

# *Leading Ladies*

Oct 2020



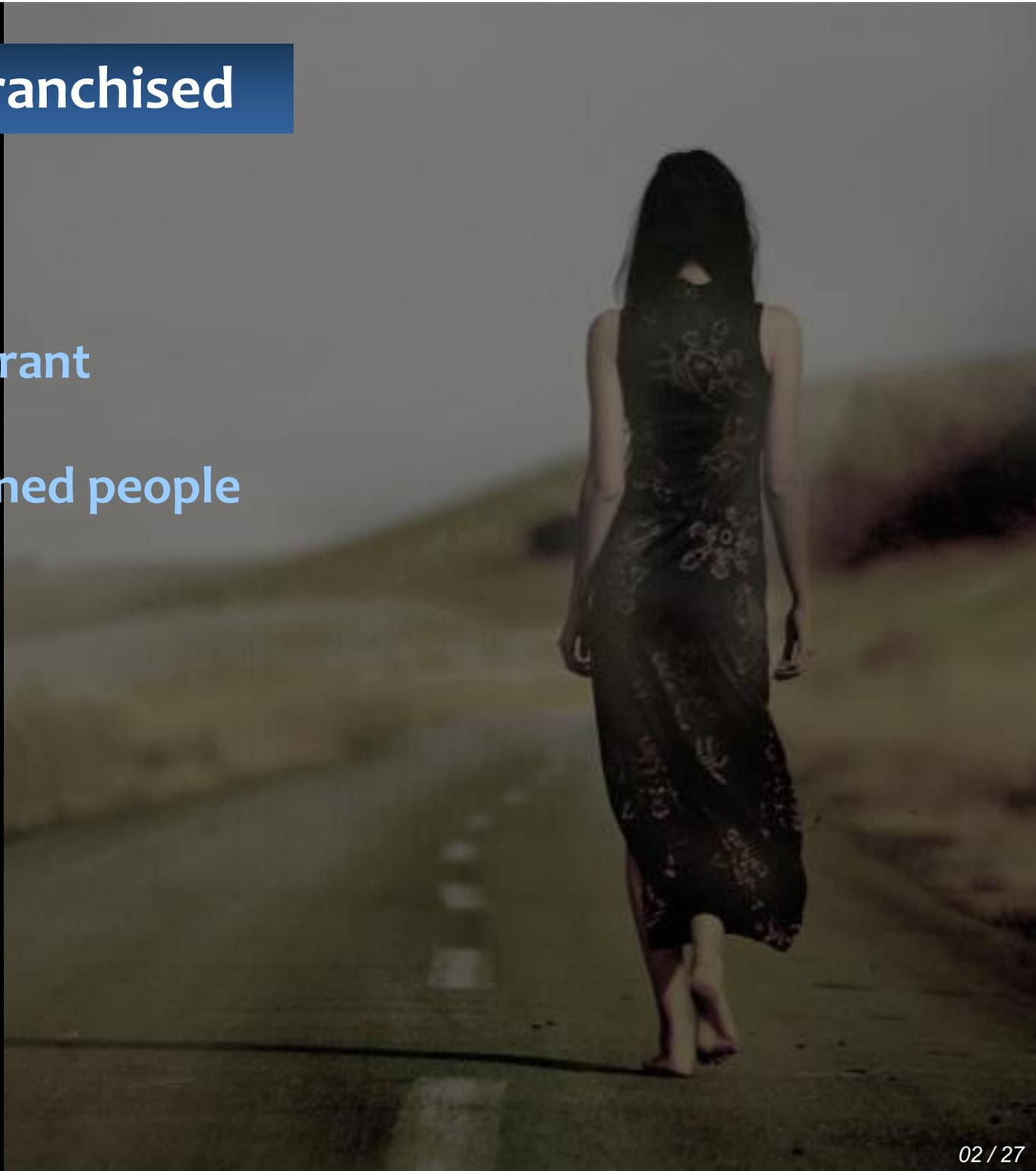
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*“Wings of Shelter”*

*Ruth’s Story*

# Ruth: The Disenfranchised

- **Widowed**  
*Ruth 1:4-5*
- **A foreign 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”*

