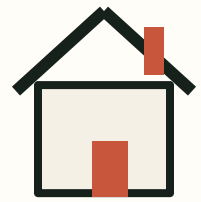




**IDENTITY, RELATIONSHIPS &
HOUSEHOLD**



HOMEFRONT

IDENTITY · RELATIONSHIPS ·
HOUSEHOLD

TWO ON THE

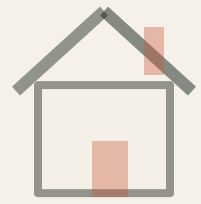
FRONTLINE

(THE POWER IN THE PAIR)

Ruth 2:1-3;3:9-11;4:9-10,13, & 17

(AMPC)

RUTH 2:1-3



HOMEFRONT

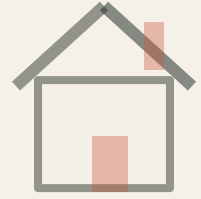
IDENTITY · RELATIONSHIPS ·
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1 NOW NAOMI had a kinsman of her husband's, a man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech, whose name was **Boaz**.

2 And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor.

Naomi said to her, Go, my daughter.

RUTH 2:1-3

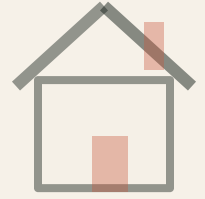


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3 And [Ruth] went and gleaned in a field after the reapers; and she happened to stop at the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech.

RUTH 3:9-11



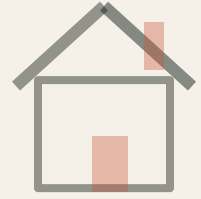
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9 And he said, Who are you? And she answered, I am Ruth your maidservant. Spread your wing [of protection] over your maidservant, for you are a next of kin.

10 And he said, Blessed be you of the Lord, my daughter. For you have made this last loving-kindness greater than the former, for you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich.

RUTH 3:9-11

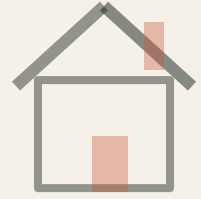


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11 And now, my daughter, fear not. I will do for you all you require, for all my people in the city know that you are a woman of strength (worth, bravery, capability).

RUTH 4:9-10,13 & 17

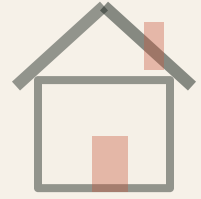


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RUTH 4:9-10,13 & 17

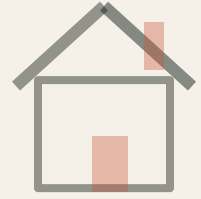


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10 Also Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought to be my wife to restore the name of the dead to his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from the gate of his birthplace. You are witnesses this day.

RUTH 4:9-10,13 & 17



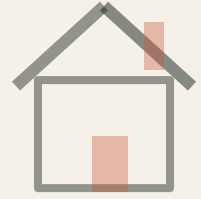
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13 So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the Lord caused her to conceive, and she bore a son.

17 And her neighbor women gave him a name, saying, A son is born to Naomi. They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David [the ancestor of Jesus Christ].

The Global Shift*

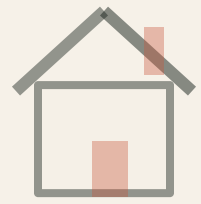


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- **Declining Rates: Marriage rates dropped steadily worldwide over the last 30 years.**
- **Marrying Later:**
 - **Global average: 25 (Women) | 28 (Men)**
 - **Western Europe & East Asia: 30–32 years old**
- **Changing Norms: Informal unions & cohabitation increasingly replacing or delaying formal legal marriage.**

***United Nations Population Division (World Marriage Data report series).Eurostat, OECD**



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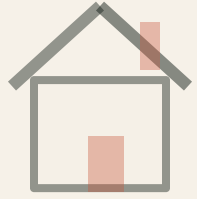
Marriage in the United States*

