

# 2019 Western Christadelphian Bible School



John Pople - Redwood City, California

Leading Ladies

Class 2 - Wings of Shelter - Ruth's Story

# *Leading Ladies*

*Jul 2019*



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2

*“Wings of Shelter”*

*Ruth’s Story*

## Ruth: The Disenfranchised

- Widowed  
*Ruth 1:4-5*
- A foreigner & an immigrant  
*Ruth 1:16-17*
- Moabite: a shunned people  
*Dt 23:3*





## Approach in the Night

*When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, **uncovered his feet** and lay down. In the middle of the night something startled the man, and he turned and discovered a woman lying at his feet. **Ruth 3:7-8***

What was Ruth doing?



## “Under Your Wings”

*“I am your servant Ruth,” she said. “Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman-redeemer.”*

*Ruth 3:9, NIV*

Hebrew: כַּנָּף ‘Kanaph’



*“I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman.”*

*Ruth 3:9, KJV*

*“I am Ruth, your maid-servant. Take your maid-servant under your wing, for you are a close relative.”*

*Ruth 3:9, NKJV*

## The Act of Covering

**“Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman-redeemer.”** **Ruth 3:9**

God marries Israel this way

**“...when I looked at you and saw that you were old enough for love, I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness. I gave you my solemn oath and entered into a covenant with you,”** declares the Sovereign LORD, **‘and you became mine.’”** **Ezk 16:8**



## Un-Cover, Re-Cover

*Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down. Ruth 3:7*

*“Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman-redeemer.” Ruth 3:9*

An attractive symmetry is played out in the Hebrew text

Hebrew: Ga-la גלה <= opposites => גאל Hebrew: Ga'al

English: Un-cover

English: Re-cover





## Empathy

*Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down... “Spread the corner of your garment over me”*

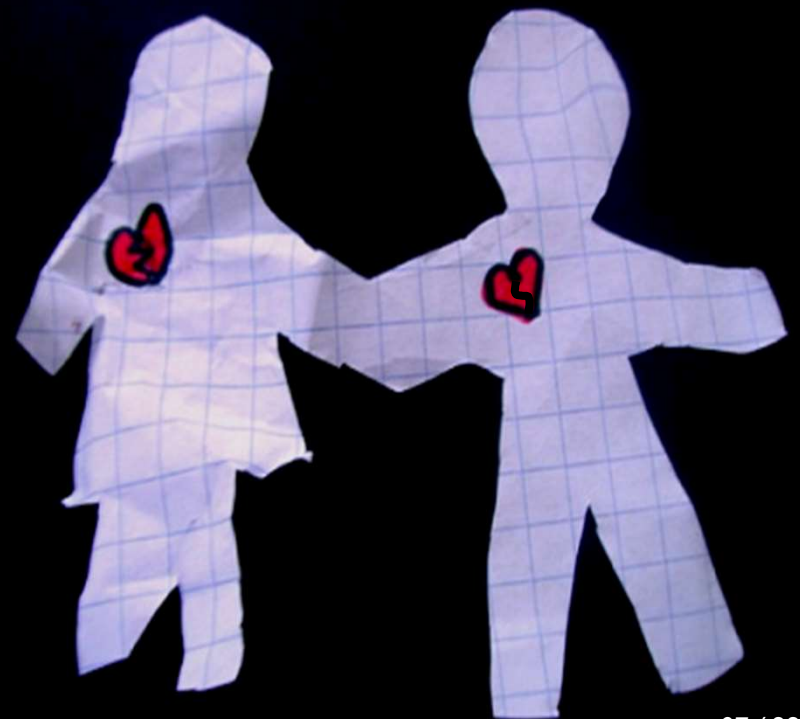
**Ruth 3:7,9**

Ruth shows Boaz what it's like to be uncovered, without shelter

We have the same responsibility to empathize

*The whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our... redemption*

**Rom 8:22-23**



A photograph of a sunset over a field of wheat. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm orange glow across the sky and the field. The wheat in the foreground is dark green and appears to be ripening. The background shows a line of trees and a distant horizon.

