

- Important for Naomi to instruct Ruth. *Ruth knows nothing of these Hebrew customs and laws.*
- Naomi knew Boaz “mighty man of the Law” and would know exactly what Ruth was doing and requesting. All Ruth had to do was follow Naomi’s instructions and wait.
- Important to note **we don’t need to do anything else either.** We just come to our Redeemer and He does everything else. How beautiful this is!



⁶ So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her. ⁷ And after Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was cheerful, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay down.

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

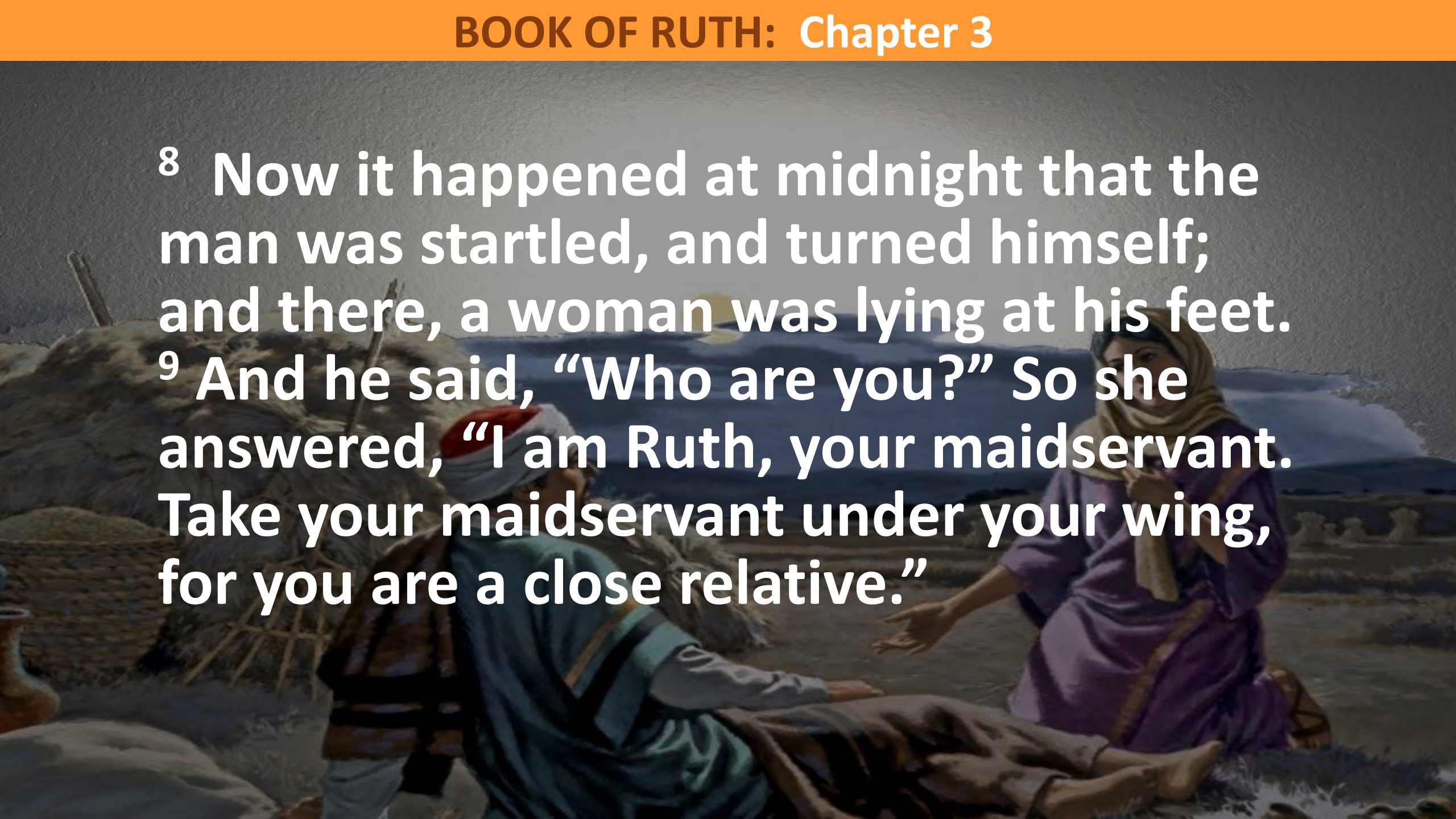
- Ruth does everything asked of her, just as Naomi said. Ruth has given Naomi permission to plan her future, and *is completely obedient.*
- Ruth displays amazing trust, obedience and courage at this point. After night of hard work and revelry, threshing floor full of sweaty, most likely drunk, men. *What Ruth did here took guts!*
- In that day customary for servants to lay at feet of their masters, ready to respond to any and all needs.

