

RUTHS REVELATION

JONATHAN EDWARDS



RUTHS REVELATION

RUTHS REVELATION

Jonathan Edwards



A free edition from

CHRISTIAN READER

A reading & audiobook app for classic Christian literature

ABOUT THIS BOOK



A stirring sermon on **Ruth 1:16**, preached during the Great Awakening revival. Edwards draws a powerful parallel between Ruth's unwavering commitment to Naomi and the **resolute choice every soul must make** to follow God. Using Ruth and Orpah as types of sincere and half-hearted converts, he presents six compelling reasons to **cleave to God's people** — from the glory of Israel's God to the terror of eternal separation. The application urgently calls sinners to follow their newly converted neighbors, friends, and family before the extraordinary season of mercy passes.



ABOUT CHRISTIAN READER



Christian Reader is a free reading and audiobook app for classic Christian literature, with high-quality narration available as a premium upgrade.

Available on iOS and Android.

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/christian-reader/id6755921023>

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.samfrisch.christian_reader

CONTENTS



Introduction	5
Ruth's Resolution	6
Application	17

INTRODUCTION



Ruth's Resolution: A Sermon Delivered by the late Reverend
Jonathan Edwards of **Northampton**.

Hartford: Reprinted by Thomas Green, at the Heart and
Crown, opposite the Courthouse.

RUTH'S RESOLUTION



RUTH'S RESOLUTION.

Ruth 1:16.— And Ruth said, do not urge me to leave you or to turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, — and where you stay, I will stay; your people shall be my people, and your God my God.

The events recorded in this Book of **Ruth** seem to have been included in Scripture for two main reasons.

1. Because Christ came from Ruth's descendants. The Holy Spirit chose to draw special attention to the marriage of Boaz and Ruth, from which the Savior of the world descended. We can often see that the Holy Spirit who inspired the Scriptures frequently highlights small details and minor events that are only distantly connected to Jesus Christ.

Second, because this story appears to be a picture of the calling of the Gentile Church, and really of the conversion of every believer. Ruth was not originally from Israel but was a Moabitess and a foreigner to the nation of Israel. Yet she left her own people and the idols of the Gentiles to worship the God of Israel and to join herself to His people. In this way, she seems to be a type of the

Gentile Church, and also of every sincere convert. Ruth was the mother of Christ; He came from her descendants. In the same way, the Church is Christ's mother, as she is pictured in **Revelation 12** at the beginning. Every true Christian is also His mother. Matthew 12:50. **Whoever does the will of My Father who is in Heaven, that person is My brother, sister, and mother.** Christ is what the soul of every one of the elect labors to bring forth in the new birth. Ruth gave up all her natural relatives, her own country and birthplace, and all her former possessions there for the sake of the God of Israel. Every true Christian gives up everything for Christ. Psalm 45:10. **Listen, O daughter, and pay attention and turn your ear; forget also your own people and your father's house.**

Naomi was returning from the land of Moab to the land of Israel with her two daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth. These two women represent for us two kinds of people who profess religion. Orpah represents the kind who make a good profession and seem to start well, but only last for a while before turning back. Ruth represents the kind who are genuine and sincere, and therefore remain steadfast and persistent on the path they have chosen. In the verses before this one, Naomi explains to her daughters the hardships of leaving their own country to go with her. In this verse, we can observe the following.

1. The remarkable conduct and behavior of Ruth on this occasion, and the unshakable determination with which she held on to Naomi and followed her. When Naomi first set out to return from Moab to the land of Israel, both Orpah and Ruth went with her. Naomi urged them both to go back. They both wept and seemed unable to bear the thought of leaving her, and appeared deter-

mined to go with her. Verse 10. **And they said to her, surely we will return with you to your people.** Then Naomi said to them again, **Turn back, my daughters, go your way,** and so on. They were deeply moved again, and Orpah turned around and went back. Now Ruth's steadfastness faced an even greater test, but she was not overcome. **She clung to her,** Verse 14. Then Naomi spoke to her again. Verse 15. **Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.** Then Ruth showed her unshakable determination in the text and the following verse.

