

Ten Glory Steps To Canaan's Land

B. R. Hicks



Union with God

Stay True

Be Buried in God's Will

Die in God's Will

Be Part of God's People

Lodge Where Led

Go Where Led

Go on Way

Go Forth

Arise



Ten Glory Steps To Canaan's Land

by B. R. Hicks

Table of Contents

Ten Glory Steps to Canaan's Land

Step One: Naomi and Ruth Arose.

Step Two: Naomi and Ruth Went Forth.

Step Three: Naomi and Ruth Went on Their Way.

Step Four: Ruth Went Whither Naomi Went.

Step Five: Ruth Lodged where Naomi Lodged.

Step Six: Naomi's People Became Ruth's People.

Step Seven: Naomi's God Became Ruth's God.

Step Eight: Ruth Died Where Naomi Died.

Step Nine: Ruth Was Buried Where Naomi Was Buried.

Step Ten: Nothing but Death Parted Ruth and Naomi.

Ten Glory Steps To Canaan's Land

God, the Divine, Invisible Creator, has many ways of revealing Himself to the believer and leading him to the steps he needs to take in order to know *greater* degrees of the LORD's spiritual Light and Glory.

Sometimes, for example, God works through His Heavenly Celestial Creation. One such instance was at the long-awaited Birth of His Son, Jesus Christ, when God delegated a *special Angel* from the Exalted, *Kaw-bode*-Glory Realm to descend with a Heavenly Choir so that they could illuminate the hearts and minds of the shepherds with the knowledge that the Saviour had been born in a manger in Bethlehem.

God also commissioned a *special Star* in the Heavens to shine with Humility Glory so that it could lead the Wise Men to the promised King of the Jews.

By being faithful to follow the particular Celestial-Glory Light set before them, the shepherds and Wise Men were counted worthy to look upon the LORD's Living Glory as it was revealed in the Person of the LORD Jesus Christ.

At other times, God has used His natural, terrestrial Creation to reveal His Glory Light. For instance, God led Israel in the wilderness with a *Pillar of Cloud and of Fire*. By following the LORD's supernatural Glory Light as it radiated out through the visible Pillar of Cloud and the Pillar of Fire, Israel not only was able to enter into Canaan's Land but was able to know the overwhelming joy of dwelling in the land. As the LORD's natural Bridal Nation, Israel was privileged to live under the Light that streamed out from the Glory Cloud of His personal Presence in the Holy of Holies.

It pleases the LORD when mankind elects to follow His exalted Glory Light as He allows it to shine through His celestial *Heavenly Creation* and through His natural *terrestrial Creation*. But He especially is delighted when man willingly chooses to accept and follow His humility Glory Light as it shines out through His *redeemed Creation*.

To be a part of God's redeemed Creation, an individual must personally experience Salvation through God's provided Blood Sacrifice. Sinners in the Old Testament dispensation were redeemed by accepting, by faith, the blood of the animal sacrifices offered on the Brazen Altar as the propitiation for sins. Man is redeemed in the New Testament dispensation by accepting God's Son, Jesus Christ, and His precious, all-encompassing, Divine Blood that He poured out on Calvary's Cross as the eternal Sacrifice for sin.

Once a person has been redeemed, he becomes a vehicle through whom God can manifest His Glory Light. Anytime God chooses, he can raise up an individual and anoint him with the LORD's Glory Anointing so that, as a believer, the person can instruct and lead others in the Way of the LORD. The believer with God's Glory Anointing on him then becomes either a "sun" or a "star" to those who are willing to receive and follow the LORD's Light as it shines through him.

Naomi, in the Old Testament, is a good example of a person who was blessed with the LORD's Star-Glory Anointing. The story of Naomi's Gentile daughter-in-law Ruth is very much like that of the Wise Men, for she, too, had to follow the LORD's humility Star Glory through a long, dark spiritual night before coming into the Fullness of the LORD's exalted Glory Light.

The decisions made by Naomi and Ruth, as they journeyed from Moab to Bethlehem, relate to ten humility decisions believers must make, today, in order to follow the Light of the LORD's Star Glory. The ten decisions, which actually are commitments to love and to obey the Moral Law of God's Holy Commandments, must be made whether the Light of the *Torah* or Law is shining directly to the person, as it did to Naomi, or whether it is shining through one of God's redeemed, anointed servants, as it did to Ruth.

Making these ten decisions is like building a glorious stairway that leads upward into new realms of the LORD's Glory Revelation. Greater still is the fact that the stairway ultimately leads to Canaan's Land or Married Land, as in the case of Naomi and Ruth. Each decision, then, is a *step* toward the Promised Land, where the believer experiences Marriage Union with the LORD Jesus Christ.

The story of Naomi and Ruth began during a time of famine in the Land of Israel. Elimelech, his wife, Naomi, and their two sons Mahlon and Chilion decided to relieve their poverty by taking a journey into the heathen country of Moab. While they were there, Elimelech died, not only leaving Naomi a widow in a strange land, but leaving

their two sons fatherless as well.

When grown, the sons chose their wives from among the women of Moab; the name of one was Orpah, and the name of the other was Ruth. Things seemed to go fairly well for about ten years; then, both sons died.

Following the deaths of the sons, the LORD's humility Star Glory of Revelation from the *Torah* or Law began to shine into Naomi's heart and mind, showing her that it was time for her to leave the land of heathen darkness and idolatrous practices in which she was living and return to Bethlehem, the *House of Bread* in Canaan's Land.

Thus, Naomi made her first step toward a Marriage Union with the LORD Jesus Christ when she decided to return to Canaan's Land.

Step One: Naomi and Ruth Arose.

