



THE LONG WAIT



THE LONG WAIT:
BOAZ & RUTH

1 IN THE DAYS WHEN THE JUDGES RULED THERE WAS A FAMINE IN THE LAND, AND A MAN OF BETHLEHEM IN JUDAH WENT TO SOJOURN IN THE COUNTRY OF MOAB, HE AND HIS WIFE AND HIS TWO SONS. 2 THE NAME OF THE MAN WAS ELIMELECH AND THE NAME OF HIS WIFE NAOMI, AND THE NAMES OF HIS TWO SONS WERE MAHLON AND CHILION. THEY WERE EPHRATHITES FROM BETHLEHEM IN JUDAH. THEY WENT INTO THE COUNTRY OF MOAB AND REMAINED THERE. 3 BUT ELIMELECH, THE HUSBAND OF NAOMI, DIED, AND SHE WAS LEFT WITH HER TWO SONS. 4 THESE TOOK MOABITE WIVES; THE NAME OF THE ONE WAS ORPAH AND THE NAME OF THE OTHER RUTH. THEY LIVED THERE ABOUT TEN YEARS, 5 AND BOTH MAHLON AND CHILION DIED, SO THAT THE WOMAN WAS LEFT WITHOUT HER TWO SONS AND HER HUSBAND.

6 THEN SHE AROSE WITH HER DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW TO RETURN FROM THE COUNTRY OF MOAB, FOR SHE HAD HEARD IN THE FIELDS OF MOAB THAT THE LORD HAD VISITED HIS PEOPLE AND GIVEN THEM FOOD. 7 SO SHE SET OUT FROM THE PLACE WHERE SHE WAS WITH HER TWO DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW, AND THEY WENT ON THE WAY TO RETURN TO THE LAND OF JUDAH. 8 BUT NAOMI SAID TO HER TWO DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW, "GO, RETURN EACH OF YOU TO HER MOTHER'S HOUSE. MAY THE LORD DEAL KINDLY WITH YOU, AS YOU HAVE DEALT WITH THE DEAD AND WITH ME. 9 THE LORD GRANT THAT YOU MAY FIND REST, EACH OF YOU IN THE HOUSE OF HER HUSBAND!" THEN SHE KISSED THEM, AND THEY LIFTED UP THEIR VOICES AND WEPT. 10 AND THEY SAID TO HER, "NO, WE WILL RETURN WITH YOU TO YOUR PEOPLE."

11 BUT NAOMI SAID, "TURN BACK, MY DAUGHTERS; WHY WILL YOU GO WITH ME? HAVE I YET SONS IN MY WOMB THAT THEY MAY BECOME YOUR HUSBANDS? 12 TURN BACK, MY DAUGHTERS; GO YOUR WAY, FOR I AM TOO OLD TO HAVE A HUSBAND. IF I SHOULD SAY I HAVE HOPE, EVEN IF I SHOULD HAVE A HUSBAND THIS NIGHT AND SHOULD BEAR SONS, 13 WOULD YOU THEREFORE WAIT TILL THEY WERE GROWN? WOULD YOU THEREFORE REFRAIN FROM MARRYING? NO, MY DAUGHTERS, FOR IT IS EXCEEDINGLY BITTER TO ME FOR YOUR SAKE THAT THE HAND OF THE LORD HAS GONE OUT AGAINST ME." 14 THEN THEY LIFTED UP THEIR VOICES AND WEPT AGAIN. AND ORPAH KISSED HER MOTHER-IN-LAW, BUT RUTH CLUNG TO HER.

15 AND SHE SAID, "SEE, YOUR SISTER-IN-LAW HAS GONE BACK TO HER PEOPLE AND TO HER GODS; RETURN AFTER YOUR SISTER-IN-LAW." 16 BUT RUTH SAID, "DO NOT URGE ME TO LEAVE YOU OR TO RETURN FROM FOLLOWING YOU. FOR WHERE YOU GO I WILL GO, AND WHERE 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. MAY THE LORD DO SO TO ME AND MORE ALSO IF ANYTHING BUT DEATH PARTS ME FROM YOU." 18 AND WHEN NAOMI SAW THAT SHE WAS DETERMINED TO GO WITH HER, SHE SAID NO MORE.

