

orning Watch

Monday 7/12

Related Verses

**Message 7 – God’s Raising Up of Deborah as a Judge of Israel and as a Mother in Israel Who Practiced the Female Submission to the Man in Order to Keep God’s Ordination and Bring All of Israel into a Proper Order under God’s Kingship and Headship**

**Isa. 32:1**

1 Indeed a King will reign according to righteousness, And the rulers will rule according to justice.

**Isa. 33:2**

2 O Jehovah, be gracious to us; we have waited for You; Be our arm every morning, Our salvation also in the time of distress.

**Phil. 2:9-11**

9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

10 That in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 And every tongue should openly confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

**1 Cor. 11:3-6, 10**

3 But I want you to know that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of the woman, and God is the head of Christ.

4 Every man praying or prophesying with his head covered disgraces his head.

5 But every woman praying or prophesying with her head uncovered disgraces her head; for it is one and the same as she who is shaved.

6 For if a woman is not covered, let her hair also be cut off; but if it is shameful for a woman to have her hair cut off or to be shaved, let her be covered.

10 Therefore the woman ought to have a sign of submission to authority on her head for the sake of the angels.

**1 Pet. 3:5**

5 For in this manner formerly the holy women also, who hoped in God, adorned themselves, being subject to their own husbands,

**Judg. 5:16-17, 31**

16 Why did you sit among the sheepfolds Listening to the pipings for the flocks? In the divisions of Reuben There were great searchings of heart.

17 Gilead stayed across the Jordan. And as for Dan, why did he remain with the ships? Asher sat at the shore of the sea And stayed at his landings.

31 May all Your enemies so perish, O Jehovah. But may those who love Him be like the sun When it rises in its might. And the land had rest forty years.

**LIFE-STUDY OF JUDGES - MESSAGE FOUR:**

Prior to the history recorded in these chapters, the people of Israel had never had a female leader. Then, suddenly, God raised up a female, Deborah, as a judge of Israel. Regarding this, we need to realize that in the Bible, whenever God does something which stands out as being extraordinary, it is very significant. It indicates, first, man’s failure, and then, God’s excellent act. At the time of Judges 4, all the men of Israel had failed, so God raised up a woman. That raising up of a female changed the entire condition of Israel.

In the Bible a proper female indicates one who is in submission to God, one who keeps God’s ordination. This is the position that Israel should have taken before God, but the situation in Israel had become fully abnormal. The men had left their position before Jehovah. Hence, Israel violated God’s ordination, leaving her position as God’s wife and forsaking Him for hundreds of idols. This brought Israel into a miserable situation and condition.

According to God’s creation, Deborah was a very capable person. By reading her song in chapter five, we can see that she was full of ability, capacity, insight, and foresight. But such an excellent person was very submissive. God made her the leader, yet she kept the proper order and took Barak as her covering (4:6-9). She realized that she needed a man to be her covering. Actually, Barak did nearly nothing, yet Deborah took him as her “head covering.” When she took this kind of standing, the whole nation became different. In their miserable situation no one would take the lead to fight for Jehovah’s interest, and no one would be willing to follow. But when this excellent, extraordinary woman took the lead to practice

the female submission to the man, the entire country came into the proper order. Everyone returned to his or her proper position. Thus Deborah could say in her song, “Then a remnant of the nobles went down; / The people of Jehovah went down with me against the mighty” (5:13). All the leaders took the lead, and all the people followed; the army was formed. At first, only some of the people followed, but eventually they all followed. From this we see that the entire country came into an excellent order, assuming the proper position before Jehovah.

Judges 5:15-16 speaks of “great resolutions in heart” and “great searchings of heart.” In Israel’s miserable situation, no one was searching his heart. But the people needed a great searching of their hearts, and they needed to make great resolutions in their hearts to rise up and follow the others to fight for God’s kingdom.