Naomi's decision to take the first step toward Canaan's Land involved a personal commitment to the Glory Light beaming out from the First Commandment: "I am the LORD thy God."

Then 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 how that the Lord had visited his people in giving them bread (Ruth 1:6).

In addition to its definition of *arising* in the physical sense, the Hebrew word for *arose* has the connotation of arising mentally and morally for the purpose of standing for or abiding by one's decision. So when Naomi physically stood up to take the first step on her return to Bethlehem, she also "stood up" mentally and morally by making a decision to return to the LORD's Promised Land. Because her heart and mind were illuminated by the LORD's humility Star Light of Truth, Naomi was fortified with inner purpose and determination to humble herself in her widowhood and return to Canaan, where the LORD's Commandments were Law and where His Glory overshadowed the land, even if she had to go alone.

Neither Orpah nor Ruth had been reared to reverence and to worship the LORD, the God of Israel. Nevertheless, they had heard about Him through the testimonies of their husbands and their mother-in-law Naomi. They also had seen something of the Life, Light, and Love of the LORD's Word manifested through this Jewish family. When faced with the decision about which "star" they wanted to follow, both girls arose and declared that they wanted to go to Bethlehem with Naomi.

Ruth's words were the same as Orpah's, but her commitment was deeper, which was proven by the fact that she later stood by her decision, although Orpah chose to turn back to Moab. Ruth did more than arise outwardly; she did some inward arising, some purposing within the depths of her being, to follow the LORD's Star Light, as it radiated out through Naomi, until she eventually would come to Bethlehem, the *House of Bread*, in the Land of Israel.

Not every believer who quickly responds by shouting "I want to go to Canaan's Land" has really made the kind of decision that will stand up under pressure. Not every believer who stands up, outwardly, has arisen inwardly, and unless, and until, he has made the deeper, inner commitment to let the LORD be the God of his life, there is no reason to be shocked nor disappointed if he turns back somewhere along the way.

Step Two: Naomi and Ruth Went Forth.

Naomi's decision to go forth out of Moab was based upon the Glory Light received from God's Second Commandment: "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

Wherefore **she went forth out of the place where she was**, and her two daughters in law with her; and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah (Ruth 1:7).

It is not enough for a believer to say that he wants to serve the True and Living God; positive action must accompany his words. Had Naomi not taken the first steps to leave the place in which she had been living for ten years, neither she nor her two daughters-in-law would have gone to Bethlehem.

While she was in the Land of Moab, Naomi had heard that the LORD had visited His people in Canaan's Land with new bread; therefore, she decided in her heart to return to her own country.

Moab's idolatrous, deceitful "bread" could not satisfy Naomi's soul because she already had tasted of the True Bread of the LORD's *Torah*-Truth. The Light of the *Torah*-Truth, the True Bread, had strengthened Naomi's

determination to arise and start out on her return journey to Bethlehem.

Love for their mother-in-law constrained Orpah and Ruth to join Naomi on this step. Both women apparently had the same vision in the beginning, for they both left the city of their birth to go to Bethlehem, the *House of Bread*, in the Land of Israel, the “Promised Land.”

It is not always possible, however, to tell which of those who start out for Canaan’s Land will go all the way. The reason is that walking by the LORD’s humility Star Light gets progressively harder. Each step one takes leaves more of the lights, splendor, brilliance, and convenience of the worldly city behind. This was the step on which Orpah began to falter in her determination.

For a believer to obey the Second Commandment, it is necessary for him to choose *daily* to have no other gods or idolatrous images or goals before the LORD. He is to choose to serve only the One True LORD God and to have always before him the true goal or image of going to the Heavenly Promised Land, the New City. For Orpah and Ruth that meant worshipping the LORD and following the humility Star Light of His *Torah*-Truth as it shined forth to them through Naomi, rather than making false gods and images of the moon and stars and trying to transform their natural light into a divine spiritual Light. Thus, they either had to prefer the darkened light of Moab’s false gods or to choose the True Light of the LORD’s *Torah*-Truth as it shone through Naomi.

Step Three: Naomi and Ruth Went on Their Way.

The third step Naomi and Ruth took in their journey toward Canaan’s Land was their decision to continue walking in the Way.

For a believer to make this decision, he needs to be enlightened by the Glory Light beaming out from the Third Commandment: “Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain.”

Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her; and **they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah** (Ruth 1:7).

By refusing to eat of the Tree of Life as God had commanded him to do in the Garden of Eden, man sinned against God’s Name and Glory Life, and for this sin, he was cast out of the Garden, on the east side.

In order to regain the spiritual Life and Blessings that he had lost through sin, man has had to return to God on the *east side*, exactly where he went out, and accept the Name and the Living Blood of God’s Son, Jesus Christ.

This Truth was set forth beautifully in the Old Testament dispensation by the many blood sacrifices offered on the Brazen Altar that was situated just inside the gate on the east side of the Mosaic Tabernacle.

Naomi went away from the LORD’s personal Presence when she and her husband moved from Bethlehem to Moab; therefore, in order to get back to the place of God’s Blessing, she had to return to Bethlehem.

Going back and starting over is never easy. It is humiliating to the flesh to have to admit to having been wrong. But once the believer has tasted of the LORD’s Living Bread, regaining His Bread is worth every painful, humiliating step that the believer must take on his journey back to the LORD’s House. A believer should never begrudge the steps he has to take in his spiritual journey back to God. Instead, every step should remind him of the long journey that he took going away from the LORD. Many steps must be taken to go from Bethlehem to Moab, and it takes just as many steps to return to Bethlehem.

