

Chapter 1: Naomi in Moab—Israel doing Idolatry

History of the Hebrews

Hebrews lived peacefully in the Promised Land.

Hebrews' **idolatries** brought God's **judgment**.

Hebrews moved to foreign (gentile) countries.

Hebrews lost possession of the Promised Land.

God distant Himself from Hebrews' **idolatries**.

Jews interacted and intermarried with **gentiles**.

Jews longed to return to the Promised Land.

Some **gentiles** retained their old gods (religions).

Story of Ruth (with analogy)

Ch. 1: A Hebrew family lived pleasantly in Bethlehem.

Then came a **famine** (**judgment**).

Hebrew family moved to Moab (**gentile**) country.

Hebrew family forfeited their property in Israel.

The father **Elimelech** (**God**) died (**backed away**).

The sons took **gentile** wives, but the sons also died.

Naomi (**Israel**) hears of bread in Bethlehem.

Orpah (**gentile**) stayed in Moab with her gods.

Ruth 1:1-15

*Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a **famine** in the land. A certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. The man was **Elimelech** ("**GOD**"), his wife was **Naomi** ("**Israel**"), and his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion of Bethlehem, Judah. They went to the country of Moab and remained there. **Elimelech** (**GOD**), **Naomi's** (**Israel's**) husband, **died** (backed away); and she was left, and her two sons. They took wives of the women of Moab: one was **Orpah**, and the other **Ruth**. They dwelt there about ten years. Both Mahlon and Chilion died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband.*

*She arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had visited His people by giving them bread. She went out from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. **Naomi** (**Israel**) said to them, "Go, return each to her mother's house. The Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband." She kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. They said to her, "Surely we will return with you to your people." **Naomi** (**Israel**), said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Are there still sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands? Turn back, go--for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, if I should have a husband tonight and should bear sons, would you wait for them till they were grown? Would you restrain yourselves from having husbands? No, my daughters; for it grieves me very much for your sakes that the hand of the Lord has gone out against me!" They lifted up their voices and wept again; and **Orpah** ("**stayed gentile**") kissed **Naomi** (**Israel**), but **Ruth** ("**the Church**") clung to her. She said, "Look, **Orpah** (**stayed gentile**) has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law."*

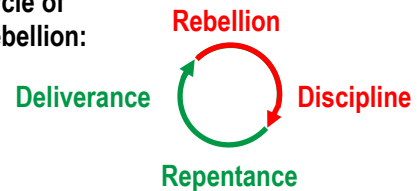
When the Judges Ruled

Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt. Joshua led them into the Promised Land. When Joshua died, the Hebrews decayed into idolatry. They worshiped idols and even did child-sacrifice to false gods (fallen angels). So God judged them with famine, disasters, and defeats in wars with surrounding nations.

"The Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders" (Judg. 2:16).

When a judge died, Israel went astray again, returning to sinful practices and idolatry. It was a constant cycle of sin and deliverance.

Cycle of Rebellion:



Israel **rebels**, God **disciplines** them, Israel **repents**, God sends a judge to **deliver** them. After a judge dies, the cycle begins all over again.

Hebrews were ruled by 12 judges before being ruled by Kings:

Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, and Samson.

They governed sometime between 1380 BC to 1060 BC (~320 years).

The Ruth history occurred between 1160 BC and 1100 BC (estimate).

GOD and Rebellious Israelites

As the Lord works with the Hebrews (His chosen people), it was like having and raising a family. God treats the nation of Israel like a wife. The Israelites were like little children being raised. As parents have experienced the unpredictability and rebelliousness of children, so God dealt with the Israelites. Mischiefers were disciplined and corrected. It went on day after day, year after year. When Israelites' rebellion and idolatry went beyond the point of no return, God's judgment was executed on them. He used Assyria and Babylon empires to chop off the idolatrous section of the Hebrew tree. It was not completely destroyed. The Lord always preserves or hides some of His people. A stump (remnant) remains alive.

"A tenth [remnant] will be in it ... As an oak, whose stump remains when it is cut down. So the holy seed shall be its stump" (Isa. 6:13).