Judges 3:12-13 says that Jehovah strengthened Israel’s enemies, but 4:6-16 reveals that Jehovah was fighting for Israel. This shows that God is a God of incarnation. God wants man to match Him so that He can move. If Israel had not fought, God would not have fought for them. However, because Israel did fight under Deborah in a proper order, God fought for them. The principle is the same with us today. If we do not go out to gain sinners, God will not go, but if we go, God also will go. However, this kind of going out needs a searching of our heart and a resolution in our heart. God will not work until we become active in this searching of our heart and making resolutions in our heart. This is the way to fight the battle; this is the way to preach the gospel; and this is the way to gain sinners to become members of Christ.

Judges 5:31b says, “May those who love Him be like the sun / When it rises in its might.” For the sun to rise in its might means that it shines brightly, brilliantly, and gloriously. We need the searchings, the resolutions, and the rising up to shine like the sun. If all the churches would be like this, they surely would enjoy the victory. May all the dear saints in the Lord’s recovery have great searchings and make great resolutions, and may they all, by loving the Lord, rise up like the sun to shine brightly.

**Corporate Reading of “Truth Messages” Chapter 11 – Sections: The Initial Spirit Becoming The Uniting Spirit (2); Three Aspects Of Oneness**

Morning Watch

Tuesday 7/13

Related Verses

**Message 8 – The Intrinsic Significance of Gideon as God's Valiant Warrior**

**Judg. 6:11-12**

**11** And the Angel of Jehovah came and sat under the terebinth that was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while Gideon his son was beating out the wheat in the winepress in order to hide it from the Midianites.

**12** And the Angel of Jehovah appeared to him and said to him, Jehovah is with you, valiant warrior.

**John 8:29**

**29** And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.

**Rom. 8:4**

**4** That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.

**Acts 13:52**

**52** And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

**2 Tim. 4:2**

**2** Proclaim the word; be ready in season and out of season; convict, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and teaching.

**Matt. 20:28**

**28** Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.

**John 5:44**

**44** How can you believe when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that is from the only God?

**Gal. 2:20**

**20** I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

**1 Cor. 12:25**

**25** That there would be no division in the body, but that the members would have the same care for one another.

**Rom. 2:4**

**4** Or do you despise the riches of His kindness and forbearance and long-suffering, not knowing that God's kindness is leading you to repentance?

**Col. 3:5**

**5** Put to death therefore your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and greediness, which is idolatry;

**Eph. 5:5**

**5** For this you realize, knowing that every fornicator or unclean person or greedy person (who is an idolator) has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

**LIFE-STUDY OF JUDGES – MESSAGE FIVE:**

Gideon, a marvelous judge who was called by Jehovah in a very particular way, was successful because of four things. First, he listened carefully to the word of God, something that was rare among the children of Israel at that time. Second, Gideon obeyed God's word and acted on it. Third, he tore down the altar of Baal and cut down the Asherah (6:25-28). This touched God's heart. In the degradation of Israel, God hated the idols to the uttermost. God as the genuine Husband regarded all the idols as men with whom His wife Israel had committed harlotry. Fourth, by tearing down the altar of Baal and cutting down the Asherah that belonged to his father, Gideon sacrificed his relationship with his father and his enjoyment of society. For Gideon to do such a thing for God required that he sacrifice his own interests, and his sacrifice was a strong factor of his success.

The selection of the three hundred in 7:2-7 also stresses the sacrifice of our personal interests and enjoyment for God's purpose. When Gideon blew the trumpet to call the people to fight against the Midianites, thirty-two thousand responded. God said that those who were with Gideon were too many for God to deliver Midian into their hand, for Israel might have vaunted himself against God, saying, "My own hand has saved me" (v. 2). By telling Gideon that he had too many people, God was indicating that He would fight for them. First, twenty-two thousand went home because they were afraid (v. 3). Then Jehovah tested the remaining ten thousand by bringing them to the water to drink. Those who bowed down on their knees and lapped as a dog laps were sent home (v. 5). Only the three hundred

who lapped the water into their mouths with their hands were chosen by God for the battle against Midian (v. 6). Jehovah told Gideon that through the three hundred men who lapped in that way, He would save them from Midian. Like Gideon, these three hundred were willing to sacrifice in order to be used by God.

As a result of these four factors, Gideon received a reward: the economical Spirit came upon him (6:34). Hence, he became powerful and with only three hundred men defeated two princes and two kings (7:25; 8:10-12). With Gideon we have a picture of a man in union with God, a God-man, to fulfill God's word and to carry out God's economy.