The excitement of a new challenge is what motivates many people to start on their individual spiritual journeys to the Heavenly Canaan’s Land. It is exciting to hear about the Bridegroom and the Bride and the exaltation of being in the New City. Almost anyone can shout about wanting to go to Canaan’s Land. Certainly, there are some testings at the beginning of the journey, but the test that separates the sincere, totally committed believers from those who are going along for fleshly reasons comes later, after the believer has taken a few steps in the Way.

When the believer discovers that the Way does not lead to immediate exaltation, the question then becomes whether he will continue walking in the Way or not. When he finds that the Way is rough, rocky, and narrow, will he keep holding on to the LORD’s Name? Will he always confess the Goodness and Righteousness of that blessed Name, even in the midst of pain?

When the believer finds himself in a night season, will he keep walking if, instead of the LORD shining His humility Star Light down to the believer directly, He sees fit to let it come through one of His anointed servants? Perhaps the believer will return to walk in the corrupted, carnal light of his flesh. Will he then take the LORD’s Name in vain? These are decisions Orpah and Ruth had to make in their day, and believers have to make the same

decisions today.

Discerning that Orpah's heart was vacillating, Naomi tried earnestly to persuade both girls to return to Moab. Naomi preferred to walk on alone instead of being accompanied by dual-minded companions.

And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the LORD deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me. The LORD grant you that ye may find rest, each *of you* in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept. And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people (Ruth 1:8-10).

Naomi's prompting was a gentle reminder to the girls that going to Bethlehem, the *House of Bread*, in Canaan's Land was a personal decision. Naomi did not want either girl to go to Bethlehem against her own will. After both girls had reaffirmed their desire to go with her, Naomi pressed the issue further by digging a little deeper into their motives.

And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? *are there yet any more* sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands? **Turn again, my daughters, go your way;** for I am too old to have an husband. If I should say, I have hope, *if* I should have a husband also to night, and should also bear sons; Would ye tarry for them till they were grown? would ye stay for them from having husbands? nay, my daughters; for it grieveth me much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD is gone out against me. And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: **and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her** (Ruth 1:11-14).

On this step, fifty percent of Naomi's congregation forsook the Way. Orpah shed some tears and wept loudly; however, in the final analysis, she decided to return to her country, her people, her idols, and her old way of life.

The Way to the Heavenly Canaan's Land, the New City, beloved, will prove whether a person really wants to go on for God or not. Unless a believer in Christ Jesus starts dealing immediately with the bitterness, anger, and other unChristlike attitudes that issue forth from his heart because of the false idols and images of hope that he previously has formed within his heart for selfish satisfaction (but which have produced only painful disappointments and disillusionments along the Way), he will not be able to continue walking in the Way. The pain will become greater than his flesh wants to bear. Sooner or later, like Orpah, he will return to his old way of life with its false gods so that he can rule his own life and find his own fleshly satisfaction.

Orpah's leaving did not sway Ruth in her decision to go to Bethlehem with Naomi. The Bible says that Ruth *clave* unto her mother-in-law. The idea presented by the Hebrew meaning of the word *clave* is that she locked her arms around Naomi and refused to let go.

Cleave also means to pursue and to overtake. As Naomi was encouraging Ruth to go back to Moab, Ruth's visible demonstration, her cleaving, overtook Naomi's spirit and subdued it. The connotation is the same as in the case of Jacob wrestling with the Angel, when Jacob said, "I will not let thee go, except thou bless me" (Genesis 32:26).

The LORD knows when His children love Him and want to serve Him. He also knows when they need special encouragement and blessing. He loves for His children to demonstrate their tenacious determination to walk in His Will and Way, even when it seems that the forces of Heaven and God's servants are resisting their desire for further spiritual progress. Jacob's *wrestling* and Ruth's *cleaving* showed that their commitments were personal, not simply something they were doing because it happened to be convenient or because they were being influenced by someone else.

On this step, believers choose either to fight to hold on to the Goodness of the LORD's Holy Name, or they become guilty of taking it in vain. At the time believers take their first spiritual step on their spiritual journey with the LORD, they learn something about the Goodness of God's Mercy and Grace. Therefore, they should purpose in their hearts to do whatever spiritual wrestling and cleaving is necessary in order to hold on to the LORD's blessed Name and the Light He already has given them. Otherwise, they will miss the glorious Prize, **the New City, which the LORD Jesus Christ has promised to those who go all the Way with Him.**

Step Four: Ruth Went Whither Naomi Went.

Ruth's decision to follow the Glory of the humility Star Light coming through God's anointed servant, Naomi,

fits with the Light of the Fourth Commandment: “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”

And **Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go;** and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people *shall be* my people, and thy God my God: (Ruth 1:16).

The LORD anointed Naomi with His Star-Glory Way of thinking so that she, in turn, could enlighten Ruth’s heart and mind with the Truth that the LORD, the True and Living God, would provide “Sabbath Bread” for both of them in Bethlehem. Naomi also prophesied that the LORD would grant Ruth the peace or rest of marriage, according to the Levirate Law.

By resting her confidence in what Naomi had taught her about the LORD and the blessings awaiting them in Bethlehem, Ruth demonstrated her reverence for the Fourth Commandment—to remember the Sabbath Day and keep it Holy. As yet, she did not know either the “Sabbath Bread” of Bethlehem or the rest and peace of marriage with Boaz, the Israeli bridegroom in Canaan’s Land. Nevertheless, Ruth’s heart knew peace along the Way because it was settled in her will that she was going to Bethlehem with Naomi.

A person cannot enjoy inner peace nor rest as long as he is wavering in his will over his decision to follow the LORD, desiring one minute to go on for God, and the next minute desiring to go back and pick up the things of the world. The believer is joined to Christ’s Sabbath Peace in his spiritual journey as he makes firm commitments to the LORD and, then, as he makes a visible demonstration of his intentions by daily following after the humility Star Light that the LORD shines before him.

