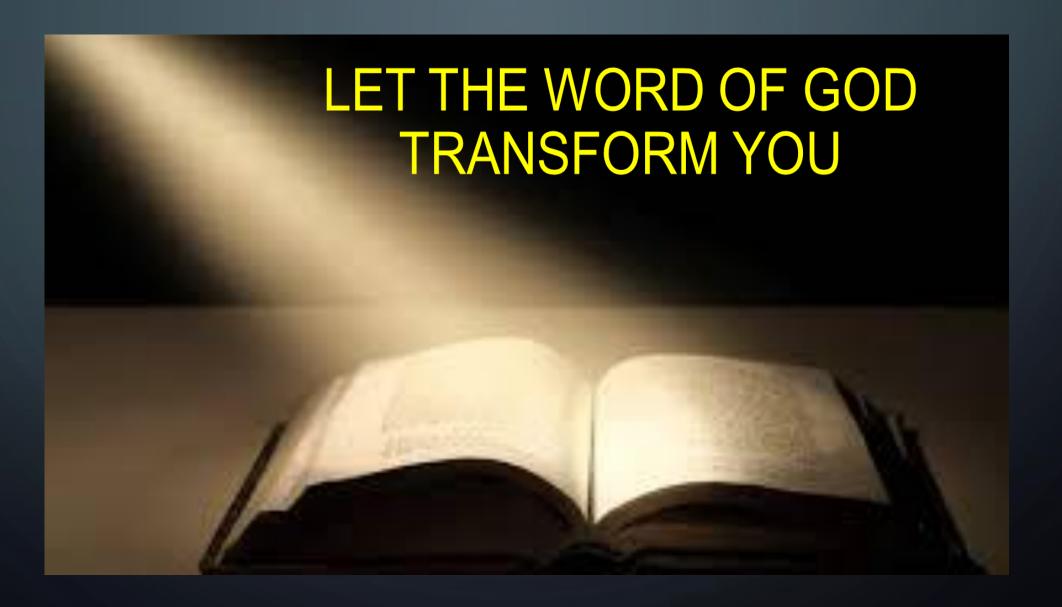
HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE INDUCTIVELY BY MARK YANG



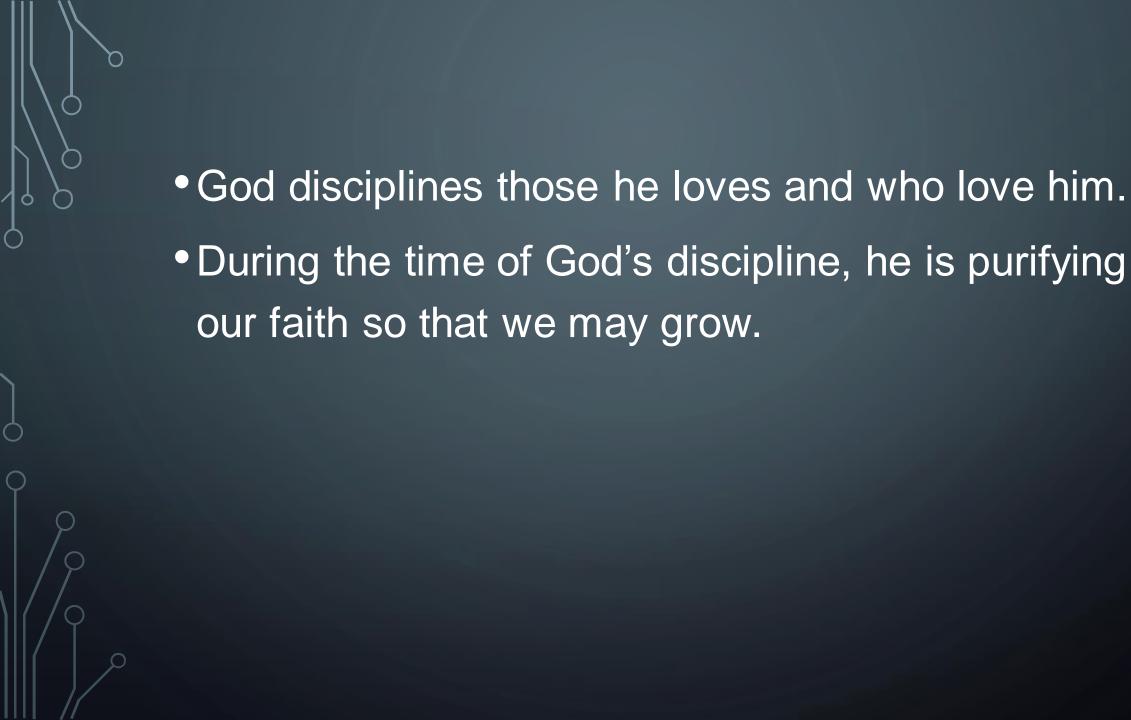
DECISION

- Did you firmly decide to follow Jesus?
- What motivates you to follow Jesus?