Ruth is responding to a comment of Boaz, months earlier

*Boaz replied, “I’ve been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband... May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.”*  
*Ruth 2:11-12*

What pair of wings was Boaz referencing?

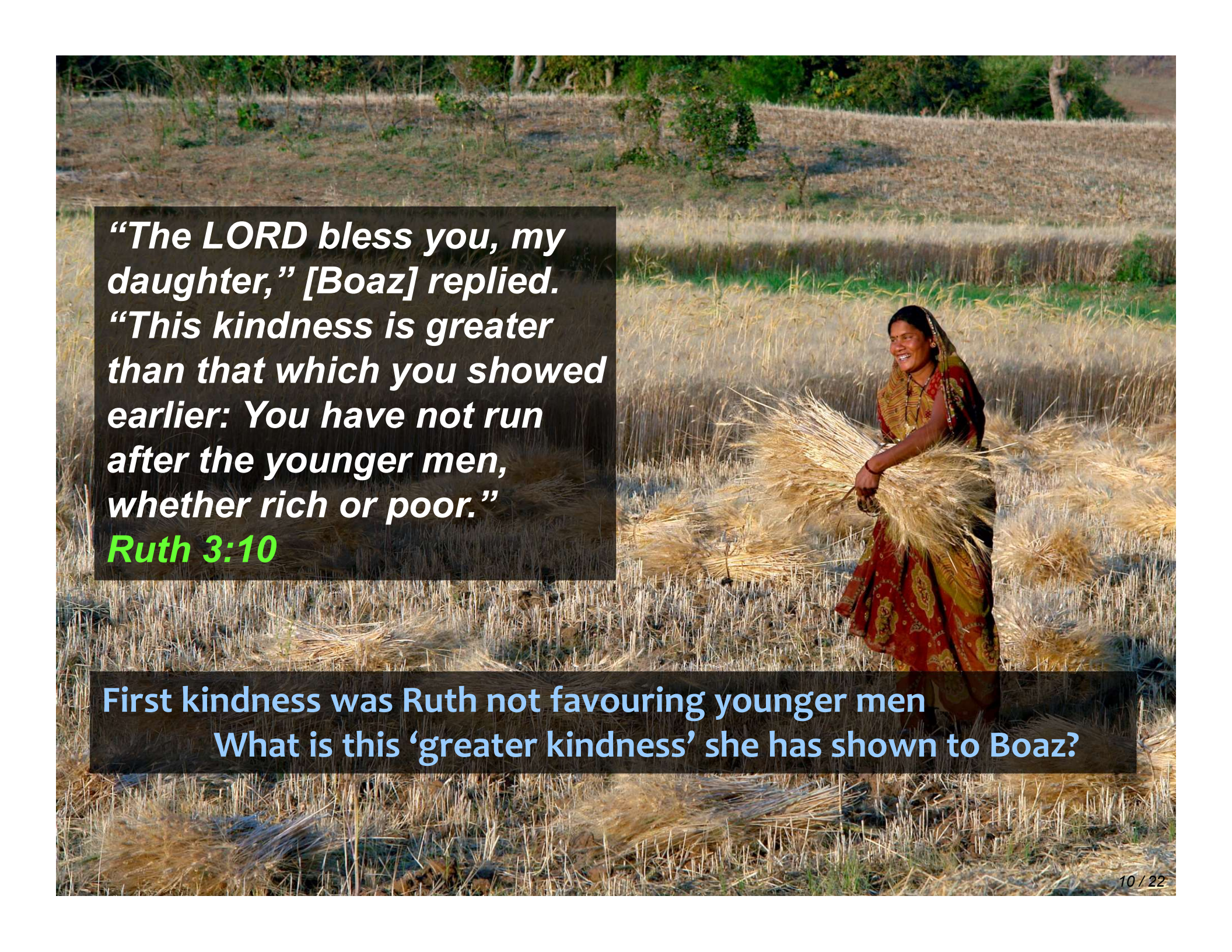
## Boaz: The Mercy Seat



*And you shall make two cherubim of gold... at the two ends of the mercy seat... And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings. Ex 25:18-20*

Under the wings was the focal point of God's mercy



A woman wearing a vibrant red and gold sari is harvesting wheat in a field. She is smiling and holding a large bundle of harvested wheat stalks. The field is filled with golden wheat, and the background shows a line of trees under a clear sky.