Step Five: Ruth Lodged where Naomi Lodged.

The Light from the Fifth Commandment, “Honour thy father and thy mother,” must enlighten the believer’s heart in order for him to decide to take the next step on the way to the Heavenly Bethlehem, the *House of Bread*, the Land of Praise, the New City. This decision involves a commitment to lodge or dwell with the humility Star, regardless of where the Glory Light may stop along the Way.

Natural *and* spiritual parents are included in the Fifth Commandment. In the spiritual realm, the believer’s Father is Wisdom, and his Mother is Understanding. Natural, worldly wisdom and understanding are imparted to a person primarily through his human parents, from whom he has been begotten with *natural* life. Anyone who begets an individual into the Spiritual Life found in God’s Son, Jesus Christ, must do so through a union of true Spiritual Wisdom and Understanding; therefore, that individual can be called a spiritual “parent.”

Ruth obviously honoured Naomi as her natural mother-in-law. However, her strong attachment to Naomi was rooted, not in natural love, but in the fact that Naomi was her spiritual mother. Naomi was the one who had breathed the Spiritual Breath of Life into Ruth’s soul by telling her about the LORD, the True and Living God. Naomi was the one whose life was like a bright, shining star in the midst of a dark world of heathen idolatry. It is no wonder, then, that Ruth had grown to appreciate the spiritual Life, Light, and Love she saw in Naomi, far more than any natural virtues possessed by her own mother and father.

God expects everyone to honour his natural parents by showing appreciation for the natural life and wisdom and understanding that they have shared with him. But God expects every *believer* to demonstrate a still greater degree of gratitude for Christ’s Spiritual Life and the Light of Wisdom and Understanding that have been imparted to him through his *spiritual* parents.

In order for a person to maintain this degree of gratitude during the spiritual night seasons that he must walk through on his Way to the Heavenly Canaan’s Land, the New City, more than the light of natural love is needed. Sincere Spiritual Love for one’s spiritual father and mother and gratitude for the true Wisdom and Understanding that they impart to their spiritual child will enable the child to make a commitment, as Ruth did, to lodge, as it were, with her “Naomi,” her spiritual mother or father. Regardless of how dark the night may be and regardless of how little a person may understand about the Way in which he is walking, he can make it to the end of his journey if he resolves to stay with the “parent” through whom the LORD has chosen to shine His humility Star Light.

Step Six: Naomi’s People Became Ruth’s People.

The Light the believer needs in order to take the sixth step on his spiritual journey radiates from the Sixth

Commandment: “Thou shalt not kill.”

And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, *or* to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge; **thy people shall be my people**, and thy God my God: (Ruth 1:16).

Both Orpah and Ruth made a commitment to become proselytes to the Jewish faith when they decided to marry Jewish husbands. Although their Jewish husbands were dead, and although Orpah chose to return to her heathen idolatry, Ruth stood by her original decision to remain an Israelite. In so many words, she said, “I will not kill the LORD’s Headship to which I surrendered in the very beginning of my journey. I will choose thy people, Naomi, to be my people. I’m willing to be a stranger in the land of Israel in order to stay joined to the LORD’s humility Star Light.

Many people who start on their spiritual journey to the Heavenly Canaan’s Land, the New City, run well until they come to the step that requires them to forsake the world and become a spiritual Jew, inwardly, by taking on Christ Jesus’ Covenant of Circumcision of the heart, which cuts off all unholy things from the heart, making it a place in which the LORD can engrave His *Torah*-Truth. However, when the LORD Jesus Christ begins cutting away the worldly trappings of pride, pleasure, and independence that hinder a believer’s spiritual progress, it is shocking how many start “killing” the Truth that they had professed to embrace at the beginning of their journey in the Way. Instead of making new decisions, as Ruth did, to continue in the Way and become a Bride in Canaan’s Land, some people decide to fight against, mutilate, and kill the very Truths over which they have once shouted with joy.

The fact that some, like Orpah, choose to turn their backs on Christ’s Crucified Way does not change the reality of His Way; nor does it keep anyone who truly wants to go, from going all the way to the Heavenly Canaan’s Land, the New City. Praise God! These decisions are personal ones. Orpah’s choice to leave the Way did not stop Ruth from following the humility-Glory Star Light, all the way to Bethlehem, the *House of Bread* in Canaan’s Land.

Step Seven: Naomi’s God Became Ruth’s God.

Light from the Seventh Commandment, “Thou shalt not commit adultery,” must shine down into the heart of the believer in order for him to decide to let the LORD, the Living God, be his God.

And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, *or* to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people *shall be* my people, and **thy God my God**: (Ruth 1:16).

Ruth’s vow to make Naomi’s God her God was a confession that she, although a Gentile, believed that the LORD was the True God. It was her pledge not to commit spiritual adultery against the true God by continuing to bow down to the heathen idols that she formerly had worshipped.

Since the flesh of the human heart is heathen by nature and opposed to all things pertaining to the true Righteousness of God, Jews and Gentiles have the same decision to make on this step. In recent times, it has become popular to acknowledge the LORD as God. Many Jewish people, for instance, are openly confessing Jesus Christ as their Messiah. Politicians, football players, movie stars, country singers, executives of large companies, and other famous people have joined the ranks of believers who call Jesus Christ their Saviour, Healer, and even Baptizer. This is wonderful! Everyone needs to know Him in all these ways. However, a deeper commitment is necessary if the believer is to continue in his spiritual journey until he comes to know Jesus Christ as his Bridegroom and the Supreme, Sovereign LORD of his life. Before the believer can serve *only* the LORD, he must renounce the false gods, idols, and images of hope that he has been worshipping in his heart. A person’s feelings of disappointment and sadness are real witnesses of the idols of false hope that he has begotten and nurtured in his heart.