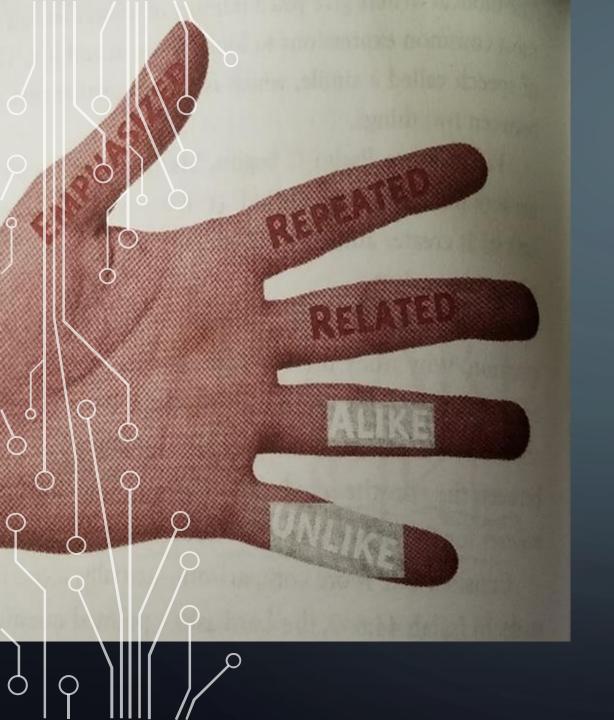
WHO GOD IS IN CHAPTER 1?

- God is the sovereign Ruler.
 - The times of Judges when each person did as he saw fit. Our times may seem the same. It is easy to despair over the darkness.
 - But the Sovereign God worked in the lives of one woman who repented and one woman who trusted her life to him and advanced his redemptive work.
 - In our dark times, we should look to God who can work for his redemptive purpose through one person who repents and one person who gives their life to him.



DISCOVER THE FACTS BY ASKING 5 W'S AND ONE H.

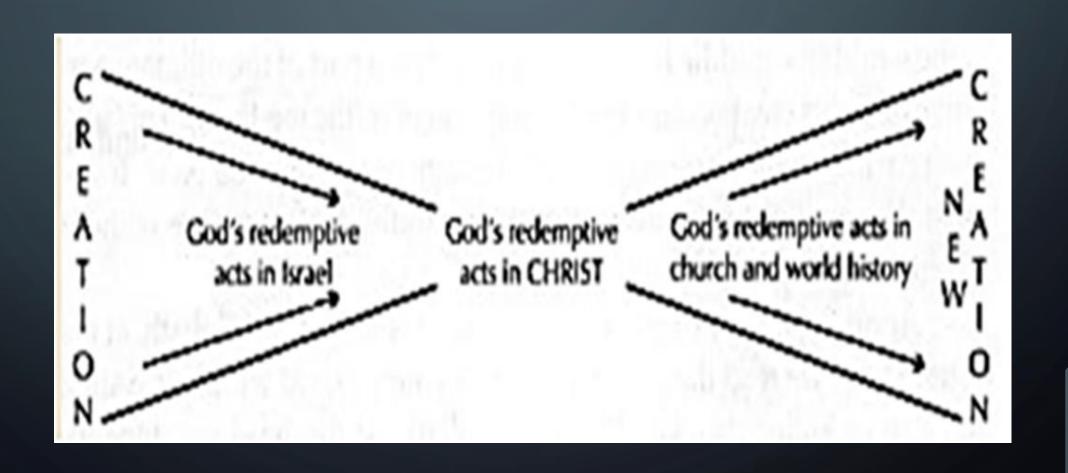
- Who appears?
- What is happening?
- When does this take place?
- Where does this take place?
- Why was this mentioned?
- How is it done?



