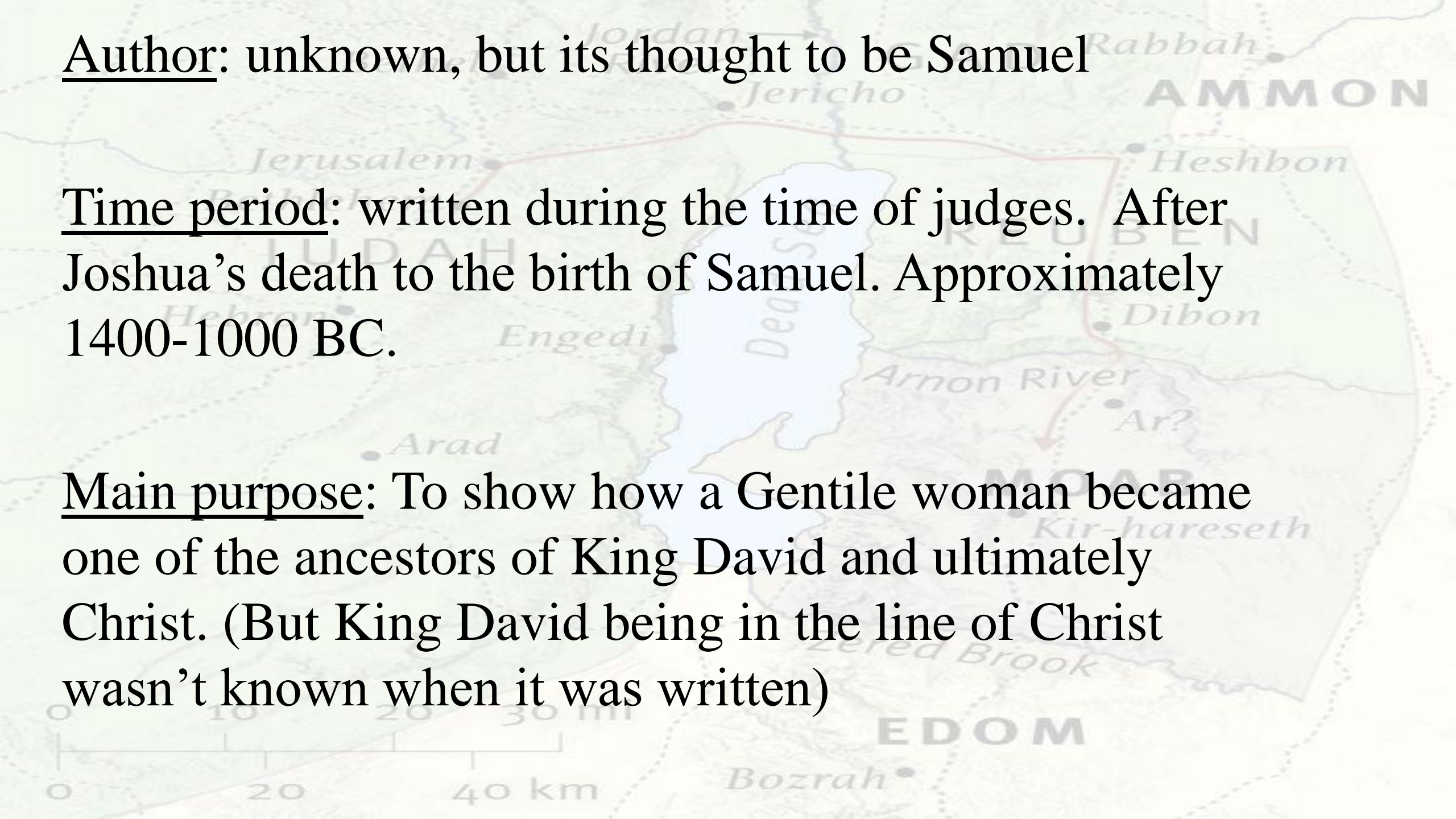


The Book of Ruth

Author: unknown, but its thought to be Samuel

Time period: written during the time of judges. After Joshua's death to the birth of Samuel. Approximately 1400-1000 BC.

Main purpose: To show how a Gentile woman became one of the ancestors of King David and ultimately Christ. (But King David being in the line of Christ wasn't known when it was written)

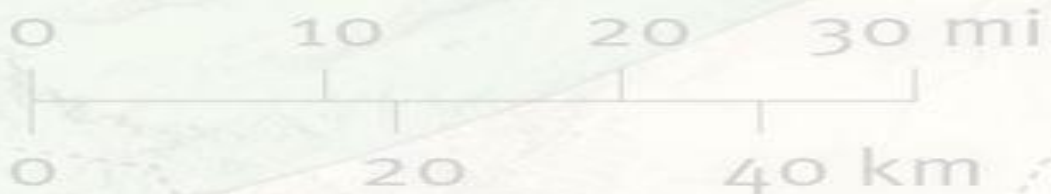


Purpose 2: The book of Ruth also plays an important role in bridging two main sections of the Bible.

-On one side we have Genesis to Judges

-On the other side, we're about to go through with Samuel through Kings tells the story of Israel's kings and the covenant that God makes with King David as the head of Israel's royal line. The royal line of David is a line that leads to Jesus, the Messiah.