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

- By doing this, not only is Ruth making request of Boaz, she approaches as humble, obedient servant. She had a *right to request his service*, but coming in this way she is **not demanding it**, but coming in trust and humility.

COMMENTARY: “...Finally in her quest for a redeemer, Ruth came to his feet. She had first come into Boaz’s land in the wake of a tragedy. Then she came into his fields in the heat of the day. Now, she was at his feet in the middle of the night. In application, this speaks of those who steadily progress into the circle of Jesus’ influence. They come into “His land” so to speak, seeking **refuge**. Then they come into “His fields” seeking **supply**. Then, finally, there are those who fall down at His feet, seeking **relationship** and all that He has for them.” (Jack Hayford, “A New Time & Place”)

**⁸ Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet.
⁹ And he said, “Who are you?” So she answered, “I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative.”**



BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

- Don't know exactly why Boaz was startled. Perhaps heard Ruth come, maybe feet were cold! Maybe thought someone was trying to steal his grain. *May have wakened in a fearful or alert state.*
- Boaz could not see Ruth in dark, did not immediately identify her. His question akin to our “***Who's there?***” when we are startled.
- Ruth responds in humility, says she is his servant. **Now comes proposal of marriage.** Does not *explain or go into detail about why she is there.* He knows!

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

- Boaz immediately knew why. Request to take her “under your wing” well understood, and she adds “*for you are a close relative*” to make sure Boaz knew her intentions. Probably **well instructed by Naomi** what to say to Boaz.
- In the KJV, the English reads “***spread therefore thy skirt***” but is literally “spread your wings over your servant.” **Also scriptural theme seen frequently.**



BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

- English words “skirt,” “hem,” “corners” or “wings” in scripture, used as *spreading over someone*, always implies covering of protection.
- “Hem of a garment” generally references fringes or tassels on borders of Israelite outer garment. *“Speak to the children of Israel: Tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue thread in the tassels of the corners. And you shall have the tassel, that you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the LORD and do them, and that you may not follow the harlotry to which your own heart and your own eyes are inclined, and that you may remember and do all My commandments, and be holy for your God. (Numbers 15:38-40)”*

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

- Man could divorce wife by cutting of hem of her garment. To cut off a hem meant (*in reality or figure of speech*) someone stripped of authority, position, etc.
- Hem also used by those in power to *authenticate something in clay*. Often embroidered with unique designs (like personal signet ring) and stamped into seal or clay tablet to authenticate writer or owner.
- Greetings often accompanied by bowing frequently to the ground, falling prostrate on ground or touching hem of someone's garment. Humble greeting. Acknowledged other person's authority or power.

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

“Then the men of David said to him, ‘This is the day of which the LORD said to you, ‘Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand, that you may do to him as it seems good to you.’ ” And David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul’s robe. Now it happened afterward that David’s heart troubled him because he had cut Saul’s robe. And he said to his men, “The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the LORD’s anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD.”” (1 Samuel 24:4-6, when Saul pursued David, David had opportunity to kill Saul but did not.)

- David regretted this because symbolically stripped Saul of authority and power. Disrespectful of Saul’s position as anointed king of Israel.

