

Proverbs 13:12 When hope is crushed, the heart is crushed, but a wish come true fills you with joy.

God wants to preserve the integrity of the family. (* a widow in Hebrew means a woman without a voice)

I. Naomi Defined God By Her Experience

Ruth 1:12-13 (NKJV) 12 Turn back, my daughters, go—for I am too old to have a husband. **If I should say I have hope**, if I should have a husband tonight and should also bear sons, **13** would you wait for them till they were grown? Would you restrain yourselves from having husbands? No, my daughters; for **it grieves me very much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me!**"

A. And was Hopeless

Ruth 1:20-21 (NKJV) 20 But she said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. **21** 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?"

Psalms 33:18-19 (KJV) 18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; **19** To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

II. You Can Hope In His Mercy

Ruth 2:20 (ERV) 20 Naomi told her daughter-in-law, "The LORD bless him! **He has continued showing his kindness to the living as well as the dead.**" Then Naomi told her daughter-in-law, "Boaz is one of our relatives. He is one of our protectors."

Footnotes: **Ruth 2:20 protectors** Or "redeemers," those who cared for and protected the family of a dead relative. Often they bought back (redeemed) the poor relatives from slavery, making them free again.

A. God overturns the testimony of empty to full

Ruth 3:1 (KJV) Then Naomi her mother in law said unto her, **My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee?**

Ruth 3:17 (KJV) 17 And she said, These six measures of barley gave he me; for he said to me, **Go not empty unto thy mother in law.** (God fills Naomi's empty heart and empty arms)

Job 14:7-9 (TLB) 7 "For there is hope for a tree—if it's cut down, it sprouts again and grows tender, new branches. **8-9** Though its roots have grown old in the earth, and its stump decays, it may sprout and bud again at the touch of water, like a new seedling.

III. Hope Can Come Again

Ruth 4:14-15 (NASB) 14 Then the women said to Naomi, "**Blessed is the LORD who has not left you without a redeemer today**, and may his name become famous in Israel. **15** May he also be to you a **restorer of life and a sustainer of your old age**; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you) and is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him."

A. That He will take care of you (He will be kind to you. He will restore to you.)