

HOPE FOR HARD TIMES PART 4

Rom 15:4-6 NIV84 “For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

HOPE FOR HARD TIMES PART 3

Theme Verse: Rom 15:13 NIV84

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

RECAP of Ruth 1

- Elimelech, Naomi, 2 sons, Mahlon & Chilion – Bethlehem
- Severe famine – head to land of Moab
- Elimelech dies
- Sons marry Moabite women – 10 yrs. & die too
- 2 OUT OF 3 Widows – Naomi, Ruth [Orpah]
- Famine Ends – Return to Bethlehem/Judah
Naomi & Ruth

RECAP of Ruth 2

- ***“As it turns out”*** – Ruth “coincidentally” ends up gleaning in fields of a relative [BOAZ] of Naomi and thereby her deceased husband.

► **Ruth 1:16-17** [NKJV] But Ruth said: "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. (17) Where you **die**, I will die, And there will I be buried..."

▶ Prov 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with **all** your heart and lean **not** on your **own** understanding; in **all** your ways acknowledge **Him**, and **He** will make your paths straight.


***** TRUST DOES NOT NEED TO SEE FIRST *****

► **2Kings 18:28-30** NKJV - Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out with a loud voice in Hebrew, and spoke, saying, "Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria! (29) Thus says the king: 'Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he shall not be able to deliver you from his hand; (30) **nor let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD**, saying, "The LORD will surely deliver us; this city shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria." '

▶ **Matt. 7:7-8** NKJV - "**Ask**, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and it will be opened to you. (8) For everyone who **asks** receives, and he who **seeks** finds, and to him who **knocks** it will be opened.

JESUS IN THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

1Cor. 15:58 NKJV Therefore, my beloved brethren, be **steadfast**, **immovable**, always **abounding** in the work of the Lord, *knowing* that your labor is **not in vain** in the Lord.



- ▶ **Micah 6:8** NKJV He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to **do justly**, To **love mercy**, And to **walk humbly** with your God?
- ▶ **1 Sam 15:22** NKJV “Behold, to **obey** is better than sacrifice, And to **heed** than the fat of rams.”

Ruth 4:11-12 NKJV 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**. (12) 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."

1 Cor. 15:58 AMP

Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be **steadfast, immovable, always excelling** in the work of the Lord [*always doing your best and doing more than is needed*], being continually **aware** that your labor [*even to the point of exhaustion*] in the Lord is **not futile** nor wasted [*it is **never without purpose***].