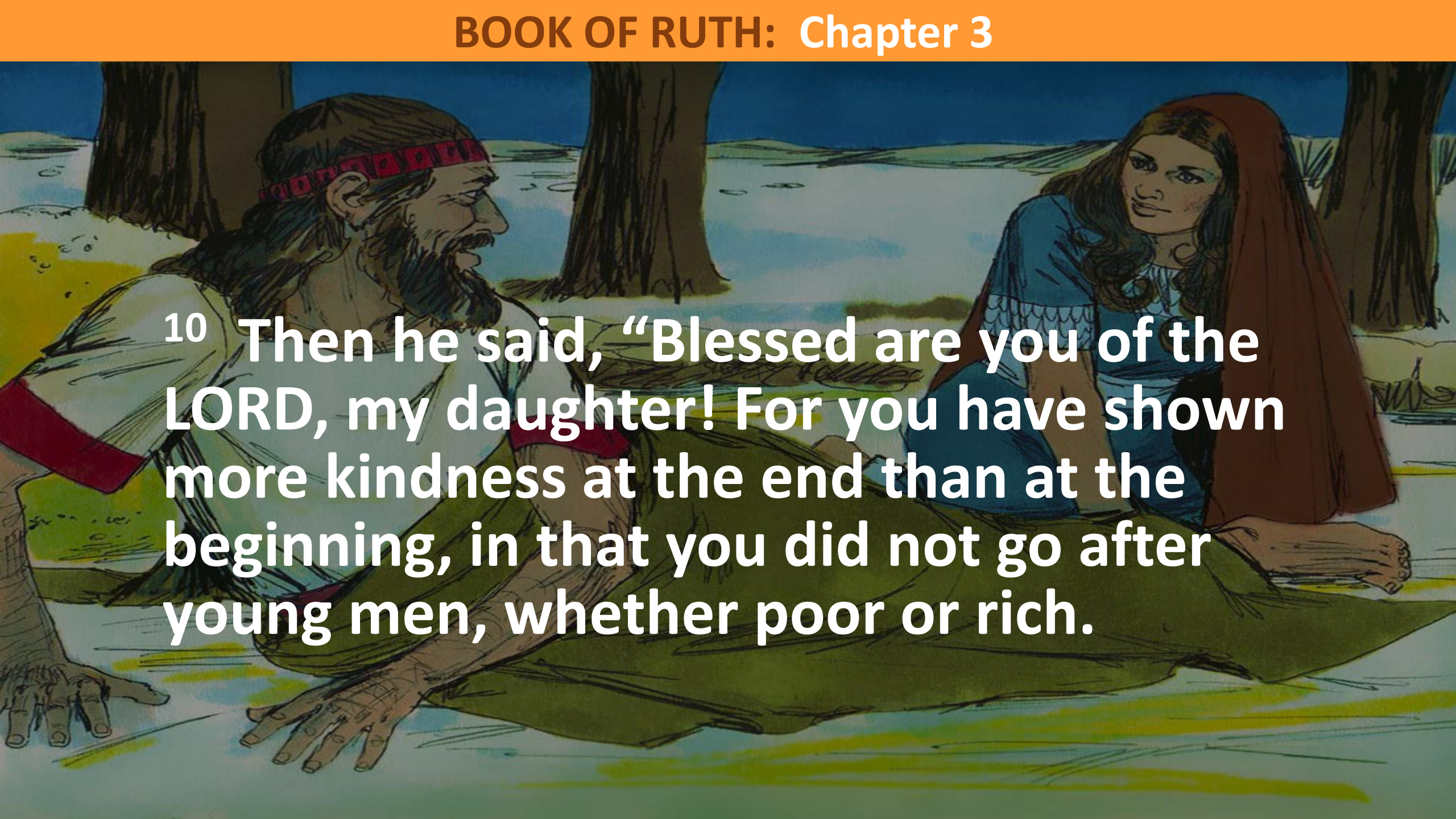
BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3



**Remember
woman with
issue of blood?
(Matthew 9:20)**

- When Jesus ministered in Galilee, people recognized His power, came to Him by multitudes. *“And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent out into all that surrounding region, brought to Him all who were sick, and begged Him that they might only touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched it were made perfectly well.”* (Matthew 14:35-36)
- English “close relative” = GOEL in Hebrew, kinsman-redeemer. *No question Boaz understood well what was going on.*

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

An illustration depicting a scene from the Book of Ruth. On the left, an elderly man with a long grey beard and a red headband is kneeling on the ground, looking towards a woman on the right. He is wearing a white tunic with a red sash. On the right, a young woman with long brown hair, wearing a blue dress and a brown headscarf, is also kneeling and looking back at him. They are in a field with large trees in the background. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

¹⁰ Then he said, “Blessed are you of the LORD, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich.

