
TAKING THE **WHOLE WORD** TO THE **WHOLE WORLD**

The God of Israel ...

UNDER WHOSE WINGS YOU HAVE
come to trust.



DR. J. VERNON MCGEE



THRU the BIBLE



WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD



A LOVE STORY

Dr. J. Vernon McGee



This article is an excerpt from the **Ruth Bible Companion**.
Download the full digital booklet [here](#).

When you think of the grand and sweeping truth the Bible covers, from cover to cover, you might wonder why God devotes an entire book to the story of a young woman who came from a foreign country into the land of Israel. She left paganism and idolatry behind and met the Lord God of Israel, and as her future husband said, she found in Him safety, *“under whose wings you came to trust.”*

The book of Ruth has only four short chapters, but it has a couple mighty messages. First, it tells us the family line that leads to the Lord Jesus Christ and explains how He came from the line of David. It connects David’s line with the tribe of Judah, linking the story that begins in Genesis, and follows it to that stable in Bethlehem and to the Cross. This alone could be why the book of Ruth is included in the canon of Scripture.

But there also is another reason and it is wrapped up in a metaphor, a picture of redemption fulfilled by the Lord Jesus Christ. Since God is the only one who can redeem us, He needed to become a kinsman–redeemer, a mediator.

In our story, that role is played by Boaz who furnishes the only figure for the kinsman–redeemer aspect of redemption, which is so essential for any proper understanding of the atonement. This little book of Ruth comes down to our level and tells the simple story of first a family, then a couple who love each other. They were ordinary folk, average folk, and their love story is a mirror in which we can see the divine love of a Savior for you and me. As we proceed into the book of Ruth, we see this wonderful love story unfold before us.

The book of Ruth can be divided up different ways, and the one we will follow will satisfy the content of the book more than any other. We’ll organize our study around its geography—where that part of the story took place. Chapter one is in the land of Moab. Chapter two takes place in Boaz’s fields. Chapter three is on Boaz’s threshing floor, and chapter four wraps it up in the heart and home of Boaz. I’ll tell you now, there is a special baby involved.

In our study, I have attempted to lift out of this little book some of the great spiritual lessons that are here—and there are many. The kinsman–redeemer is one of the most marvelous pictures we have of our Lord Jesus Christ who redeemed us. In other words, this story is a picture of our redemption. This is the way *our* Kinsman–Redeemer has acted in our behalf.

We see Boaz as a picture of this Redeemer. First he redeems the property. Then he redeems Ruth. He acts the part of a kinsman and makes her his wife. He does it because he loves her. Since Boaz depicts the Lord Jesus Christ, our Kinsman–Redeemer, it is very important to see that He has acted in our behalf.

The people of Bethlehem are rejoicing in this redemptive picture because—as we've been told twice—this girl, though a foreigner, an outsider, has made a wonderful name for herself in their town. It was obvious that she, as a Moabite, had made a tremendous sacrifice to trust God as her Savior. And she didn't spend her time running around chasing every man in the community, and Boaz noted that.

AS A MAN CHOOSES A WOMAN FOR HIS BRIDE,
AND AS BOAZ CLAIMED RUTH,
SO CHRIST CAME TO THIS EARTH FOR HIS BRIDE.

*He is the One who demonstrated
His love by dying for us.*

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As a man chooses a woman for his bride, and as Boaz claimed Ruth, so Christ came to this earth for His bride. He is the One who demonstrated His love by dying for us. And we are the responder—we are to respond to His love. We are to receive Him as Savior, then come to know Him.

Oh, friend, that should be the ambition of every Christian—to *know* Him! It is sad that a great many people make a trip to Bethlehem once a year and look in a manger. He's not there, friend. Although He did come as a baby, He hasn't been a baby for a long time. Then at Easter they go look in an empty tomb, and He's not there either. He's the Man in the Glory today. And Paul could write that his ambition was “that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings” (Philippians 3:10). That should be our goal, too. Oh, that we might know Him, our Kinsman–Redeemer, and love Him because He first loved us.

MY TURN

The book of Ruth tells a family story—a family struggling to survive, hammered by grief, in search of hope, open to possibilities, looking to God in faith, restored to wholeness. ***It's likely at least one of those situations resonates with you. Which one?***

CAN YOU IDENTIFY ...

- **WITH NAOMI**
Looking to God for healing from loss and struggle?
- **WITH RUTH**
Overcoming tremendous hurdles to believe God has a plan that includes you?
- **WITH BOAZ**
Intent on doing the righteous thing God's way?

Reread the four chapters of Ruth again with a special eye for “your person.” See how God meets their need—and trust Him to meet yours.



FIELD NOTES

TAKING THE WORD
TO THE WORLD



JUST LOOK AT HOW GOD WORKS!