"Yet I will preserve 7,000 others in Israel who have never bowed down to Baal or kissed him!" (1 Kings 19:18)

There was left a remnant of Hebrews—loyal and true worshipers of their God. The remnant shows that God is not done with the Israelites, for God still honors His covenant and promise with the Hebrews. In God's providence and dispensation, He set aside the nation of Israel and concentrated on other people of the world, that is, the gentiles (non-Jews). In the last two millennia, Christians (gentiles) has been the focus of God, until they are harvested. God says to the nation of Israel, *"For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called. For the Lord has called you like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit, like a wife of youth when she is cast off, says your God. For a brief moment I deserted you, but with great compassion I will gather you ... with everlasting love I will have compassion on you," says the Lord, your Redeemer*" (Isa. 54:5-8 ESV).

Dispersion of Israel (Israelites)

In A.D. 70 and again in A.D. 135, the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and scattered the Jews among all nations. Many Jews still maintained their identity as a people. Some still remained scattered throughout the world.

Re-gathering of Israelites

In 1948, Israel became a nation again.

Holy Seed (Root of Jesse—Messiah)

Since the Israel nation wasn't worshipping their own true God, but other nations' idols, God turned His attention to the gentiles.

In the Book of Ruth, Ruth symbolizes the Church, Naomi—Israel, Elimelech—God, and Boaz—Jesus. Christ relationship to the Church is similar to Redeemer Boaz (husband) and Ruth (wife). *"The husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, His body"* (Eph. 5:23).

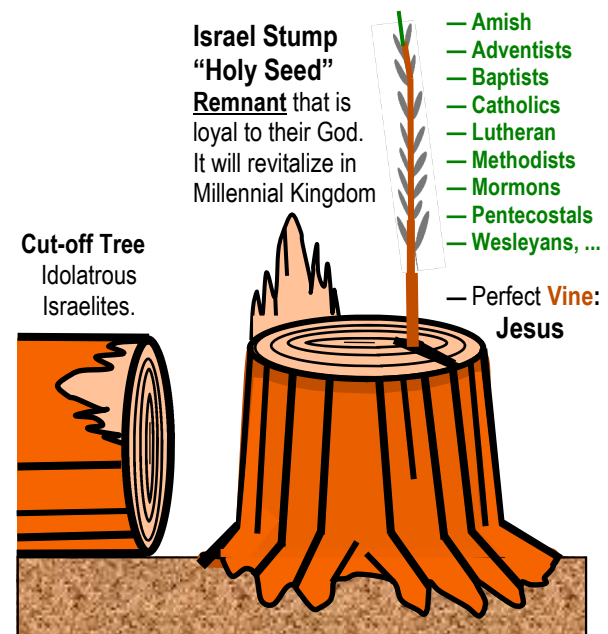
Saved gentiles (non-Jews) are part of the one universal Church—the *"body of Christ."* As billions of physical cells make up the body of Ruth, so billions of spiritual cells (saints) make up the body of the Church, which is composed of numerous redeemed gentiles. They consist of many ethnic groups, nations, and tribes.

THE VINE—Bloodline of Christians Christ is the **vine**. The churches are like his branches and leaves. Jesus' energy empowers Christians for service. *"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing"* (John 15:5). *"The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak"* (Matt. 26:41).

Grafted-in Gentiles:

Branches (denominations)

Leaves (churches):



PROMISED LAND

God created the Earth and gives His land to whoever He wants—the Promised Land to Israel. “*The earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein*” (Psa. 24:1). “*I am the Lord God of Abraham ... the land whereon thou [Jacob-Israel] liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed. Thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west ... east ... north ... south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed*” (Gen. 28:13-14).

ISRAEL IDOLATRY

From the death of Joshua to the kings’ rule, Israel deteriorated into idolatry and rebellion that brought God’s judgment. “*They provoked the Lord to anger because they forsook Him and served Baal [false god]*” (Judg. 2:13).

ISRAEL—“NAOMI”

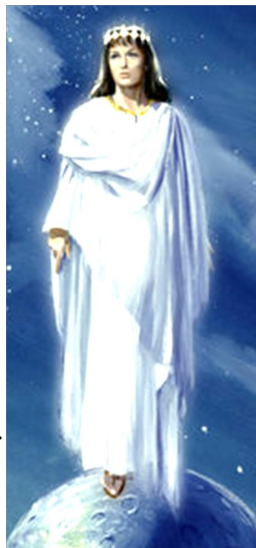
Naomi is the wife of Elimelech. Israel’s relationship to God the Father is like a wife. God made a covenant (contract) with Israel. They broke their end of an agreement by practicing idol worship and child sacrifice, so God made a *new contract* with them. “*I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel ... Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband to them [Israel], saith the Lord*” (Jer. 31:31-32).