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

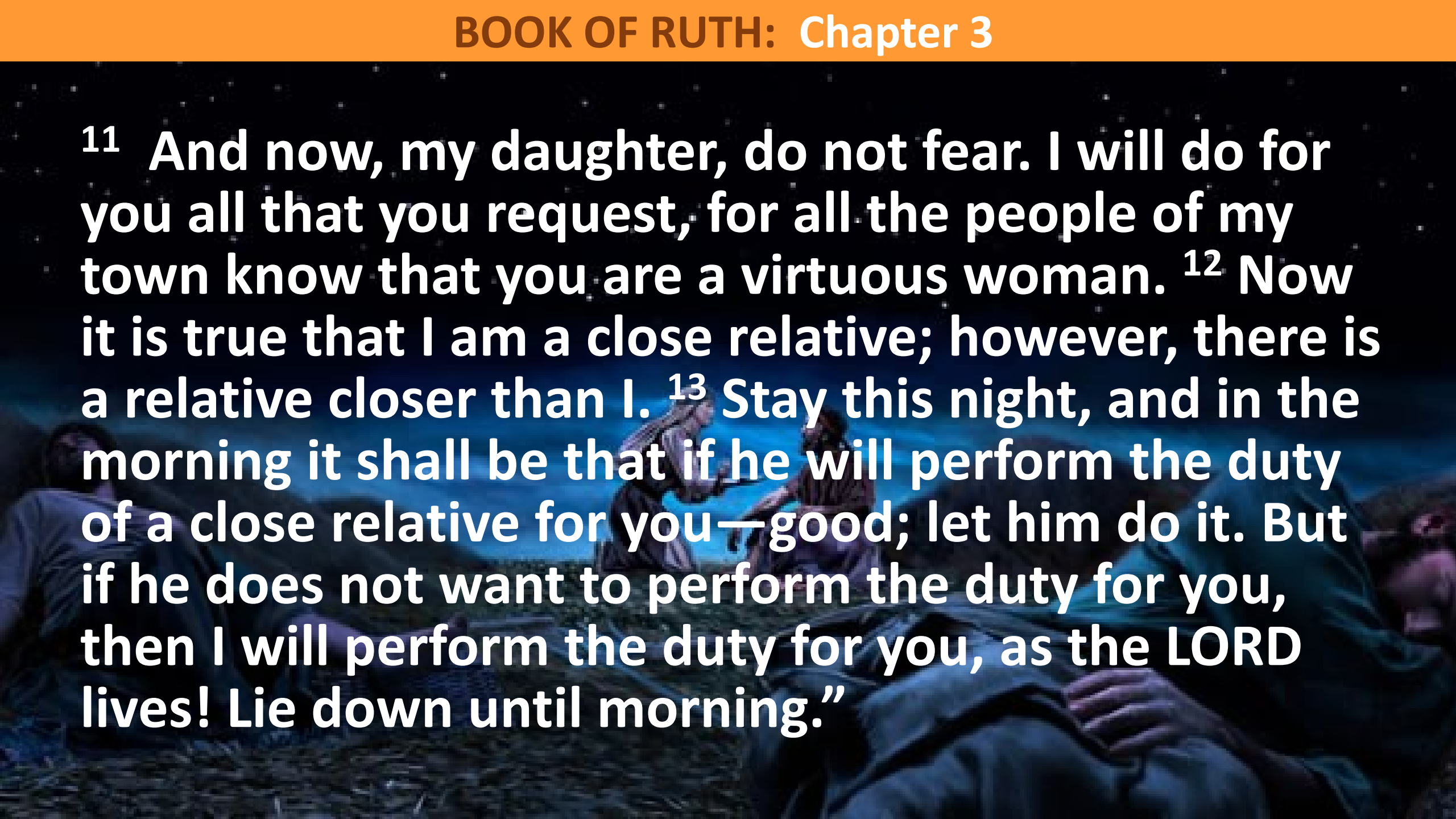
- Boaz commends Ruth for her request of him. Probably reference to her kindness toward Naomi, hard work to support them, and upright behavior seen by Boaz as she worked in fields.
- Notes Ruth isn't looking for "good time" or to satisfy her own desires for a younger man, more interested in doing right thing, out of obedience to her mother-in-law. *She wants the right husband to benefit Naomi's family, not just her own well-being.*
- ***Also reference to Boaz being much older man.***

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3



- Knowing what we do of Boaz' kindness and special treatment of Ruth, and what some would say was "love at first sight," Boaz likely flattered and thrilled at this request.
- Should mention that **Bride of Yeshua also marrying an older man!!**

11 And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman. 12 Now it is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I. 13 Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be that if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you—good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as the LORD lives! Lie down until morning.”



BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

- Boaz knows what whole town of Bethlehem knows. Ruth is a virtuous woman. She has not given anyone any reason to speak ill of her.
- Boaz doesn't need time to think about it. His response immediate. Things are going great, until....**uh oh. A snag. Plot thickens!**
- Boaz likely already thought about this, **knows another nearer kinsman to Naomi than himself**. But he promises, swears by YHVH, he will do it if other nearer kinsman will not. Perhaps Boaz also already has plan formed, just waiting for request.

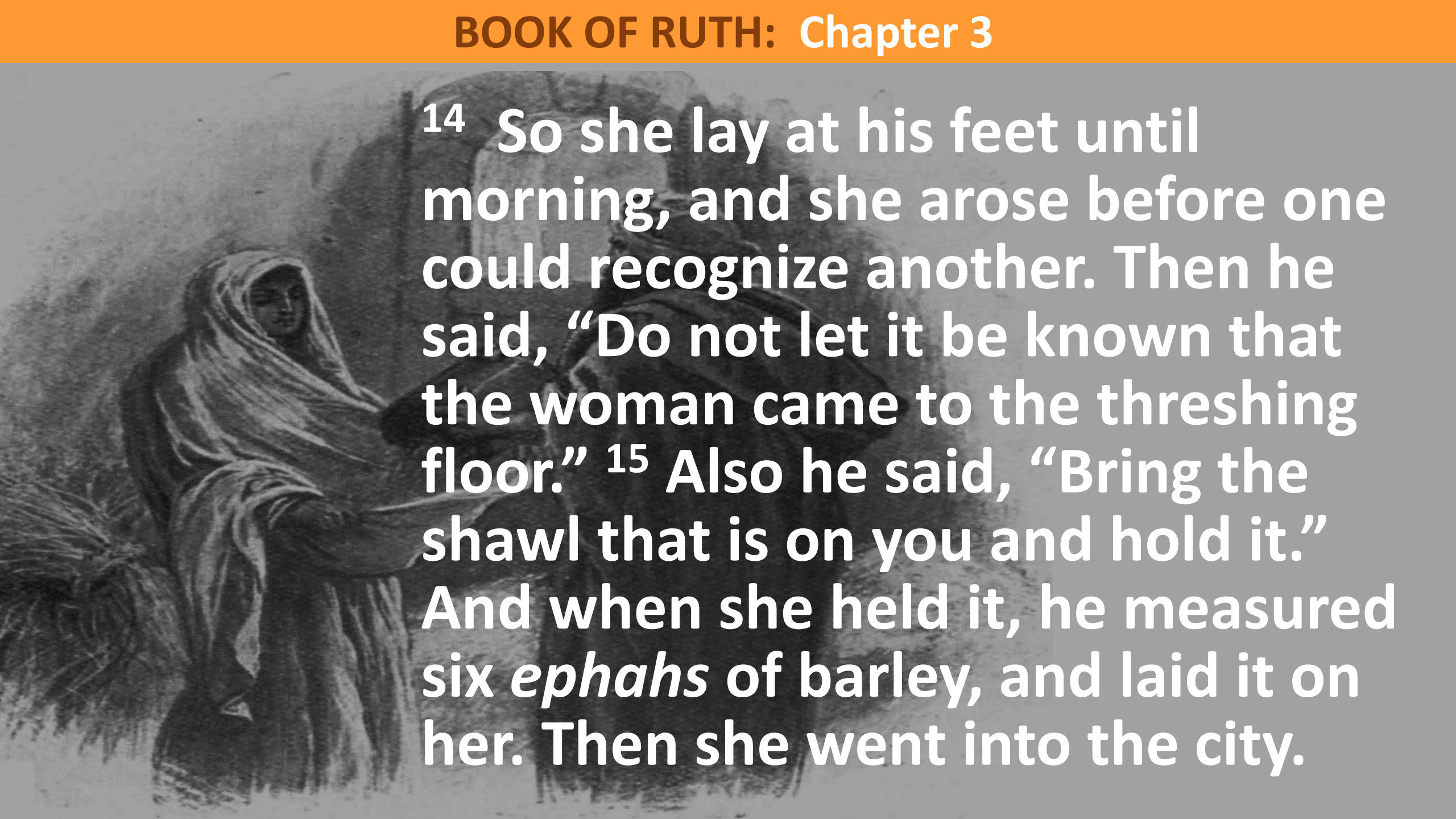
BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

- He wants this resolved, one way or other, and fast.
- Still in protective mode, does not send Ruth out into dark at midnight alone. Protecting her when he tells her to remain there with him.
- Would not be safe for her to leave at this point. Only people on streets at this time would be women of ill repute, and those who frequent them, as well as criminal types.
- He is also aware this is private matter and will not expose Ruth to eyes and talk of others.