Historical Lows & Changing Timelines

- **Marriage Rate: 6.0 per 1,000 (Down from 9.8 in 1990)**
- **Median Age at First Marriage:**
 - **Men: 30.2 years old (up from 23.2 in 1970)**
 - **Women: 28.4 years old (up from 20.8 in 1970)**
- **Never-Married Shift: 25% of 40-year-olds have never been married (Record high, up from 6% in 1980)**

***CDC / National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), U.S. Census Bureau, Pew Research Center**

Marriage in the Black Community*



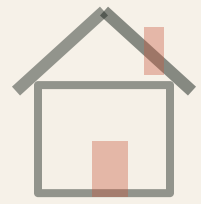
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- **Current Marriage Rate: ~30%–33% of Black adults are currently married.**
- **Single & Unmarried: ~48%–50% of Black adults have never been married.**
- **Interracial Trends: Recently married Black men marry outside their race at double the rate of Black women (24% vs. 12%).**
- **Family Structure: 55%–60% of children live in single-parent or extended-family networks.**

U.S. Census Bureau & Pew Research Center

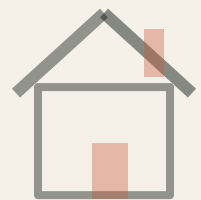
Marriage & Active Faith/The Spiritual Anchor*



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- **Marriage Rates: Practicing Christians marry at higher rates (52%+) than non-affiliated adults.**
- **The Church Attendance Factor:**
 - **Nominal Christians divorce at rates near the national average (~40%–45%).**
 - **Couples who regularly worship together see a 20%–35% reduction in divorce risk.**
- **The Bottom Line: Shared spiritual practice is statistically the strongest predictor of long-term marital resilience.**

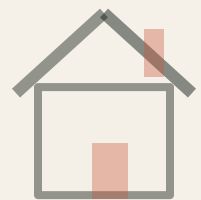


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Marriage is a **sacred, lifetime covenant**
established by God between one man and
one woman, forming an exclusive "one-flesh"
union designed to reflect the sacrificial
relationship between Christ and the Church.

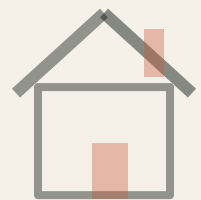
(Genesis 2:18, 24).(Malachi 2:14, Matthew 19:6).(Genesis 2:24).
(Ephesians 5:31-32).



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1. PROVIDENCE (RUTH 2:1-3)
2. PURPOSE (RUTH 3:9-11)
3. PROMISE (RUTH 4:9-10,13, & 17)



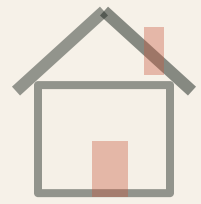
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PROVIDENCE (RUTH 2:1-3)

Psalms 37:23 "The LORD directs the steps of the godly.
He delights in every detail of their lives." (NLT)

Jeremiah 10:23 "I know, Lord, that our lives are not our
own. We are not able to plan our own course." (NLT)



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PROVIDENCE (RUTH 2:1-3)

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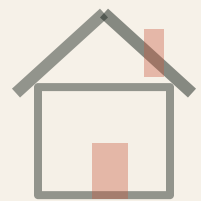


PURPOSE (RUTH 3:9-11)

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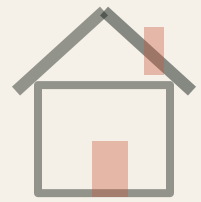
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PROMISE (RUTH 4:9-10,13, & 17)

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PROMISE RUTH 4:9-10,13 & 17

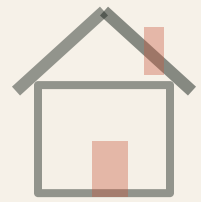


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Next Week:

Undivided and Unstoppable (Saved, Single and Satisfied!)