



# Christmas – The Bridge of Peace

Luke 1:76-79

Luke 1:76 And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;  
77 To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,  
78 Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,  
79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and *in* the shadow of death, **to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

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

Last 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.
- The Scriptures provide the blanket of joy during the wintertime of life.

Jn. 15:11 These things have **I spoken unto you**, that **my joy might remain in you**, and *that your joy might be full.*



This morning we will look at the third bridge for this Christmas...

## Christmas – The Bridge of Peace

By simple definition:

Peace (noun)

1. The normal, nonwarring condition of a nation, group of nations, or the world.
2. A state of mutual harmony between people or groups, especially in personal relations:
3. Cessation of or freedom from any strife or dissension.
4. Freedom of the mind from annoyance, distraction, anxiety, an obsession, etc.; tranquillity; serenity.
5. A state of tranquillity or serenity:

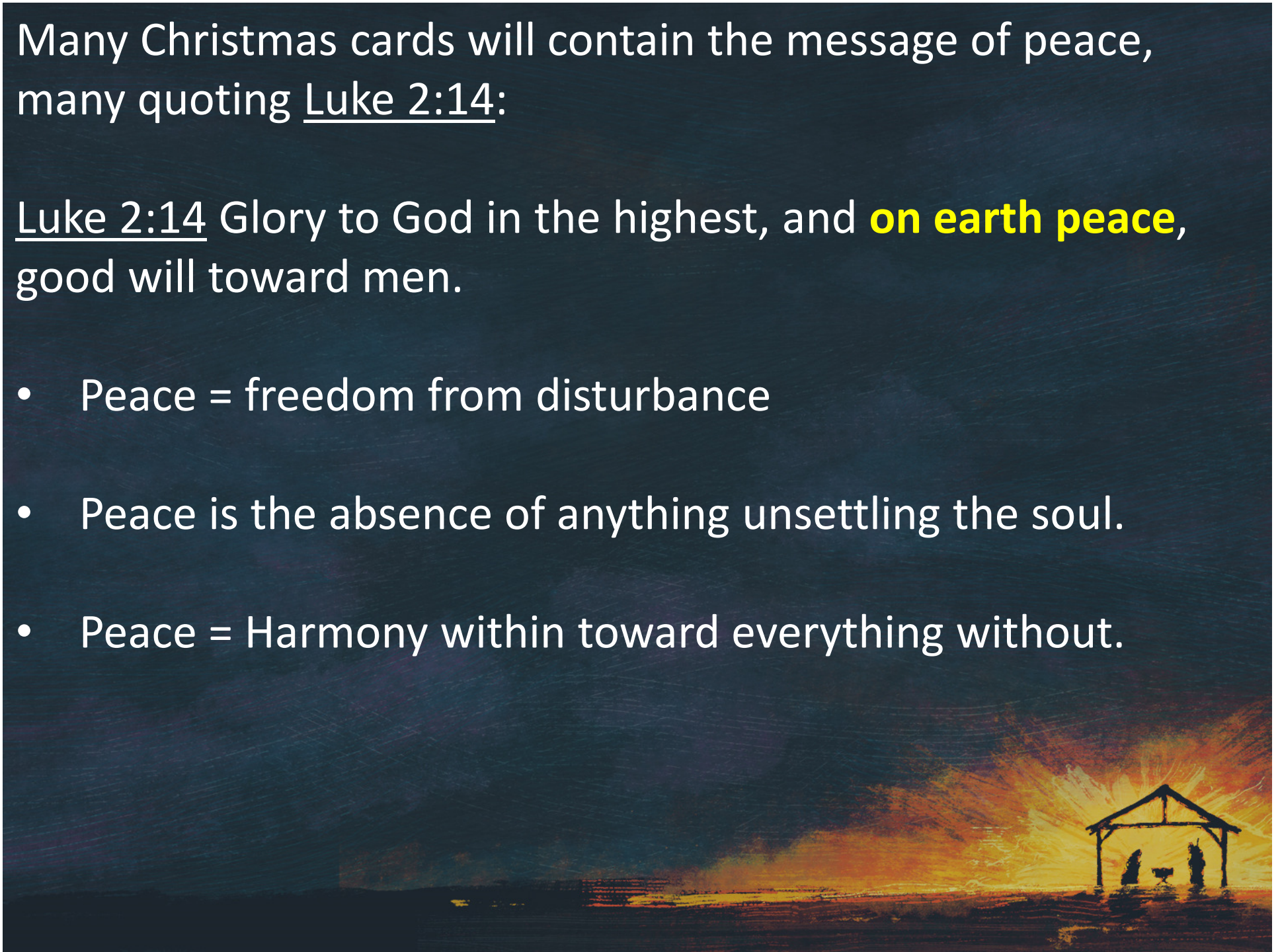
<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/peace?s=t>