2. I would especially point out what made this resolution so virtuous: **namely,** that it was for the sake of the God of Israel, and so that she might be one of His people, that she was so determined to stay with Naomi. **Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.** She did this for God's sake, and so her actions are later described as virtuous. Chapter 2:11-12. **And Boaz answered and said to her, I have been fully told all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people that you did not know before. The Lord repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.** She left her father and mother and the land of her birth to come and **take refuge under the shadow of God's wings.** She truly received a full reward, just as Boaz wished. Beyond the immediate spiritual blessings to her own soul and eternal rewards in another world, she was rewarded with abundant and prosperous earthly circumstances in the family of Boaz. God raised up David

and Solomon from her descendants and established the crown of Israel (the people she chose over her own people) in her family line. And what is far greater, from her descendants He raised up Jesus Christ, in whom all the families of the earth are blessed.

From these words, as I have explained them, I draw the following theme for my present sermon.

When people we have been closely connected with are turning to God and joining themselves to His people, it should be our firm resolution that we will not leave them, but that their people shall be our people, and their God our God.

Sometimes among people who have been closely connected with one another -- who have lived together as neighbors, spent time together as companions, been united in close relationships, and shared in darkness, bondage, and misery while serving Satan - - some are enlightened and have their minds changed. They are made to see the terrible end of sin, and their hearts are turned to God. They are moved by the Holy Spirit to leave the company of those on Satan's side and join themselves to the blessed company on Christ's side. They become willing to abandon the tents of wickedness and live in the land of righteousness with the people of God.

Sometimes this becomes a permanent parting or separation between them and those they were formerly connected with. It may not be a physical separation -- they may still live together and talk with one another. Yet in other ways it puts a vast distance between them. One is a child of God, and the other is an enemy of God. One is in a miserable condition, and the other is in a happy

one. One is a citizen of the heavenly Zion, and the other is under condemnation to Hell. They are no longer together in the ways they once were. They used to share one mind in serving sin and doing Satan's work. Now they hold opposite views. They used to share in worldliness and vanity. Now they have completely different attitudes. They are separated as if they belong to different kingdoms. One remains in the kingdom of darkness, while the other has been brought into the kingdom of God's dear Son. Sometimes this separation becomes permanent. While one lives in the land of Israel and in the house of God, the other, like Orpah, lives and dies in the land of Moab.

This is a heartbreaking situation. Being separated this way is dreadful. It is deeply sad when some who were formerly together in sin turn to God and join themselves with His people, and it becomes a permanent divide between them and their former companions and friends. Our firm and unwavering resolution in such a situation should be that it will not be a permanent parting. We will follow them. Their people shall be our people, and their God our God. Here are the reasons why.

1. Because **their God** is a glorious God. There is no one like Him, for He is infinite in glory and excellence. He is the most high God, glorious in holiness, awesome in praises, and doing wonders. His name is excellent in all the earth, and His glory is above the earth and the heavens. Among the gods there is none like Him. There is none in heaven who can be compared to Him, and none among the mighty who can be likened to Him. Their God is the fountain of all good and an inexhaustible fountain. He is all-sufficient, a God who is able to protect and defend them and to do all things for them. He is the King of glory, the Lord strong and

mighty, the Lord mighty in battle -- a strong tower and defense. There is no one like the God of Jeshurun, who rides across the heavens to help them, and on the skies in His majesty. The **Eternal God** is their refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He is a God who holds all things in His hands to do as He pleases. He kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and raises up. The pillars of the earth are the Lord's. Their God is an infinitely holy God. There is no one holy as the Lord, for there is none besides You, and there is no rock like our God. He is good and merciful. He is a God who delights in mercy. His mercy is infinite and endures forever. He is the fountain and ocean of it.

Such a God is their God! Such is the excellence of Jacob! Such is the God of those who forsake their sins and are converted! They have made a happy choice who have chosen this God as their God. They have made a happy exchange indeed -- trading sin and the world for such a God! They have an excellent and glorious Savior, who is the only begotten Son of God, the brightness of His Father's glory. He is One in whom God from eternity had infinite delight -- a Savior of infinite love, One who shed His own blood and made His soul an offering for their sins, and One who is able to save them completely.

II. **Their people** are an excellent and happy people. God has renewed them, stamped His own image on them, and made them partakers of His holiness. They are more excellent than their neighbors. **Proverbs** 12:26. Indeed, they are the excellent of the earth, **Psalms** 16:3. They are lovely in the sight of the angels, and their souls are adorned with graces that in the sight of God Himself are of great value.

The people of God are the most excellent and happy community in the world. The God they have chosen as their God is their Father. He has pardoned all their sins, and they are at peace with Him. He has given them all the privileges of His children. Just as they have devoted themselves to God, so God has given Himself to them. He has become their salvation and their portion. His power and mercy and all His attributes are theirs. They are in a safe state, free from any possibility of perishing. Satan has no power to destroy them. God carries them on eagle's wings, far above Satan's reach and above the reach of all the enemies of their souls. God is with them **in this world**. They have His gracious presence. God is for them -- who then can be against them? As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds them. God is their shield and their exceedingly great reward. Their fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. They have the divine promise and oath that **in the world to come** they shall live forever in the glorious presence of God.

