

Today's passage depicts a scene where Naomi's life undergoes a reversal and restoration. In this passage, we can see Naomi's heart, which is entirely different from before. We can observe Naomi being proactive and positive. All of this began with an ephah of barley. Seeing the ephah of barley that her daughter-in-law brought, Naomi experiences a restoration of life and soul. As we examine how her heart was restored, we learn about the important processes and aspects through which God restores our souls.

First, Eyes That See Grace

Through Ruth, Naomi saw an ephah of barley and the abundant bread and roasted grain left over. Through this, she saw God's grace. In verse 20, Naomi confesses that Boaz has provided unceasing grace to the living and the dead, as she looks at the ephah of barley. Let's look at Naomi's confession. She calls Boaz "the one who shows kindness to the living and the dead." However, this is not a typical expression used for people. People can only show kindness to the living, but no one can show kindness to the dead. Yet Naomi exclaims that Boaz shows kindness to both the living and the dead. Through Boaz, she saw someone else.

In the ephah of barley, Naomi saw God's invisible hand and grace. As I mentioned last week, the grace Naomi refers to in verse 20 is a term often used to express God's love. Naomi saw God's grace in the ephah of barley.

May our eyes be enlightened like Naomi's, so that through the ephah of barley, we can see God and His abundant grace behind it. I bless you in the name of the Lord, that you and I may receive the blessing of seeing God's grace, which the world and people cannot know or see. I pray that the blessing of seeing God's grace will come upon us. May grace reappear in our lives, and may gratitude be restored, in the name of the Lord. Just as with Naomi, I believe that before God enacts a history of reversal and restoration in our lives, there will be the amazing grace of restoring our souls with grace.

Second, Lips That Bless

We know that Naomi's lips had previously poured out complaints, bitterness, and resentment. But now her lips bless others. Look at verses 19 and 20, and chapter 3, verse 1. Naomi felt like blessing Boaz and Ruth. And she blessed them. Once she began to see God's grace, her eyes opened, and her heart became generous. When we start to see grace, our hearts become generous. We become people who bless others.

God wants to restore us and make us channels of blessing. In Genesis 12, God calls Abraham, the ancestor of faith, and says He wants him to be the source and channel of blessing. This was not just a plan for Abraham but for all of us, who are Abraham's descendants by faith.

Third, Hearts That Flutter with Dreams

When hardships and difficulties persist in life, dreams and hopes disappear. Without dreams and hopes, there is no future. There is no reason to live. Furthermore, when a bit of abundant grace is given in a hard and difficult life, hope can arise, but this hope can also lead in the wrong direction. For those who have struggled to survive, it is easy to get distracted by abundant food. They might become obsessed with gathering more food and wealth, and worldly things might become their hope and dream.

Naomi did not place her hope in worldly materials and food when she saw the ephah of barley. She placed her hope in God's promises, words, blessings, and God's kingdom. Hearing Boaz's name in verse 20, she remembers the idea of a kinsman-redeemer. She starts to expect that God will bless and restore her family through Boaz. This hope becomes a much bigger dream than Naomi's own. It becomes the hope of God's kingdom coming to this earth through Jesus Christ.

Such an amazing history of restoration and reversal happened when Naomi returned to God's land and stood as God's people. Come to the Lord. Draw near to the Lord. I believe the Lord will open your eyes to see grace, fill your lips with words of blessing, and make you dream of God's kingdom.

Bible Memorization

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“I am the Lord your God, who brought you up out of Egypt. Open wide your mouth, and I will fill it.” (Psalm 81:10)

Bible Reading

7/22(Mon)	7/23(Tue)	7/24(Wed)	7/25(Thur)	7/26(Fri)	7/27(Sat)	7/28(Sun)
Proverbs 22-24	Proverbs 25-27	Proverbs 28-31	Ecclesiastes 1-4	Ecclesiastes 5-8	Ecclesiastes 9-12 Song of Songs 1	Song of Songs 2-6

QT

Quiet Time Passage

7/22(Mon)	7/23(Tue)	7/24(Wed)	7/25(Thur)	7/26(Fri)	7/27(Sat)	7/28(Sun)
2 Kings 14:17-29	2 Kings 15:1-12	2 Kings 15:13-26	2 Kings 15:27-38	2 Kings 16:1-9	2 Kings 16:10-20	2 Kings 17:1-12

Sharing Questions

1. Please share any new realizations or grace you received through today's message.

2. Examine and share the parts of your spiritual state that need restoration through vision (eyes), language (lips), and hope (expectation).

3. Share specific resolutions on how you can draw closer to the Lord to bring about restoration in your life.