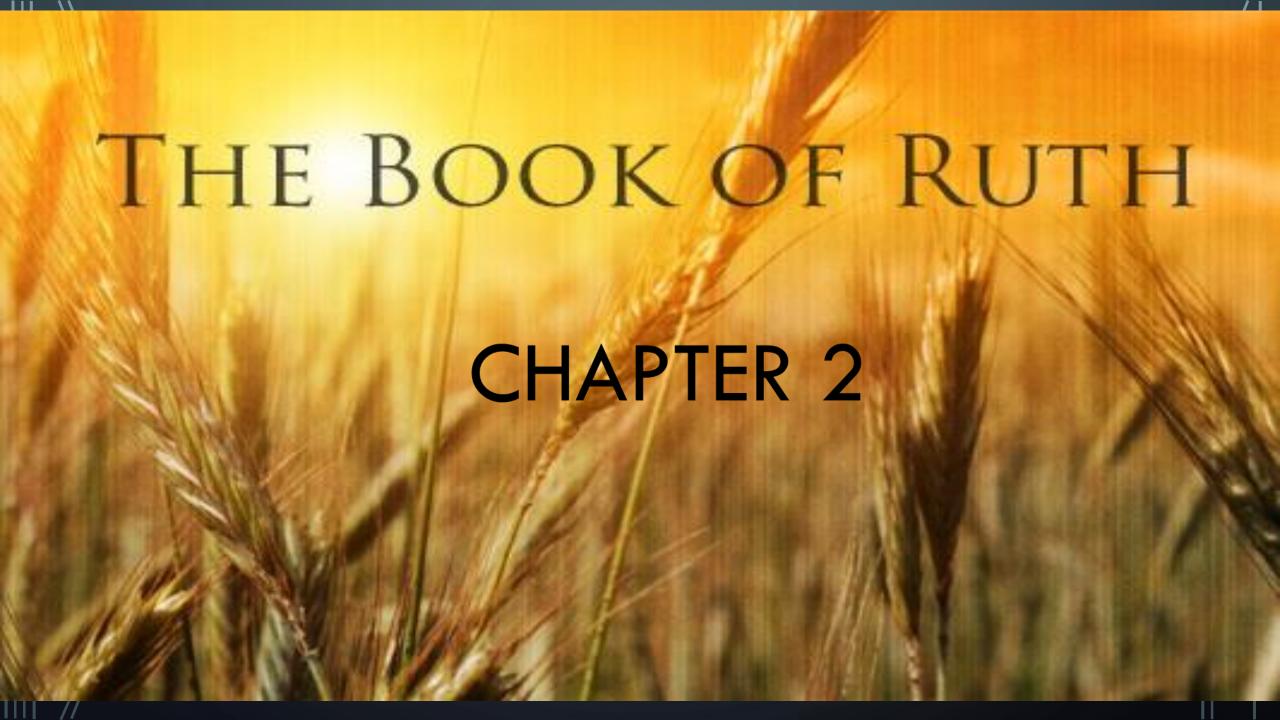
THE FIVE THINGS TO LOOK FOR

- Thumb—emphasis
- Index finger—repetition
- Middle finger—relationship
- Ring finger—comparison
- Little finger—contrast

INTERPRET THE BIBLE THROUGH CHRIST



- The purpose of Bible study is
 - to encounter God (Jesus) personally,
 - grow in Christ's image,
 - and do good works (2Ti 3:15-17).
- The fundamental solution is always found in the gospel of Jesus Christ.



DIVIDE INTO PARAGRAPHS AND GIVE TITLES

- 2:1-3. Ruth gleans in Boaz's field.
- 2:4-7. Boaz found out Ruth was working in his field.
- 2:8-13. Dialogue between Boaz and Ruth.
- 2:14-16. Boaz invited Ruth for lunch, provided for and protected her.
- 2:17-23. Dialogue between Naomi and Ruth.

BASIC OBSERVATION BASED ON 5 W'S AND ONE H.

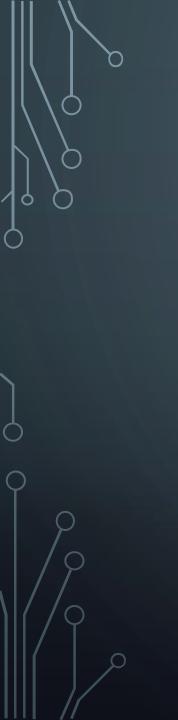
- Who appears?
 - Boaz, Ruth, Naomi, harvesters, overseer of harvesters, the women of Boaz.
 - the main characters are Boaz and Ruth.
- What is happening?
 - Ruth goes out to glean in what turns out to be Boaz's field.
 - Boaz encounters Ruth and begins to protect and provide for her.
 - Naomi realized that Boaz is one of their guardian- redeemers.







- When does this take place?
 - One day period during harvest time (1-22).
 - Until the barley and wheat harvests were finished (23).
 This period was about 6-7 weeks from late April to early June. (A springtime romance budded and blossomed.)
 - In the morning, daytime, lunchtime and evening.



- Where does this take place?
 - Naomi's house (1-2).
 - Boaz's field (3-17).
 - Naomi's house (18-22)
 - Naomi's house and Boaz's field (23).

FURTHER OBSERVATION BASED ON FIVE FINGERS METHOD

- Repeated words
 - Glean(ed) (ing) 10 times (ESV 2,3,7,8,15 [2],16,17 [2],18,19,23).
 - In Leviticus 19:9-10; 23:22 God instructs his people to leave gleanings from their crops at harvest time for the poor and foreigners. God is compassionate on them.
 - Who are the marginalized? Poor, foreigner, fatherless and widow

WHO WAS RUTH?