After his great success—the greatest success in all the cycles of Israel's history recorded in Judges—Gideon had a terrible failure. The secret of his failure comprises three factors. First, Gideon was not kind. He killed those countrymen who did not support him (vv. 16-17), breaking the sixth commandment of God (Exo. 20:13). Second, he indulged in the lust of the flesh, not exercising any restriction over his fleshly lust. This is indicated by Judges 8:30, which tells us that Gideon had seventy sons, "for he had many wives." In addition, his concubine who was in Shechem also bore him a son (v. 31). By this Gideon broke the seventh commandment (Exo. 20:14). Third, although he did a good thing in refusing to rule over the people (Judg. 8:22-23), he coveted the spoil of his people, and they surrendered it to him (v. 24).

Gideon's indulgence in sex and his greediness for gold led to idolatry. Greediness is idolatry (Col. 3:5), and both fornication and greediness are linked to idol worship (Eph. 5:5). Even King Solomon, who began as a God-fearing and God-loving person, eventually became an idol worshipper through his many foreign wives (1 Kings 11:4). Gideon made an ephod with the gold he had taken from the people, and this ephod became an idol to the children of Israel (Judg. 8:27). As a result, Gideon's family and the entire society of Israel were corrupted. Gideon began by tearing down the altar of Baal and its idol, but after his success he built something idolatrous. This failure canceled all his success.

Judges is a book concerning the enjoyment of the good land, which is a type of Christ. Gideon's success indicates the gaining of an excellent opportunity to enjoy Christ, but his failure indicates the losing of the opportunity to enjoy

Morning Watch

Christ. His failure shows us that we need to exercise strict control in dealing with the matters of sex and wealth. Otherwise, we will suffer the loss of the enjoyment of Christ. Any indulgence in these things will cause our enjoyment of Christ to be annulled.

**Corporate Reading of “Truth Messages” Chapter 11 – Sections: Oneness In The Triune God; The Spreading Of The Sealing Spirit**

Wednesday 7/14

Related Verses

**Message 9 – The Children of Israel Not Having a King and Everyone Doing What Was Right in His Own Eyes Judg. 2:10-11**

**10** And all that generation as well were gathered to their fathers; and another generation, who did not know Jehovah or the work that He had done for Israel, rose up after them.

**11** And the children of Israel did what was evil in the sight of Jehovah and served the Baals.

**Judg. 3:7**

**7** And the children of Israel did that which was evil in the sight of Jehovah, and they forgot Jehovah their God and served the Baals and the Asherahs.

**Judg. 8:33**

**33** And as soon as Gideon died, the children of Israel turned again and went as harlots after the Baals. And they made Baal-berith their god.

**Judg. 21:25**

**25** In those days there was no king in Israel; each man did what was right in his own eyes.

**Titus 2:14**

**14** Who gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all lawlessness and purify to Himself a particular people as His unique possession, zealous of good works.

**Gal. 1:4**

**4** Who gave Himself for our sins that He might rescue us out of the present evil age according to the will of our God and Father,

**Matt. 6:10**

**10** Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.

**1 Tim. 1:4**

**4** Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.

**Eph. 1:10**

**10** Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;

**Eph. 3:9-10**

**9** And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,

**10** In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,

**2 Cor. 5:17**

**17** So then if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, they have become new.

**Gal. 6:15**

**15** For neither is circumcision anything nor uncircumcision, but a new creation is what matters.

**1 Tim 2:1**

**1** I exhort therefore, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercessions, thanksgivings be made on behalf of all men;

Related Reading

Man's forsaking of God began in Genesis 3. God created man with a spirit so that man could contact Him, receive Him, and take Him in as life. The tree of life in the garden signified God Himself as the embodiment of life for us to contact and receive. God warned man not to partake of the other tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for eating of the fruit of that tree would issue in death. However, from the beginning of man's existence, Satan has been seducing man to take of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which is the embodiment of Satan himself. To take the tree of knowledge is actually to marry Satan and divorce God.