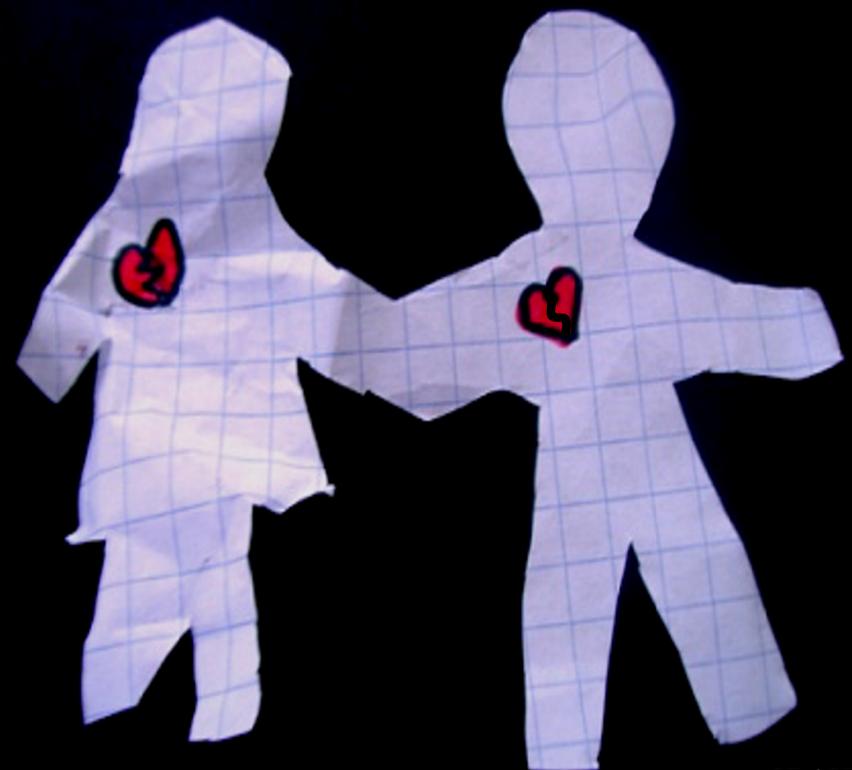
**Ruth 3:7,9**

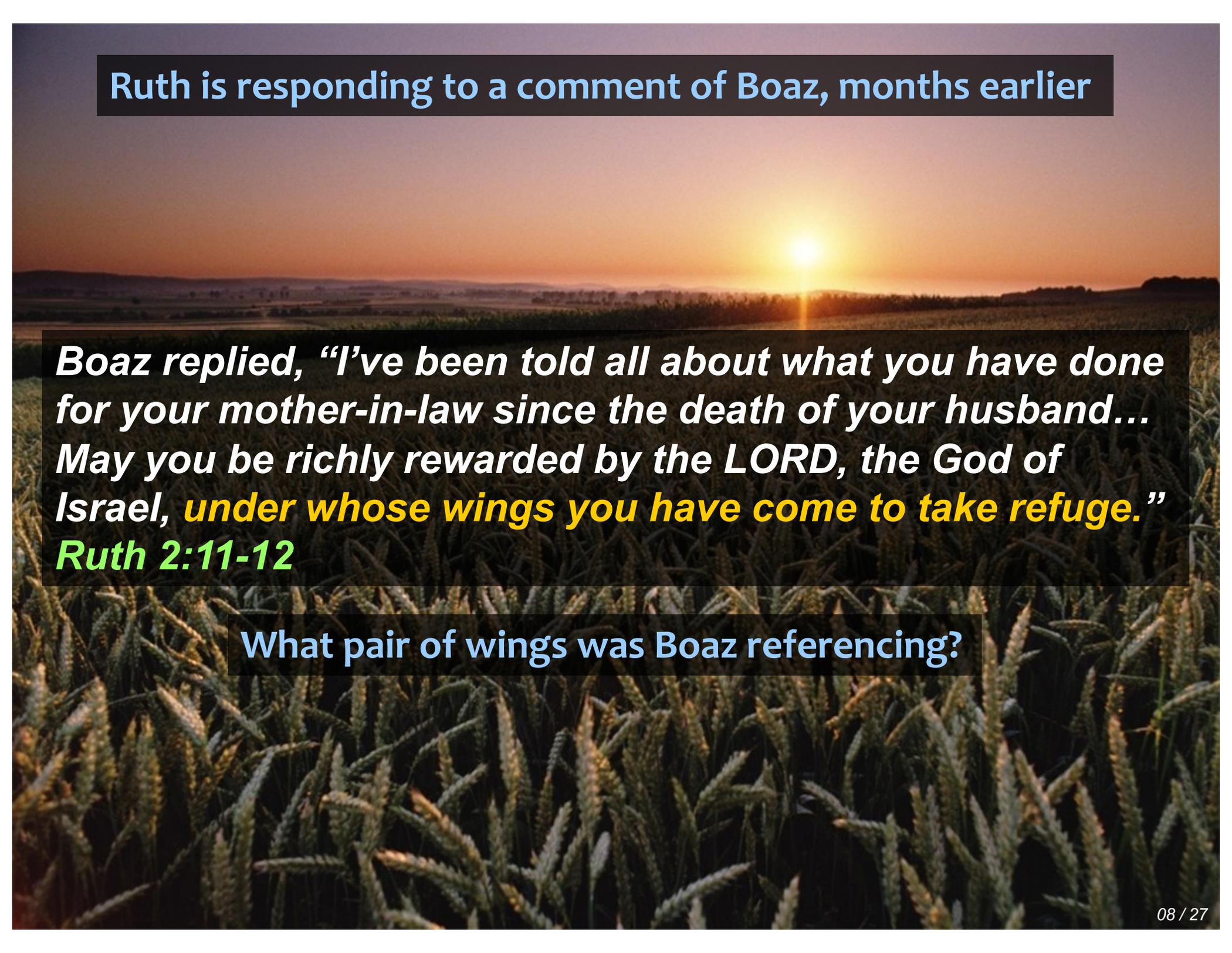
Ruth shows Boaz what it's like to be uncovered, without shelter

