A dramatic, painterly illustration of a bright, glowing cross appearing in a dark, stormy night sky. The cross is composed of jagged, lightning-like lines and radiates intense orange and yellow light. Below the cross, a simple wooden stable structure is silhouetted against the horizon. Inside the stable, two figures are visible, and a small manger with a figure lies on the ground. The overall scene is set over a dark, reflective body of water, creating a sense of divine revelation and hope.

Christmas – The Bridge of Hope

Ruth 4:13-17

Ruth 4:13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, **the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son.**

14 And the women said unto Naomi, **Blessed be the LORD, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman**, that his name may be famous in Israel.

15 And he shall be unto thee a restorer of *thy* life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for **thy daughter in law, which loveth thee**, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him.

16 And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it.

17 And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and **they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David.**

Our theme this year is *Building Bridges*. During the Christmas season we have been looking at several “bridges” that are all related to the Book of Ruth.



A couple of weeks ago we began by looking at Ruth leaving Moab with her mother-in-law, Naomi...

Christmas – The Bridge of Love

I. LOVE PRODUCES A BRIDGE OF COMMITMENT

II. LOVE PRODUCES A BRIDGE OF CONTENTMENT

III. LOVE PRODUCES A BRIDGE OF CONVICTION

IV. LOVE PRODUCES A BRIDGE OF COMPLETION



Christmas – The Bridge of Joy

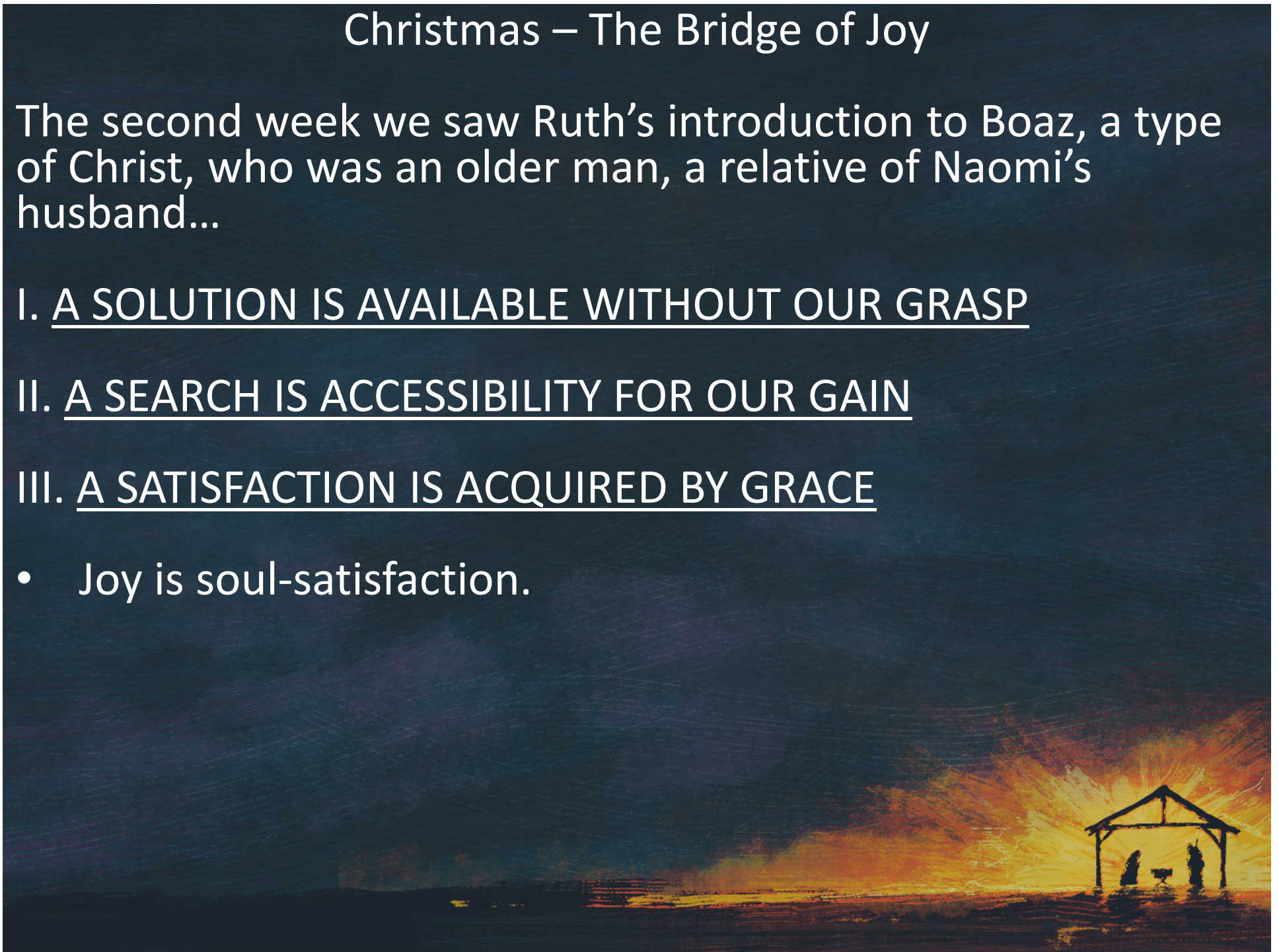
The second week we saw Ruth's introduction to Boaz, a type of Christ, who was an older man, a relative of Naomi's husband...