Many Christmas cards will contain the message of peace, many quoting Luke 2:14:

Luke 2:14 Glory to God in the highest, and **on earth peace**, good will toward men.

- Peace = freedom from disturbance
- Peace is the absence of anything unsettling the soul.
- Peace = Harmony within toward everything without.



## I. RUTH WAS LIMITED BY THE LAW = NO PEACE

Ruth 1:11 And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? **are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?**

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;  
(Deut. 25:5-10)

Ruth 2:1 And **Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's**, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and **his name was Boaz.**

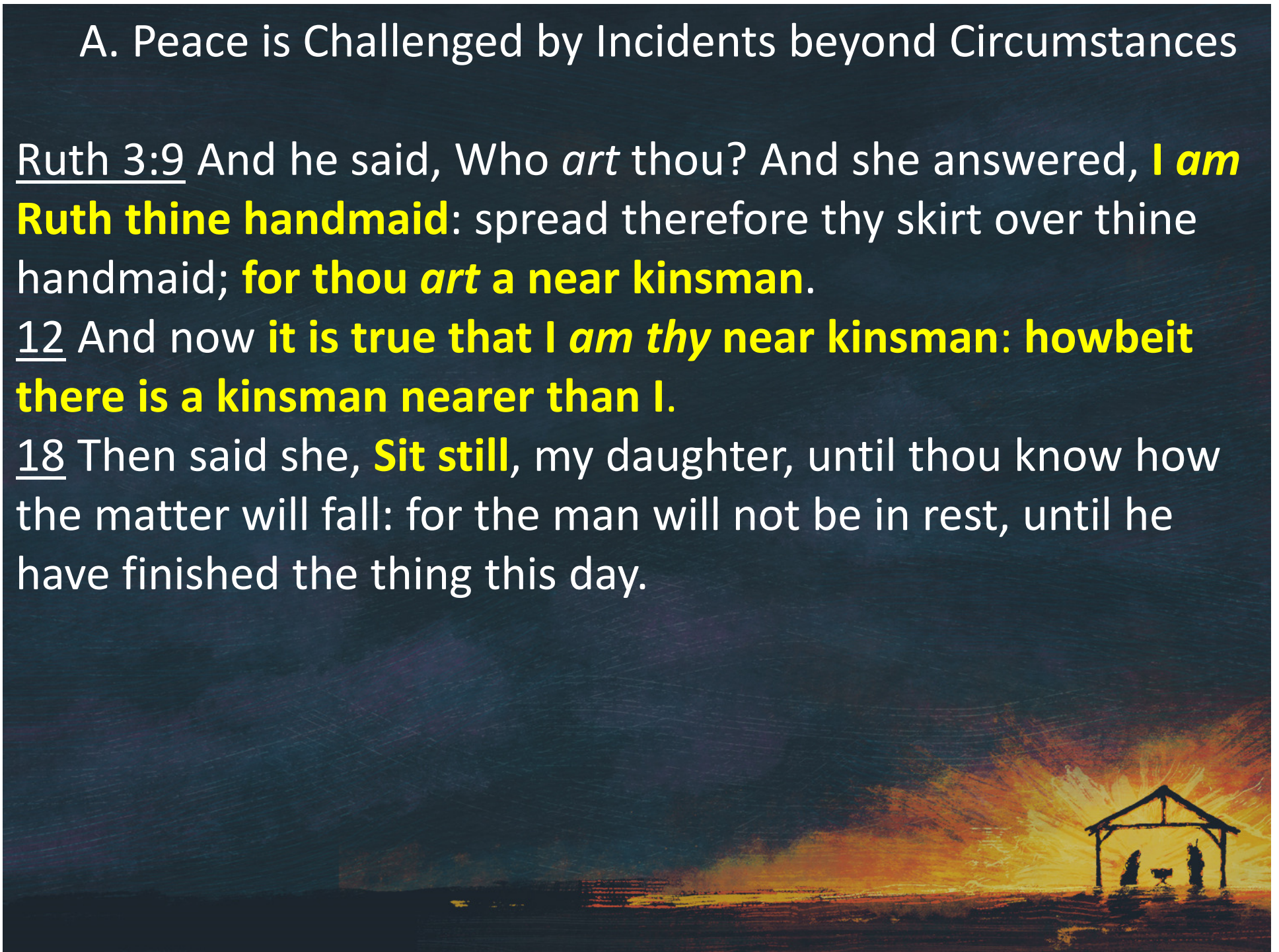


## A. Peace is Challenged by Incidents beyond Circumstances

Ruth 3:9 And he said, Who *art* thou? And she answered, **I am Ruth thine handmaid**: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; **for thou art a near kinsman**.

12 And now **it is true that I am thy near kinsman: howbeit there is a kinsman nearer than I**.

18 Then said she, **Sit still**, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall: for the man will not be in rest, until he have finished the thing this day.