*“The LORD bless you, my daughter,” [Boaz] replied. “This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor.”*

***Ruth 3:10***

**First kindness was Ruth not favouring younger men  
What is this ‘greater kindness’ she has shown to Boaz?**



## The Greater Kindness

Boaz to Ruth: “You have come to take refuge under the wings of the God of Israel”

*Ruth 2:12, paraphrase*

Ruth to Boaz: “Maybe I can find refuge beneath your wings?”

*Ruth 3:7-9, paraphrase*

Ruth implies that Boaz reflects the image of God

**This is the second kindness; the greater kindness**

## Providing Shelter

*“I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, Mahlon’s widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from the town records. Today you are witnesses!”* **Ruth 4:9-10**



**Boaz protects Ruth  
Boaz ‘resurrects’ Mahlon**

**Providing Shelter  
has tangible results**



## The Figure of Christ...

**Boaz: Life to the dead brother**

*"I have also acquired Ruth... as my wife so that [Mahlon's] name will not disappear from among his family"* **Ruth 4:9-10**

## ...and Anti-Christ

**Onan: Withholding life from his brother**

*But Onan knew that the offspring would not be his; so whenever he lay with [Tamar] his brother's wife, he spilled his semen on the ground to keep from producing offspring for his brother. What he did was wicked in the LORD's sight; so he put him to death also.* **Gen 38:9-10**