God interacts with mankind through the Jews. “*For salvation is of the Jews*” (John 4:22).

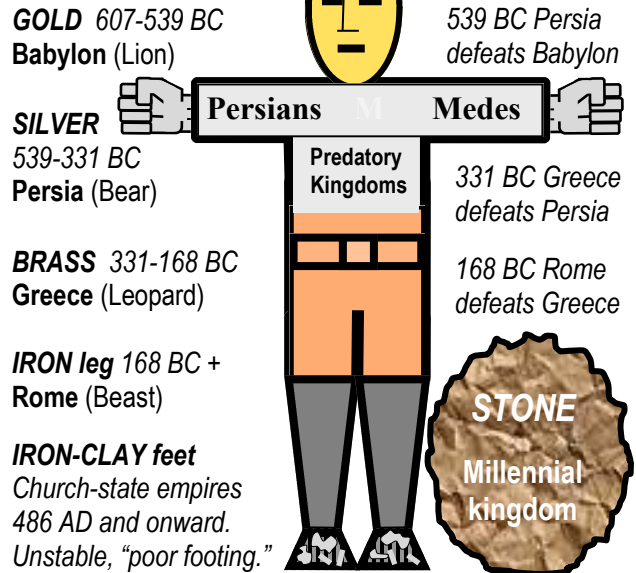
VISION and DREAM about ISRAEL

“*There appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman [Israel] clothed with the sun [God’s protection and glory], and the moon under her feet and upon her head a crown of 12 stars [12 tribes]: She being with child cried, traveling in birth ... She brought forth a man child [Christ], who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne*” (Rev. 12:1-5).

The man child (Savior Jesus) has done his work on the cross (redemption of mankind) and now sits at the right-hand side of God in Heaven. Also read Gen. 37:9 of Joseph’s dream.