We have the same responsibility to empathize

*We know that 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...*

**Rom 8:22-23**





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 hilly landscape with some 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**

## Boaz the Redeemer

*“I have also acquired Ruth the Moabitess, 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  
– one son will be his

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 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***

***“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies”***

**This is why Onan was killed**

Boaz



*"My God is Jah"*

Redeemer

Ruth: Dual Role



Widow

*The Lord listened to the voice of Elijah.*  
*1 Kgs:17:22*



*"My God is Jah"*

Redeemer

Naomi



Widow

*"Your people will be my people and your God my God." 1:16*

## Ruth: The Voice of Elijah

The Widow (Naomi/Mara) loses faith

***“No, my daughters. The hand of the LORD has gone out against me!”*** 1:13

Mara is unrecognizable to her peers

***The women exclaimed, “Is this Naomi?” But she said to them, “Do not call me Naomi [pleasant]; call me Mara [bitter], for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.”*** 1:19-20

Ruth sounds the Voice of Elijah

***“Your people will be my people and your God my God.”***  
1:16

God listens to the Voice of Elijah



*“My God is Jah”*

## Naomi's belief is rekindled

***“Is not Boaz... a kinsman of ours? ...go down to the threshing floor... uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do.” 3:2-4***

God provides a son for the Widow

***Then Naomi took the child in her arms and cared for him. The women living there said, “Naomi has a son!” 4:16-17***

The Man of God redeems the Widow

**Ruth redeems Naomi**

## Long-Awaited Redemption

*“Through the offspring the LORD gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah.” Ruth 4:12*

### Tamar: the Precedental Widow

*Judah was told, “Your daughter-in-law Tamar is guilty of prostitution, and as a result she is now pregnant.” Gen 38:24*



*No one born of a forbidden marriage nor any of his descendants may enter the assembly of the LORD, even down to the tenth generation. Dt 23:2*

## Ruth Redeems the Precedental Widow

*This, then, is the family line of **1** Perez:  
Perez was the father of **2** Hezron,  
Hezron the father of **3** Ram,  
Ram the father of **4** Amminadab,  
Amminadab the father of **5** Nahshon,  
Nahshon the father of **6** Salmon,  
Salmon the father of **7** Boaz,  
Boaz the father of **8** Obed,  
Obed the father of **9** Jesse,  
and Jesse the father of **10** David.*

***Ruth 4:18-22***



**Ruth, the Widow, redeems Tamar, the Precedental Widow**

# Chiasm



B

B

B

B

F

F

F

F



Bb

Bb

Bb

Bb

M

M

M

M

# Ruth

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**

King of Jerusalem  
is born (4:22)



## 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*

# Samuel's Canopy

*As Samuel turned to leave, Saul caught hold of the [canopy] of his robe, and it tore. 1 Sam 15:27*

**God provides no more shelter for Saul**

## 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, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!” Mt 23:37***