*Jesus called in a loud voice:  
"Lazarus, Come out!"*

**Jn 11:43**

**This is why Onan was killed**

# Chiasm





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# Chiasm

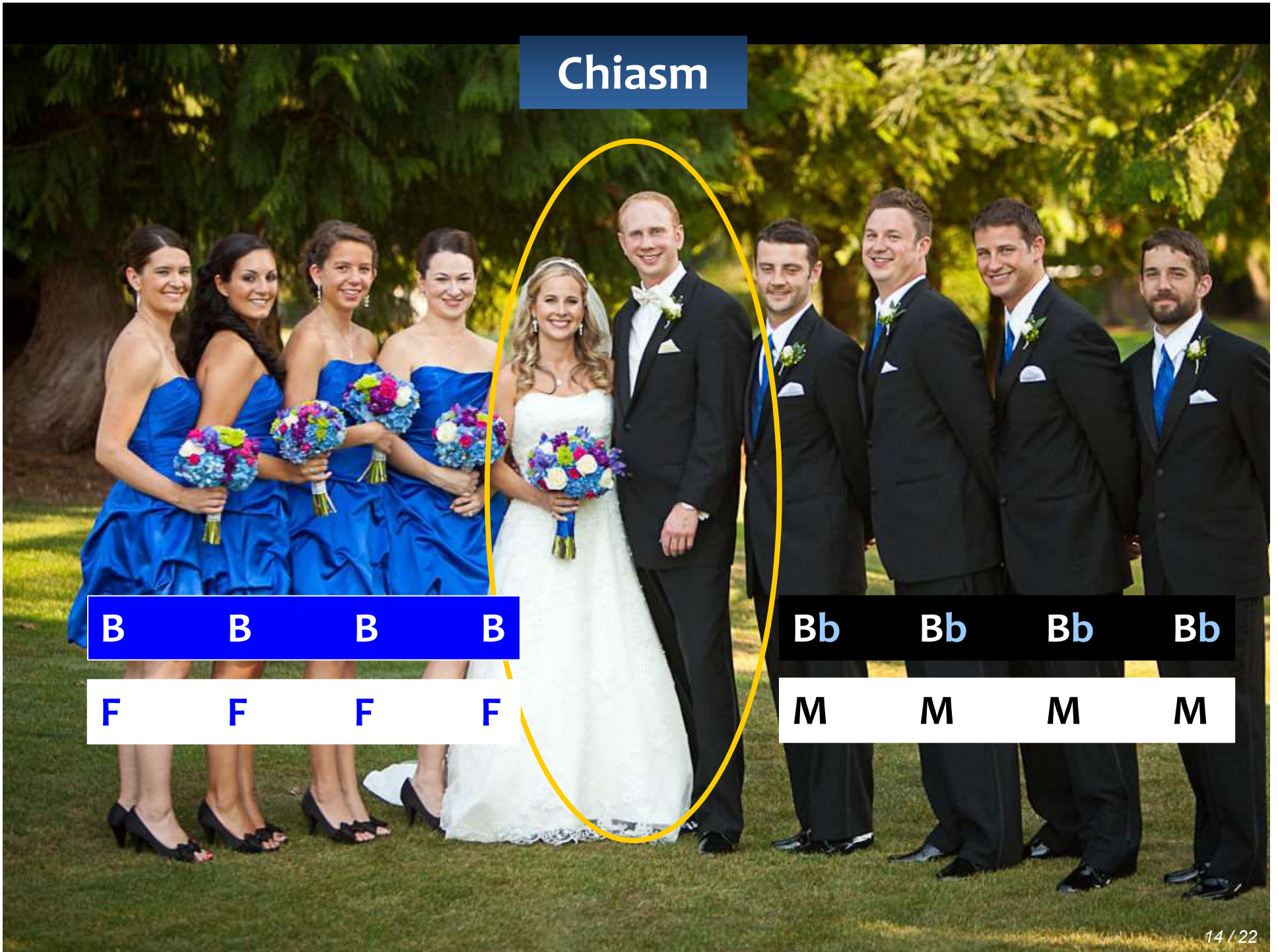


