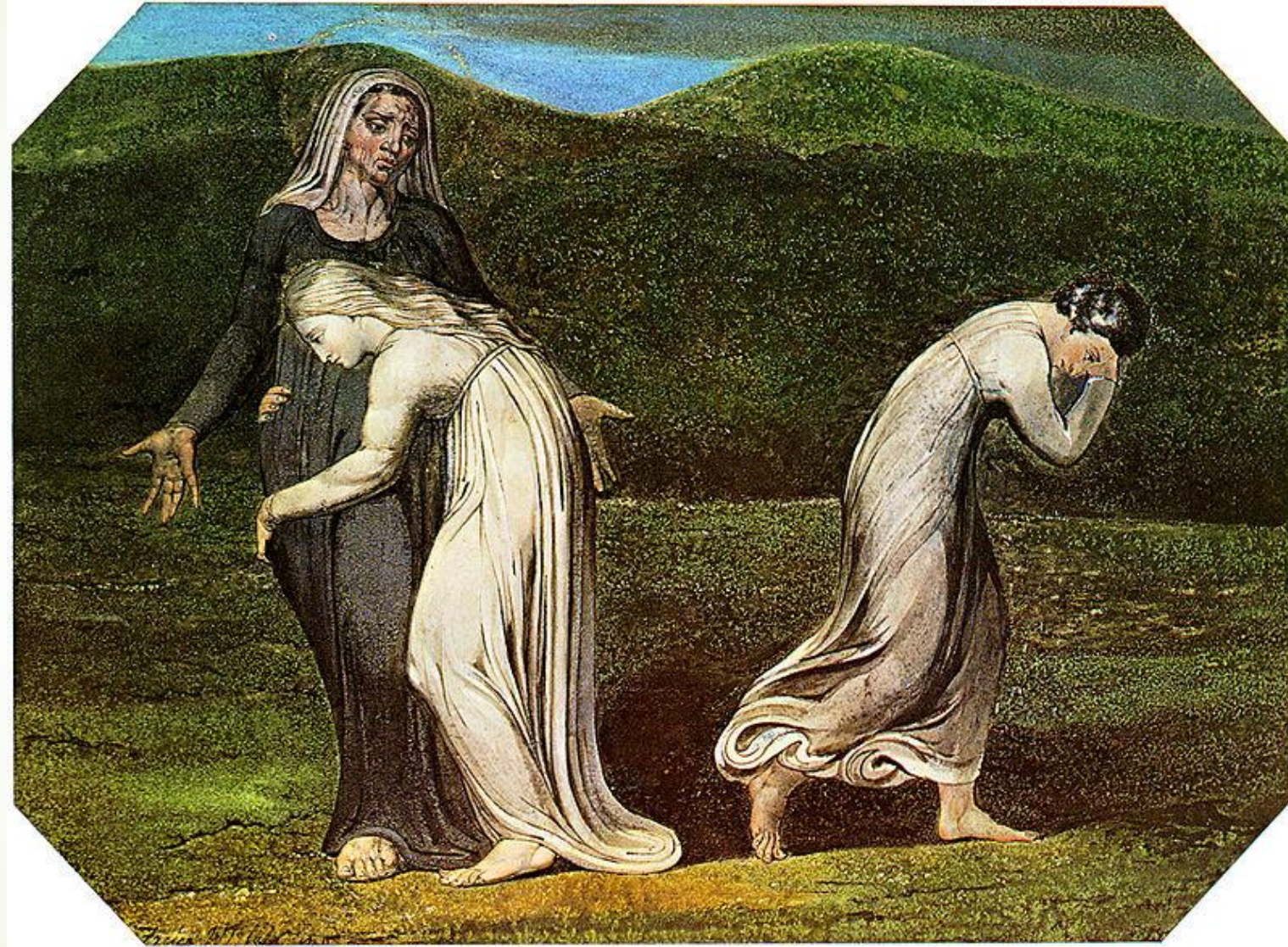
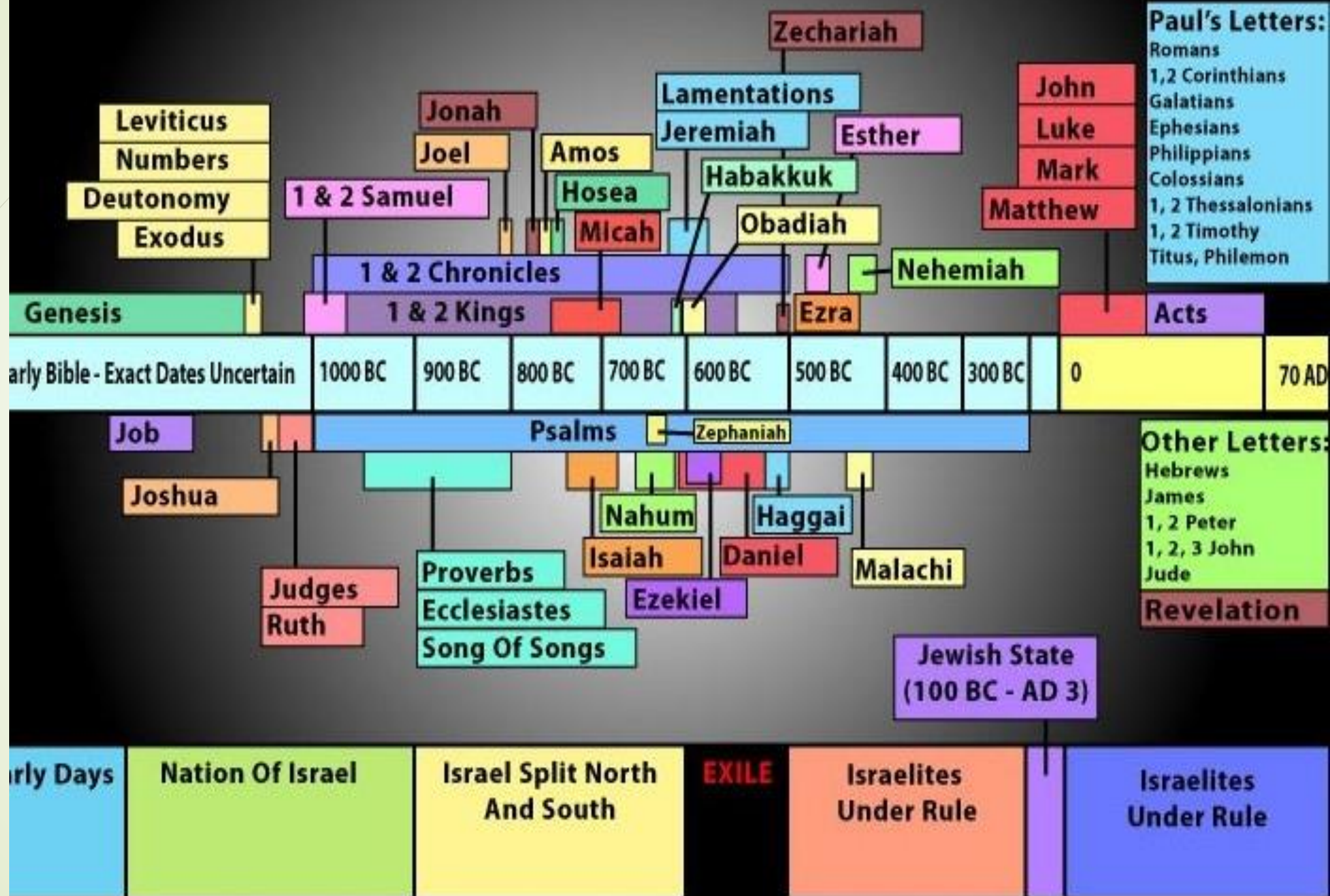
