

# A WORD ON WORSHIP

## REVIEW OF MESSAGE FROM JUNE 8, 2014

BY PASTOR ANDREW KIKKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hear Sunday Sermons at [www.SunriseTC.org](http://www.SunriseTC.org)

### Ruth 4:5

*"Then Boaz said, 'On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also acquire Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of the deceased, in order to raise up the name of the deceased on his inheritance.'"*

Unlike some other cultures, Americans love to link romance with marriage. As the lyrics of one 1950s popular song put it, "Love and marriage ... go together like a horse and carriage." You might be disappointed in the story of Ruth because it does not contain as much "romance" as you are used to finding. Naomi sought to orchestrate a marriage between Ruth and Boaz, based on "romance." She convinced Ruth to bathe, put on perfume and her best dress, and then crawl under the covers with Boaz on the threshing floor once he had fallen asleep. A sexual union in these circumstances would have consummated a marriage, albeit not by the most honorable means. Such a "marriage" would have been a "short-cut."

Naomi's scheme did not produce a "romantic evening," or a midnight marriage. However, it did give Ruth the opportunity to ask Boaz to become her husband so as to provide protection and security for her (and for Naomi), as well as to produce a child who would carry on the family line. Boaz regarded Ruth's actions as honorable, and assured Ruth that he would do as she asked if the nearest kin declined to assume this responsibility. They did spend the remainder of the night in close proximity, but it was far from a romantic interlude. When Ruth reported these things to Naomi, her mother-in-law assured her that Boaz would quickly bring this matter to a conclusion.

In stark contrast to the events of the previous night, we come to the seemingly unromantic legal negotiations and commitments of Chapter 4. Quite frankly, such "unromantic" dealings are a beautiful thing to behold. Chapter 4 is also a stark contrast to what we read in Chapter 1. There, Naomi returned to Bethlehem accompanied by Ruth, refusing to be called "Naomi" (Pleasant), but insisting on being called "Mara" (Bitter) instead. She sought to justify this by claiming that God had dealt harshly with her. She claimed to have gone out to Moab "full," while returning to Bethlehem "empty." However, when Chapter 4 draws to an end, Naomi's arms are "filled" with the child that God has given her through Ruth and Boaz.

I believe that both Ruth and Boaz took great pleasure in doing God's will, even in those times when this appeared to be contrary to their own best interests. Naomi, on the other hand, could only sit back and complain, and propose actions that were contrary to God's will. Chapter 4 of the Book of Ruth puts all the previous events and responses into a proper perspective. Understanding this chapter as we should will enable us to understand the entire book, so we should listen well to what God has to say to us in this text.



**Sunrise Community Church**  
*Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst*  
**EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 8:45 A.M.**

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JUNE 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

## The Hymns We Sing

COURTESY OF THE CYBER HYMNAL™

<http://www.hymntime.com/>

## A Mighty Fortress is Our God

<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/m/i/g/mightyfo.htm>

[http://www.hymntime.com/tch/mid/e/i/n/n/ein\\_feste\\_burg.mid](http://www.hymntime.com/tch/mid/e/i/n/n/ein_feste_burg.mid)

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”  
Psalm 46:1

**Words & Music:** Martin Luther, 1529 (Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott) translated from German to English by Frederic H. Hedge, 1853. This song has been called “the greatest hymn of the greatest man of the greatest period of German history” and the “Battle Hymn of the Reformation.” It was sung at the funeral of American president Dwight Eisenhower at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, March 1969.



Martin Luther (1583-1546)



Frederic H. Hedge (1805-1890)

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing:  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel  
hate,  
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would  
be losing;  
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's  
own choosing:  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;  
Lord Sabaoth, His name, from age to age the same,  
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten  
to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph  
through us:  
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,  
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them,  
abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with  
us sideth:  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; The  
body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,  
His kingdom is forever.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SUNRISE

### June 2014

- |         |            |  |
|---------|------------|--|
| June 8  | 8:45 a.m.  | <b>Pentecost Sunday</b><br><i>Ruth 4:1 -22 Gentile Redemption!</i>                                       |
| June 10 | 7:00 p.m.  | <b>Bible Study in Colossians</b>   |
| June 13 | 6:30 p.m.  | <b>Friday Night Fellowship</b>   |
| June 15 | 8:45 a.m.  | <b>Father's Day</b><br><i>Boaz: A Mighty Man of God</i><br><b>No Second Hour- Celebrate Father's Day</b> |
| June 17 | 7:00 p.m.  | <b>Bible Study in Colossians</b>   |
| June 20 | 7:00 p.m.  | <b>Game Night</b>  |
| June 22 | 8:45 a.m.  | <b>New Series In 1st John</b><br><i>The Tests of True Christianity</i>                                   |
|         | 10:45 a.m. | <b>Sunday School</b>   |
| June 24 | 7:00 p.m.  | <b>Bible Study in Colossians</b>   |
| June 27 | 6:30 p.m.  | <b>Friday Night Fellowship</b>   |



## Not a single church exists in Saudi Arabia: entire nation is a 'sacred mosque,' watchdog reveals

[HTTP://WWW.CHRISTIANPOST.COM/NEWS/](http://www.christianpost.com/news/) • BY STOYAN ZAIMOV, CHRISTIAN POST JUNE 5, 2014

Christians and religious minorities face a “unique” form of religious freedom restrictions in Saudi Arabia, a persecution watchdog group says, noting that not a single church is allowed to exist in the country.

“Not a single church or other non-Muslim house of worship exists in the country,” says Bandar al-Aiban, the director of the Saudi National Human Rights commission. Churches are not allowed to exist “because the entire country is a ‘sacred mosque’ for Islam’s holiest shrines in Mecca and Medina.”

International Christian Concern has highlighted the extent of the restrictions in Saudi Arabia, which is officially an Islamic state, and the consequences they have on the millions of Christians, who are mostly foreign workers, living there. “Saudi Arabia remains unique in the extent to which it restricts the public expression of any religion other than Islam,” the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom said in its 2014 Annual Report.

Operation World estimates that close to 2 million non-Muslim foreign workers live in Saudi Arabia, and around 1.5 million of them are Christians. Statistics on how many Saudis are Christians are harder to come by, as the government does not recognize such believers, but they face a situation in which there is not a single church in the entire country where they are allowed to publicly meet. Saudi Arabia has close to 4,000 religious police officers entrusted to enforce its Islamic laws. Leaving the Islamic faith is considered apostasy and punishable by death, with non-Islamic prisoners often pressured to convert to the religion.

Other Christian groups have also documented the intense persecution Christians face in Saudi Arabia. Open Doors ranks it at No.6 on its list where Christians face the most persecution. In 2013, it was ranked at No.2, behind North Korea.

ICC pointed out that the United States government maintains a close relationship with Saudi Arabia, and in March President Barack Obama met with King Abdullah during an overseas trip. President Obama did not to call out Saudi Arabia on its severe religious freedom violations, however.

“Only last month the president clearly stated that promoting religious freedom is a key objective of American foreign policy, and then reaffirmed that opinion in remarks following his meeting with Pope Francis on Thursday, according to the White House. On top of this, 70 members of Congress specifically asked him to publicly address the issue, as well as other human rights concerns, with King Abdullah today. How, despite all of this, the president could stay completely silent about religious freedom during his meeting is remarkable,” ICC Middle East Regional Manager Todd Daniels said.