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# Chiasm



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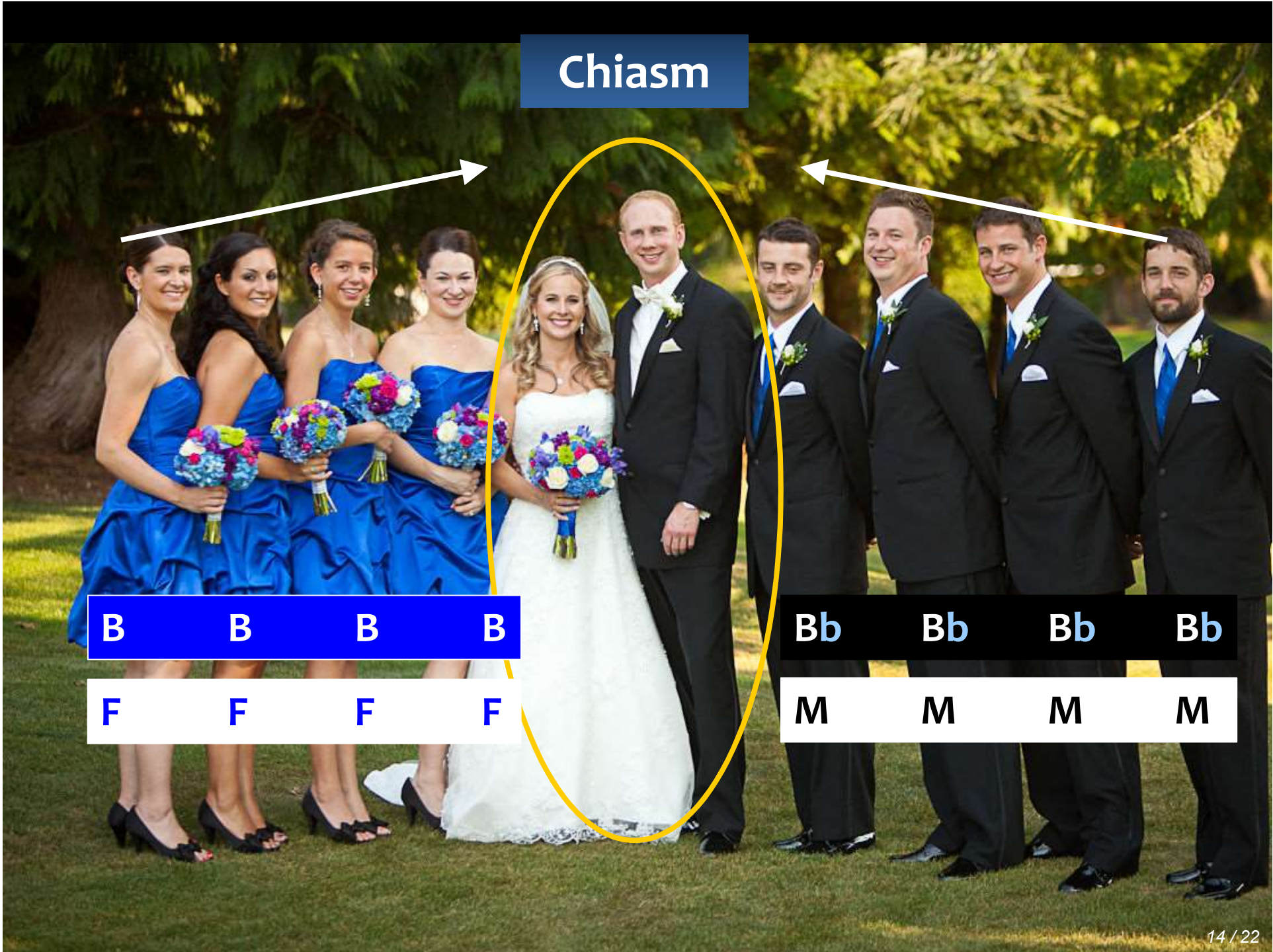
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# Chiasm



