

THE GOD OF HAPPENSTANCE

INTRODUCTION

My definition of chance:

“Chance is our ignorance/unawareness of the forces or intentions in effect behind the events of life that happen without our direct action, planning or intention.”

In **Ruth 2:1–23**, we will see 3 demonstrations of God’s gracious providence in the lives of His children, because of which we can be thankful and live with confidence in His guidance and care. We will call it God’s GPS.

1. God **G**uides His Children (1–7)
2. God **P**rotects His Children (8–13)
3. God **S**upplies for His Children (14–23)

1) GOD GUIDES HIS CHILDREN (1–7)

“a man of great wealth” (v. 1)

Josh 1:14; Judges 6:2; 11:1 = “valiant”
 Prov 31:10; Ruth 3:11 = “excellence” or “valor”
 Deut 8:17; Jer 15:13 = “wealth”

“glean” (v. 2) vs “reap” (v. 3)

“she happened to...” (v. 3; see Prov 16:33)

“Whose” not “who” (v. 5)

Ruth’s politeness and diligence (v. 7)

2) GOD PROTECTS HIS CHILDREN (8–13)

“my daughter” (v. 8) / “young woman” (v. 5)

“Do not go” (v. 8)

“go to the water jars” (v. 9)

“All that you have done...have been fully reported to me” (v. 11)

“the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to seek refuge” (v.12)

Exod 19:4; Deut 32:11–12

Ps 17:8; 57:1; 61:4

“I have found favor” (v. 13; see vv. 2, 10)

3) GOD SUPPLIES FOR HIS CHILDREN (14–23)

“Let her glean even among the sheaves” (v. 15) and “purposely pull out for her” (v. 16)

“an ephah” (v. 17)

Naomi’s surprises

The size of God’s provision

The source of God’s provision

Ruth went out looking for food and brought home the hope of redemption

CONCLUSION

God’s hands are moving in the world, often in ways that we don’t understand and may attribute to chance. Many times we forget that there is a gracious God behind every “happenstance” guiding, protecting, and supplying for His children.