I. A SOLUTION IS AVAILABLE WITHOUT OUR GRASP

II. A SEARCH IS ACCESSIBILITY FOR OUR GAIN

III. A SATISFACTION IS ACQUIRED BY GRACE

- Joy is soul-satisfaction.



Last week we considered...

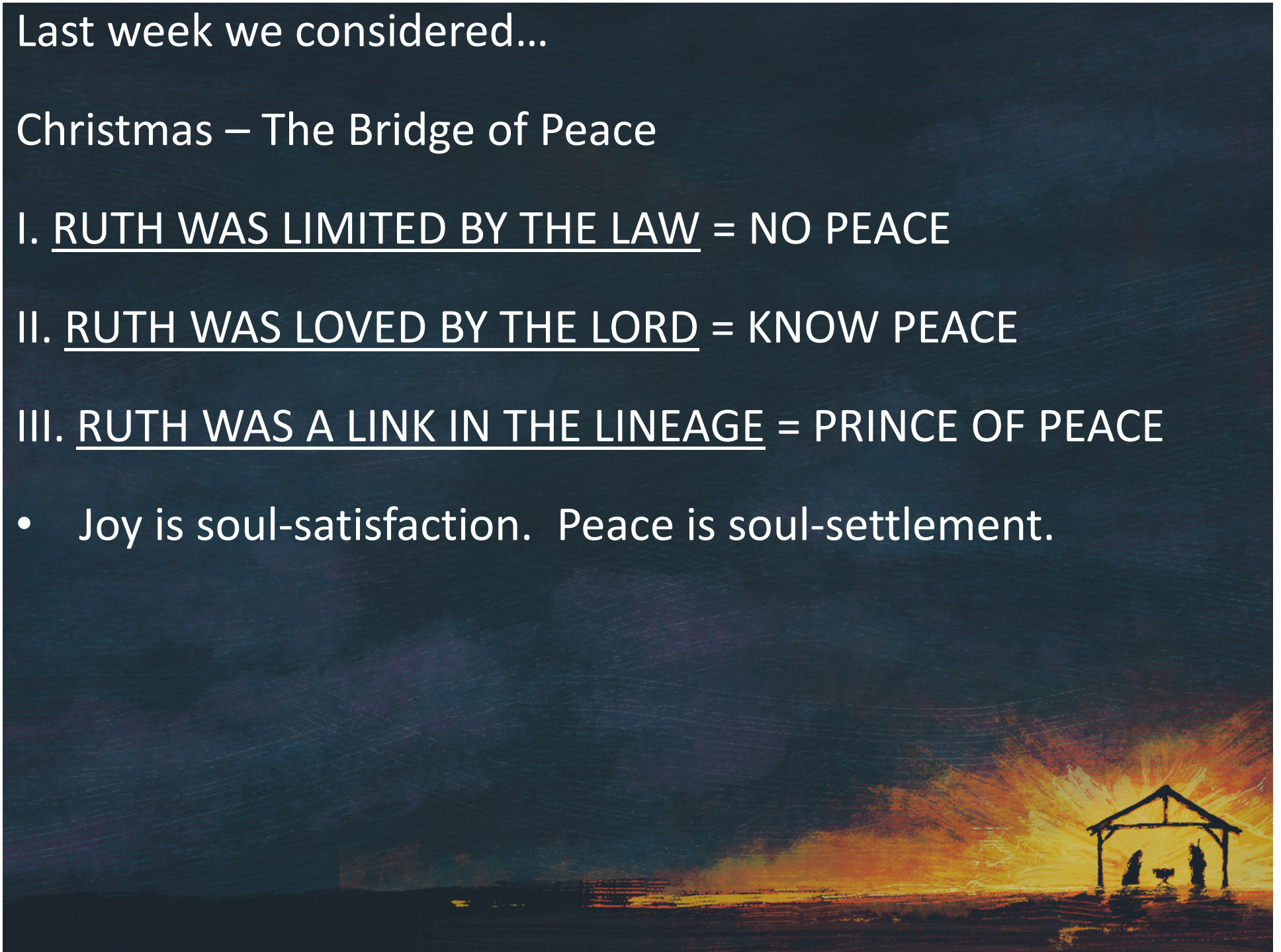
Christmas – The Bridge of Peace

I. RUTH WAS LIMITED BY THE LAW = NO PEACE

II. RUTH WAS LOVED BY THE LORD = KNOW PEACE

III. RUTH WAS A LINK IN THE LINEAGE = PRINCE OF PEACE

- Joy is soul-satisfaction. Peace is soul-settlement.