Purpose 3: The book also shows how God's purposes are accomplished in the world. God makes good laws like allowing the poor to gather grain in the fields. He is also sovereignty and has providence over events. The books shows us how God's laws, providence and the kindness and goodness of people help the story find a redemptive conclusion.





Book Formation:

The book is set up like a play and each scene has an introduction and then dialogue between characters. The book ends with the genealogy of David.

So, format of the book mirrors its purpose, which is to show that genuine faith was present in a woman from a nation whose descendants were normally excluded for ten generations

3 Main characters

Naomi the widow

Ruth the Moabite

Boaz the Israelite



Chapter 1 – Ruth’s Sorrow

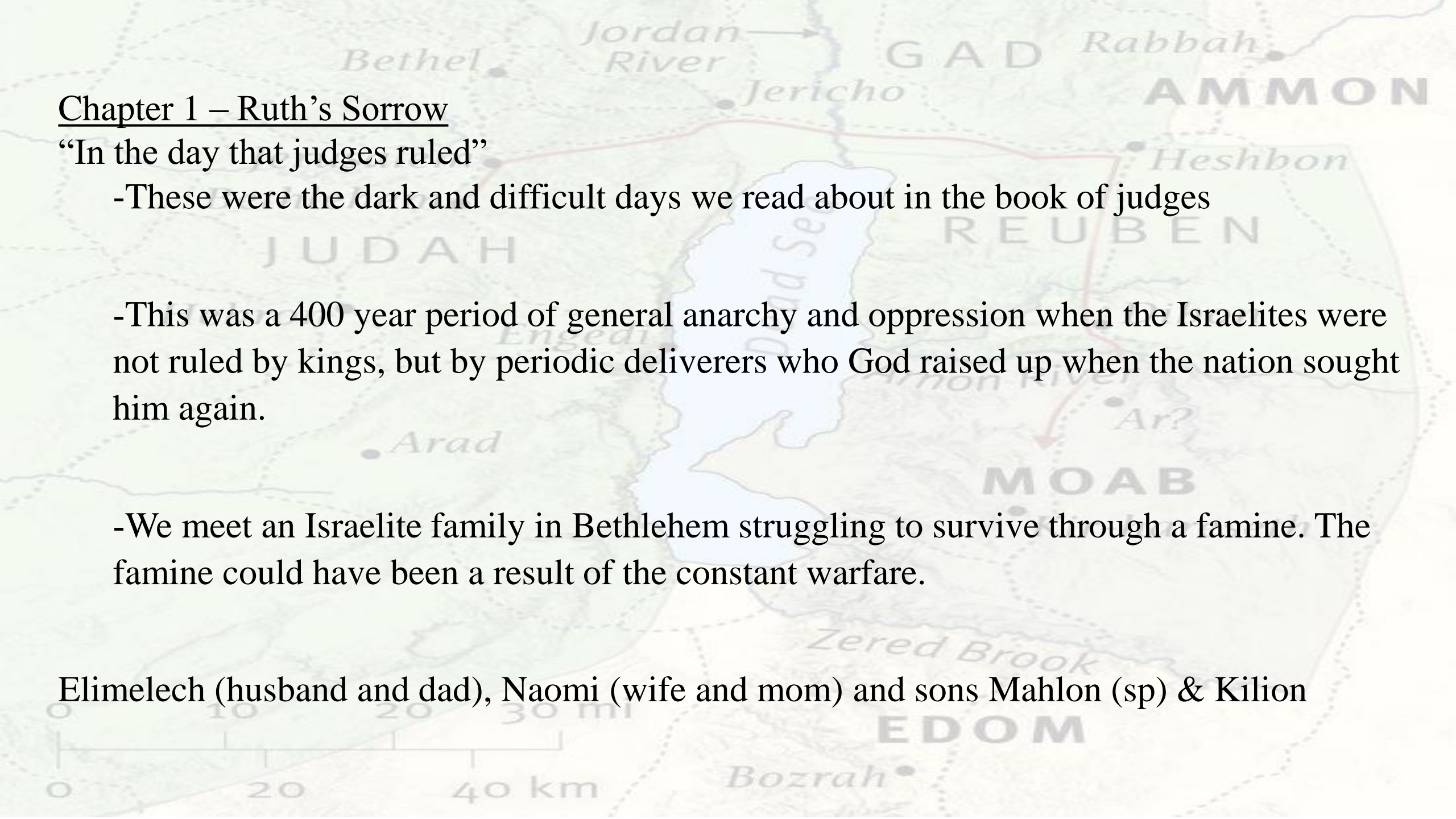
“In the day that judges ruled”