The Bible teaches that “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it” (Jeremiah 17:9). No person can be aware of the deep sin and guilt of his old heart. God is the only One Who knows **all** and can search out the heart and make a person aware of his “desperately wicked” condition. Believers may profess to trust in Christ Jesus for all things, but the feelings of sadness, anger, and disappointment reveal the hidden, deceitful images of false hope in their hearts. A sincere believer in Christ Jesus praises God every day for the glorious Light of His Truth that illuminates the darkness of his deceitful, desperately wicked heart and reveals

the false images and idols that are hidden in it.

Until the LORD's true Light shines into the *heart*, not just into the intellect of the *mind*, there is no way for a person to know how dark his heart really is. However, once the glorious Light of Christ's Truth shines into a heart, the individual becomes responsible before God for what he does with God's Light.

This is true whether the Light comes to a person directly from the LORD Himself or through one of His servants who is anointed with the LORD's humility Star Glory, as Naomi was. Ruth's decision to forsake the false gods of Moab and to follow Naomi to Canaan's Land showed that she truly loved the LORD and His humility Star Light that had shined into her heart.

Step Eight: Ruth Died Where Naomi Died.

In order to make the decision to take the next step on the Way to the Heavenly Canaan's Land, the New City, the believer needs the illumination of the Light from the Eighth Commandment, "Thou shalt not steal."

Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, *if ought* but death part thee and me (Ruth 1:17).

While each step brought Ruth closer to Bethlehem, the *House of Bread* in Canaan's Land, and to the bridegroom whom the LORD had waiting for her, it also required a greater resolution on Ruth's part to forsake, permanently, *all* her former life. She could not hold images of pleasure and delight, in her innermost heart, of perhaps one day returning to the land of Moab. In order for Ruth to declare that she was going to die *in the land*, rather than dying somewhere *along the Way*, Ruth had to have been enlightened with the Wisdom and Understanding that the LORD would not tolerate her taking any of the false gods of Moab into Canaan's Land, thereby robbing Him of His Supreme, Sovereign Rights as the True LORD.

Remember, Jacob's beloved wife Rachel had come under God's Judgment and died prematurely for doing this very thing. She had stolen some of her father's favorite gods and hidden them under the furniture upon which she was sitting. Neither her father nor Jacob discovered the hiding place of the stolen images, but that did not keep her sin from producing death in her as she was on her way to being established in Bethlehem. Rachel died in childbirth and was buried *in the way to Ephrath*, which is Bethlehem (Genesis 35:19).

Some people may think that this step does not pertain to them because they have not stolen any visible false gods, as Rachel did. They are mistaken, however. Everyone has been guilty of stealing false mental images from the world and hiding them in the darkened recesses of their hearts in order to daydream upon them instead of meditating upon God's Word. The believer, however, cannot bow down to these images in the secret place of his heart without it producing spiritual Death in him. If believers want to dwell eternally in the *Heavenly Canaan's Land*, the New City, in glorified bodies, just as Ruth's earthly body dwelled permanently in the *earthly Bethlehem* in the *earthly Canaan's Land*, they must repent of their sins and cast away their worldly idols and images.

Once a believer's proud images are gone, it is not hard for him to follow the humility Star Light of the LORD's Crucified Christ until He brings the believer into the exalted Glory Light of the Resurrected Christ.

Step Nine: Ruth Was Buried Where Naomi Was Buried.

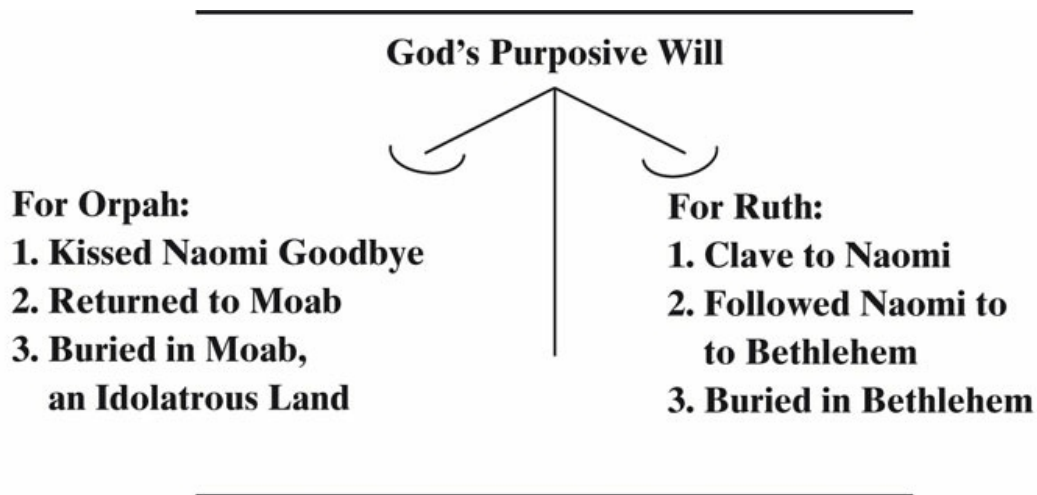
The believer's decision to be buried, as it were, or to dwell eternally in the Heavenly Canaan's Land, the New City, is based upon his acceptance of the Light of Truth shining forth from the Ninth Commandment, which enables him to walk obediently in the Light of It. The Ninth Commandment says this: "Thou shalt not bear false witness."

Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, *if ought* but death part thee and me (Ruth 1:17).