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

- Interesting Boaz protects Ruth at threshing floor, place frequently referenced as place of judgment and wrath, and separation of good and evil. *May not have any significance, but nothing is in scripture for no reason!*
- Meeting of Ruth and Boaz **could have taken place anywhere**, but happens on threshing floor. Why?
- Bride of Messiah receives **mercy instead of judgment**. Some have gone so far as to say relates to Bride of Messiah escaping judgment and wrath of God during Tribulation. *Possible!*

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3



¹⁴ So she lay at his feet until morning, and she arose before one could recognize another. Then he said, “Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor.” ¹⁵ Also he said, “Bring the shawl that is on you and hold it.” And when she held it, he measured six *ephahs* of barley, and laid it on her. Then she went into the city.

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

- Story of Ruth = story of obedience. Likely saying, doing things she does not understand, but ***trusts those who guide her and she automatically obeys***. Another huge lesson. She had made YHVH her God and trusts Him.
- Naomi knew woman didn't belong on threshing floor, hence meeting by night. Boaz confirms this, and wants all things to be discreet and private.
- Ruth continued to lay at Boaz feet. Act of continued submission, humility. *Some commentators and naysayers insist hanky panky took place here.* Absolutely not. Both Ruth and Boaz are God-obeying, upright.

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

- Notice Ruth never goes away empty-handed when she has been with Boaz. **True for our Kinsman-Redeemer also!**
- Another reminder of EMPTY-FULL contrast, theme here. In the world we come up empty. In God we are full!
- Boaz' provision of grain also indication he intends to honor Ruth's request.
- Seems to be **sending a message** with amount of grain given to Ruth. *Remember nothing in scripture for no reason.*

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

- Number of measures he sends = six.
- Number 6 in scripture always indicates incompleteness, or unfinished business.
- Possible Boaz telling Naomi (*Ruth would likely not have any knowledge of this*) he will see this issue through to finish.
- Naomi would understand this, and *apparently does in next verses*.



INCOMPLETE!

¹⁶ When she came to her mother-in-law, she said, “Is that you, my daughter?” Then she told her all that the man had done for her. ¹⁷ And she said, “These six ephahs of barley he gave me; for he said to me, ‘Do not go empty-handed to your mother-in-law.’ ” ¹⁸ Then she said, “Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day.”

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

- Ruth comes home to Naomi early morning. Naomi may have stayed up all night waiting to hear. Both futures depended on what happened at threshing room floor.
- ***“Is that you my daughter?”*** In KJV text for what Naomi spoke reads ***“Who are thou, my daughter?”*** Correct rendition of original Hebrew.
- Naomi not asking “is that you?” Asks **“Are you a bride to be, or not?”** Are you Boaz’ intended wife? Did things go well? Would not be asking who was there. Wanted to know bottom line!

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3

- Seems Naomi got Boaz' message in six measures of grain.
- ***“These six ephahs of barley he gave me...”*** “ephah” not in original Hebrew. (*Ruth would have terrible time lugging home six ephahs of barley!!*)
- Original Hebrew = merely **“the six barley”** – no measure, no amount given. Focus on the SIX.
- We don't know measure Boaz used. That is not important. The **SIX is important**, and Naomi reads it correctly.

BOOK OF RUTH: Chapter 3



- Issue raised is incomplete now, but Boaz will not rest until settled (complete), one way or other.
- And one way or other, **Ruth's request will be met.**
- Naomi advises Ruth to sit and wait because she knows and trusts Boaz.



God often asks us to sit and wait. We don't do that well. But we can rest knowing our Kinsman-Redeemer is ON it.



**He will not rest either until whatever we bring before Him is perfectly complete.
In HIS time, and in HIS way.**



be still my soul