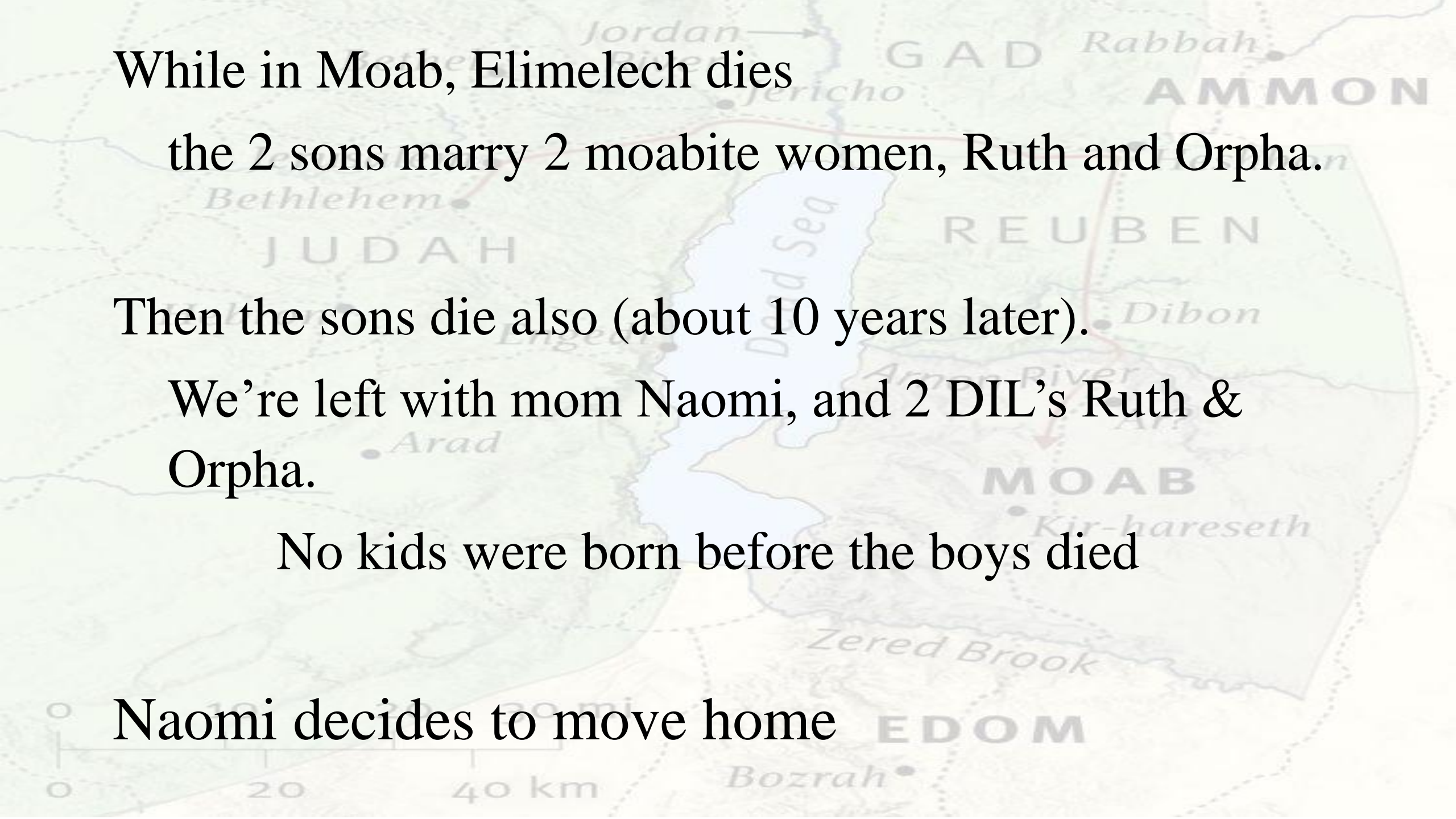
-These were the dark and difficult days we read about in the book of judges

-This was a 400 year period of general anarchy and oppression when the Israelites were not ruled by kings, but by periodic deliverers who God raised up when the nation sought him again.

-We meet an Israelite family in Bethlehem struggling to survive through a famine. The famine could have been a result of the constant warfare.

Elimelech (husband and dad), Naomi (wife and mom) and sons Mahlon (sp) & Kilion





While in Moab, Elimelech dies

the 2 sons marry 2 moabite women, Ruth and Orpha.

Then the sons die also (about 10 years later).

We're left with mom Naomi, and 2 DIL's Ruth & Orpha.

No kids were born before the boys died

Naomi decides to move home

V6-7 Naomi hears that good things are happening back home, God is providing bread.

What does this tell us? Most likely there is some sort of returning to God happening and Naomi wants to be part of that

V8-9 Naomi urges the girls to go to their homes.

V9 – They wept. These women were close. There was true, genuine love here.