Where a person's body is buried is very important because the location of his grave is a visible witness that reveals whether or not a person died in God's Will.

Orpah's and Ruth's lives are instructive examples that illustrate this Principle. It was God's Purposive Will for Orpah to go all the way to Bethlehem, to the House of Bread in Canaan's Land, with Naomi and Ruth, but she rebelled, returned to Moab, died, and was buried there. Her grave in Moab became a witness that she had missed

God's Perfect Will for her life. It was God's Purposive Will for Ruth also to go to Bethlehem, the House of Bread in Canaan's Land. She was obedient to God's Will and went all the way to Bethlehem; eventually, she died and was buried there.



Like Ruth, Christ's Bride will cleave to Him as the Crucified Christ and as the Resurrected Christ and will follow His Footsteps, gaining the Fullness of His Spiritual Stature that will lead her to an eternal resting place in the New City, in her glorified body.

Joseph also had the Knowledge of this Principle, which caused him to exact a promise from his children to carry his bones with them when they left Egypt so that they would be buried in Canaan's Land. He knew that his grave in the Promised Land would bear witness for generations to come that he did not die in Egypt in rebellion against God's Will. On the contrary, he was there by the LORD's Providence so that he could store up bread for the children of Israel in a time of famine and so that he could provide a place for them to live until they could be brought to birth as a tiny nation and be led forth out of Egypt. The presence of Joseph's bones in Canaan's Land bore witness of his faithful performance of God's Purposive Will in Egypt. As a result of Joseph's obedience to God's Will, Israel *did come* to Egypt in the time of famine. As a son, Israel *did eat* and *grow* in Egypt until he *did come to birth* as a tiny nation in Egypt. Then, Israel *did go forth* with Joseph's bones *to Canaan's Land*. On Christ's Resurrection Morning, Joseph stood up in Canaan's Land with all the other Old Testament overcomers because that is where his bones were buried. His grave in Canaan's Land was a true witness that he loved the LORD's Law of Truth and His Perfect Will.

Ruth's love for God's Will constrained her to plead to be buried in Canaan's Land. She wanted her dead bones and her grave to bear witness to the LORD's Truth and His Merciful Headship that, through the Power of His humility Star Light, He had led her out of heathen idolatrous darkness.

Today, the believer's journey to the Heavenly Canaan's Land, the New City, is a spiritual one. However, this does not negate the divine Principle that the graves, the permanent abode of mortal bodies in Canaan's Land, are a witness to believers, today, that getting to the Promised Land is possible! Instead of rebelling and bearing false witness against the Truth of the LORD's Grace and the Light of His Merciful Headship, some Christians are making the same decision Ruth made, which is to die to their flesh and let it be buried, as it were, in Christ's tomb in Canaan's Land, according to God's Will.

As for me, I have made this choice time and time again, and I plan to keep making it every day of my life because I do not want any part of my flesh to bear false witness against Christ's Truth that He died to set me completely free from the Devil, from the world, and from the flesh. Bless the precious, Holy Name of the LORD Jesus Christ! I love His Glorious Light, even while it is revealing more of my flesh that must be buried in Christ's Death in Canaan's Land.

Step Ten: Nothing but Death Parted Ruth and Naomi.

The Light from the Tenth Commandment, "Thou shalt not covet," must penetrate deeply into the heart before a believer is ready to take the same spiritual step that Ruth took at this point in her journey.

Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me (Ruth 1:17).

Ruth committed herself to follow the humility Star Light as long as it shined out through Naomi, even if it cost her very life. Then, she determined that, should Naomi die first, she would stay in Canaan's Land forever—alone if she had to—in order to be near the LORD's Glory Light that was streaming out from His Holy Name in the Holy of Holies. This meant that she was willing to relinquish, forever, her human rights of inheritance in her home country of Moab. This meant that she did not look back with ungrateful covetousness for the natural possessions that were her inheritance in the land of Moab. She fulfilled God's Command that Paul wrote about in the Book of Philippians.

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, **forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus** (Philippians 3:13,14).

Ruth forgot. She left her irreparable past, with its destructive anxiety and disturbing thoughts about what would happen to her relatives; what would happen to her inheritance; and what would happen to her security, now that she had left her earthly security in Moab and had become a stranger in Israel. With constructive confidence and convincing certainty, Ruth pressed toward the irresistible future of her Union with the Spiritual Prize, the LORD's Glorious Name, and her natural bridegroom, Boaz. Ruth made a commitment to Naomi not to covet her past, as she willingly followed Naomi in life and in death.

Ruth lived with thankful thoughtfulness for **all** things in her life:

- Ruth was thankful for her **past** because she had found Naomi;
- Ruth was thankful for her **present** because Naomi was guiding her to the Promised Land;
- Ruth was thankful for her **future** because she was taking steps that would lead her into a spiritual Union with the LORD's Glorious Name and into a natural union with her bridegroom, Boaz.

Since Naomi was poor and had no personal resources for redeeming her husband's inheritance in Canaan's Land, it was obvious that, at this point, Ruth's motive was pure and righteous in following Naomi to Canaan's Land. She did not carry a false idol of hope for fame and fortune in her heart. She did not expect to become rich or famous by following her mother-in-law. She was not coveting material goods nor earthly gain. Her desire was to live in the Light of the LORD's humility Star Glory of His *Torah-Truth*, which she had learned to love through her association with Naomi. Furthermore, she wanted to be buried where the Light of the LORD's *Kabode* Glory and His *Shekinah* Glory would shine down upon her grave, as they radiated out from the Tabernacle.

