

THE DIVINE TAPESTRY

Part 23

RUTH

Part 2

“Safe in Sovereign Hands”

Presented by

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Vance Havner wrote, “Someone stood on an ocean beach and observed the incoming tide. Wave after wave broke on the sands, but the tide came in on schedule! Out of that experience grew a blessed illustration of how God’s message always wins:

On the far reef the breakers recoil with shattered foam;
Yet still the sea behind them urges its forces home;
Its chant of triumph urges through all the thunderous din,
The wave may break in failure but the tide is sure to win.

O mighty sea, thy message in changing spray is cast:
Within God’s plan of progress it matters not at last,
How wide the shores of evil, how strong the reefs of sin;
The wave may be defeated but the tide is sure to win.

Amid all the wreckage of civilization today one thing stands eternally certain: the purpose of God will prevail.” Excerpt from The Best of Vance Havner, p. 72

Sometimes we forget the truth of God’s goodness and sovereign purpose. The best help? A story or a picture of how these truths can impact our lives. Ruth gives us a beautiful picture of one who is safe in sovereign hands.

LAST WEEK

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A CHANCE ENCOUNTER

- Verse 3 – She **accidentally** landed by **chance** in the field of **Boaz**.
 - What seems like **chance** is actually under **God's control**.
 - Boaz = “In him is **strength**”
Single, wealthy, **godly**, strong
- Notice what Scripture emphasizes:
 1. **Character**
 - In **work**
 - Treatment of **others**
 - Lack of **bitterness**
 2. **Trust** in the **Lord**

Verse 12 - “*May the Lord reward your work...under whose wings you have come to seek refuge.*”
- As a result of this “**chance**” encounter there is a **spark** of **hope**!

MATCHMAKER, MATCHMAKER

- A trustworthy statement: It is **OK** to want to **marry**!
- Notice the importance of:
 - ▶ **Cleanliness.**
 - ▶ **Modesty.**
 - ▶ Maintaining proper **reputation.**
- Ruth says, “*I want to be under **your** wings*” (v. 9).
- Boaz was a kinsman redeemer.
 - ▶ Hebrew **goel** = nearest kin
- The role of the goel:
 1. **Avenger** of a man upon his **enemy**.
 2. Redeemer who would buy back **property** or **people** who were lost (Lev 25:23; Num 5:8).
 - ▶ Required **willingness** and a **price**.
 3. Through marriage would continue the line of the **deceased** (Deut 25:5-10).
- At the end of this chapter **love** and **hope** begins to **rise**.

DRAMATIC TENSION

- Question: Who does the **writer** want you to **root** for?
- Notice the importance of:
 - Waiting on **God's timing**.
 - Doing what is **right** even if it will **cost you**.

THE GRAND CONCLUSION

- A marriage, **restoration**, and a grand **lineage**.
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