19 SO THE TWO OF THEM WENT ON UNTIL THEY CAME TO BETHLEHEM. AND WHEN THEY CAME TO BETHLEHEM, THE WHOLE TOWN WAS STIRRED BECAUSE OF THEM. AND THE WOMEN SAID, “IS THIS NAOMI?” 20 SHE SAID TO THEM, “DO NOT CALL ME NAOMI; CALL ME MARA, FOR THE ALMIGHTY HAS DEALT VERY BITTERLY WITH ME. 21 I WENT AWAY FULL, AND THE LORD HAS BROUGHT ME BACK EMPTY. WHY CALL ME NAOMI, WHEN THE LORD HAS TESTIFIED AGAINST ME AND THE ALMIGHTY HAS BROUGHT CALAMITY UPON ME?”

22 SO NAOMI RETURNED, AND RUTH THE MOABITE HER DAUGHTER—IN—LAW WITH HER, WHO RETURNED FROM THE COUNTRY OF MOAB. AND THEY CAME TO BETHLEHEM AT THE BEGINNING OF BARLEY HARVEST.

RUTH 1:1–22 (ESV)

A SUMMARY OF
THE BOOK OF RUTH

18 NOW THESE ARE THE GENERATIONS OF PEREZ: PEREZ FATHERED

HEZRON, 19 HEZRON FATHERED RAM, RAM FATHERED

AMMINADAB, 20 AMMINADAB FATHERED NAHSHON, NAHSHON

FATHERED SALMON, 21 SALMON FATHERED BOAZ, BOAZ FATHERED

OBED, 22 OBED FATHERED JESSE, AND JESSE FATHERED DAVID.

– RUTH 4:18–22 (ESEV)

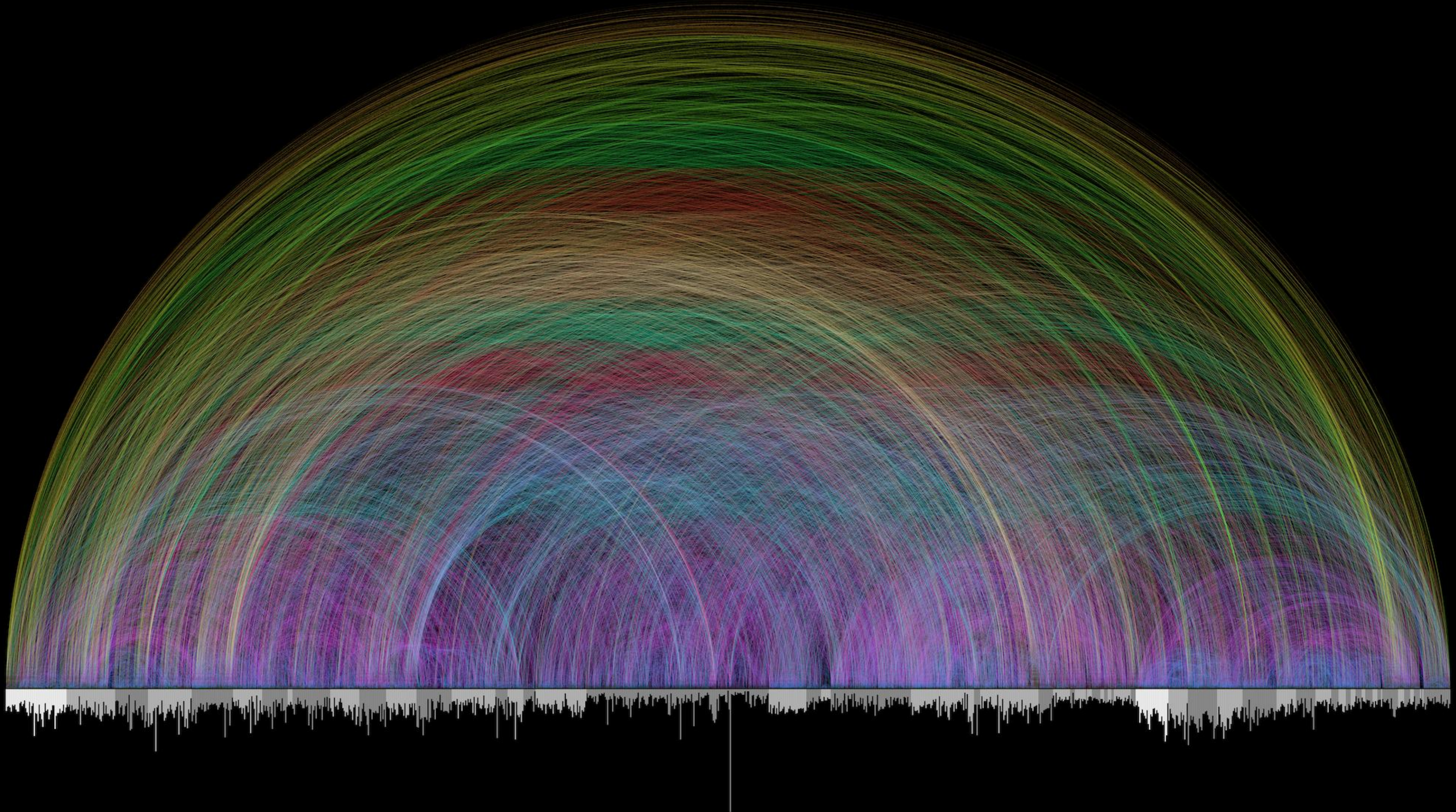
THE GOSPEL IS FOR EVERYONE,
AND CHRISTMAS IS A GREAT
TIME TO SHARE THAT TRUTH.