This forsaking of God and joining to Satan is the strongest factor behind the chaos in human society. Due to man's forsaking of God and joining to Satan, the entire world, including every nation, society, and family, has become chaotic. Immediately after man forsook God and

joined himself to Satan, chaos came in. The first manifestation of this chaos was the first murder, which took place in Adam's family when Cain slew Abel. From that time onward, there has been chaos in every nation, society, and family. (*Life-Study of Judges*, Message 6 , [para. 1,2] )

We have also had periods of chaos in the Lord's recovery. It seems that in the recovery there are cycles of rebellion about every ten years, involving struggles for power to fulfill ambitions. The recent rebellion among us had two roots—unforgiven offenses and unfulfilled ambitions. The intrinsic significance of all these rebellions is forsaking God to go along with Satan. Satan fell because of ambition. To go along with Satan is to enter into the ambition that was present in Satan when he fell. He wanted to ascend to the throne; he wanted to be like the Most High (Isa. 14:13-14). Hence, to forsake God and join with Satan is to enter into the intrinsic ambition within this evil one.

The result of rebellion has always been chaos, with the rebellious ones causing damage to themselves. The churches that joined the recent rebellion have become barren and have even decreased in number, while the remaining churches have increased.

In family life, whenever a husband and a wife love the Lord and reject everything other than Him, their married life will be wonderful. But once a husband or wife begins to love something else in place of the Lord, their married life and family life become chaotic.

This principle can be applied to the entire human race, to every nation, to every society, to every family, and to every individual. If we love the Lord and hate Satan, we will be blessed. However, we will only get into trouble whenever we change and begin to love something other than Christ. Psalm 33:12 says, “Blessed is the nation whose God is Jehovah.” Blessed is everyone—nation, society, group, and individual—whose Lord, Head, King, and Husband is Jehovah. (*Life-Study of Judges*, Message 6 , [para. 6-8, 10] )

The intrinsic significance of the books of Joshua and Judges is that these books show us the detailed points of how to possess Christ, keep Christ, and enjoy Christ. We have seen that, according to the record in Judges, in the degradation Israel became chaotic in government, in worship, and in morality. Such a people surely could not gain Christ and enjoy Him. But we thank the Lord that, in

Morning Watch

the midst of the chaotic situation, there was a person—Boaz—who had the highest standard of morality. As we will see when we come to the book of Ruth, according to typology Boaz was one who enjoyed Christ very much (*Life-Study of Judges*, Message 10 , [para. 6] )

**Corporate Reading of “Truth Messages” Chapter 11 – Sections: *The Uniting Spirit; Keeping The Oneness***

Thursday 7/15

**Related Verses**

**Message 10 – Ruth’s Choosing for Her Goal, Exercising Her Right, Seeking for Her Rest, and Receiving a Reward for God’s Economy**

**Ruth 1:8-9, 16-17, 22**

**8** And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, Go and return, each of you, to your mother's house. May Jehovah deal kindly with you, just as you have dealt with the dead and with me.

**9** May Jehovah grant you to find rest, each of you in the house of your husband. Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voice and wept.

**16** But Ruth said, Do not entreat me to leave you and turn away from following after you. For wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you dwell, I will dwell; and your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.

**17** Where you die, I will die; and there will I be buried. Jehovah do so to me, and more as well, if anything but death parts me from you.

**22** So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter-in-law, with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

**Ruth 3:1-2**

**1** And Naomi, her mother-in-law, said to her, My daughter, I must seek some resting place for you, that it may go well with you.

**2** And now is not Boaz our relative, with whose young women you have been? Behold, he is winnowing the barley tonight at the threshing floor.

**Deut. 12:9**

**9** For until now you have not come to the rest and to the inheritance that Jehovah your God is giving you.

**Matt. 11:28-29**

**28** Come to Me all who toil and are burdened, and I will give you rest.

**29** Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

**Rom. 7:4**

**4** So then, my brothers, you also have been made dead to the law through the body of Christ so that you might be joined to another, to Him who has been raised from the dead, that we might bear fruit to God.