It should be more than enough to persuade us to hold on to those who forsake their sins and idols and join themselves with this people, knowing that God is with them. Zechariah 8:23. **Thus says the Lord of Hosts: In those days it shall come to pass that ten men from all the languages of the nations shall take hold of the garment of a Jew, saying, We will go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.** In the same way, people should take hold of their neighbors and companions who have turned to God, and resolve that they will go with them, because God is with them.

3. Happiness cannot be found anywhere else except in **their God** and with **their people**. There are many so-called gods and lords. Some make gods of their pleasures. Some choose money as their god. Some make gods of their own supposed qualities or the outward advantages they have over their neighbors. Some choose one thing for their god, and others choose another. But no one can be happy in any god other than the God of **Israel**. He is the only source of happiness. Other gods cannot help in times of trouble, and none of them can provide what the poor, empty soul truly needs. No matter how much people worship those other gods, call on them, or serve them, they will still remain poor, wretched, unsatisfied, and ruined. All other people are miserable except those whose God is the Lord. The world is divided into two groups. There are the people of God, the little flock of Jesus Christ, the company we read about in Revelation 14:4. **These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.** And there are those who belong to the kingdom of darkness -- who are without Christ, aliens from the commonwealth of **Israel**, strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world. All who belong to this second group are wretched and ruined. They are the enemies of God and are under His wrath and condemnation. They are the Devil's slaves, serving him blindly, deceived and trapped by him, and dragged along the broad road to eternal destruction.

4. When those we have been closely connected with are turning to God and to His people, **their example** should move us. Their example should be seen as God's call to us to do the same. When God changes one person's heart, He calls another -- especially those who have been their friends and acquaintances. We have been influenced by their examples in evil. Will we stop following them now, when they make the wisest choice they have ever made and do the best thing they have ever done? If we have been their companions in worldliness, vanity, and worthless and sinful conversation, it will be a hard situation if we must now be separated, simply because we are not willing to be their companions in holiness and true happiness. People are greatly influenced when they see others prosper in worldly matters. When those they have spent time with grow rich or gain some great earthly advantage, it stirs up ambition and eager desire for the same success. How much more should they be moved and stirred up to follow them when they gain spiritual and eternal happiness that is infinitely more valuable than all the prosperity and glory of this world!

5. Our determination to hold on to and follow those who are turning to God and joining His people should be firm and strong, because the difficulty of it is so great. If we will hold on to them and have their God as our God and their people as our people, we must put to death and deny all our sinful desires, resist every evil appetite and inclination, and permanently part with all sin. But our sinful desires are many and fierce. Sin is naturally extremely precious to us. Parting with it is compared to plucking out our right eyes. People may hold back from their usual patterns of sin for a little while and may deny their desires to some degree without too much difficulty. But it is agonizing work to finally part with

all sin and send away our most cherished desires for good. Yet this is what we must do if we would follow those who are truly turning to God. Indeed, we must not only forsake sin but must, in a sense, forsake the entire world. Luke 14:33: **Whoever does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.** That means we must forsake everything **in our hearts** and come to a complete willingness and readiness to **actually** give up everything for God and the glorious spiritual privileges of His people, whenever the situation requires it -- and all without any prospect of anything similar or any worldly thing to make up for it. We must go into a strange country, a land we have never seen -- like Abraham, who was called by God and **went out of his own country, away from his relatives and from his father's house, to a land that God would show him, not knowing where he was going.**

It was a hard thing for Ruth to leave her homeland, her father and mother, her relatives and friends, and all the pleasant things she had in the land of Moab to go live in the land of Israel, where she had never been. Naomi told her about the difficulties more than once. They were too much for her sister Orpah -- the thought of them turned her back after she had already set out. Her determination was not strong enough to overcome them. But Ruth was so firmly resolved that she pushed through everything. She was steadfast in her decision that no matter how great the difficulty, she would not leave her mother-in-law. In the same way, people need to be very firm in their determination to overcome the difficulties that stand in the way of holding on to those who are truly turning from sin to God.

6. Our holding on to them, and having their God as our God and their people as our people, depends on our resolution and choice -- in two ways.