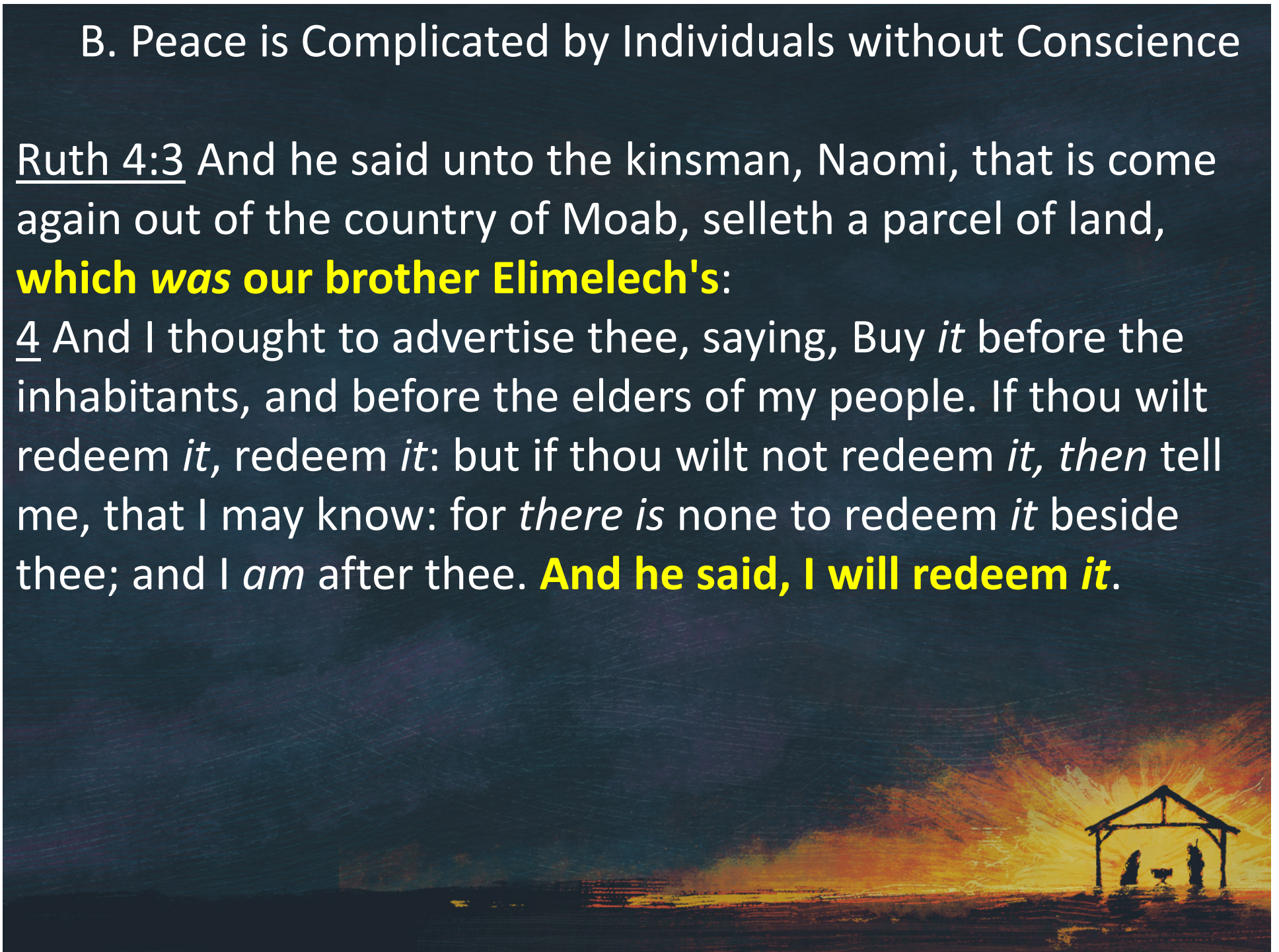




## B. Peace is Complicated by Individuals without Conscience

Ruth 4:3 And he said unto the kinsman, Naomi, that is come again out of the country of Moab, selleth a parcel of land, **which was our brother Elimelech's:**

4 And I thought to advertise thee, saying, Buy *it* before the inhabitants, and before the elders of my people. If thou wilt redeem *it*, redeem *it*: but if thou wilt not redeem *it*, *then* tell me, that I may know: for *there is* none to redeem *it* beside thee; and I *am* after thee. **And he said, I will redeem *it*.**



## II. RUTH WAS LOVED BY THE LORD = KNOW PEACE

### A. Peace is Compatible with Rejection

Ruth 4:5 Then said Boaz, What day thou buyest the field of the hand of Naomi, thou must buy *it* also of Ruth the Moabite, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance.

6 And the kinsman said, **I cannot redeem *it* for myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance**: redeem thou my right to thyself; for **I cannot redeem *it***.

### B. Peace is Commenced by Redemption

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.*



Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that **all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me.**

Col. 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:  
13 Who hath **delivered us** from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:  
14 **In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:**



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

Gal. 4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,  
5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

#### A. The Availability of Peace

Rom. 3:17 And **the way of peace** have they not known:

Isa. 59:8 **The way of peace they know not**; and *there is* no judgment in their goings: **they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.**

Isa. 48:22 *There is* **no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked.**




Psa. 85:10 Mercy and truth are met together; **righteousness and peace have kissed *each other*.**

