

The size of God we imagine and the actual greatness of God can be entirely different. In today's text, we see that the God Naomi envisioned is completely different from the true God. Today's passage depicts the scene where the Jewish mother-in-law Naomi and her Moabite daughter-in-law Ruth arrive in Bethlehem.

Let's explore what Naomi thinks about God in this passage. Naomi's confession in Ruth 1:20-21 reflects her heart, thoughts, and faith in God. The God Naomi is thinking about is one who punished her because she left Bethlehem or because of some unrecorded sins. She viewed God as one who took away the joy of her life due to her wrong choices and sins.

In this short passage, significant names of God are mentioned: Elohim and Jehovah. Elohim means Almighty God, and Jehovah is the most important name of God, meaning "the self-existing one." While Naomi knows and confesses these precise names of God, she views Him as a God who rebukes her wrong choices and brings suffering into her life.

But who is the actual God?

The first part of today's passage is about Naomi pouring out her suffering. However, in the second part, we see God's hand working in Ruth and Naomi's lives (refer to Ruth 1:22, 2:3-4). It "just so happened" that the field where Ruth gleaned was that of Boaz, a relative of Elimelech. Ruth decided to glean in the fields, and on that very day, Boaz came to the field and saw Ruth. All these seemingly coincidental events become the greatest blessings in Naomi and Ruth's lives.

Firstly, God is greater than Naomi's thoughts. When someone blames and criticizes us, we feel upset and angry. We may even seek revenge. But what about God? As soon as Naomi came before God, she blamed and criticized Him. However, God continually works to restore and bless her.

God's timing differs from our thoughts but is perfect. Naomi might have expected love and welcome from many people in Bethlehem. She might have expected to receive much help and experience God's restoration and blessings there. However, nothing happened immediately. She continued to live a poor and difficult life in Bethlehem.

However, in God's time, He aligns Naomi's return with the barley harvest. When Ruth is working in the field, Boaz just happens to visit and meet them. What seems like coincidence to us is God's perfect timing, turning "just so happened" moments into opportunities for restoration and blessing. We must believe in the hand of God working in His perfect time. This faith allows us to be patient and endure. Before pouring out despair and complaints, we can live each day faithfully with trust.

Most importantly, we must recognize that God's help and blessings are present even when we do not see them. God's work in our lives is far greater than what we think and expect. He is a God who does new things in our lives, restoring and blessing us even when we do not see or understand it. Therefore, we can wait for, expect, and rely on God. Despite difficulties, believing in the God who is greater than our thoughts gives us the strength to live each day faithfully in faith.

Bible Memorization

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:8-9)

Bible Reading

7/8(Mon)	7/9(Tue)	7/10(Wed)	7/11(Thur)	7/12(Fri)	7/13(Sat)	7/14(Sun)
Psalms 96-102	Psalms 103-106	Psalms 107-110	Psalms 111-118	Psalms 119	Psalms 120-132	Psalms 133-139

QT

Quiet Time Passage

7/8(Mon)	7/9(Tue)	7/10(Wed)	7/11(Thur)	7/12(Fri)	7/13(Sat)	7/14(Sun)
2 Kings 8:16-29	2 Kings 9:1-13	2 Kings 9:14-26	2 Kings 9:27-37	2 Kings 10:1-11	2 Kings 10:12-27	2 Kings 10:28-36

Sharing Questions

1. Please share any new insights or grace you received from today's message.

2. Reflect on and share about God who is greater than your thoughts.

3. Share any areas in your life where you need to trust and wait for the greater God.