1. Firm determination in using the means God has provided is the **way to make those means effective**. There are means God has appointed for us to become part of the true Israel and to have their God as our God. Using these means thoroughly is the path to success -- not a lazy or half-hearted use of them. To be thorough, we need strength of determination -- a firm and unshakable commitment to use every means available, to do what we do with all our might, and to keep going without stopping. Matthew 11:12: **The kingdom of Heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.**

2. Choosing their God and their people with full determination and with the whole soul is **the condition of being united with them**. God gives every person a choice in this matter, just as Orpah and Ruth had their choice whether to go with Naomi to the land of Israel or stay in the land of Moab. An unconverted person may choose to be delivered from Hell, but no one ever genuinely chooses God, Christ, the spiritual blessings that Christ has purchased, and the happiness of God's people until that person is converted. On the contrary, the unconverted person is opposed to these things, has no taste for them, and is completely unaware of their immeasurable worth and value.

Many worldly people seem to choose these things, but they do not truly choose them. Orpah seemed at first to choose to leave Moab and go to the land of Israel. But when Naomi laid out the

difficulty of it, she went back. This showed that she was not fully committed in her choice and that her whole soul was not in it the way Ruth's was.

The End.

APPLICATION



APPLICATION.

I will use what has been said to urge sinners toward this resolution, with respect to those among us who have recently turned to God and joined themselves to the flock of Christ. Through God's abundant mercy and grace to us in this place, many of you who are still without Christ can now say that people who were formerly with you in that condition have recently left you behind. Some of the people you used to spend time with have recently abandoned a life of sin and the service of Satan. They have turned to God, fled to Christ, and joined themselves to the blessed company that is with Him. They were formerly with you in sin and misery, but now they are no longer with you in that condition or way of life. They have changed and have fled from the wrath to come. They have chosen a life of holiness here and the enjoyment of God in the life to come. They were formerly your partners in bondage and were with you in Satan's work, but now you no longer have their company in these things. Many of you have watched people living under the same roof turn away from being with you in sin to join the people of Jesus Christ. Some of you who are husbands have had your wives turn; some of you who are wives have

had your husbands; some of you who are children have had your parents; and some parents have had your children. Many of you have had your brothers and sisters, many your close neighbors and acquaintances and special friends, and many of you who are young have had your companions. Many of you have had these people -- with whom you were so closely connected -- leave you and forsake the miserable life and wretched condition that you still continue in. God, by His good pleasure and wonderful grace, has recently caused multitudes in this place to leave their old homes in the land of Moab, under the gods of Moab, and travel into the land of Israel to take refuge under the wings of the Lord God of Israel. Even though you and they have been closely related, lived together, or spent much time in close friendship, they have been taken and you have so far been left behind! Do not let this be the foundation of a permanent separation! Instead, follow them earnestly. Be firm in your determination. Do not do as Orpah did, who at first seemed willing to follow Naomi but turned back when she saw the difficulty of it. Instead, say as Ruth said: **I will not leave you, but where you go I will go. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.** Say what she said and do what she did. Consider the excellence of their God and their Savior, the happiness of their people, the blessed state they are in, and the miserable state you are in.

You who are older sinners and have lived long in the service of Satan -- you have recently seen some who were with you, who traveled with you in the paths of sin for many years, who enjoyed great opportunities and advantages with you, who received calls and warnings with you, who lived through remarkable seasons of the pouring out of God's Spirit in this place with you, who hardened

their hearts and held out with you, and who grew old in sin with you. You have seen some of them turning to God. That is, you have seen the kind of evidence in them from which you can reasonably conclude this is so. Do not let this be a permanent separation! You have been together this long in sin and under condemnation. Let it be your firm resolution to be with them still, if at all possible, now that they are in a holy and happy state. Resolve to go with them into the holy and pleasant land.

Some of you say you have been seeking salvation for many years -- though no doubt in a poor, half-hearted way compared to what you should have done. You have seen some who were in the same situation, who were old sinners and longtime seekers like you, finally receive mercy. God recently stirred them from their sluggishness and caused them to change their approach. He put them on more serious efforts, and now, after so long, they have heard God's voice and fled for refuge to the Rock of Ages. Let this stir up earnestness and determination in you. Resolve that you will not leave them behind.

You who are young -- how many people your own age have you recently seen choose God as their God and Christ as their Savior! You followed them in sin and perhaps followed them into foolish company. Will you not now follow them to Christ?

