

# FIRM FOUNDATIONS

FOR LIVES OF FAITH



**“In those days there was no king in Israel;  
everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”**

**- Judges 21:25**

A photograph of a coastal landscape at sunset. In the foreground, a sandy beach is visible with some low-lying rocks. In the middle ground, a rocky shoreline extends into the ocean. On the left side, a white wooden house with a dark roof and a chimney sits on stilts, elevated above the ground. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, and the horizon shows a bright orange and yellow glow from the setting sun.

Dark Beginnings

Ruth 1

**“But she said to them, ‘Do not call me Naomi;  
call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very  
bitterly with me. I went out full, and the Lord has  
brought me home again empty. Why do you call me  
Naomi, since the Lord has testified against me, and  
the Almighty has afflicted me?’”**

**Ruth 1:20-21**

**“Wherever you go, I will go;  
And wherever you lodge, I will lodge;  
Your people shall be my people,  
And your God, my God.”**

**- Ruth 1:16**

A photograph of a coastal landscape at sunset. In the foreground, a sandy beach is wet with the reflection of the setting sun. A line of large, dark, textured rocks runs along the shore. In the middle ground, a two-story house with a dark roof and white siding sits on stilts, elevated from the ground. The sky is filled with heavy, dark clouds, with a bright orange and yellow glow at the horizon where the sun is setting.

Dark Beginnings:

*Reflect His loyal love.*

A photograph of a coastal landscape at sunset. In the foreground, a sandy beach is visible with some low-lying rocks. In the middle ground, a large, rugged rock formation sits in the water. On the left side of the image, a white wooden house with a dark roof and a chimney is built on stilts, perched on a rocky outcrop. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds, and the horizon shows a bright orange and yellow glow from the setting sun.

# God at Work: Ruth 2

**“When you reap the harvest of your land,  
you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field,  
nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest.**

**And you shall not glean your vineyard,  
nor shall you gather every grape of your vineyard;  
you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger:  
I am the Lord your God.”**

**- Leviticus 19:9-10**

**“When you reap your harvest in your field, and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. When you beat your olive trees, you shall not go over the boughs again; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow. When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not glean it afterward; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow. And you shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I command you to do this thing.”**

**- Deuteronomy 24:19-22**

A photograph of a coastal scene at sunset. In the foreground, a sandy beach meets the ocean. A rocky outcrop extends into the water. In the middle ground, a small, single-story house with a chimney and a porch is built on stilts, perched atop a rocky hill. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds, with the sun setting on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the water and the rocky shore.

## God at Work:

*God works through loyal faithfulness.*

A photograph of a coastal scene at sunset. In the foreground, a sandy beach is visible with some low-lying rocks. In the middle ground, there is a rocky shoreline with larger rocks and a small, light-colored wooden house built on stilts, perched on a rocky outcrop. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds, and the horizon shows a bright orange and yellow glow from the setting sun.

# A Bold Request and a Righteous Response

## Ruth 3

**“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.”**

**- Ruth 3:3**

**“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.”**

**- Ruth 3:4**

**“Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet.**

**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.”**

**- Ruth 3:8-9**

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

**- Ruth 3:10-13**

A wide-angle photograph of a coastal landscape at sunset. In the foreground, a sandy beach meets the ocean. In the middle ground, a rocky shoreline is visible, with several large, dark rocks protruding from the water. On the left side of the image, a white lighthouse with a dark roof sits on a wooden pier, its silhouette clearly visible against the bright sky. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds, with patches of orange and yellow light from the setting sun visible on the horizon and reflected on the water. The overall atmosphere is serene and contemplative.

## God at Work:

*God delights in displays of His character.*

A photograph of a coastal scene at sunset. In the foreground, a sandy beach is visible with some low-lying rocks. In the middle ground, there is a rocky shoreline with larger boulders. On the left side, a white wooden house with a dark roof is built on stilts, perched on a rocky outcrop. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds, and the horizon shows a bright orange and yellow glow from the setting sun.

Redemption

Ruth 4

**“Therefore the close relative said to Boaz, ‘Buy it for yourself.’ So he took off his sandal. And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, ‘You are witnesses this day that I have bought all that was Elimelech’s, and all that was Chilion’s and Mahlon’s, from the hand of Naomi. Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate. You are witnesses this day”...**

**“And all the people who were at the gate, and the elders, said, ‘We are witnesses. The Lord make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of Israel; and may you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. May your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring which the Lord will give you from this young woman’...**

**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. Then the women said to Naomi, 'Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel! And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him'...**

**“Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him. Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, ‘There is a son born to Naomi.’ And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.**

**Now this is the genealogy of Perez: Perez begot Hezron; Hezron begot Ram, and Ram begot Amminadab; Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon; Salmon begot Boaz, and Boaz begot Obed; Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David.”**

**- Ruth 4:8-21**

A photograph of a coastal landscape at sunset. In the foreground, a sandy beach is visible with some low-lying rocks. In the middle ground, a large, light-colored house with a dark roof and a chimney sits on stilts, elevated above a rocky shoreline. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds, and the horizon shows a bright, golden glow from the setting sun.

Redemption:

*God fulfills His promises!*

# Firm Foundations for Dark Days:

1. God's loyal love continues.



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# Firm Foundations for Dark Days:

1. God's loyal love continues!
2. God desires to reveal His character!
3. God uses outsiders!
4. God fulfills His promises!
5. God is our Redeemer!

A wide-angle photograph of a coastal landscape at sunset. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds on the left, transitioning to a bright, golden-yellow glow on the right where the sun is setting over the ocean. In the foreground, a sandy beach leads to a rocky shoreline. On the left side of the image, a light-colored wooden house with a chimney and a porch is built on stilts, perched atop a rocky outcrop. The overall atmosphere is serene and contemplative.

# The True Redeemer to Come

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