GREAT STATUE



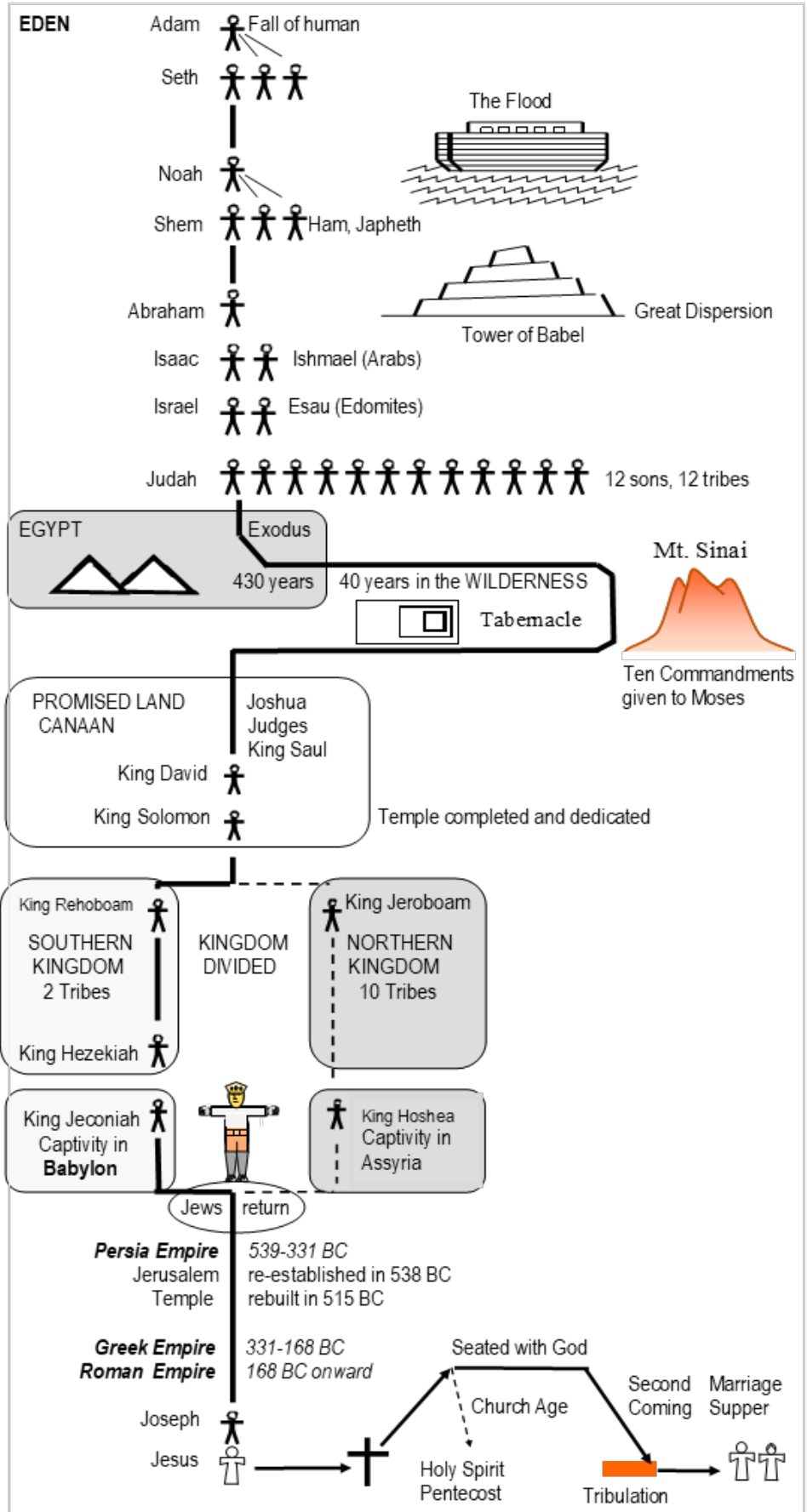
PROPHECIES FULFILLED

Humans use technology to predict their future. They use probability and statistic to make an educated guess of what will likely happen. In contrast, God is omnipotent and omniscient. He knows all, including the future. So, give your uncertainty and question to God. Get a 100 % true answer and resolution from Him. Prophets and saints use prophecies from God to see what and how things will happen in the future. God gave visions and dreams to Daniel and King Nebuchadnezzar. About **600 years before** the coming of the world’s evil empires, God told them what will happen. Today, these prophecies have become facts and history. We know these empires as Babylon, Persia-Media, Greece, and Rome. It happens as God had said. God gave another prophecy about the future—**Great Tribulation**. Beware and prepare for it.

Scientists use the scientific method to establish and verify facts, but criticize religions for not proving its beliefs by evidence. The Bible does, e.g., the Lord revealed to Daniel, about 600 years ahead, the mystery of the Statue (future kingdoms to come): Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. The historic events came true, thus proving by observable, verifiable, and empirical evidence that God foresees the future and gives 100 % accurate prophecy to His prophets.

LINE OF REDEMPTION

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Genesis | Adam-Eve |
| Exodus | Seth |
| Leviticus | Enosh |
| Numbers | Cainan |
| Deuteronomy | Mahalalel |
| Joshua | Jared |
| Judges | Enoch |
| Ruth | Methuselah |
| 1, 2 Samuel | Lamech |
| 1, 2 Kings | Noah |
| 1, 2 Chronicles | Shem |
| Ezra | Arphaxad |
| Nehemiah | Cainan |
| Esther | Shelah |
| Job | Eber |
| Psalms | Peleg |
| Proverbs | Reu |
| Ecclesiastes | Serug |
| Solomon | Nabor |
| Isaiah | Terah |
| Jeremiah | Abraham-Sara |
| Lamentations | Isaac |
| Ezekiel | Jacob (Israel) |
| Daniel | Judah-Tamar |
| Hosea | Perez |
| Joel | Hezron |
| Amos | Ram |
| Obadiah | Amminadab |
| Jonah | Nahshon |
| Micah | Salmon-Rahab |
| Nahum | Boaz-Ruth |
| Habakkuk | Obed |
| Zephaniah | Jesse |
| Haggai | King David |
| Zechariah | King Solomon |
| Malachi | King Rehoboam |
| Matthew | King Abijah |
| Mark | King Asa |
| Luke | King Jehoshaphat |
| John | King Jehoram |
| Acts | King Uzziah |
| Romans | King Jotham |
| 1 Corinthians | King Ahaz |
| 2 Corinthians | King Hezekiah |
| Galatians | King Manaseh |
| Ephesians | King Amon |
| Philippians | King Josiah |
| Colossians | King Jeconiah |
| 1,2 Thess. | Shealtiel |
| 1, 2 Timothy | Zerubbabel |
| Titus | Abiud |
| Philemon | Eliakim |
| Hebrews | Azor |
| James | Zabok |
| 1 Peter | Achim |
| 2 Peter | Eliud |
| 1 John | Eleazar |
| 2 John | Matthan |
| 3 John | Jacob |
| Jude | Joseph-Mary |
| Revelation | Jesus |



Understanding THE LAW: Love for *God, Neighbors, and Self*

INTERACTION Among Creatures

God made creation and creatures. He made laws for their interaction. The Law of Physics govern physical creation. The Law of Love urge creatures to good character and behavior. Our Maker wants love and harmony between all His creatures and creation for the optimum interaction of all lives.