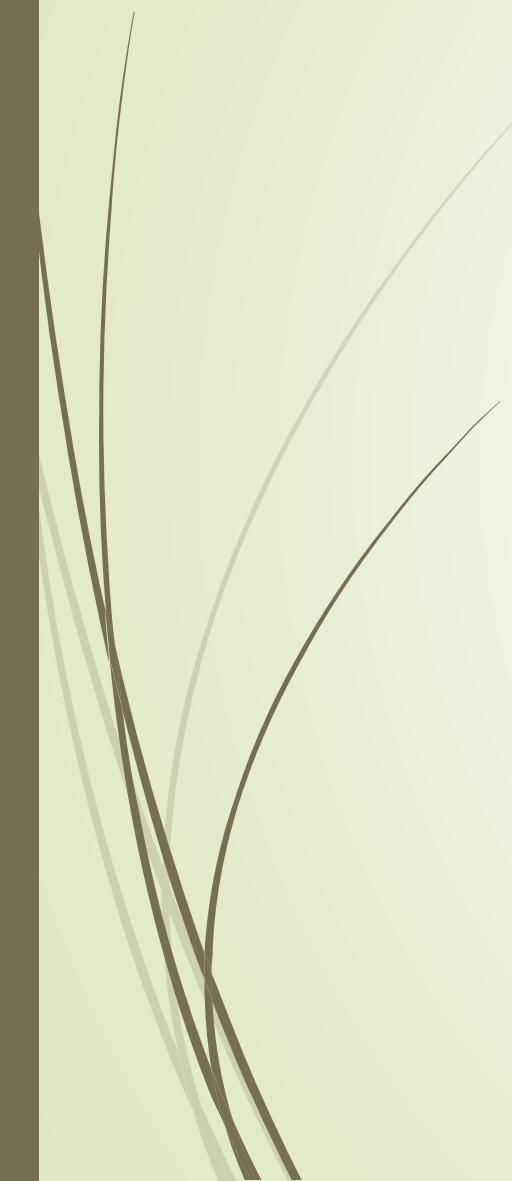


