



The Well

an ordinary place
where extraordinary
things happen

STSA.CHURCH/THEWELL

the best is
YET TO
COME

The book of Ruth

the best is YET TO COME

PART 1: JUST AROUND THE CORNER...

Just around the corner from the worst is God's best.

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think...” Ephesians 3:20

“Then Elimelech, Naomi’s husband, died; and she was left, and her two sons... Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband.” Ruth 1:3-5

HOW CAN I TRUST THE GOD WHO DEALT ME THIS PAINFUL HAND IN LIFE?

“Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me.” Ruth 1:16-17

“I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.” Psalm 121:1-4

“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

The Faith of Naomi

1. I know my God is **ALIVE**
2. I know my God is **ALMIGHTY**
3. I know my God is **AWAKE** and **ACTIVE**

“So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. Now they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.” Ruth 1:22

“Salmon begot Boaz, and Boaz begot Obed; Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David.” Ruth 4:21-22

“WHEN YOU THINK HE IS FARTHEST FROM YOU, OR HAS EVEN TURNED AGAINST YOU, THE TRUTH IS THAT HE IS LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.”

JOHN PIPER



The Well

an ordinary place
where extraordinary
things happen

STSA.CHURCH/THEWELL

the best is
YET TO
COME

The book of Ruth

the best is YET TO COME

PART 2: UNDER THE WINGS OF GOD

Just around the corner from the worst is God's best.

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think...” Ephesians 3:20

“There was a relative of Naomi’s husband, a man with great wealth, of the family of Elimelech. His name was Boaz. So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, “Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor.” And she said to her, “Go, my daughter.” Then she left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. And she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech.” Ruth 2:1-3

THE WEAKNESS IN OUR FAITH IS OFTEN A RESULT OF OUR OVERCONFIDENCE IN WHAT WE SEE/THINK

“Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, **yet I will rejoice** in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.” Habakkuk 3:17-18

“And Boaz answered and said to her, “It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before. The Lord repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge.” Ruth 2:11-12

THE FAITH OF RUTH: OBEY GOD AND TRUST HIM WITH THE CONSEQUENCES

“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust.” Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence. He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge.” Psalm 91:1-4

“Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “Blessed be he of the Lord, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!”
Ruth 2:20

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing!” Luke 13:34



The Well

an ordinary place
where extraordinary
things happen

STSA.CHURCH/THEWELL

the best is
YET TO
COME

The book of Ruth

the best is YET TO COME

PART 3: THE POWER OF SYNERGY

Just around the corner from the worst is God's best.

“The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but deliverance is of the Lord.”
Proverbs 21:31

GOD'S FULL CONTROL DOESN'T NEGATE THE NEED FOR MY FULL PARTICIPATION.

“My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you? Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. Therefore 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. 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 3:1-4

“I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative.” Ruth 3:9

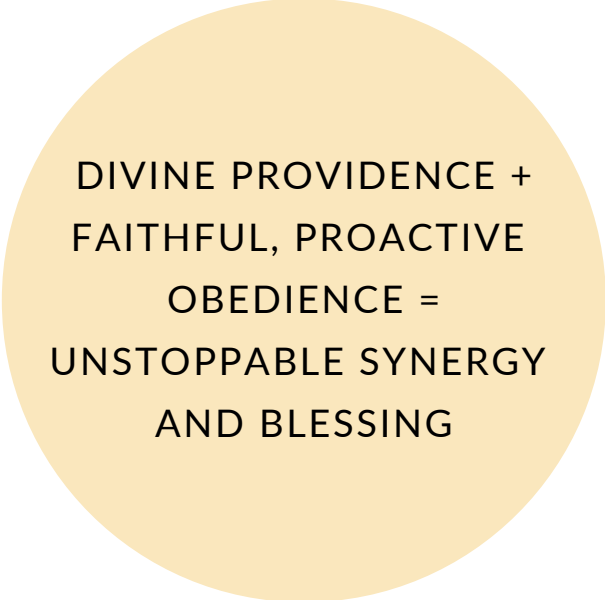
“When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine,” says the Lord God.” Ezekiel 16:8

“The Lord repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge.” Ruth 2:12

MY ROLE: LESS MANIPULATION, MORE COOPERATION

“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 3:11-13



DIVINE PROVIDENCE +
FAITHFUL, PROACTIVE
OBEDIENCE =
UNSTOPPABLE SYNERGY
AND BLESSING



The Well

an ordinary place
where extraordinary
things happen

STSA.CHURCH/THEWELL

the best is
YET TO
COME

The book of Ruth

the best is YET TO COME

PART 4: THE RUGGED ROAD OF THE GODLY

THE GODLY LIFE IS NEVER A STRAIGHT LINE BETWEEN TWO POINTS.

“Narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” Matthew 7:14


“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8-9

“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.” Ruth 4:11-12

“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.” Ruth 4:14-17

**FOR THE CHILDREN OF GOD, THERE'S ALWAYS A
CONNECTION BETWEEN LIFE'S EVERY DAY EVENTS AND
GOD'S EVERLASTING PURPOSES.**

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.” 2 Corinthians 4:7-9



JUST AROUND THE
CORNER FROM
THE WORST
IS GOD'S BEST



The Well

an ordinary place
where extraordinary
things happen

STSA.CHURCH/THEWELL

the best is
YET TO
COME

The book of Ruth

the best is YET TO COME

PART 5: THE JOURNEY TO GOD'S BEST

- Start: Disappointment, darkness and despair.
- Ruth 1: Just around the corner from the worst is God's best.
- Ruth 2: God uses natural circumstances to bring about supernatural plans.
- Ruth 3: God's full control doesn't negate the need for my full participation.
- Ruth 4: The Godly life is never a straight line between two points.

WHAT LOOKS LIKE THE END IS OFTEN JUST THE *BEGINNING.*

Pantocrator = "controller of all"

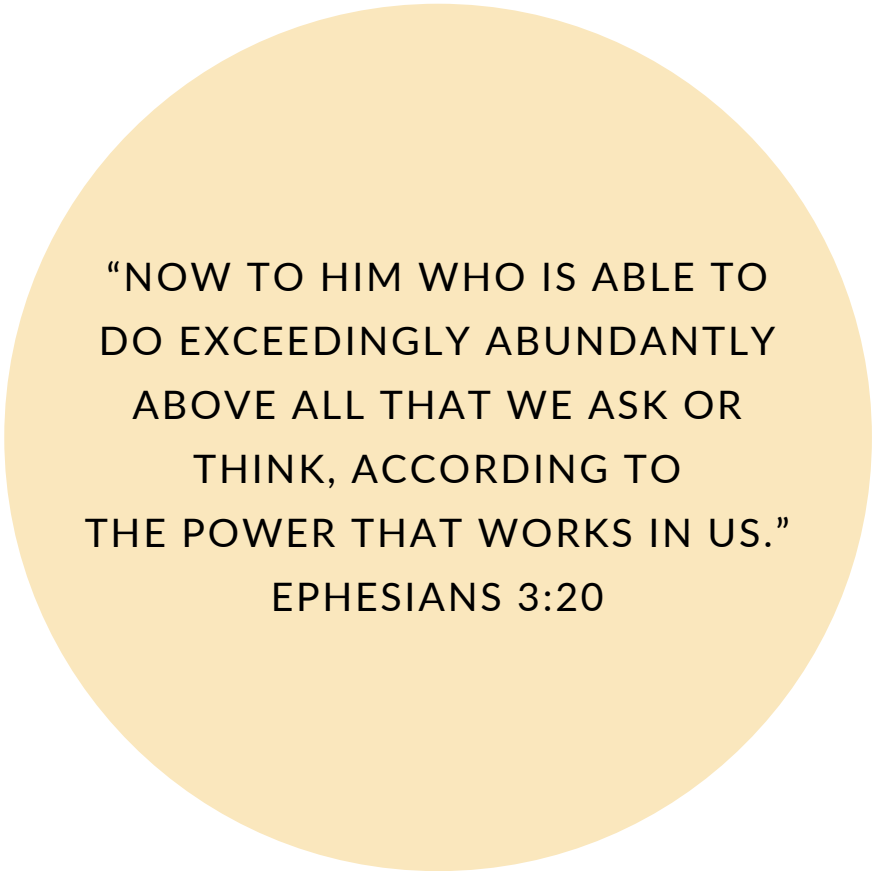
"It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in." Isaiah 40:22

see also Joseph, Moses, and Daniel

**"NO SOLUTION" DOESN'T MEAN NO SOLUTION; IT
JUST MEANS "NO SOLUTION I CAN SEE."**

“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!” Romans 11:33

“All things work together for good” to the Christian, even our boll weevil experiences. Sometimes we settle into a humdrum routine as monotonous as growing cotton year after year. Then God sends the boll weevil. He jolts us out of our groove, and we must find new ways to live. Financial distress, great bereavement, physical infirmity, loss of position – how many have been driven by trouble to be better husbandmen and to bring forth far finer fruit from their souls! The best thing that ever happened to some of us was the coming of our “boll weevil.” Without that, we might still be nothing more than just cotton sharecroppers.



“NOW TO HIM WHO IS ABLE TO
DO EXCEEDINGLY ABUNDANTLY
ABOVE ALL THAT WE ASK OR
THINK, ACCORDING TO
THE POWER THAT WORKS IN US.”
EPHESIANS 3:20

Welcome

Whether you're just visiting or looking to stay, it's great to have you with us!

COFFEE'S ON US

Enjoy a hot cup of coffee and snacks.

WE'D LOVE TO MEET YOU

Stop by the Connection Table so we can get to know each other and pick up your welcome gift.

FILL YOUR BUCKET

The Well and Sunday school runs for one hour with an inspiring message.



EVERYTHING IN ONE SPOT

CHECK OUT OUR STSA CHURCH APP



- Sign up for Groups and Events
- Catch up on Sermons & The Well
- Calendar, Notes, and more!

Contact



/STSACHURCH



@STSACHURCH



INFORMATION@STSA.CHURCH



WWW.STSA.CHURCH