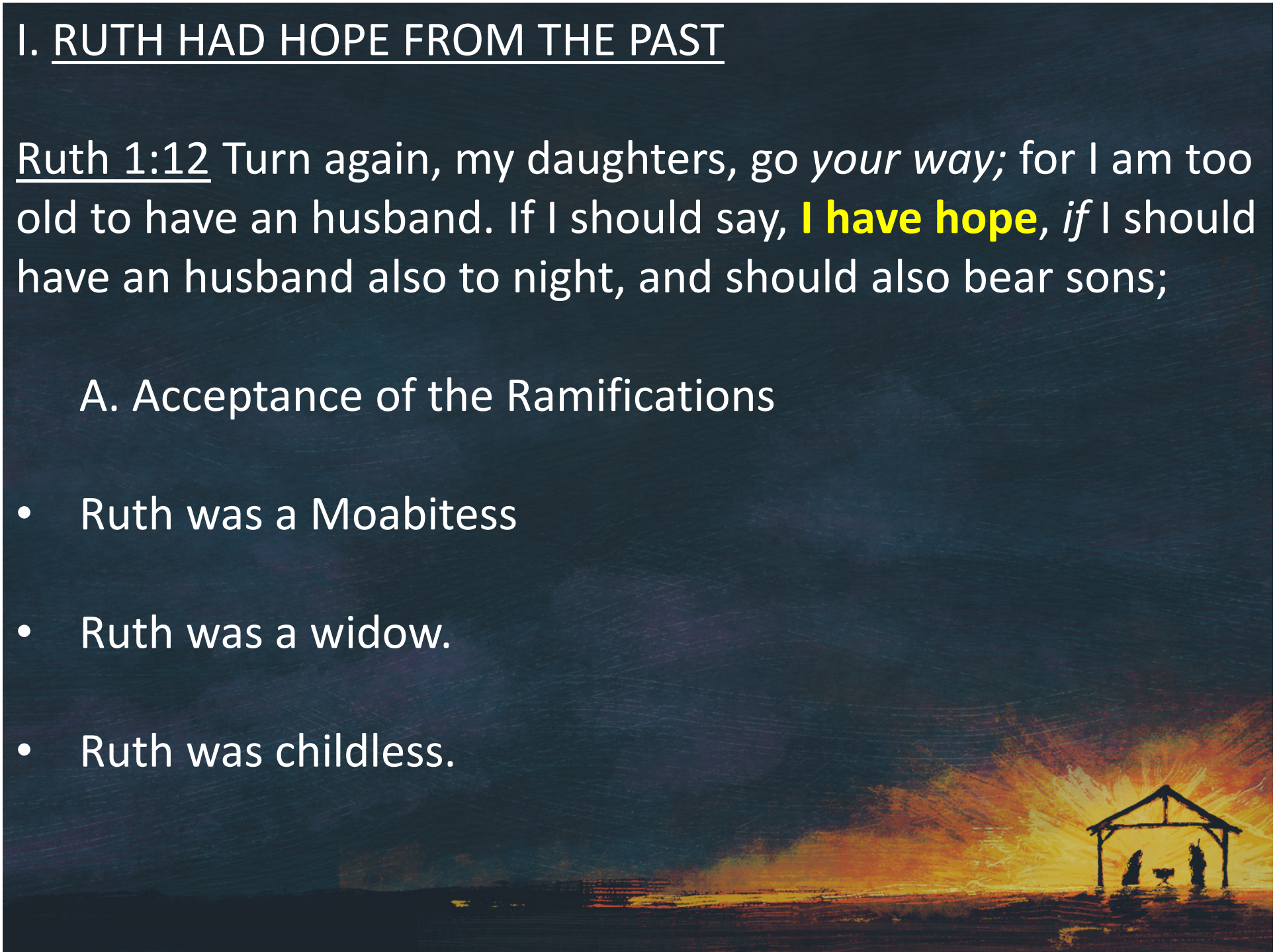


I. RUTH HAD HOPE FROM THE PAST

Ruth 1:12 Turn again, my daughters, go *your way*; for I am too old to have an husband. If I should say, **I have hope**, *if* I should have an husband also to night, and should also bear sons;

A. Acceptance of the Ramifications

- Ruth was a Moabite
- Ruth was a widow.
- Ruth was childless.



Eph. 2:2 Wherein **in time past ye walked according to the course of this world**, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3 Among whom also **we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh**, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

B. Application of the Redemption

- She was “redeemed” by the Kinsman Redeemer.
- All of the past was truly behind her.

Psa. 103:12 **As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.**



II. RUTH HAD HOPE IN THE PRESENT

A. Embracing the Newness

2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore **if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Ruth 4:10 Moreover Ruth the Moabite, the wife of Mahlon, have **I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance**, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place: *ye are witnesses this day.*