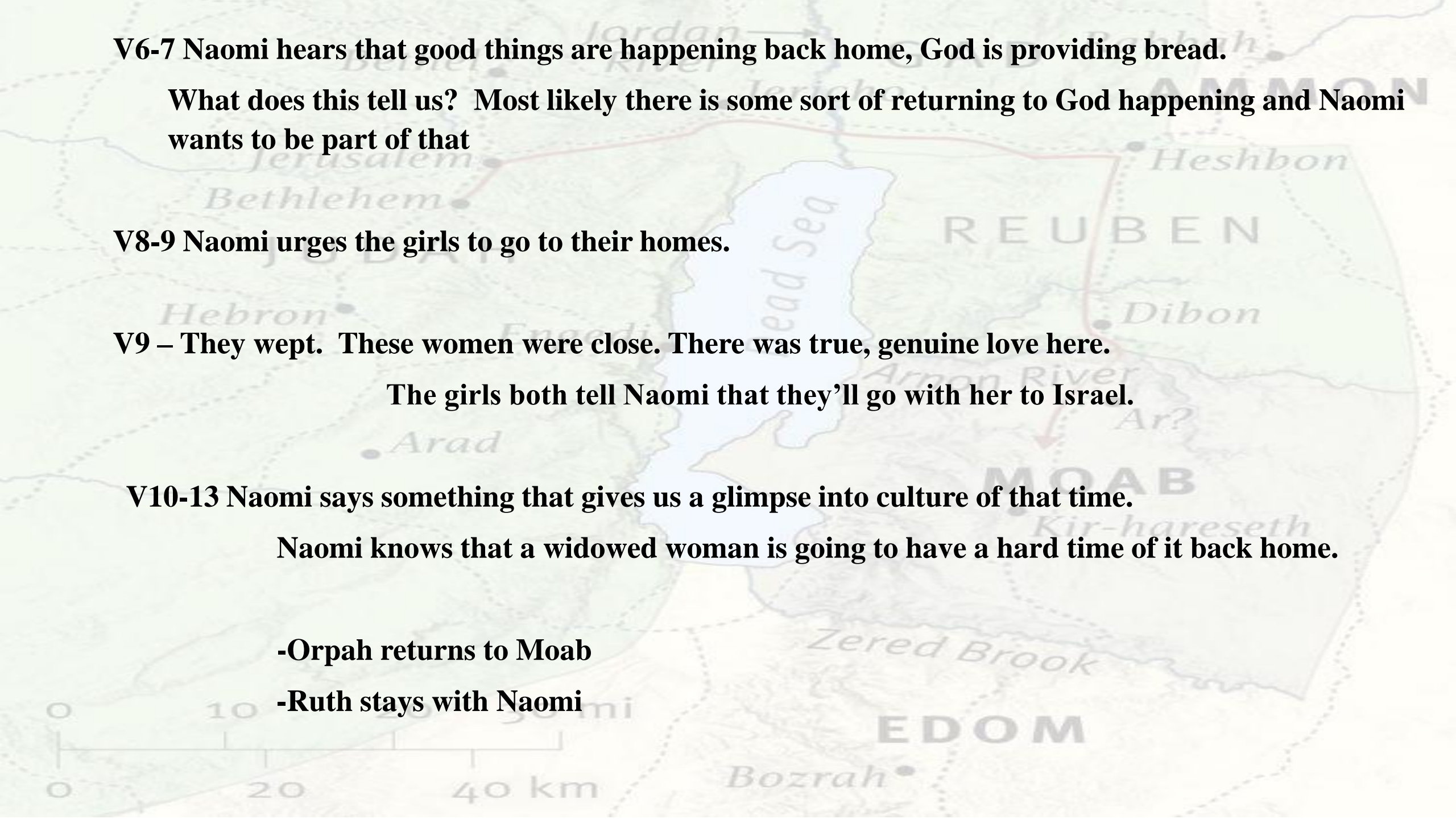
The girls both tell Naomi that they'll go with her to Israel.

V10-13 Naomi says something that gives us a glimpse into culture of that time.

Naomi knows that a widowed woman is going to have a hard time of it back home.

-Orpah returns to Moab

-Ruth stays with Naomi





Ruth shows incredible loyalty Naomi and we see an amazing statement. read v 16)

“wherever you go, I’m going to go. Your people will become my people and your God will become my God.

Ruth’s commitment to Naomi goes beyond friendship and family. Ruth commits to Naomi’s God.

This is more than an address change.

Ruth is forsaking the Moabite gods she grew up with. She was deciding to follow God.

This gentile woman, once far from God is drawing near to him.

Why??

Clearly the life of Naomi impacted her. Naomi was faced with a hard life.

She had faced famine

She had to leave her home

She lost her husband

She lost her sons

Her response to tragedy was to go home to experience what God was doing

“Ah! You will never win any soul to the right by a compromise with the wrong. It is decision for Christ and his truth that has the greatest power in the family, and the greatest power in the world, too.”

-Charles Spurgeon

Chapter 1 ends with Naomi and Ruth returning to Israel and Naomi (pleasant) changing her name to Mara which in Hebrew means Bitter and she laments her tragic fate