Widow



Moabite

Poor

Foreigner



Repeated words

- Field(s) 8 times (2,3[2],7,8,9,17,22).
- Harvest(s),(ers),(ing) 8 times (2,3,4,5,7,9,14,21,23).
 - We need to understand the agricultural society of the times. Almost everyone was involved in farming.
 - After a time of famine, there was a time of blessing when God provided abundant food (1:6). The atmosphere was joyful.
 - Harvesters should remember God's blessing and give thanks to God and also show concern for the needy, like the poor and foreigners, out of God's compassion.

Contrasts

- Social hierarchy: landowner, overseer, harvesters, gleaning women, foreigners.
- Boaz and Ruth: Jew and Gentile, man and woman, a man of standing and a poor widow, giver and receiver.
- Boaz's field and Naomi's house. Boaz's field was abundant with crops. Naomi's house was poor and needed to receive benefit.

Relationships

- Naomi and Boaz: Naomi's husband Elimelech was from the same clan as Boaz (1,20).
- Naomi and Ruth: Ruth initiated going out to glean to support her mother-in-law (2); Ruth told her mother-in-law what had happened (19); they had a mutually supportive and genuine trust relationship
- Israelites and Moabites. The author emphasizes the fact that Ruth is a Moabite (2:2,6,21). Historically, the Moabites were enemies of Israel.

Emphasis

- Chapter two covers a one-day period in 23 verses. Nine verses, 8-16, describe a conversation between Boaz and Ruth.
- Boaz is characterized as a giver and Ruth as a receiver.



INTERPRETATION

- a key word in this chapter is "glean." This was mandated by the Law of God and showed his concern for the marginalized (Lev 19:9-10; 23:22; Dt 10:18).
- Boaz is the giver and Ruth is the receiver.

BOAZ'S CHARACTER AS A GIVER

- Boaz and his harvesters greeted each other in the name of the LORD (4). They feared the LORD.
- He noticed an unknown young woman who was working in his field (5).
- He called her "My daughter," and permitted her to work in his field (8).
- She was vulnerable, but he protected her and provided water for her (9,15-16).

- He recognized Ruth's sacrifice and commitment in leaving her own family to care for Naomi and her own homeland to live in a different culture (11).
- He blessed Ruth in the name of the LORD (12).
- A gracious invitation to lunch fellowship (14).
- Boaz has God's character: gentleness, humility, understanding, kindness, compassion, and generosity. No favoritism, but embraces all.

BOAZ IS A TYPE OF THE MESSIAH

- Boaz is a type of the Messiah in initiating care for needy people.
- Jesus initiated salvation work by humbling himself and coming into the world.
- He always saw people with a compassionate heart.
- Jesus understands weak and vulnerable people and cares for them.
- He did not break a bruised reed or snuff out a smoldering wick (Mt 12:20).
- Jesus did not show favoritism but embraced all who came to him.

RUTH'S CHARACTER AS A RECEIVER

- She took the initiative to provide for her mother-in-law instead of depending on her (2).
- She was hardworking (7).
- She was humble (10a).
- She knew who she was: she was a foreigner who did not deserve to receive favor (10b).
- Though she felt unworthy to receive it, she continued to ask to find favor (13).
- She was healthy and strong enough to carry 30 pounds of grain back to Naomi's house (17-18a).
- She was mindful of her mother-in-law (18b).

- Ruth shows us how to receive favor or grace with humility, faith and thanksgiving. She knew who she was: a foreigner and a poor widow who had no claim on Israelite society.
- She was not offended, due to her pride, when favor was offered to her. Nor did she take advantage of people's kindness or have a beggar's mindset. Rather, she was hardworking, thankful and mindful of others.

BOAZ AND RUTH AS A TYPE OF CHRIST AND US

- Spiritually speaking, we are like the Moabites, outsiders and sinners. Ephesians 2:12, "remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world."
- Christ came into the world to care for us out of his great mercy.
- He died for our sins on the cross and redeemed us from the power of sin and death and Satan.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN ABOUT WHO GOD IS?

- God restores his people to blessing after a time of suffering through famine.
- God leads those who seek him to receive his favor, as God led Ruth to Boaz's field.
- God protects, provides for and blesses and rewards those who come under his wings of grace (Heb 11:6).
- God does not show favoritism, but gives grace to all those who come to him by faith. God is not only the God of Israel, but of the Gentiles too.

- Naomi realized that God has not stopped showing his kindness to between the living and the dead (20).
- The word "kindness" is "hesed" in Hebrew. Its first usage occurred in 1:8. It is used here in 2:20, and appears again in 3:10.
- Naomi had received tough love from God through his divine discipline. But she did not harbor a grudge against God. Rather, she realized that God is kind and faithful to those who turn back to him₀