When Ruth made this commitment to the LORD and to Naomi, she did not know that she would become one of the three Gentile links in the long chain of Jewish women who were privileged to carry the Spiritual Seed of the Promised Messiah. Had her heart still secretly been coveting the worldly comforts and pleasures of her natural inheritance in Moab, she might have created an opportunity to return there. Had she done so, the LORD could not have arranged for her to marry Boaz, to enter the Land of Promise, Canaan's Land, or to experience the radiating rays of the LORD's Glorious Name. There was another kinsman closer to Naomi, who might have fulfilled the Levirate Law by marrying Ruth and raising a name in Israel for her dead husband. However, it was Boaz whom the LORD had chosen for Ruth; hence, the nearest kinsman declined his privilege of performing the Levirate Law for Ruth. Boaz was the bridegroom who carried the Promised Seed of Christ, Israel's Messiah. Therefore, the LORD joined Ruth to him, and he fulfilled the Levirate Law and gave Ruth and Naomi a son.

Looking back with the eye of faith, one can see, now, that Ruth was rewarded unspeakably and eternally for allowing the humility Light of the LORD's Law of *Torah-Truth* to swallow up her covetousness for the worldly treasures of Moab and to replace it with a holy, burning desire for the LORD's spiritual Treasures of Light, Life, and Love.

To be like Ruth, believers must make personal commitments to the LORD by determining to stay in the Way of His *Torah-Truth*, regardless of who leaves the Way or who dies in the Way. God always has those who, like Ruth, will press on in their faithfulness to the LORD, forgetting the irreparable past with its destructive anxiety and disturbing thoughts as they look toward the future with constructive confidence and convincing certainty of reaching

the New City, regardless of who lives or who dies.

Ruth said, "Naomi, I'm going to die where you die, and I'm going to be buried where you are buried." There was no doubt in her mind that she was going to Canaan's Land and that God would fulfill His Levirate Law by raising up a near kinsman for a husband and that she would enjoy the Presence of the LORD's Glorious Name. Although Naomi was first in being laid to rest in Canaan's Land, Ruth was determined to be faithful and to be buried there too.

Remember, beloved, if I die before the LORD Jesus Christ returns to catch away His overcoming Wedding Party, I am going to die in the Crucified Way, the Way to the Heavenly Canaan's Land, the New City. My choice already is settled, signed, and sealed between the LORD and me. I would love for all believers to make this same spiritual choice, but I know that not everyone will do so. However, there will be some like Ruth who will discover, accept, and experience all the ten spiritual steps that are necessary in order to reach spiritual Canaan's Land, the New City. The LORD has prophesied this to me. Praise God! Like Ruth, who went on to become a fruitful bride in Canaan's Land, they will know the fruitful joy of Marriage Union with the LORD Jesus Christ, our precious Spiritual Bridegroom.

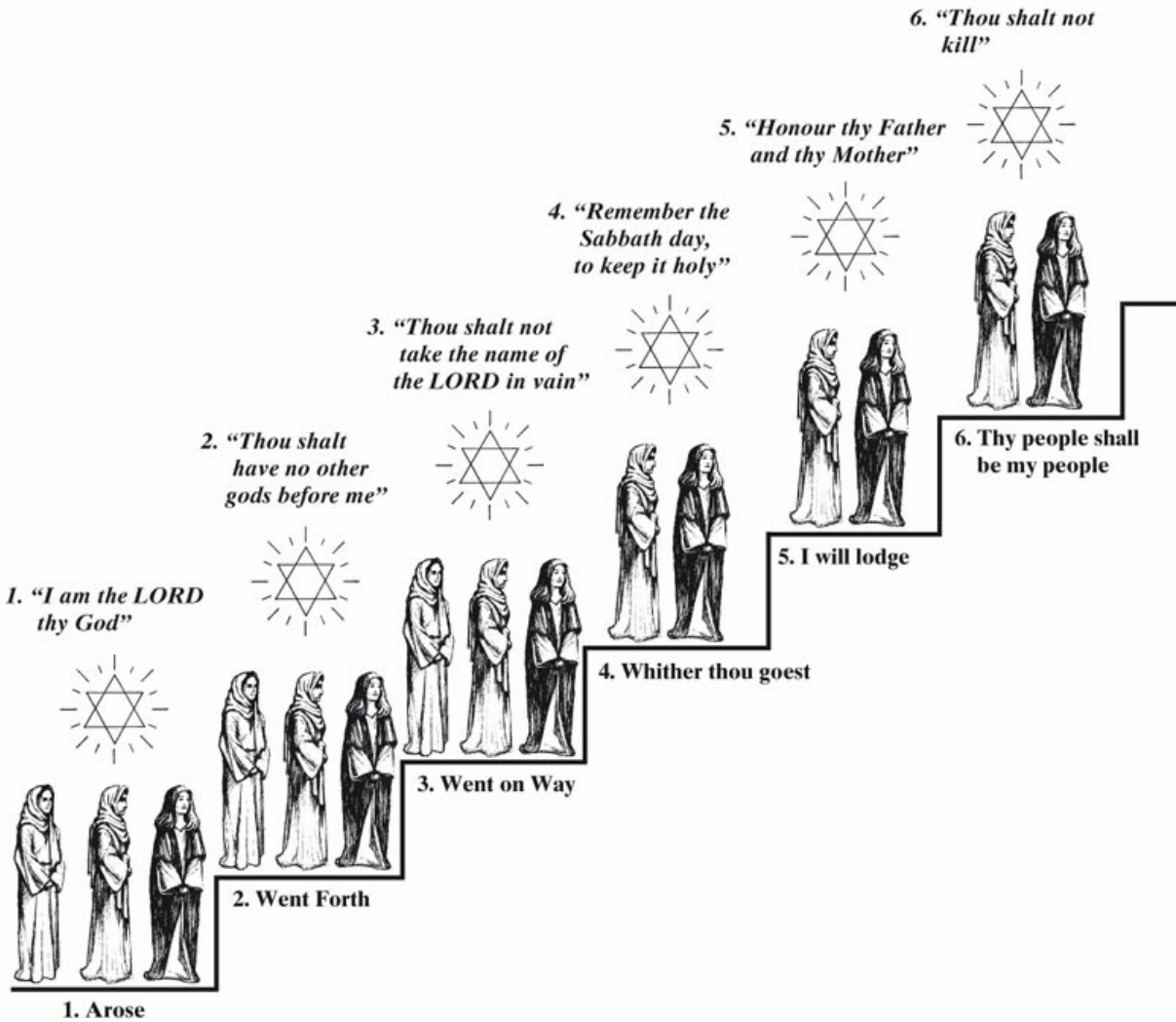
All of Christ's redeemed believers can be in His Bride if they choose to walk in the spiritual Way that leads to the New City. They must take the ten spiritual steps that are outlined in this booklet and follow the LORD's humility Star-Glory Light of the Law of His *Torah*-Truth.