**2 Cor. 11:2**

**2** For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

**Eph. 5:25-27**

**25** Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her

**26** That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,

**27** That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.

**1 Cor. 2:9**

**9** But as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard and which have not come up in man's heart; things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

**Message 10 – Ruth’s Choosing for Her Goal, Exercising Her Right, Seeking for Her Rest, and Receiving a Reward for God’s Economy**

Ruth is an appendix to the book of Judges, contemporary with the first half of Judges. Judges is a book of Israel’s miserable history, dark and stinking; Ruth is the record of a couple’s excellent story, bright and aromatic. The main role in this story is like a lily growing out of brambles and a bright star in the dark night. (*Life-Study of Joshua, Judges & Ruth*, Chapter 26 [para. 2])

Ruth chose the goal of participating with God’s elect in the enjoyment of Christ, and she even became a top ancestor of Christ who helped bring forth Christ into mankind. This was more than just a resolution on the part of the Moabite widow; it was a goal, a choosing. Ruth

chose God and His kingdom for the carrying out of God’s economy concerning Christ. Hallelujah for such a goal and for such a person choosing this goal! (*Life-Study of Joshua, Judges & Ruth*, Chapter 27 [Section III. B.])

In all this Ruth, as one who had returned to God from her heathen background, exercised her right to partake of the rich produce of the inheritance of God’s elect. Ruth, a Moabitess, had come to the good land as a sojourner. According to her threefold status as a sojourner, a poor one, and a widow, she exercised her right to glean the harvest. Although she was poor, she never became a beggar. Her gleaning was not her begging; it was her right.

The book of Ruth portrays the way, the position, the qualification, and the right of sinners to participate in Christ and to enjoy Christ. According to God’s ordination, we have been qualified and positioned to claim our right to enjoy Christ. This means that today we do not need to beg God to save us. We can go to God to claim His salvation for ourselves. We have the position, the qualification, and the right to claim salvation from God. This is the highest standard of receiving the gospel. (*Life-Study of Joshua, Judges & Ruth*, Chapter 28 [Section XI])

Chapter one shows Ruth’s choosing, chapter two shows Ruth’s exercising of her right, and chapter three shows Ruth’s seeking for her rest. We need to enjoy Christ to such an extent that we have rest. In order to have rest, we surely need a home. No place can give us as much rest as our home. In chapter three Naomi proposed and even pushed to gain a home for Ruth.

The steps taken by Ruth correspond to our spiritual experience. Before we were saved, we all had our own taste and choice. Under the Lord’s sovereign arrangement, we heard the gospel and made a resolution to become a believer of Christ. Our choice was to believe in Christ. By believing in the Lord Jesus, we were organically joined to Him. Now He is in us and we are in Him. With this intimate, organic union, we must begin to pursue Christ in order to gain, possess, experience, and enjoy Him. This is typified by Ruth’s exercising of her right to gain and possess the produce of the good land. Just as Ruth had the right to enjoy the produce of the good land after coming into the land, so we have the right to enjoy Christ as our good land after believing in Him. (*Life-Study of Joshua, Judges & Ruth*, Chapter 29 [para. 1, 2])

Morning Watch

Another aspect of Ruth's reward is that she became a crucial ancestor in the genealogy to bring in the royal house of David for the producing of Christ (Ruth 4:13b-22; Matt. 1:5-16). This indicates that she had an all-inclusive and all-extensive gain with the position and capacity to bring Christ into the human race. She is thus a great link in the chain that is bringing Christ to every corner of the earth. We all are indebted to Ruth, for without her Christ could not have reached us. But wherever we may be on earth, Christ has reached us through Ruth.

The burden of this ministry is to produce Christ in the believers. This means that the goal of this ministry is not to teach you to be humble or merely to glorify God in your behavior. Rather, the goal of this ministry is to "inject" you with Christ, to impart Christ as an "antibiotic" to you. The more we receive such an injection, the more we will be able to sing, "Christ liveth in me, / Christ liveth in me; / Oh! what a salvation this, / That Christ liveth in me" (Hymns, #507). On the one hand, this injection of Christ will kill our old man; on the other hand, it will make us producers of Christ, those who minister Christ to others.