CASE STUDY: Home Groups for the Wayana people of Suriname

If you've been on the Bible Bus for a while, you've likely prayed for our Home Groups. This movement of the gospel being spread, house to house, is happening in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, and North Africa as people listen to THRU the BIBLE in their own heart languages.

Recently we were surprised to hear how God is using the Home Groups somewhere we never would've imagined.

To tell this story, we have to start in 1956 when the shocking news of five missionaries, led by Jim Elliot and Nate Saint, were murdered in Ecuador by the people they were hoping to reach with the gospel. Surprisingly, the news rallied many godly young men and women to go to the mission field.

Ivan Schoen read the headlines in the *New York Times* on his lunchbreak on a construction site. He read the article, closed the paper, found his boss, and said, **"I'm quitting; I'm going to be a missionary in Latin America."**

Ivan, his wife Doris, and their three children arrived in Suriname several years later. They set up camp along a river emerging from a jungle, lived in a tent, and made contact with the Wayana people, believed to be a fierce tribe. For many days the Wayana studied the Schoens from their hideouts. Eventually, first contact was made. Over time, Ivan made friends with the tribal chief, the shamans, and others from the tribe. He learned their language. He learned about their beliefs in evil spirits and the creator spirit. Eventually Ivan was able to share about the great Spirit, Jesus, and His gift to the world.

Many amazing things happened ... which you can hear about in a great video posted at [TTB.org/wayana](https://www.thru.org/wayana). As people came to Christ, they began to translate the Bible into Wayana.

The New Testament was completed in the late 1960's. But only recently was the complete Bible available and bound into a book and presented to the tribal chief, now a very old man. Because of the pandemic, Ivan and Doris watched the presentation via Zoom last year.



This is where THRU the BIBLE enters the story. Tom Schoen, Ivan and Doris' son, is working again with the people he grew up with in Suriname, now as a missionary with **TWR**, one of THRU the BIBLE's most trusted ministry partners. As Tom and local Wayana church leaders face the challenges of discipleship in a new era of ministry, they need new solutions. The Wayana young people are moving farther into the jungle to avoid the urban development brought on by mining. So as the Wayana church leaders and TWR missionaries prayed about it, they considered establishing a radio ministry to reach their people in the jungle. Then, an idea: What about using THRU the BIBLE's Home Group model they'd heard had launched in India? *Yes, this might work. Let's try it, they said.*

Only God could orchestrate a connection like this. We're excited to follow these new Home Groups meeting in Suriname. When we answer the question, "What's new at THRU the BIBLE?" really, the question should be "What is God doing that is new?"

We couldn't make these things up if we tried. **Please pray for this beginning ministry to the Wayana people. This is just another way we are together taking God's whole Word to the whole world.**

 **SURINAME**





WHAT TO DO WITH OUR WORRIES

“We need hope tomorrow will be brighter. We need hope that at the end of this journey there is satisfaction and fullness of life. We get it, friend, it’s available in God’s Word.” –Dr. J. Vernon McGee

Are you feeling overwhelmed or crushed by your circumstances? A listener in Nigeria can relate. Here’s his story:

“Discouragements almost swallowed me up. I had staggering piles of unsettled debts steadily confronting me. I was angry, exhausted, and beginning to lose the will to go on. That’s when I heard your teachings in my language of Igbo. I started receiving fresh direction from the Lord on how to hold up my head above the raging storms. I learned to hang on, to give my problems to God, and let Him work out the details. It is not as easy as it sounds but is possible and does make a difference.”

As we thank God for this gentleman and all those who join us on the Bible Bus in

their language of Igbo, let’s pray 1 Peter 5:7 for those among us who are struggling:

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your deep care and concern for each of us. We’re grateful for Your promise to carry our burdens. When we’re worried or afraid, remind us You are completely trustworthy and that hope can be found in Your Word. Help us not to let our worry control our lives, but instead give you the control and freedom to work in us the way you see fit. In Jesus’ name, amen.

This is an example of the email our World Prayer Team receives every weekday. Together, we travel the world on our knees, interceding for one country at a time. Join us in covering the entire earth with prayer every year.

GO TO [TTB.ORG/PRAY](https://ttb.org/pray) TO SIGN UP.

WHY STUDY JOSHUA?

Join in the studies on **THRU the BIBLE MAY 25—JUNE 10** or anytime online, by podcast, or by mobile app.

Onward Christian soldiers! We’re headed for a month of conquest, victory, and lessons from the field of battle. With the book of Joshua as our pattern, we’ll learn how to take possession of all the spiritual blessings that God has given us.

“The secret to Joshua’s success was that he knew the words of God and he did not turn to the left or the right, away from them. He meditated on them day and night.” –Dr. J. Vernon McGee

3 PEOPLE YOU NEED TO MEET:

- 1 **JOSHUA**—“Yahweh saves,” an appropriate name for the man who led Israel, under God’s command, to victorious conquest of the land He promised. In Greek, “Joshua” is translated as “Jesus.”
- 2 **CALEB**—Joshua’s lifetime comrade in arms, Caleb trusted God his whole life. An old man now, he inspires us with his “can-do” attitude in following God.
- 3 **RAHAB**—Usually labeled, “the harlot,” but whose faith in God was used to save the spies. Check out her amazing lineage and reward for her faith: Matthew 1:5, Hebrews 11:31, James 2:25.