11 FROM THE TIME THAT I APPOINTED JUDGES OVER MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.
AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST FROM ALL YOUR ENEMIES. MOREOVER, THE
LORD DECLARES TO YOU THAT THE LORD WILL MAKE YOU A HOUSE. 12
WHEN YOUR DAYS ARE FULFILLED AND YOU LIE DOWN WITH YOUR
FATHERS, I WILL RAISE UP YOUR OFFSPRING AFTER YOU, WHO SHALL
COME FROM YOUR BODY, AND I WILL ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM. 13 HE
SHALL BUILD A HOUSE FOR MY NAME, AND I WILL ESTABLISH THE
THRONE OF HIS KINGDOM FOREVER. 14 I WILL BE TO HIM A FATHER,
AND HE SHALL BE TO ME A SON. WHEN HE COMMITS INIQUITY, I WILL
DISCIPLINE HIM WITH THE ROD OF MEN, WITH THE STRIPES OF THE
SONS OF MEN, 15 BUT MY STEADFAST LOVE WILL NOT DEPART FROM
HIM, AS I TOOK IT FROM SAUL, WHOM I PUT AWAY FROM BEFORE YOU.
16 AND YOUR HOUSE AND YOUR KINGDOM SHALL BE MADE SURE
FOREVER BEFORE ME. YOUR THRONE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED
FOREVER.” – 2 SAMUEL 7:11–16

2 BUT YOU, O BETHLEHEM EPHRATHAH,
WHO ARE TOO LITTLE TO BE AMONG THE CLANS OF JUDAH,
FROM YOU SHALL COME FORTH FOR ME
ONE WHO IS TO BE RULER IN ISRAEL,
WHOSE COMING FORTH IS FROM OF OLD, FROM ANCIENT DAYS.
3 THEREFORE HE SHALL GIVE THEM UP UNTIL THE TIME
WHEN SHE WHO IS IN LABOR HAS GIVEN BIRTH;
THEN THE REST OF HIS BROTHERS SHALL RETURN
TO THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL.
4 AND HE SHALL STAND AND SHEPHERD HIS FLOCK
IN THE STRENGTH OF THE LORD,
IN THE MAJESTY OF THE NAME OF THE LORD HIS GOD.
AND THEY SHALL DWELL SECURE, FOR NOW HE SHALL BE GREAT
TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH. 5 AND HE SHALL BE THEIR PEACE.

– MICAH 5:2–5A (ESV)

1 IN THOSE DAYS A DECREE WENT OUT FROM CAESAR
AUGUSTUS THAT ALL THE WORLD SHOULD BE REGISTERED.
2 THIS WAS THE FIRST REGISTRATION WHEN QUIRINIUS WAS
GOVERNOR OF SYRIA. 3 AND ALL WENT TO BE
REGISTERED, EACH TO HIS OWN TOWN. 4 AND JOSEPH
ALSO WENT UP FROM GALILEE, FROM THE TOWN OF
NAZARETH, TO JUDEA, TO THE CITY OF DAVID, WHICH IS
CALLED BETHLEHEM, BECAUSE HE WAS OF THE HOUSE AND
LINEAGE OF DAVID, 5 TO BE REGISTERED WITH MARY, HIS
BETROTHED, WHO WAS WITH CHILD. 6 AND WHILE THEY
WERE THERE, THE TIME CAME FOR HER TO GIVE BIRTH. 7
AND SHE GAVE BIRTH TO HER FIRSTBORN SON AND
WRAPPED HIM IN SWADDLING CLOTHS AND LAID HIM IN A
MANGER, BECAUSE THERE WAS NO PLACE FOR THEM IN THE
INN. – LUKE 2:1–7 (ESV)



HOW ARE YOU SHARING
THE STORY THIS
CHRISTMAS SEASON?

THE LORD'S SUPPER



THE LONG WAIT