Ruth 1:16-22

**When Life Seems
Too Much....**







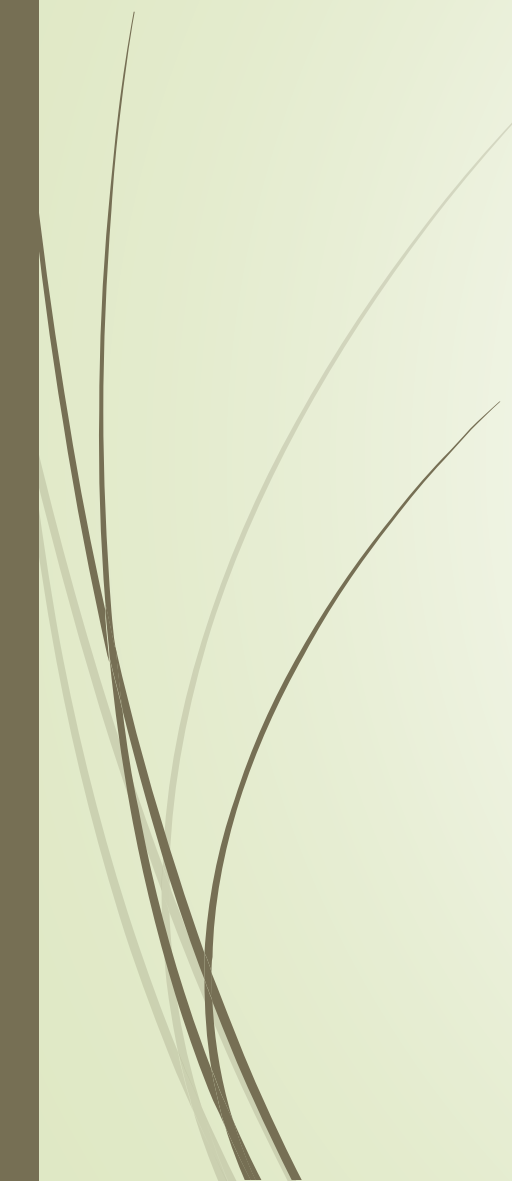
				
12 judges lead the Israelites for 300 years in a cycle of sin-slavery-supplication-salvation- and silence. Some of these judges served at the same time, ruling over certain regions.	The story of Ruth occurs probably about the time of Gideon judging Israel. Ruth was King David's great grandmother.	The young boy Samuel listens to God speaking.	Samson was one of the last judges to deliver Israel.	An older Samuel chooses Saul as the first king of Israel
1350 B.C. 1105 B.C. 1050 B.C.				

*Timeline 1350 B.C. -1050 B.C. (The Bible Knowledge Commentary of the O.T., by Walvoord and Zuck, c. 1985, pp. 373-374)



Bit of background:-

The books of Judges and Ruth go together. Probably written around the same time although nobody is quite sure.