Chapter 2 – Ruth’s Service

V1 – Introduction of Boaz

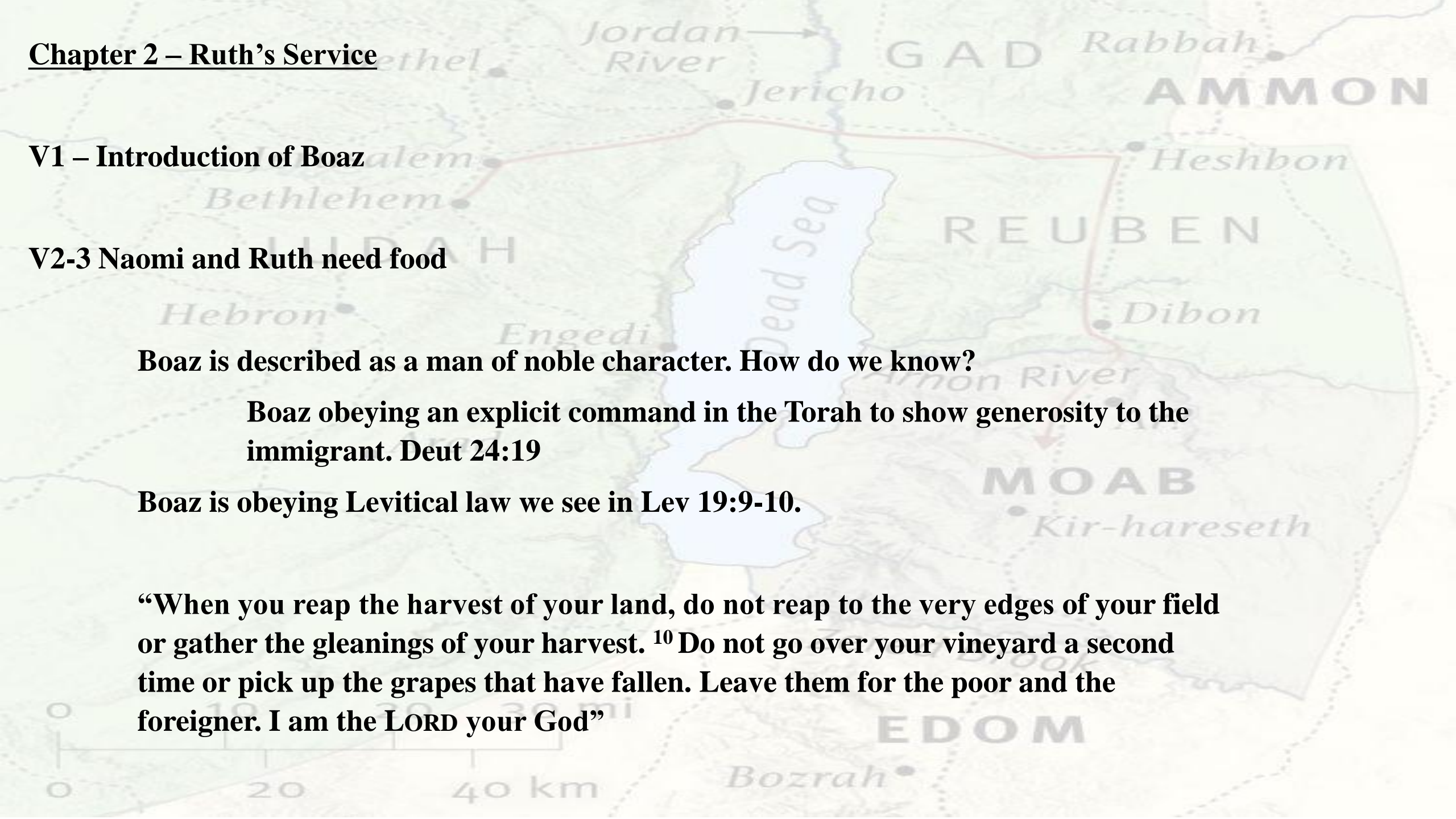
V2-3 Naomi and Ruth need food

Boaz is described as a man of noble character. How do we know?

Boaz obeying an explicit command in the Torah to show generosity to the immigrant. Deut 24:19

Boaz is obeying Levitical law we see in Lev 19:9-10.

“When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰ Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the LORD your God”