And you who are children -- there have recently been some your age who have repented of their sins, loved the Lord Jesus Christ, trusted in Him, and become God's children, as we have reason to hope. Let this stir you up to do your best to seek and cry out to God, that the same change may be made in your hearts, so that their people may be your people and their God your God.

You who are great sinners and have made yourselves especially guilty by the wicked practices you have lived in -- there are some among you who have recently, as we have reason to hope, had their hearts broken over sin. They have forsaken it, trusted in the blood of Christ for the pardon of it, chosen a holy life, and taken up the ways of wisdom. Let this stir and encourage you to hold on to them with determination and to earnestly follow them. Here, consider the following things.

1. Your soul is just as precious as theirs. It is immortal, just like theirs. It needs happiness just as much, and it can bear eternal misery no better than theirs. You were by nature in the same miserable condition they were in, with the same wrath of God hanging over you. You must stand before the same Judge, who will be just as strict with you as with them. Your own righteousness will be no more useful before Him than theirs. Therefore, you stand in just as absolute a need of a Savior as they do. Worldly confidence can serve your purposes no better than it served theirs. This world and its pleasures cannot make you happy without God and Christ any more than it could make them happy. When the Bridegroom comes, the foolish virgins need oil just as much as the wise ones do, Matthew 25 at the beginning.

2. Unless you follow them in turning to God, their conversion will be the foundation of an eternal separation between you and them. You will have different loyalties and vastly different conditions as long as you live -- they the children of God, and you the children of Satan. You will be separated in the next world too. When you come to die, there will be a vast divide between you. Luke 16:26: **And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from**

here to you cannot, nor can those from there cross over to us. You will also be separated at the day of judgment. You will be separated at Christ's first appearance in the clouds of heaven. While they are caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and be with Him forever, you will remain below, confined to this cursed ground that is stored up and reserved for fire against the day of judgment and the destruction of ungodly people. You will appear separated from them as you stand before the great judgment seat -- they at the right hand, while you are placed at the left. Matthew 25:32-33: **And all the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them from one another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will set the sheep on His right hand but the goats on the left.** You will then appear in vastly different circumstances. While you stand with devils, bearing the image and ugliness of devils, in unspeakable horror and dread, they will appear in glory, sitting on thrones as co-judges with Christ, passing sentence upon you. 1 Corinthians 6:2. What shame and confusion will cover you then, when so many of your peers, equals, neighbors, relatives, and companions are honored and openly acknowledged by the glorious Judge of the universe and Redeemer of saints! You will see them sitting with Him in such glory, while it becomes clear that you neglected your salvation, failed to use your opportunities, and rejected the Lord Jesus Christ -- the very One who will then appear as your great Judge. You will be the subject of such wrath and, as it were, trampled down in eternal disgrace and contempt. Daniel 12:2: **Some shall rise to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.** What a vast separation the sentence passed and carried out that day will create between you

and them! When you are sent away from the presence of the Judge with anger and disgust as vile and loathsome creatures, they will be warmly welcomed and invited into His glory as His dear friends and the blessed of His Father! When you, along with that enormous crowd of wicked and cursed people and devils, descend with bitter cries and horrifying screams into that dreadful pit of fire and sulfur, swallowed up in that great and everlasting furnace -- they will joyfully ascend with Christ, with sweet songs of glory and praise, together with that beautiful and blessed company of saints and angels, into eternal happiness in the glorious presence of God and the sweet embrace of His love. You and they will spend eternity in such a separation, in immensely different circumstances! And all of this despite how closely you were connected, how nearly related you were, how you lived together, how intimately acquainted you were, and how much you enjoyed each other's company in this world! After you spent so long together, each of you ruining yourselves, increasing your guilt, and piling up wrath -- will their wise decision to change their minds, change their course, and choose such happiness for themselves now become the beginning of such a vast and everlasting separation between you and them? How dreadful it will be to be separated like this!

3. Consider the great encouragement God gives you to earnestly strive for the same blessing others have received. There is great encouragement in the word of God for sinners to seek salvation -- in the revelation of the abundant provision made for the salvation of even the worst of sinners, in the many means God has appointed for sinners to use toward their salvation, and in the blessing God promises to connect with those means. Because of this, there is great encouragement for everyone, at all times, who

will be serious about using these means. But now God gives extraordinary encouragement through His providence by pouring out His Spirit so remarkably among us and saving all kinds of people -- young and old, rich and poor, wise and foolish, morally upright and openly sinful, self-righteous seekers and reckless livers. No group is excluded. Right now, among us, there is the loudest call, the greatest encouragement, and the widest open door for sinners to escape from a state of sin and condemnation that God has perhaps ever granted in New England. Who has an immortal soul and is foolish enough not to seize such an opportunity? Who will not put forth all their strength now? How unreasonable is laziness, and how out of place is discouragement at a time like this! Will you be so foolish as to neglect your soul now? Will any mortal among us be so unreasonable as to lag behind or shrink back in discouragement when God opens such a door? Let every single person be completely alert! Let everyone take courage now to press forward and run for their life!

