THE BRIDGE **GENERATION**

By Minister **Stephen Olusa**

2025: OUR YEAR OF FULFILLED DREAMS GENESIS 41:1, GENESIS 42:9

- Whenever there is famine and the cycle occurs, two groups of people will emerge at the end: the victors and the vanguished. Some will come out better, while others will end up bitter (Ruth 1:1-6).
- Had it not been for God's mercy, the Elimelech lineage would have been completely wiped out just because of a famine, unlike Isaac, who was victorious during a famine (Ruth 1:1-6, Genesis 26:12-14).
- It is dangerous to remain in a land that is not assigned to you. Consider Naomi. Perhaps if she had discerned early that something was wrong after the death of Elimelech, she would have returned immediately to Bethlehem. Instead, she lingered in Moab, and the delay cost her the lives of her two sons. The lesson is clear: the longer you stay outside your Godappointed place, the greater the danger.
- The reason bread ceased was because God withdrew. When God departs, lack begins. Bread is not sustained by human effort alone—it reflects divine

- presence and favour. The moment God withdrew Himself. bread stopped in Bethlehem. But when God returned, bread returned. This is a profound truth: the presence of God commands the miraculous.
- The very first sign that God has visited His people is provision. When God demonstrates His goodness, it manifests in the land through fruitfulness. Nothing in God's timetable is accidental. Every season, each harvest, and every sign is precise, deliberate, and purposeful (Exodus 9:29-32). The lesson here is this: when God restores, He does so intentionally, not by chance. His timing is flawless, His provision deliberate, and His restoration unmistakable.
- Those who genuinely seek God's face are described in Scripture as a generation—a unique class or group of people (Psalm 24:6). They are not identified by chronology or earthly age but by spiritual identity (Luke 16:8, 1 Peter 2:9). This means that whether young or old, early or late in time, we all belong to the same spiritual lineage—the



generation of those who seek Him. To seek His face is to join that eternal company—the group of people marked by His presence, defined by His calling, and destined to display His glory.

- The Lost Generation: In Genesis 19:33-38, we see the origin of Moab, born from the incestuous relationship between Lot and his daughter. From this shameful beginning, a lineage emerged that lived under a curse, estranged from God's covenant.
- Moab became a nation characterised by spiritual distance, deprived of the ability to prosper in the true sense because they did not know the Lord. Ruth, though later redeemed, descended from this tribe. Her ancestry was not merely socially or economically disadvantaged—it was spiritually estranged (Ephesians 2:11-13). This reflects the reality of any generation without Christ-regardless of their achievements, they remain a lost generation.
- The Disillusioned Generation: In every era, not only does a lost generation emerge, a

- disillusioned one also emerges. A disillusioned person has becomedisenchanted—someone who has lost faith in what was once considered true, good, or ideal.
- Disillusionment arises when expectations fail, hopes are shattered, and life contradicts the promises we once believed (Job 3:1-4, Luke 24:21). Naomi personifies this generation of disillusionment. She even renamed herself Mara—"bitterness"—claiming that the Almighty had dealt bitterly with her (Ruth 1:19-22).
- Disillusionment is perilous because it warps our perception of God. When faith clashes with disappointment, we tend to see God through our losses rather than His promises.
- As a people—particularly as young men and women—we must recognise that disillusionment is not caused by God. More often than not, it arises from misplaced expectations, false assumptions, or lies that we have accepted along the way.
- Sometimes, we set expec-



tations for ourselves—dreams of quick success, immediate recognition, or an untroubled life. However, when reality does not meet these expectations, disappointment arises, and our faith can feel shaken. At other times, disillusionment results from lies we were told—ideas or promises that contradict the gospel of truth (John 8:32).

- Only the gospel of truth has the power to set free. Lies enslave, but truth liberates. Lies leave you bitter; truth renews your hope. Lies separate you from God; truth anchors you in Him.
- One subtle way disillusionment occurs is when the enemy confronts you and begins to strike from every direction. At such times, it is not necessarily because you have done anything wrong. The adversary's strategy is to wear out the saints (Daniel 7:25). Continuous opposition can weaken even the strongest heart, no matter how brave you once believed yourself to be. This is why it is dangerous to isolate yourself during moments of weakness.
- When life's storms batter you,

- your safest place is not withdrawal but connection. Stay within your fold—the fellowship of believers, the company of faith, and the covering of your spiritual family. When Paul was on his way to Rome and faced great trials, he found strength when brethren came to meet him (Acts 28:15, 1 Thessalonians 5:11).
- No matter how strong you are, there will be times when your strength weakens. During those times, do not attempt to fight alone. Lean on your fold. Let their prayers, encouragement, and presence lift you until your courage is renewed. That is why God places us in families, churches, and spiritual communities—so that when the enemy seeks to isolate us, we are not left alone to be consumed.
- The Bridge Generation: Beyond the lost and disillusioned, there emerges the Bridge Generation. These are the sons and daughters of consolation—the restorers of paths to dwell in (Isaiah 58:12). They are not defined by loss or discouragement but by their ability to reconnect broken destinies to God. Boaz exemplified this generation; he became the bridge between Ruth's Moabite past and her redemptive future in Israel (Ruth



2:1-3).

- The Bridge Generation recognises a vital truth: favour will open doors, but favour alone will not sustain you. Ruth found favour when she entered the field of Boaz, but it was her diligence, skill, and consistency that kept her in that place of favour. "Favour will give you a seat at the table, but it is skill and productivity that will secure your position at the table."
- The Bridge Generation combines divine favour with human responsibility. They recognise that God's grace opens opportunities, but wisdom, excellence, and commitment are necessary to make the most of those opportunities. Ruth laboured tirelessly; she did not scorn the humble tasks. By doing so, she positioned herself for elevation from the edges of the field to the centre of destiny.
- The assignment of the Bridge Generation is redemptive. They act asconnectors—reconnecting the lost and disillusioned to the Lord. They exemplify encouragement, restoration,

and transformation. Like Boaz, they utilise their resources, influence, and platforms to bring hope and stability to those displaced or broken by life.

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