- Book of Judges speaks of a time of violence, where might was the only right.
 - Time of social confusion with a drive towards a human king rather than God as king.
 - Time of religious confusion
 - Economic insecurity
 - Women tended to be pushed to the background.
- 



Moabites:

- Descendants of Abraham
- Often fighting Judah
- Worshipped Chemosh, “the destroyer”, known as requiring human sacrifice - 2 Kings 3:27

Outline of Ruth

A. Two Inseparable Women

1. Mother-in-law's loss
2. Daughter-in-law's loyalty

B. Two Influential Men

1. Redeemer Kinsman's Love
2. Royal King's Line

From David Pawson "Unlocking the Bible"



1. Mother-in-law's loss

NAOMI (which means “Pleasant”)

- left the land of her birth
- lost her home
- her status
- her security

In her new home she:

- loses everything else
- her husband
- her sons

What sort of person has she become?

- Bitter - she names herself “Mara”
- Hopeless – believes she is under God’s judgement
- Backward looking
- Unable to appreciate Ruth’s loyalty and sacrifice



“Entreat
me not to
leave
you...”

2. Daughter-in-law's loyalty

RUTH

- Loses her husband
- Leaves behind her people, customs and religion
- Possibly leaves behind her own widowed mother (vs. 8 Naomi tells the 2 women to go back to their “mother’s house”.)
- Has no knowledge of what her life might be like
- Doesn’t appear to be particularly appreciated by the woman she is giving up everything to care for

What sort of person has she become?

- Loyal
- Forward looking
- Accepting
- Courageous

Ruth displays covenant love towards Naomi.

Read her words again –

Where you go, I **will** go
Where you lodge, I **will** lodge
Your people **shall** be my people
And your God, my God
Where you die, I **will** die
There **will** I be buried