V4-10 Boaz learns of Ruth and cares for her

V4 Boaz says “The Lord be with you

V5 The servants tell Boaz of Ruth

V6-7 Ruth was a hard worker

V8 Boaz had compassion

V10 Ruth’s attitude is amazing

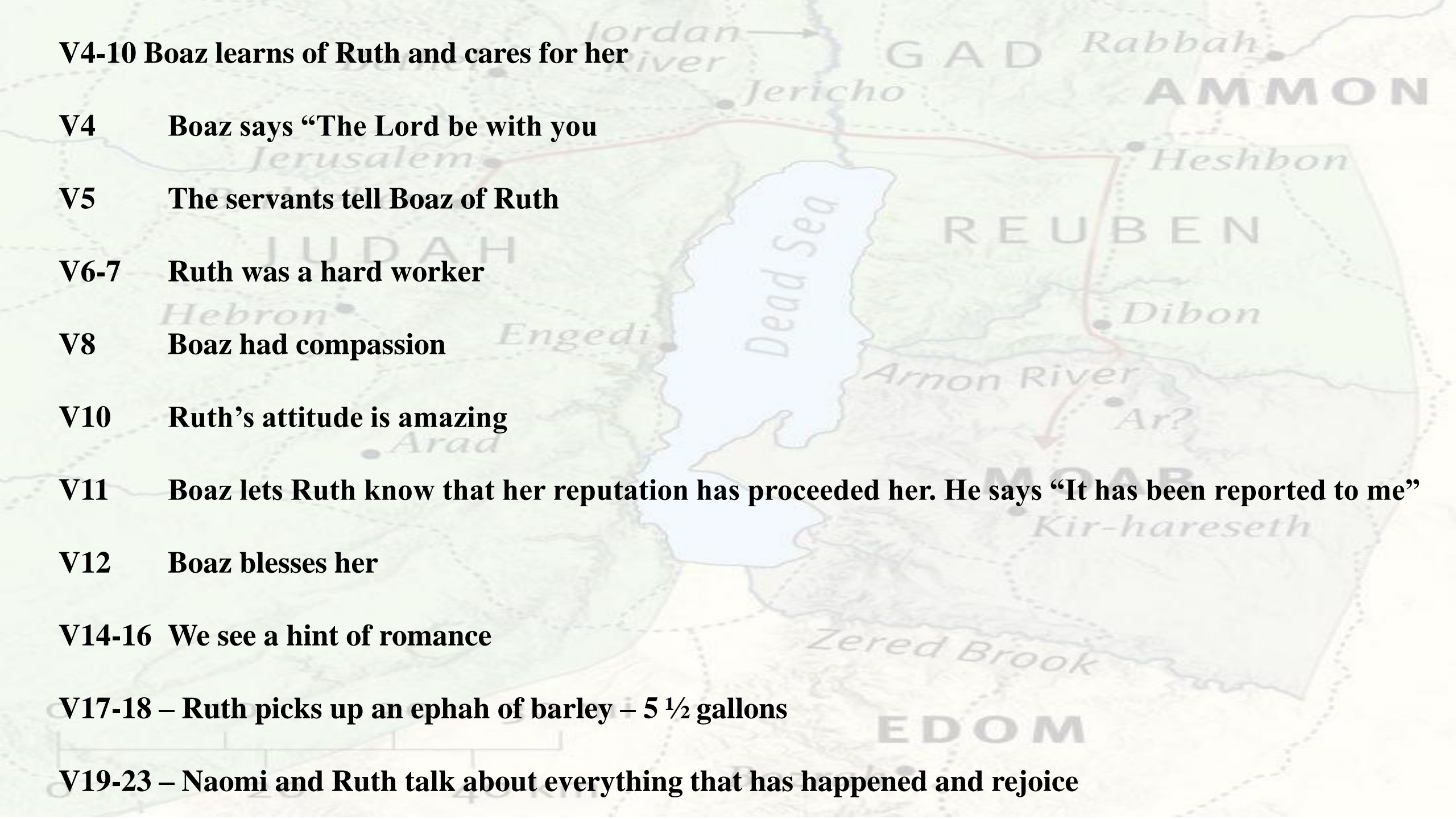
V11 Boaz lets Ruth know that her reputation has proceeded her. He says “It has been reported to me”

V12 Boaz blesses her

V14-16 We see a hint of romance

V17-18 – Ruth picks up an ephah of barley – 5 ½ gallons

V19-23 – Naomi and Ruth talk about everything that has happened and rejoice



Chapter 3 – Ruth’s Surrender

V1-3 Preparing for getting Boaz’s attention

V4-6 The plan

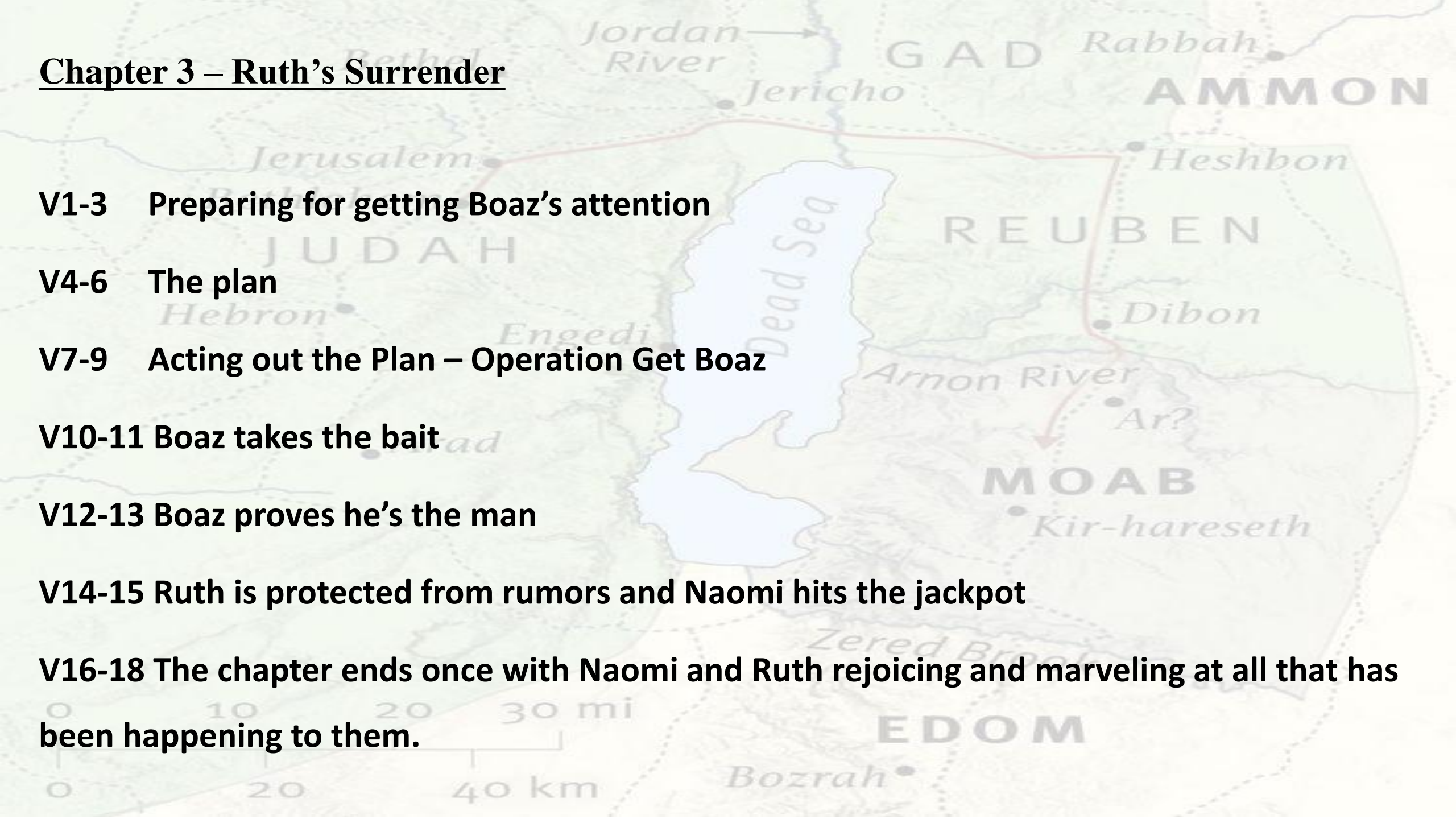
V7-9 Acting out the Plan – Operation Get Boaz