KEY VERSE

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. –Joshua 1:8

IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA, GOD IS THE ULTIMATE PROMISE-KEEPER.

As faithful and present as He was with Israel, so He is with us. Read Joshua 1:9.

The book of Joshua is like our story: God has promised us blessing and victory as we walk with Him. Our rights are secure in our relationship with Jesus Christ. But our enjoyment of these gifts is dependent on our willingness to follow Him and, in the joy of obedience, take possession of “the land” He has promised us.



THRU the BIBLE

A WORD FROM GREGG HARRIS

Stewardship

The concept of stewardship is largely foreign to our culture. We understand ownership, borrowing, leasing, and mortgaging but don't know much about stewardship. Yet making good use of what God entrusts to us is a biblical concept—something we daily think about at THRU the BIBLE.

Think about the parable Jesus tells in Luke 16 about the master who gives his workers a share of his investments and asks them to steward it well. In a tangible way, THRU the BIBLE holds a treasure we are stewarding, hoping to please our Master on His return with great fruit. This ministry doesn't belong to any of us but has always been about doing what will multiply and make good use of God's resources.

If you pray for our mission to together take the whole Word to the whole world, if you invest your treasure in this eternal purpose, then we invite you into the blessing that has been THRU the BIBLE's this year. God is working in incredible ways.

Here is an accounting of how your investments were distributed in 2021:

TOTAL EXPENSES 2021	\$25,724,575
Global ministry	\$15,888,550 — 62%
Domestic ministry	\$6,222,079 — 24%
General/Administration	\$2,244,026 — 9%
Listener services	\$1,369,920 — 5%

Grateful for your partnership,

Gregg Harris
THRU the BIBLE, President



WHY STUDY JUDGES?

Join in the studies on THRU the BIBLE JUNE 13-27 or anytime online, by podcast, or by mobile app.

During a dark time in Israel's history when everyone thought they alone knew best, God used twelve men and one woman as judges to lead communities back to Himself. Explore the amazing grace of God for a backsliding people as we study the book of Judges on THRU the BIBLE.

History repeats itself: "First we follow God. Then we do evil and turn away from God. Then we're judged and cry out to God for help. He delivers us and we follow Him again. Then we forget Him and the hoop of history just turns over again. You can follow that hoop right through the Bible, and it is still turning today." —Dr. J. Vernon McGee

KEY VERSE

What does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord and His statutes which I command you today for your good? —Deuteronomy 10:12, 13

ON THE BIBLE BUS THROUGH THE BOOK OF JUDGES, WATCH FOR THE FOLLOWING ROAD SIGNS:



WARNING

Don't forget God and all that He's done for you.
Abandoning God's laws = Chaos.
Life is always better when you follow, love, and worship God.



STOP THINKING

... that you know best.
... that God's Word is negotiable.
... that sin won't hurt you.
... that you have to be amazing before God can use you.



YIELD TO GOD: WHEN WILL WE LEARN?

... that when God says "don't," He means "don't hurt yourself."
... that God uses flawed, weak people to lead His people.
... that when we repent, God sends someone to rescue us.



TTB.org/Judges

ON THE ROAD

Greetings FROM THE BIBLE BUS

“A BIBLE WAS LEFT BEHIND AT THE APARTMENT I MOVED INTO ...”

Here's how one woman from Kosovo describes the beginning of her faith journey.

“About the time I turned 30, my fear of death intensified. My Muslim faith was of no help. I was overcome with morbid thoughts and began to develop agoraphobia. **I was desperate to find peace. Even when I was young, I always wondered what the reason of this life was.** It seemed we are young, we grow older, get a job, have a family, then there is retirement, and no matter how many days we have left, in the end we all die and become dust. **It seemed pointless. But when my fears overcame me, I started to search outside of Islam.** Although it's hard to find Christian materials here, a Bible was left behind at the apartment I moved into. I began to read, and although I understood almost nothing, somehow I knew that I should continue. Then I found your program.

“My perspective and outlook on life have changed completely since then. **I discovered that life is full of meaning and that we are all here for a purpose. It was as if I was falling more and more in love with God's Word as I listened to Dr. McGee every night. God changed me and called me to surrender completely to Him, which I eventually did.** Indescribable joy came to my heart, and everyone saw that something had happened to me.

“A lot has changed in my life since then. I started a wonderful walk with God. His Word shows us and illuminates the path we should take. **God has given me peace and purpose.** I keep listening because I always come across a new revelation that helps me face the daily challenges that life imposes on us.”



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