Ruth not only became a crucial ancestor in the genealogy for the producing of Christ, but she also continued the line of the God-created humanity for the incarnation of Christ (Matt. 1:5-16). The incarnation of Christ was a matter of His being brought out of eternity into time with His divinity. In a practical way, this needs to take place in our daily living. Every day of our Christian life should be a continuation of Christ's incarnation, with Christ being brought forth in order to be born into others through our ministering Christ to them. In order for this to happen, we all need to speak for Christ, to speak forth Christ, and even speak Christ to others. Ministering Christ in this way will surely change us. (*Life-Study of Joshua, Judges & Ruth*, Chapter 30 [Section III, IV])

**Corporate Reading of "Truth Messages" Chapter 11 – Sections: Cooperating With The Uniting Spirit; Steps To Oneness**

**Friday 7/16**

**Related Verses**

**Message 11 – Boaz and Ruth Typifying Christ and the Church**

**Ruth 2:1-2, 14**

**1** Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a man of great wealth, from Elimelech's family; and his name was Boaz.

**2** And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I find favor. And she said to her, Go, my daughter.

**14** And Boaz said to her at mealtime, Come here and eat some food; and dip your morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers, and he extended some parched grain to her. And she ate and was satisfied, and she had some left.

**Ruth 4:9-10**

**9** And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, You are witnesses today, that I buy from Naomi's hand all that was Elimelech's and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's.

**10** Furthermore Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, I acquire as my own wife so that I may raise up the dead man's name upon his inheritance and the dead man's name may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his place. You are witnesses today.

**Eph. 3:8**

**8** To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel

**Phil. 1:19**

**19** For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

**Isa. 54:5**

**5** For your Maker is your Husband; Jehovah of hosts is His name. And the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; He is called the God of all the earth.

**2 Cor. 1:21-22**

**21** But the One who firmly attaches us with you unto Christ and has anointed us is God,

**22** He who has also sealed us and given the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.

**Eph. 5:28-29**

**28** In the same way the husbands also ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his own wife loves himself.

**29** For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ also the church,

**2 Cor. 12:9**

**9** And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.

**Message 11 – Boaz and Ruth Typifying Christ and the Church**

At the beginning Joshua typifies Christ in bringing God's chosen people into God's ordained blessings (Josh. 1:2-4; Eph. 1:3-14). As typified by Joshua, Christ has brought us into the good land, has taken possession of the land for us, and has allotted the land to us as our inheritance for our enjoyment. Christ has gained the good land for us, and eventually He is the good land for us to enjoy.

At the end Boaz typifies Christ in other aspects. In particular, he typifies Christ as our Husband for our satisfaction. Boaz typifies Christ in two aspects. As a man, rich in wealth and generous in giving (Ruth 2:1, 14-16; 3:15), Boaz typifies Christ, whose divine riches are unsearchable and who takes care of God's needy people with His bountiful supply (Eph. 3:8; 2 Cor. 12:9; Phil. 1:19b).

Sadly, in their experience many of today's Christians do not have Christ in His riches, and they do not have Him as the Husband. In the church we have Christ as our riches, and we also have Him as our Husband. In Ephesians Paul speaks of the unsearchable riches of Christ (3:8). He speaks also of Christ as the Husband of the church (5:23-32). In Revelation our Husband is unveiled as the Lamb, the redeeming God (21:2, 9). The Bible reveals, therefore, that Christ with His unsearchable riches is our Husband. In the last two chapters of the Bible, we see that Christ, the Lamb, is our Husband and that we, the believers in Christ, are the Lamb's wife.

As a kinsman of Mahlon, the dead husband of Ruth, who redeemed the lost right of Mahlon's property and took Mahlon's widow, Ruth, as his wife for the producing of the needed heirs (Ruth 4:9-10, 13), Boaz typifies Christ in redeeming the church and making the church His counterpart for His increase (Eph. 5:23-32; John 3:29-30). (*Life-Study of Joshua, Judges & Ruth*, Chapter 31 [Sections I.A.1 through I.B.2])

Morning Watch

Ruth, being the widow of the dead husband, redeemed by Boaz, who cleared the indebtedness of her dead husband for the recovery of the lost right of her dead husband's property, typifies the church with her old man as her crucified husband (Rom. 7:4a) redeemed by Christ, who cleared away her old man's sin for the recovery of the lost right of her fallen natural man created by God. (*Life-Study of Joshua, Judges & Ruth*, Chapter 31 [Section II.B, para. 1])

