

The Invisible Hand Of God

THE REST OF THE STORY

Ruth 4:1-22

GOD USED WHO?

A Look At The Family Tree

Matthew 1:1-16

- ▶ Tamar:
Genesis 38:6-30
- ▶ Rahab:
Joshua 2:1-24
- ▶ Ruth:
Ruth 1-4
- ▶ Bathsheba:
2 Samuel 11:1-27

GOD'S HAND OF PROVIDENCE

A Look In The Rear View Mirror

- Elimelech:
- Naomi:
- Orpah:
- Ruth:
- Boaz:

1. We read in Ruth 4 that Ruth's story had a happy ending. Because of her character and obedience, God provided her a prosperous husband, at least one child, and, we assume, a "happy-ever-after" life. Unfortunately, life doesn't always work out that way. We know that even for people who live lives of integrity and obedience, there will be times of trials and suffering. How could the following verses help encourage and strengthen you during difficult times?

Romans 5:3-5

James 1:2-4

Romans 8:28-30

What is most challenging for you in accepting what these passages say about hardship?

It's easy to think that when we obey, it will result in immediate rewards and earthly blessings. What do you learn about this kind of thinking from Hebrews 11:32-40?

2. Another example of God's providence is found in Acts where, for the first time, Peter preaches the Gospel to people who aren't Jews. As you read Acts 10:1-23, note how God was at work to prepare the messenger (Peter) and those who needed to hear the Gospel.

Where in this story do you see similar responses and actions as the main characters in the Book of Ruth?

Take a moment to thank God for any providential provisions He has provided for you.

3. As you look at your life, how would you answer this question, "How am I doing at living a life that honors God and puts me in a place to experience His blessings in my relationships, family, job, etc.?"