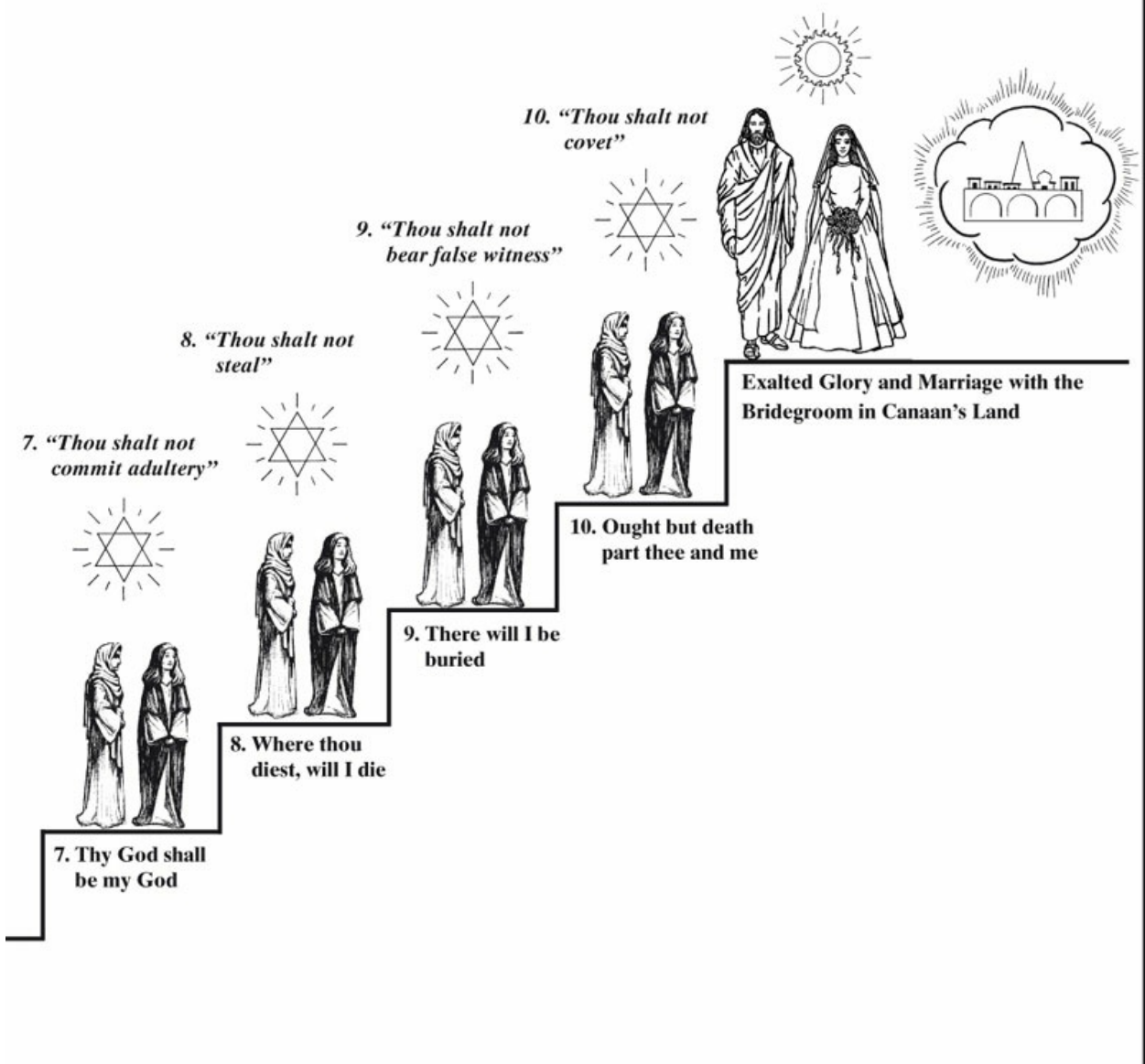
As the LORD brings a believer to each step in his personal spiritual journey, the believer must pray for Christ's humility Wisdom so that he can continue choosing and following the humility Star-Glory Light that the LORD has set before his face. If the believer is faithful to walk in the LORD's humility Light, the LORD will be faithful to bring him into His exalted Glory Light, where He reveals Himself to the believer in a glorious Bridegroom/Bride Relationship.

I know by experience that this is true, and whatever the LORD does for one person, He will do for others who are willing to meet His conditions by making the right choices and by following His humility Light along life's spiritual journey from Earth to spiritual Canaan's Land, the New City.



Ten Glory Steps to Canaan's Land





Ten Glory Steps to Canaan's Land