Ruth, after being redeemed by Boaz, becoming a new wife to him typifies the church, after being saved, through the regeneration of the church's natural man, becoming the counterpart of Christ (Rom. 7:4b). Just as the redeemed Ruth became a new wife to Boaz, so the saved and regenerated church has become His new wife, His counterpart, in the organic union with Him. (*Life-Study of Joshua, Judges & Ruth*, Chapter 31 [Section II.C])

Let us now consider further how, in typology, the various aspects of Ruth's situation apply to us today. In God's creation Ruth was good, but she became fallen in Adam. When she turned to Israel, she believed in the saving God and was redeemed. Then, having become a new person, she married Boaz and became his new wife.

As signified by the type of Ruth and her dead husband, Ruth's natural part created by God and her fallen part cooperated to assume to be the husband, forsaking God as the Husband. This husband was the main part of her old man, which was composed of her God-created part and her fallen part. The old man as the illegal husband made many mistakes and incurred a great deal of debt, thereby selling himself and losing his right as a God-created being because of his sins. After Ruth's husband died, she was not only a widow but was also in a condition of indebtedness. The only way out of this condition was to be united in marriage to the proper person. When Ruth married Boaz, she was redeemed from her indebtedness, and she became his new wife for the producing of the needed heirs.

This is a picture of our situation today. Christ, our Husband, died to redeem us and to clear the indebtedness caused by the sins of our old man. Then in resurrection He, as the life-giving Spirit, regenerated us to make us, as created, fallen, and redeemed persons, a new creation married to Him. Now, in the organic union between Christ and us, we can bring forth Christ and spread Christ for His

increase. (*Life-Study of Joshua, Judges & Ruth*, Chapter 31 [Section II.D, para. 3,4,5])

**Corporate Reading of "Truth Messages" Chapter 11 – Sections:** *Crossed By The Uniting Spirit; The Uniting Bond Of Peace; Willing To Be Crossed By The Uniting Spirit*

**Saturday 7/17**

**Related Verses**

**Message 12 – Taking the Way of Life in the Lord's Recovery**

**John 1:4**

**4** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

**John 10:10b**

**10b** I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly.

**John 11:25**

**25** Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;

**John 14:6**

**6** Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

**Matt. 7:13-14**

**13** Enter in through the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter through it.

**14** Because narrow is the gate and constricted is the way that leads to life, and few are those who find it.

**Col. 3:3-4**

**3** For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

**4** When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

**John 6:57**

**57** As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

**Rom. 8:2, 6**

**2** For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

**6** For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

**1 John 3:14**

**14** We know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the brothers. He who does not love abides in death.

**Message 12 – Taking the Way of Life in the Lord's Recovery**

In this concluding word on the book of Ruth, I have the burden to cover a very crucial point in Joshua, Judges, and Ruth. This crucial point is that these books show us one picture with two sides. One side concerns God's move in His economical Spirit, the Spirit of power; the other side concerns God's move in His essential Spirit, the Spirit of life. With all the judges, and even with Joshua and Caleb, we can see only the work, the move, of God in power. In the books of Joshua and Judges it is hard to find even a hint of God's move in His life. (*Life-Study of Joshua, Judges & Ruth*, Chapter 33 [para. 1,2])

In contrast, the book of Ruth is a book not of power but of life. (*Life-Study of Joshua, Judges & Ruth*, Chapter 33 [para. 6])

Ruth was outstanding in life. The purpose of the book of Ruth is not to tell us anything concerning power but to reveal the things of life to the uttermost. Naomi made it clear to Ruth that she had no capacity to produce a husband for her who could redeem her and bring forth a descendant for her father-in-law, Elimelech. Feeling that the situation was hopeless, Naomi encouraged Ruth to return to her mother's house in order to have a future. Ruth's reply was full of life. She would go with Naomi forever, being with her in poverty. Ruth said to Naomi, "Do not entreat me to leave you and turn away from following after you. For wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you dwell, I will dwell; and your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Where you die, I will die; and there will I be buried. Jehovah do so to me, and more as well, if anything but death parts me from you" (vv. 16-17). This is the real spirit of the New Testament believers—to follow Jesus by forsaking everything: parents, children, relatives, houses, and so forth (Matt. 10:37; 19:29; Mark 10:29-30; Luke 14:26). This is the way of life revealed in the New Testament. (*Life-Study of Joshua, Judges & Ruth*, Chapter 33 [Section: The Example of Ruth])