V10-11 Boaz takes the bait

V12-13 Boaz proves he’s the man

V14-15 Ruth is protected from rumors and Naomi hits the jackpot

V16-18 The chapter ends once with Naomi and Ruth rejoicing and marveling at all that has been happening to them.



Chapter 4 – Ruth’s Satisfaction

V1-4 Boaz went to the gate and meets unnamed man

V5-6 Boaz drops the hammer to seal the deal

V7-8 The old dusty sandal deal

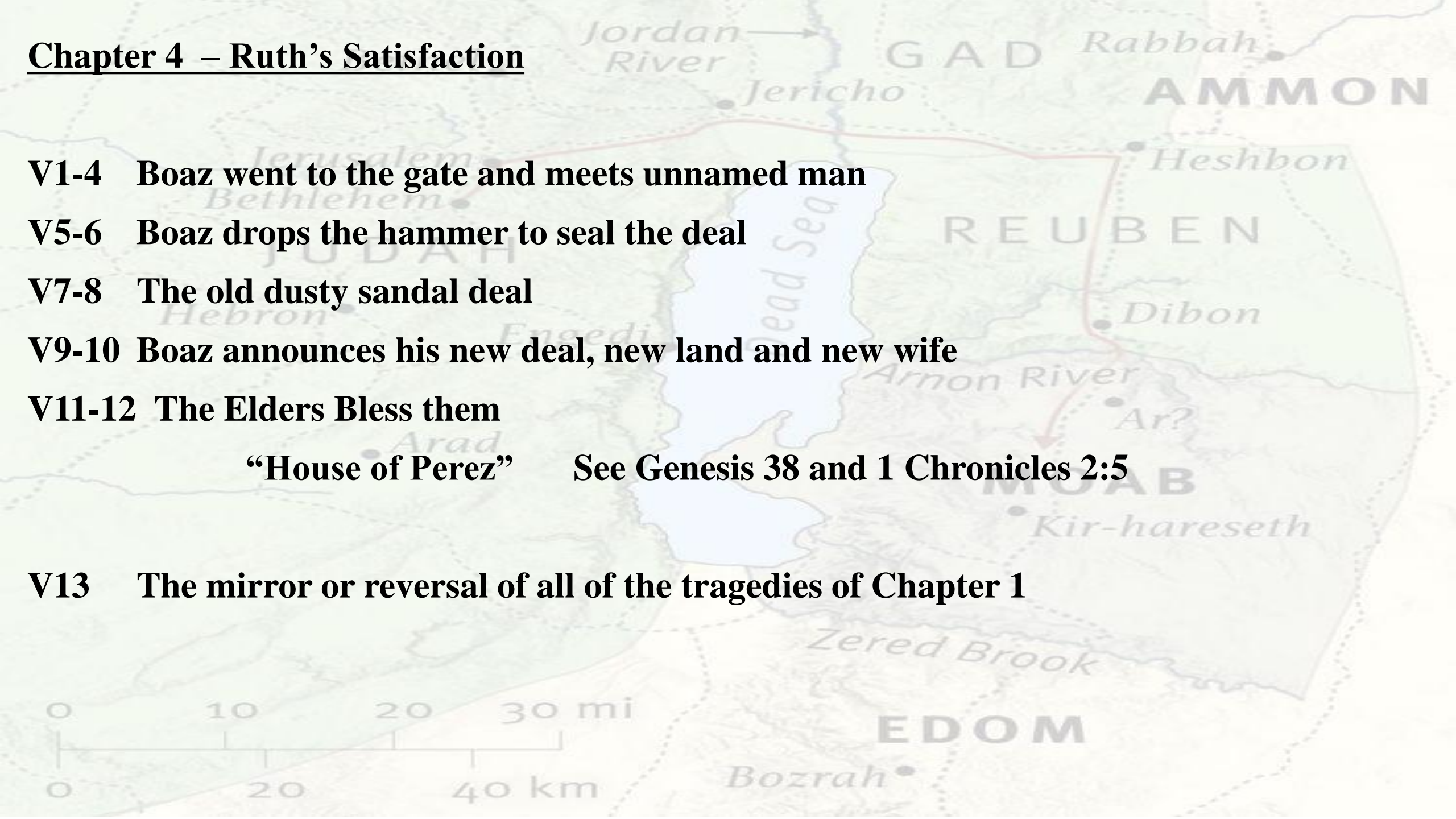
V9-10 Boaz announces his new deal, new land and new wife

V11-12 The Elders Bless them

“House of Perez”

See Genesis 38 and 1 Chronicles 2:5

V13 The mirror or reversal of all of the tragedies of Chapter 1



Ruth and Boaz gave birth to Obed.