**Feminine**

**Wings of God are feminine in David's psalms & Wings of robes of Samuel, Saul and Boaz**

**covering the mercy seat with their wings**

**Ex 25:20**

**“Spread your wings over your servant”**

**Rth 3:9**

**Saul seized the skirt of his robe, and it tore**

**1 Sam 15:27**

**[David] had cut off a corner of Saul's robe**

**1 Sam 24:5**

**“hide me in the shadow of your wings”**

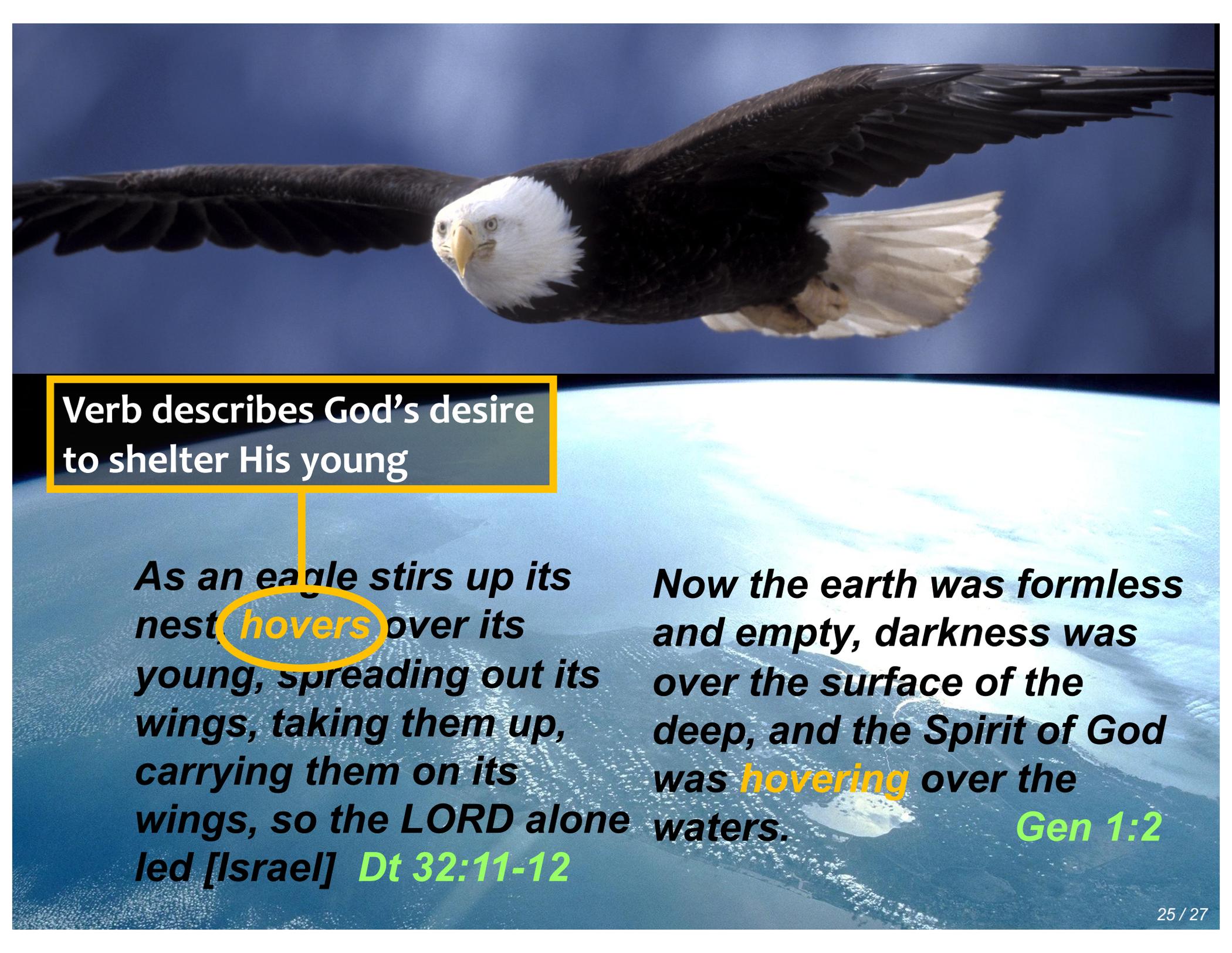
**Psa 17:8**

## 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 fulfilling Psa 22:18*

Jesus’ wings were never amputated, even in death

Jesus’ death provided a greater covering even than in life

A bald eagle is shown in flight, its wings spread wide, flying over a body of water. The eagle's head is white, and its body is dark. The water below is a deep blue, and the sky is a lighter blue. The eagle is positioned in the upper half of the frame, flying from left to right.

**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**

# Leading Ladies Mirroring Messiah