## Morning Watch

In his contact with Ruth at the threshing floor that night, Boaz was absolutely restrained, not moved, in his lust, absolutely different from the lust-indulging judges. Boaz blessed Ruth and highly appraised her. Then he told her that he was willing to bear his responsibility according to God's ordinance to redeem Elimelech's inheritance, yet he would not overstep the one who was ahead of him in this matter (vv. 12-13). Here Boaz seemed to be saying, "Daughter, wait until tomorrow. Yes, I am your kinsman, and we are free in God. But there is another kinsman who is closer to you than I am, and he must be allowed to go ahead of me. If I do not care for him in this matter, the holy people of God will condemn me for overstepping. Let the other kinsman go ahead of me. If he is not willing to do the kinsman's duty for you, I will do it for you." Boaz was lawful in every way, and his being lawful was based not on power but on life. This shows that Boaz had the highest standard of life. (*Life-Study of Joshua, Judges & Ruth*, Chapter 33 [Section: The Example of Boaz, para. 2])

In the Lord's recovery, should we take the way of the judges to be powerful and to do a great work? If we take the way of the judges instead of the way of life, whatever we accomplish will mean nothing. Not one judge was a forefather of Christ. The judges had nothing to do with keeping the line in humanity to bring in God in His incarnation. It was Ruth and Boaz who participated in keeping this line. However, they did not fight a war; they did not exercise any power.

It is crucial for us to see that only life can bring Christ forth. Only life can keep the lineage, maintaining the thin line to bring God into humanity, to produce Christ and to minister Christ and to supply the entire human race with Christ. This was done not by the judges but by Ruth and Boaz, who took the way of life.

In the Lord's recovery, I have very much promoted the gaining of the increase, but I do not mean that we should try to gain the increase by being a Samson or a Gideon. I would rather have no increase and keep my genuineness in life. I would rather be without any power, without any result from the work, and remain in the line that brings forth Christ out of eternity into time, that brings forth Christ with His divinity into humanity. (*Life-Study of Joshua, Judges & Ruth*, Chapter 33 [Section: Taking the Way of Life in the Lord's Recovery])

## Hymns, #505

1

There's a Man in the glory  
Whose Life is for me.  
He's pure and He's holy,  
Triumphant and free.  
He's wise and He's loving  
How tender is He!  
His Life in the glory,  
My life must be;  
His Life in the glory,  
My life must be.

2

There's a Man in the glory  
Whose Life is for me.  
He overcame Satan;  
From bondage He's free.  
In Life He is reigning;  
How kingly is He!  
His Life in the glory,  
My life must be;  
His Life in the glory,  
My life must be.

3

There's a Man in the glory  
Whose Life is for me.  
In Him is no sickness;  
No weakness has He.  
He's strong and in vigor,  
How buoyant is He!  
His Life in the glory  
My life may be;  
His Life in the glory  
My life may be.

4

There's a Man in the glory  
Whose Life is for me.  
His peace is abiding;  
How patient is He!

He's joyful and radiant,  
Expecting to see  
His Life in the glory  
Lived out in me;  
His Life in the glory  
Lived out in me.

## Lord's Day 7/18

Related Verses**Matt. 16:18**

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

**John 11:25**

25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;

**Eph. 1:22-23**

22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,

23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

**Eph. 4:16**

16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

**Heb. 2:14-15**

14 Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil,

15 And might release those who because of the fear of death through all their life were held in slavery.

**Rev. 1:18**

18 And the living One; and I became dead, and behold, I am living forever and ever; and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

**Rev. 2:8**

8 And to the messenger of the church in Smyrna write: These things says the First and the Last, who became dead and lived again:

**Morning Watch**

**1 John 3:14a**

**14** We know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the brothers. He who does not love abides in death.