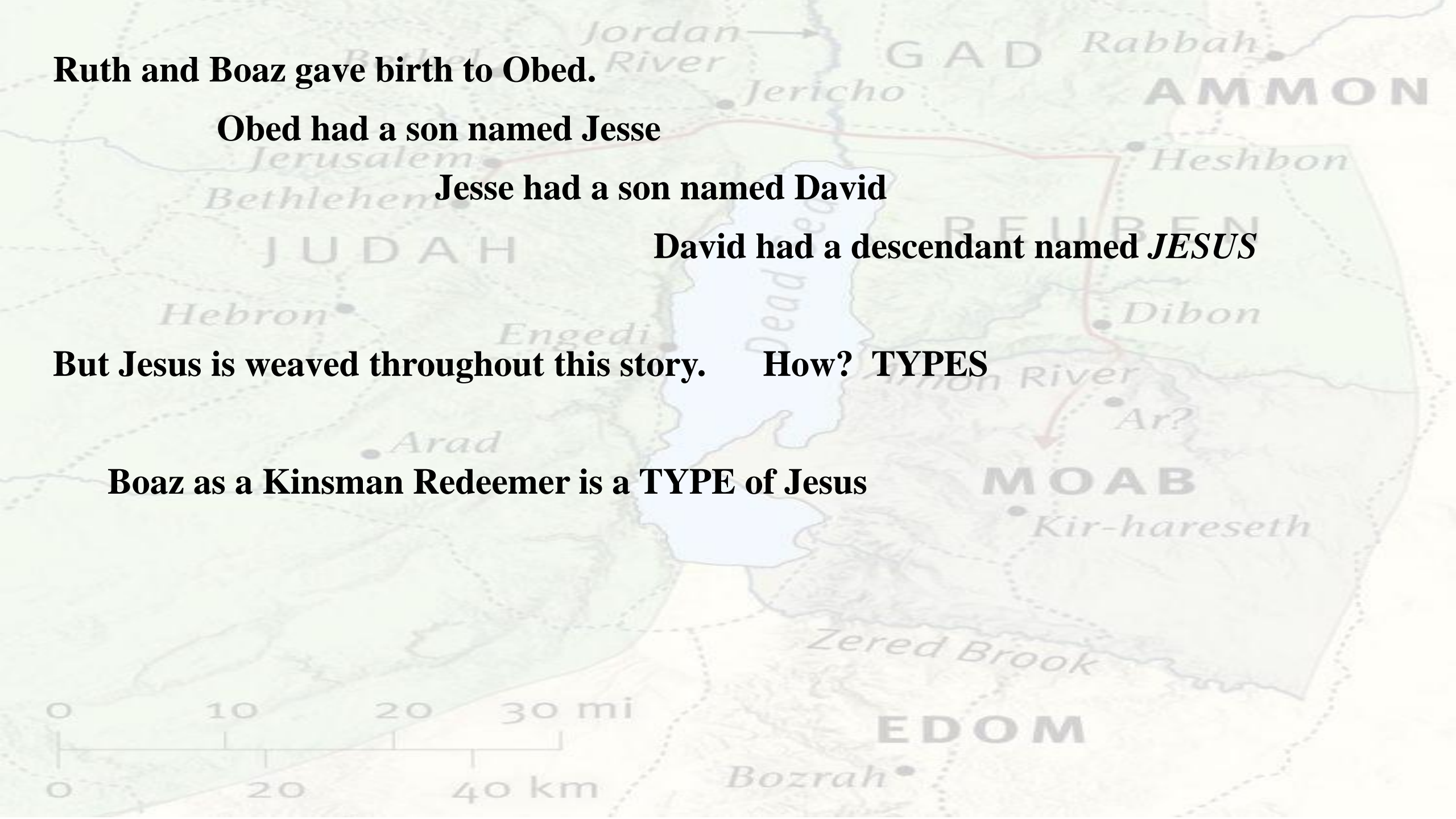
Obed had a son named Jesse

Jesse had a son named David

David had a descendant named *JESUS*

But Jesus is weaved throughout this story. How? TYPES

Boaz as a Kinsman Redeemer is a TYPE of Jesus



Book Symmetry

There is cool Symmetry between the beginning and the end of the story

The tragedy in the beginning was followed by a great act of loyalty by Ruth

The act of loyalty on Boaz' part that leads to the family's restoration

There is also symmetry highlights the design of the inner chapters

Each of the chapters begin with Naomi and Ruth forming a plan

That is followed by a providential meeting of Ruth and Boaz

And each end with Naomi and Ruth rejoicing at what is taking place.

