

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

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 coastal scene at sunset. On the left, a white, two-story house with a dark roof sits on wooden stilts. The house has several windows and a chimney. In front of the house is a rocky shoreline with large, dark rocks. The ocean is visible in the background, with waves breaking on a sandy beach. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds, and the sun is setting, creating a warm, golden glow over the water and rocks. The overall mood is somber yet beautiful.

Dark Beginnings:

Reflect His loyal love.

A coastal scene at sunset. On the left, a white, two-story house with a dark roof sits on wooden stilts atop a rocky cliff. The house has several windows and a chimney. Below the cliff is a sandy beach with large, dark rocks. The ocean is visible in the distance, with waves breaking. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds, and a bright orange glow from the setting sun is visible on the horizon, reflecting on the wet sand and water.

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 coastal scene at sunset or sunrise. In the foreground, a sandy beach is wet, reflecting the warm light from the sky. To the left, a white, two-story house with a dark roof sits on a rocky outcrop. The house has several windows and a chimney. The ocean is visible in the background, with gentle waves breaking. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds, with a bright, golden glow on the horizon where the sun is setting or rising. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

God at Work:

God works through loyal faithfulness.

A coastal scene at sunset. On the left, a white, two-story house with a dark roof sits on wooden stilts over a rocky shore. The foreground is a sandy beach with wet sand reflecting the sunset. The ocean is visible on the right, with waves breaking. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow.

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 coastal scene at sunset or sunrise. In the foreground, a sandy beach is wet, reflecting the warm light from the sky. To the left, a small, white, two-story house with a dark roof sits on a rocky outcrop. The house has a chimney and several windows. The middle ground shows a rocky shoreline with large, dark rocks. The ocean is visible in the background, with gentle waves. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds, and a bright, golden light from the setting or rising sun is visible on the horizon, creating a strong glow and reflection on the water and sand.

God at Work:

God delights in displays of His character.

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 Moabite, 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 coastal scene at sunset or sunrise. In the foreground, a sandy beach is wet, reflecting the warm light from the sky. To the left, a white, two-story house with a dark roof sits on a rocky outcrop. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds, with a bright glow on the horizon where the sun is setting or rising. The overall mood is serene and hopeful.

Redemption:

God fulfills His promises!

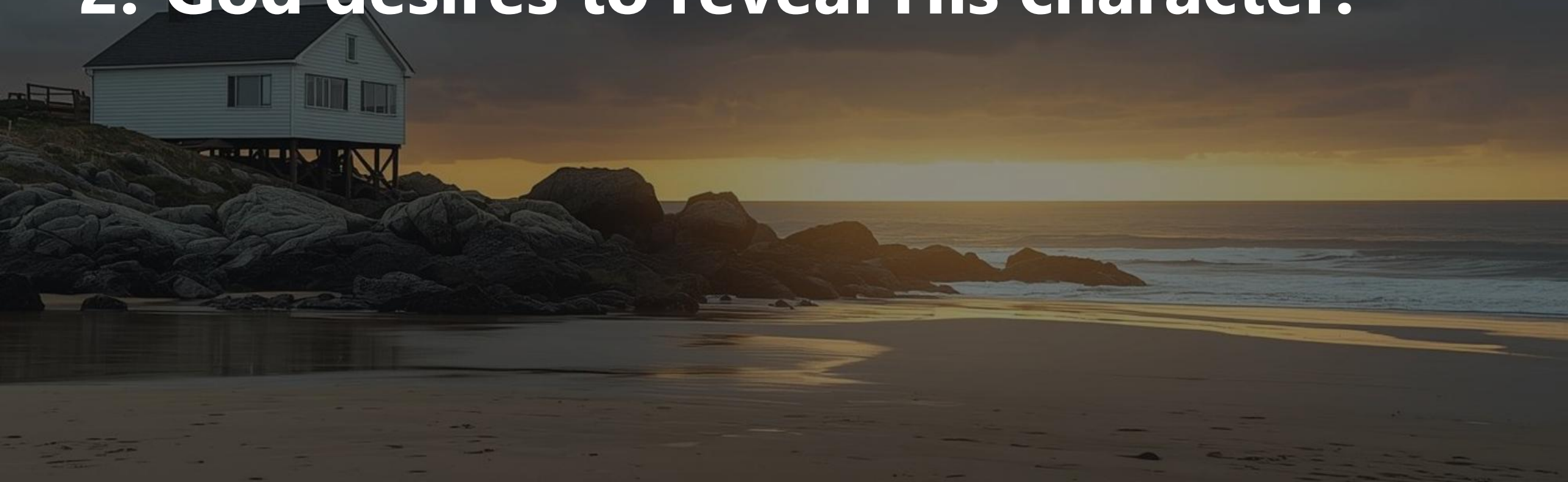
Firm Foundations for Dark Days:

1. God's loyal love continues.



Firm Foundations for Dark Days:

1. God's loyal love continues!
2. God desires to reveal His character!





Firm Foundations for Dark Days:

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2. God desires to reveal His character!
3. God uses outsiders!

Firm Foundations for Dark Days:

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4. God fulfills His promises!

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 coastal scene at sunset. On the left, a white, two-story house with a dark roof sits on wooden stilts over a rocky shore. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, with a bright orange and yellow glow from the setting sun visible on the horizon. The ocean waves are visible in the distance, and the wet sand of the beach reflects the light from the sky.

The True Redeemer to Come

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