B. Exhibiting the Newness

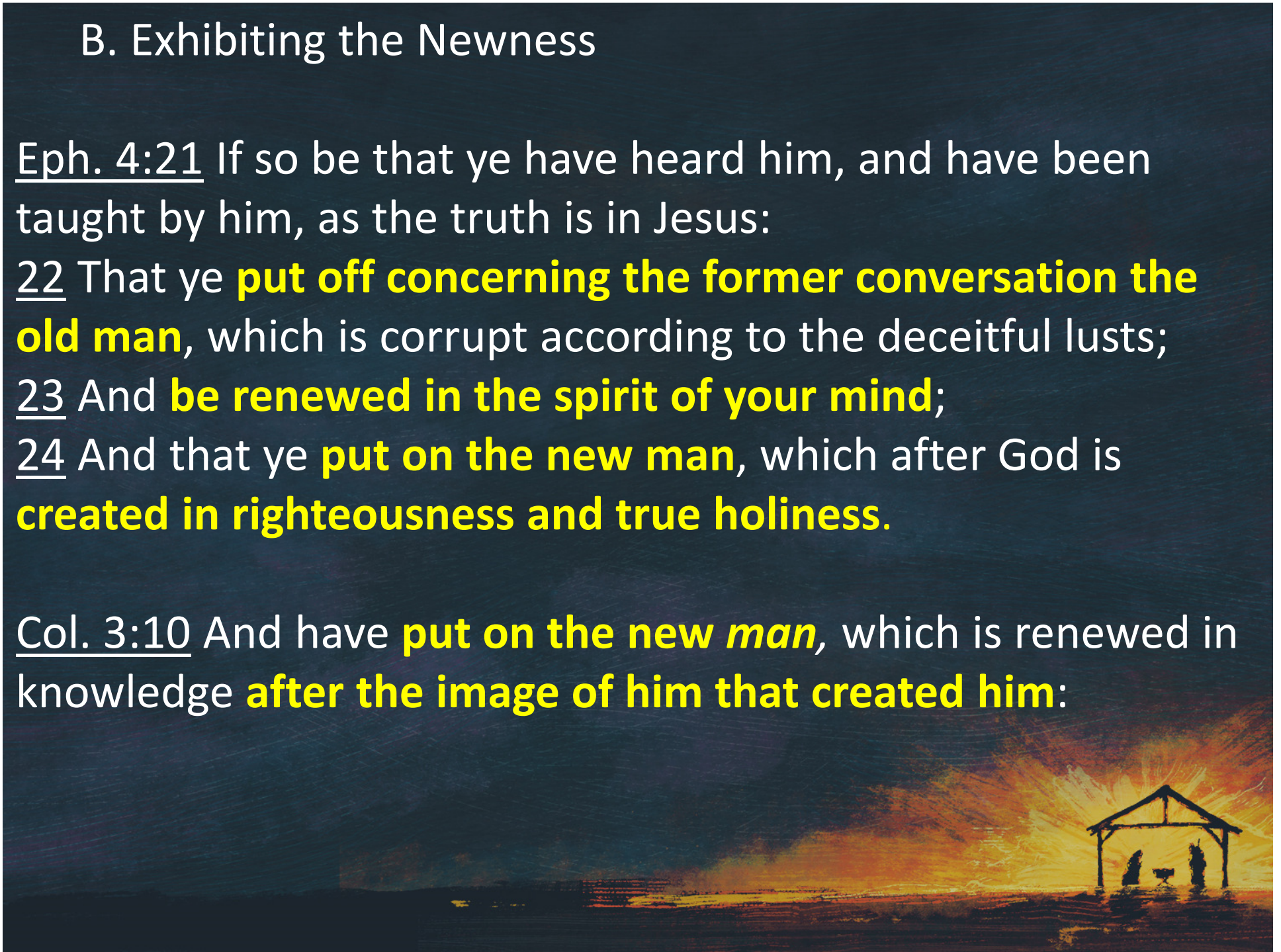
Eph. 4:21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

22 That ye **put off concerning the former conversation the old man**, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23 And **be renewed in the spirit of your mind**;

24 And that ye **put on the new man**, which after God is **created in righteousness and true holiness**.

Col. 3:10 And have **put on the new man**, which is renewed in knowledge **after the image of him that created him**:

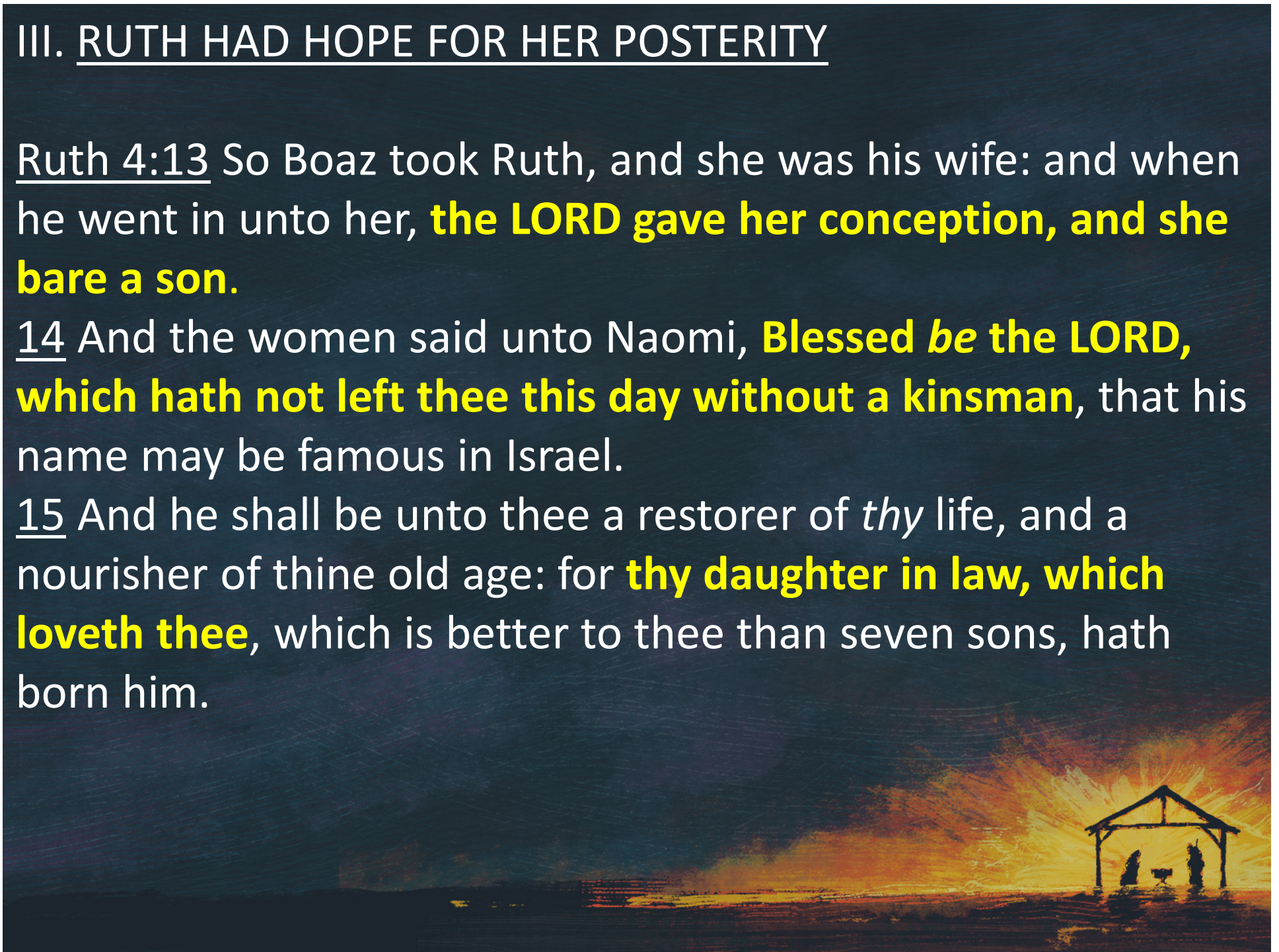


III. RUTH HAD HOPE FOR HER POSTERITY

Ruth 4:13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, **the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son.**

14 And the women said unto Naomi, **Blessed be the LORD, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman**, that his name may be famous in Israel.

15 And he shall be unto thee a restorer of *thy* life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for **thy daughter in law, which loveth thee**, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him.