**International
Day of Friendship**



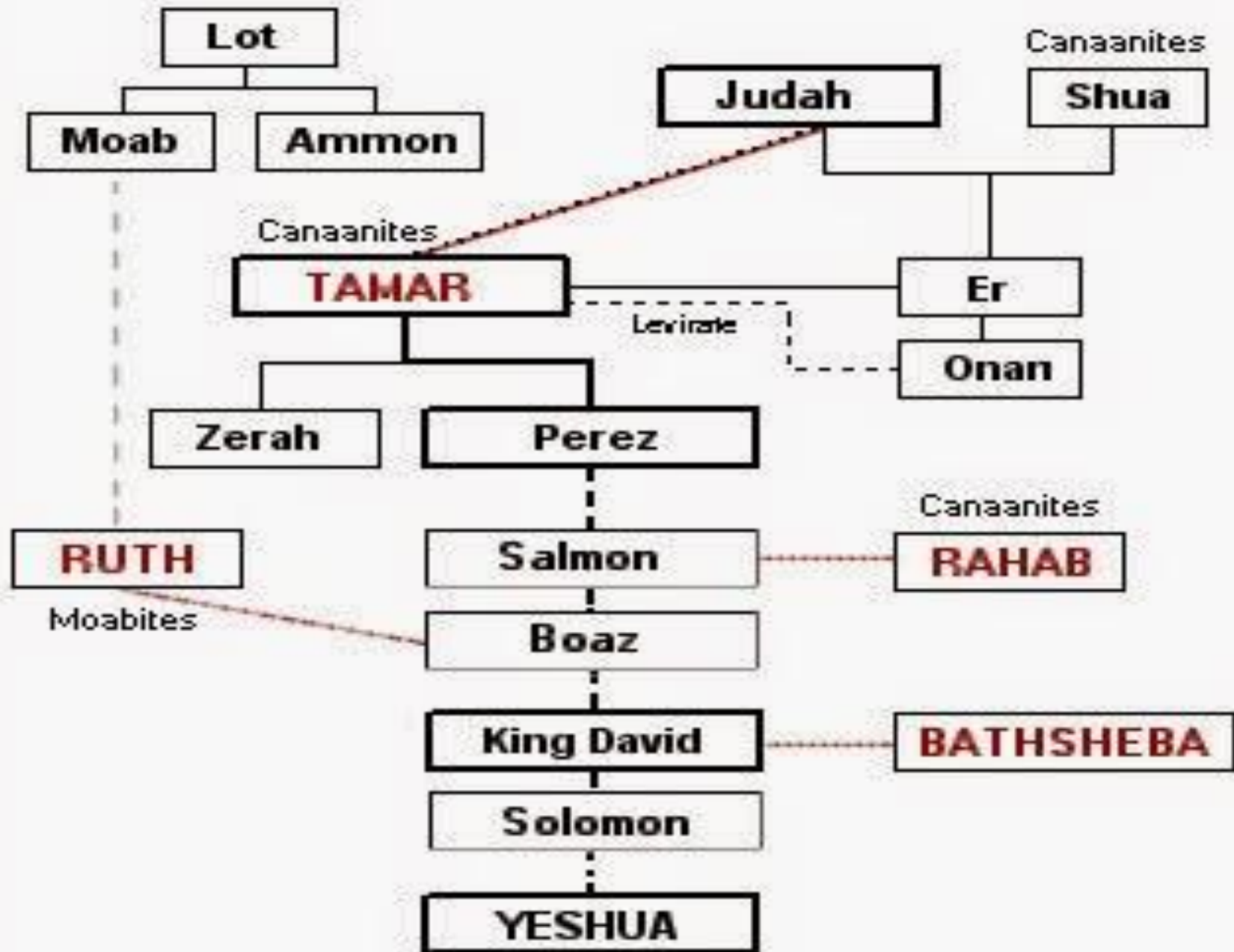


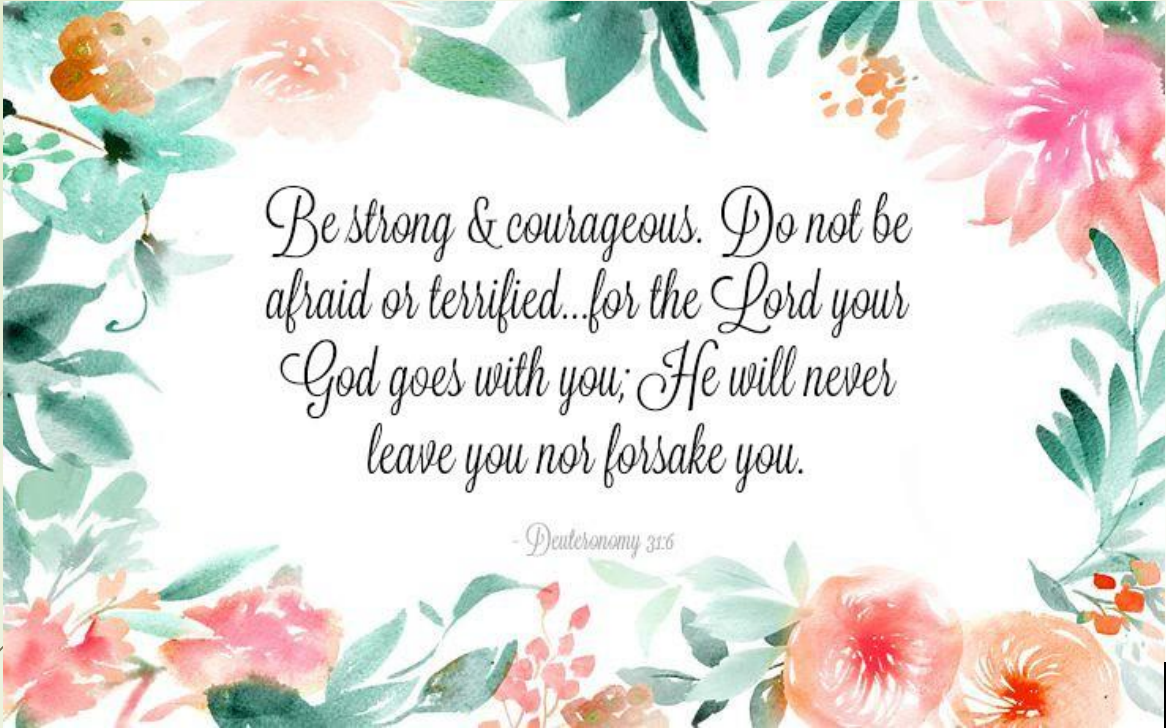
This is true love and friendship – we hear it echoed when two people make promises to each other in the wedding ceremony. And they are modelled on the covenantal words of Yahweh. These are the words of covenant love, echoed from Exodus 6:7 and Lev. 26:12 where God says to the Israelites,

“And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and you shall be my people.”

Echoed again in the New Testament by Jesus in John 14: 23

Jesus answered him, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.”





*Be strong & courageous. Do not be
afraid or terrified...for the Lord your
God goes with you; He will never
leave you nor forsake you.*

- Deuteronomy 31:6



***Never look down on anyone unless
you are helping them up!***

~ Jesse Jackson

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/brett-sayer/4011652476/>

Which person
are you going
to be?

Naomi or

Ruth