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# Ruth

Leaves Israel for  
Moab (1:1)

Famine and  
mourning (1:1-5)

Ruth loses her  
husband (1:5)

Naomi directs Ruth  
to Moab (1:11-15)

**Spiritual union of  
Ruth and God (1:16-18)**

Ruth comes to  
Bethlehem (1:22)

Ruth gains a  
husband (4:10)

Joy and plenty  
(4:13-17)

King of Jerusalem  
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Leaves Israel for Moab (1:1)

Famine and mourning (1:1-5)

**TRAGEDY**

Ruth loses her husband (1:5)

Naomi directs Ruth to Moab (1:11-15)

**Spiritual union of Ruth and God (1:16-18)**

Ruth comes to Bethlehem (1:22)

Ruth gains a husband (4:10)

Joy and plenty (4:13-17)

**GLORY**

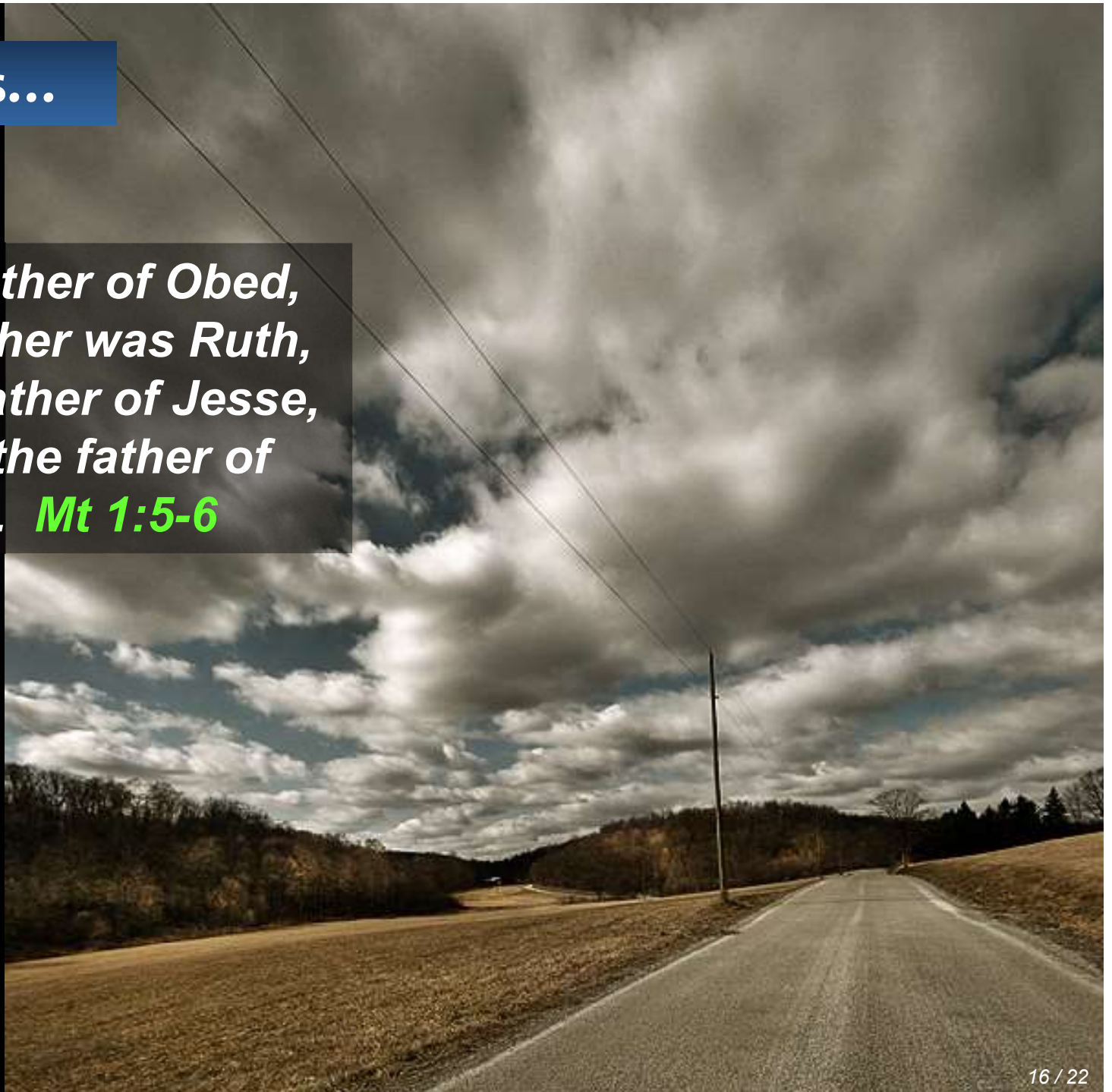
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**Time Passes...**

***Boaz the father of Obed,  
whose mother was Ruth,  
Obed the father of Jesse,  
and Jesse the father of  
King David. Mt 1:5-6***



## David quotes his Great-Grandmother: Ruth

*“Keep me as the apple of your eye; **hide me in the shadow of your wings.**” Ps 17:7-8*

*“How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men **find refuge in the shadow of your wings.**” Ps 36:7*

*“I long to dwell in your tent forever and **take refuge in the shelter of your wings.**” Ps 61:4*

David loves this (personal family) metaphor & uses it in 7 Psalms

*“These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children.” Dt 6:6-7*



## Saul's Canopy

Fleeing from Saul: *"Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, for in you my soul takes refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed."* Ps 57:1

Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a **corner** of Saul's robe. Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a **corner** of his robe. 1 Sam 24:4-5

David amputated Saul's 'wings': the symbol of Saul's ability to reflect God in giving shelter

This is what cuts David to the heart



## Sheltering Under the Wings of the Lord

*“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks **under her wings**, but you were not willing.”*

**Mt 23:37**





## Sheltering Under the Wings of the Lord

*This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it."*  
**Jn 19:23-24 <= Psa 22:18**

**Jesus' wings were never amputated, even in death**

**Jesus' death provided a greater covering even than in life**



Verb describes God's desire  
to shelter His young

*As an eagle stirs up its nest, **hovers** over its young, spreading out its wings, taking them up, carrying them on its wings, so the LORD alone led [Israel] **Dt 32:11-12***

*Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was **hovering** over the waters. **Gen 1:2***



## Providing Mercy



*Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

*Is 40:30-31*

### Metaphor

**We ascend to Heaven  
– i.e. learn to fly –  
by spreading our wings**

### Translation

**We grow closer to God  
– i.e. develop His character –  
by our provision of mercy**

*Enact Mercy*