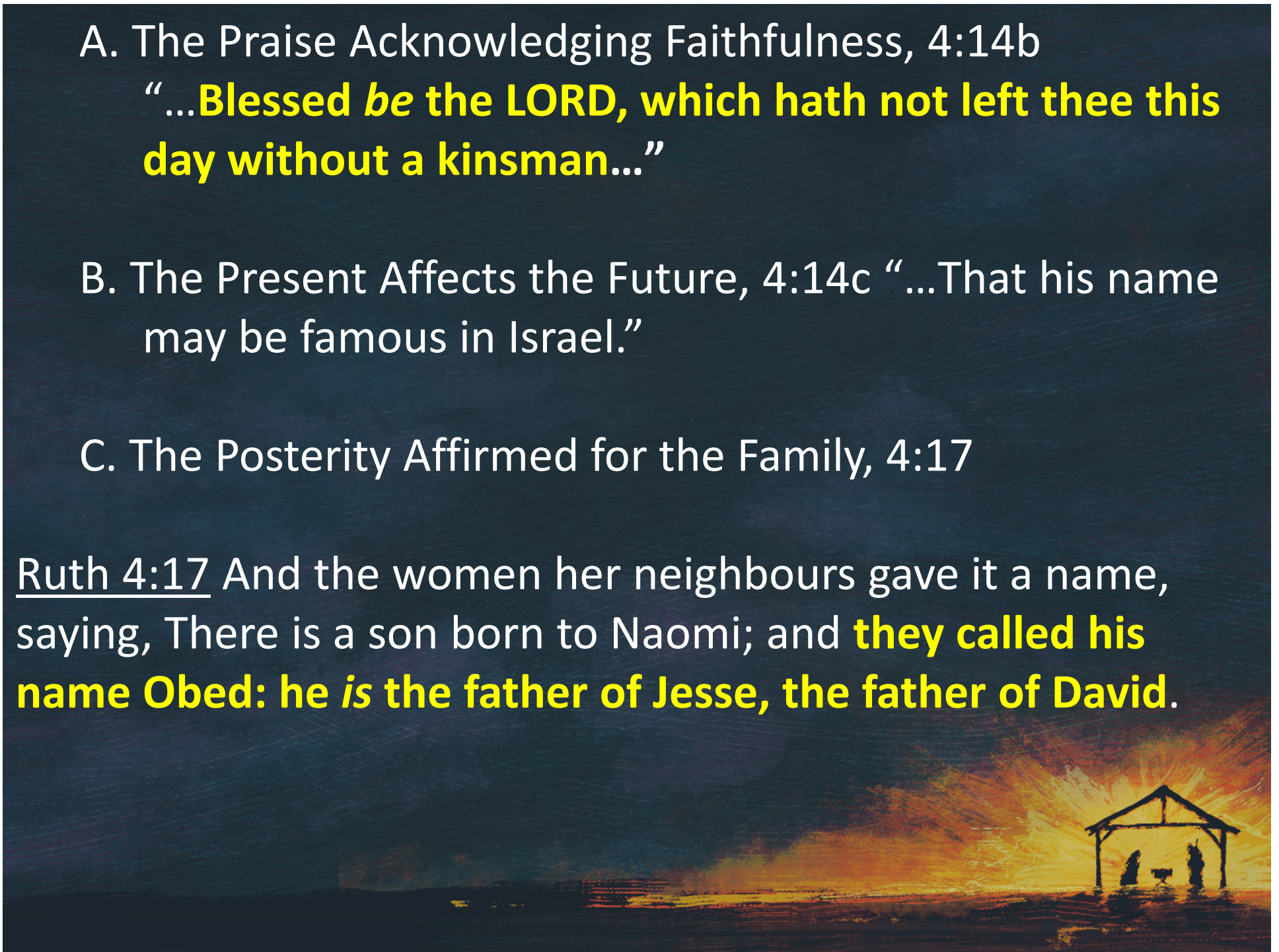
A. The Praise Acknowledging Faithfulness, 4:14b

“...**Blessed *be* the LORD, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman...**”