Humans need all sort of laws just to get along with each other. Traffic laws to travel safely from here to there. Business laws to serve customers fairly and safely, and so on.

THE LAW—Commandments

God gave 10 Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai. These are only few of the 613 mitzvot of **the Law**. It told the Hebrews how to live with people and God.

The Jews try to live by the **Law**, while the Christians try to live by **Love**. On the surface there seem to be no commonality, but there is: “*Love is the fullness of Torah*” (CJB). “*Love is the fulfilling of the Law*” (Rom. 13:10). The ultimate goal of the **Law** is **love**. To **love** is to do the **Law**. To obey the Law is to love your neighbors and your God. The New Testament **love** fulfills the Old Testament Law (Torah) requisite of loving people and Creator God.

TEN COMMANDMENTS (Exo. 20:1-17)

The first **three** commandments refer to **God**. The next **six** is interacting with **neighbors**. The last **one** is about our personal **self**.

God [Adonai] spake all these words, saying:

- God
1. Thou shalt have **no** other **gods** before me [**God**].
 2. Thou shalt not make unto thee graven image [idol] ...
 3. Thou shalt not take the name of thy **God** in vain...
Others
 4. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
 5. Honour **thy** father and **thy** mother ...
 6. **Thou** shalt not **kill**.
 7. **Thou** shalt not commit **adultery**.
 8. **Thou** shalt not **steal**.
 9. **Thou** shalt not bear false witness ...
Self
 10. **Thou** shalt not **covet**.

The **Law** is like a tree; **love** is its fruit.



“*The law is spiritual ... Love [spiritual] worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore **love** is the fulfilling of the **law***” (Rom. 7:14, 13:10).

GOD’S LAWS—ALL based on LOVE

Love is positive interaction with **others**. Laws are for the benefit of mankind. Symbiotically, if you **love** (do good to) **others**, all mutually benefits.

LOVE GOD:

1. A command **not** to worship **creatures**, including angels, humans, animals, emperors, Pope, Mary, Antichrist, etc. **God** isn’t second to angels (“gods”).
2. An order **not** to worship **creations**: God-made or man-made (idols). Creations are stars, Sun, planets, moon, idol, statue, gold, silver, money, etc.
3. A caution **not** to make **foolish vows** or say care-less **profanity** using the name of God, which is holy.

LOVE NEIGHBORS:

These rules tell humans **not** to interact negatively with other people. **Sin** causes **division**.

4. The Sabbath serves as a bond between God and man. On worship day (Jewish Sabbath or Christian Sunday), we focus on the Lord God and spiritual things (love, hope, faith, truth, etc.). The House of God is our “spiritual school” and “spiritual hospital.”
5. The children are to honor their parents. Growing kids need to respect their parents’ wisdom. The father and mother speak from experience. Youths should learn and apply their parents’ wise teaching.
6. **Murder** began with Satan. **Lust** begets **sin** that begets **death**; e.g., promiscuous women advertise themselves to men that stirs sexual lust. Men react with lust. A rapist’s **lust** begets unwanted pregnancy that begets abortion (**death** of a baby). Avoid abortion by exercising wisdom and self-control.
7. **Adultery**, sin with non-spouse, causes mistrust and divorce. It ruins husband-wife bond, marriage, family, and children. “*what God has joined together, let not man separate*” (Matt. 19:6).
8. **Stealing** is a loss to a person who put time and effort into earning an object or wage. A lazy man resorts to thievery to get things free, not earn them.
9. Satan is the Father of Lies. Don’t be like him and be a false witness. If your neighbor depends on you to tell the truth and you **lie**, then you betrayed a trust.

LOVE SELF:

10. In the **self** is where thoughts originate. Some think good thoughts and others evil (covet). **Lust** begets **sin** that begets **death**. If a demonic spirit is in us, we try to **extract** that evil, which is why victims self-mutilate, self-abuse, or even self-harm—suicide (**death**). Thus, **self-love** is vital, even though it sounds selfish. **Self-control** is extremely important.