1 Jn. 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, **we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:**

2 And **he is the propitiation for our sins:** and not for ours only, but also **for *the sins of the whole world*.**

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

Eph. 2:14 For **he is our peace**, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*;



## B. The Avenue of Peace

Isa. 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, **The Prince of Peace.**

Ruth 4:21 And Salmon begat Boaz, and Boaz begat Obed,  
22 And Obed begat Jesse, and Jesse begat David.

Mt. 1:5 And Salmon **begat Booz of Rachab**; and **Booz begat Obed of Ruth**; and Obed begat Jesse;

6 And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her *that had been the wife* of Urias; ...

16 And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, **of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.**

Titus 2:14 **Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity**, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.



## Conclusion

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

1 Pet. 1:18 Forasmuch as **ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things**, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers;

19 **But with the precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Isa. 38:17 **Behold, for peace I had great bitterness**: but thou hast **in love to my soul** *delivered it* from the pit of corruption: for **thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back**.



Eph. 2:14 For **he is our peace**, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*;

Gal. 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, **peace**, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Isa. 26:3 Thou wilt keep *him* in **perfect peace**, whose **mind is stayed on thee**: because he trusteth in thee.

Jn. 15:11 These things have **I spoken unto you**, that **my joy might remain in you**, and *that your joy might be full*.

Jn. 14:27 Peace I leave with you, **my peace I give unto you**: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. **Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