B. The Present Affects the Future, 4:14c “...That his name may be famous in Israel.”

C. The Posterity Affirmed for the Family, 4:17

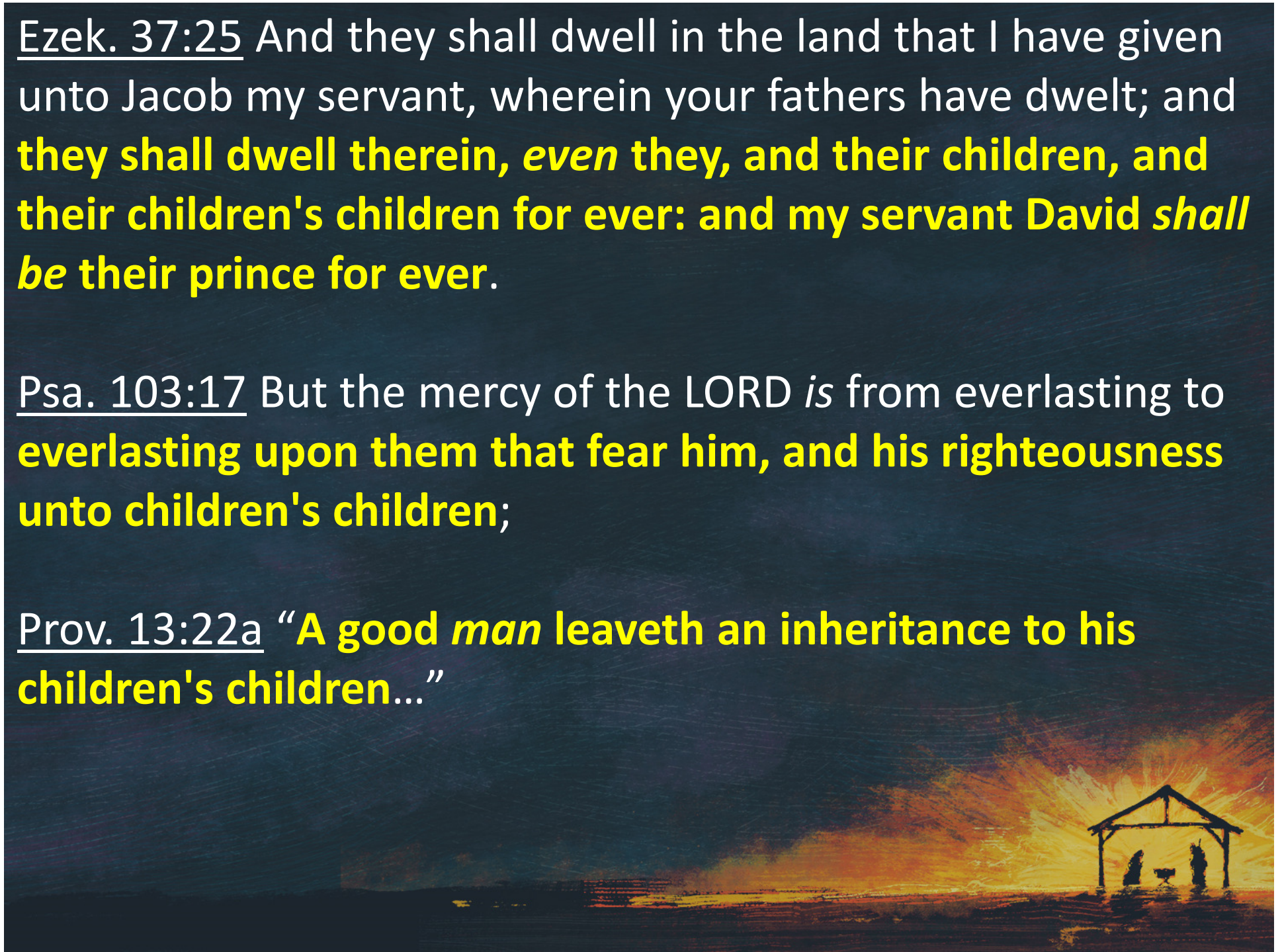
Ruth 4:17 And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and **they called his name Obed: he *is* the father of Jesse, the father of David.**



Ezek. 37:25 And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and **they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever.**

Psa. 103:17 But the mercy of the LORD *is* from everlasting to **everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;**

Prov. 13:22a “**A good *man* leaveth an inheritance to his children's children...**”



Conclusion

Psa. 38:15 For **in thee, O LORD, do I hope**: thou wilt hear, O Lord my God.

Psa. 39:7 And now, Lord, what wait I for? **my hope is in thee.**

Psa. 42:11 Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? **hope thou in God**: for I shall yet praise him, *who is the health of my countenance, and my God.*

Psa. 119:114 **Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.**

Psa. 130:5 I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and **in his word do I hope.**



Psa. 146:5 **Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob** for his help, **whose hope is in the LORD his God:**

Prov. 10:28 **The hope of the righteous shall be gladness:** but the expectation of the wicked shall perish.

Rom. 5:1 Therefore **being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:**

2 By whom also we have **access by faith into this grace** wherein we stand, and **rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ...**

5 And **hope maketh not ashamed;** because **the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts** by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