4. Consider how earnestly those who have received salvation want you to follow them, so that their people will be your people and their God your God. They want you to share in the great good that God has given them and in the unspeakable and eternal blessedness He has promised them. They wish and long for it. If you do not go with them and remain in their company, it will not be because they are unwilling, but because you are. What Moses said to Hobab is the same message every true saint among your acquaintances speaks to you. Numbers 10:29: **We are journeying to the place of which the Lord said, I will give it to you. Come with us, and we will do you good, for the Lord has spoken good things concerning Israel.** Just as Moses, while

on his journey through the wilderness following the pillar of cloud and fire, invited Hobab -- someone he knew well and was closely related to -- out of the land of Midian where Moses had formerly lived with him, to go with him and his people to Canaan and share in the good God had promised them, so your friends and acquaintances invite you out of a land of darkness and wickedness where they once lived with you, to go with them to the heavenly Canaan. The company of saints, the true Church of Christ, invites you. The lovely Bride calls you to the marriage supper. She has the authority to invite guests to her own wedding. You should see her invitation and desire as the call of Christ the Bridegroom, for it is the voice of His Spirit in her. Revelation 22:17: **The Spirit and the Bride say, Come.** This seems to refer to what had been said in Chapter 19:7, 8, 9: **The marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. And it was granted to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, clean and white, for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he said to me, Write: Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb.** It is for this marriage supper that the Bride, moved by the Spirit of the Lamb within her, says **Come.** So you are invited from every direction. Everyone is calling you. God the Father invites you. He is the King who has prepared a wedding for His Son, and He sends out His servants, the ministers of the Gospel, to invite the guests. The Son Himself invites you. He is the One who speaks. Revelation 22:17: **And let the one who hears say, Come. And let the one who is thirsty come. And whoever is willing, let him come.** He tells us who He is in the preceding verse. **I, Jesus, am the Root and the Offspring of David, the bright and morning Star.** God's

ministers invite you, the whole Church invites you, and there will be joy in the presence of the angels of God the very hour that you accept the invitation.

5. Consider what a sorrowful group those will be who are left behind after this extraordinary season of mercy is over. We have reason to believe that some will be left. We read that when Ezekiel's healing waters increased so abundantly and their healing effect was so widespread, there were still certain places where the waters came but healing never happened. Ezekiel 47:9, 10-11: **And it shall come to pass that everything that lives and moves, wherever the rivers come, shall live. And there will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come there; for they shall be healed, and everything shall live wherever the river comes. And it shall come to pass that fishermen will stand along it from En-gedi to Eneglaim. It will be a place for spreading nets. Their fish will be according to their kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea, very many. But its swamps and marshes will not be healed; they will be given over to salt.** Even in the Apostles' times, when the Gospel had such amazing success, wherever they went there were some who did not believe. Acts 13:48: **And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.** And Chapter 28:24: **And some believed, and some did not believe.** So we have no reason to expect that everyone among us will be saved. Some will be left. We can hope it will only be a small group. But what a sorrowful group it will be! How dark and terrifying their situation will appear! If you are part of that group, your friends and relatives will have every reason to

grieve and mourn over your dark and dangerous circumstances! If you do not want to be one of them, hurry. Do not delay, and do not look back. Will every type of person find salvation? Will everyone else press into the kingdom of God while you linger behind in a miserable, ruined condition? Will everyone else take hold of Heaven while you are left with nothing but this world as your portion? Now make this resolution: if it is at all possible, you will hold on to those who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before them. Count the cost of a thorough, passionate, and lifelong pursuit of salvation, and give up everything, just as Ruth gave up her own country and all its pleasant comforts. Do not do as Orpah did, who started out but then became discouraged and went back. Instead, hold firm with Ruth through every discouragement and obstacle. When you consider others who have chosen the better part, let this resolution always be firm within you: **Where you go, I will go; where you stay, I will stay; your people shall be my people, and your God my God.**

THANKS FOR READING



If you spotted a typo or have feedback, the email is **sam@goodsoilapps.com** — or use the in-app feedback form in *Christian Reader*.