Understanding The Law and Grace

God is perfect and sinless. To live with God, humans must also be sinless. So, the Hebrews sacrificed animals as substitute for their sins. To resolve mankind's sins, God offered a perfect sacrifice—He Himself—as Emmanuel (“God with us,” Jesus). By being crucified and dying on the cross, the Lamb of God satisfied the law's sinless demand. Christ's **grace** saves those who have faith in him.

*“For the **Torah** [the law] was given through **Moshe** [Moses]; **grace and truth** came through **Yeshua the Messiah** [Christ]” (John 1:17 CJB).*

*“We know that the **Torah** [the Law] is good, provided one uses it in the way the Torah itself intends. We are aware that Torah is not for a person who is righteous, but for those who are heedless of Torah and rebellious, ungodly and sinful, wicked and worldly, for people who kill their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral — both heterosexual and homosexual — slave dealers, liars, perjurers, and anyone who acts contrary to the sound teaching” (1 Tim. 1:8-10 CJB).*

*“He [Yeshua] said to them, ‘**Shabbat** [Sabbath, one of the laws] was made for mankind, not mankind for Shabbat [law]; So the Son of Man is Lord even of Shabbat’ ” (Mark 2:27-28 CJB).*

The saying "laws are made for man not man (servant) for laws," means that rules and laws are for mankind's benefit—for their positive, not negative, interaction. The Law is spiritual and good.

DEHAAN'S WORD about GRACE (in red):

To illustrate the justice of God, David was the first man in Israel who had a right to Israel's throne. He was the descendant of **Perez**, the **illegitimate son of Judah**. We've a sordid record in Gen. 38.

Judah, the son of Jacob, had married a Canannitish woman who had borne him three sons, **Er**, **Onan**, and **Shelah**. When **Er** was of age his father gave him a wife by the name of **Tamar**. But **Er** died before he had an issue and died childless. According to the Law of redemption of a wife, the brother of the deceased was to take his brother's wife. This the second son of Judah did, **Onan** too died childless and left **Tamar** a widow again. There was one more son of Judah, **Shelah**, who was eligible to take the widowed **Tamar**. But Judah refused to give him to **Tamar**. It was then that **Tamar** disguised herself as a harlot and enticed Judah, her own father-in-law, to become the father of her child. This baby was called **Perez**. He was an illegitimate child, born of Judah and his own daughter-in-law. Now the Bible had given a very clear instruction concerning the place of such an one in Israel. The significant of all this will become evident as we see God's provision. It begins, therefore, with **Perez** ... **Perez, Hezron, Ram, Amminadab, Nahshon, Salmon, Boaz, Obed, Jesse, and David** ... Here is God's own commandment in regard to a situation of this very kind.

GOD'S LAW Stands

Here is the definite command of the Lord that no child born *out of wedlock* should ever be admitted into Israel until the 10th generation ...

*“A **bastard** [or **Ammonite** or **Moabite**] shall not enter into the congregation of the Lord; even to his **tenth generation**” (Deut. 23:2-3 KJV).*

The expression had a reference to a place in the royal line of Israel. It did not imply being a social outcast. Ancient rabbis interpreted it to mean that no descendant of a bastard could sit upon the throne of Israel until the **tenth** generation ... **God never departs from His Word**, and generations afterward **He keeps His Word**.

TEN GENERATIONS

There are just ten names in the list, beginning with **Perez**, son of Judah, and ending with **David**, king of Israel. It begins with a “bastard” and ends with a great king. It is the story of **Grace, Grace, Grace**, the story of a poor, unworthy gentile becoming the happy bride of the wealthy Boaz.

Judah-Tamar (played harlot)

1. **Perez** (illegitimate son)
2. **Hezron**
3. **Ram**
4. **Amminadab**
5. **Nahshon**
6. **Salmon-Rahab** (prostitute)
7. **Boaz-Ruth** (Moabite)
8. **Obed**
9. **Jesse**
10. **David** (King of Israel)

... 14 generations later came **Jesus** (the King of Kings).

Boaz was a **physical** Kinsman-Redeemer.

Jesus is the **spiritual** Kinsman-Redeemer.

Our Savior Jesus' grace and love covers the sins of people, including Hebrews, **Judah, Tamar, Rahab**, and **Ruth** (descendant of Lot's incest).

*“Have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a **multitude of sins**” (1 Peter 4:8). Love (God-Jesus) forgives and covers all our sins.*

