

NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

LESSON TWELVE AND THIRTEEN COMMENTS

Dear Family and Friends,

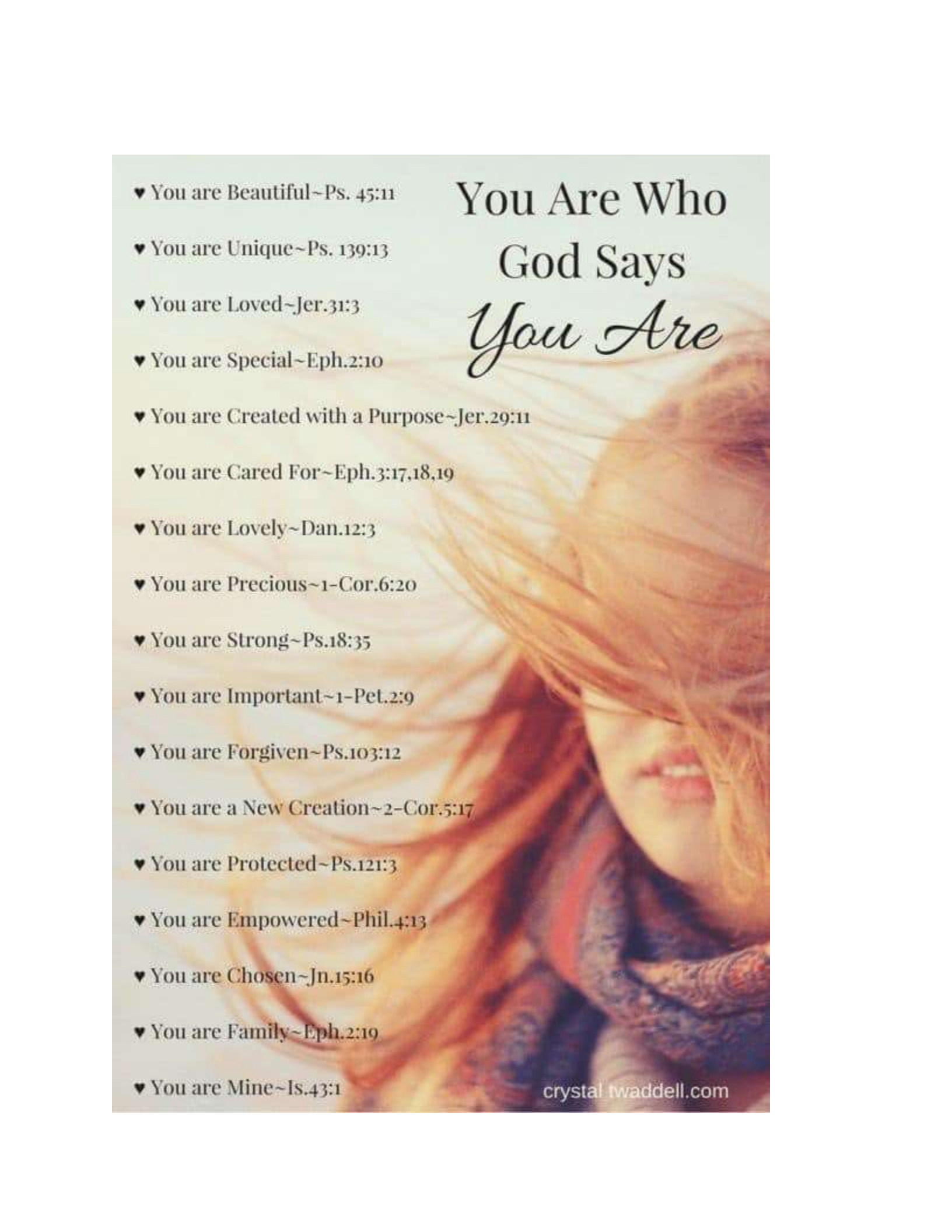
Once again, Sandy Harber has done a great job of helping us relate to Naomi. I can imagine how hard it must have been for Naomi to leave her people to go to an unknown land where everything is very different. She then lost the only family that she had, her husband and two sons. But while she was there, she was blessed to gain two daughters-in-law. She grew to love them, but she could relate to how hard it would be for them to leave their homeland to join her. She knew that she didn't have much to offer them so she encouraged them to stay rather than join her even though she would bravely have to make the journey alone. She cherished them enough to want them to do what they wanted to do rather than what would best for her. So many times in life, we have to make tough decisions.

Do we follow what seems to make sense naturally or do we selflessly follow what is right for others as well? Do we do what we want to do, or do we do what is right? We make these decisions daily in so many ways. There were two journeys. One to the land of Moab. The other was back to Judah. Naomi is the only one to make both journeys. Both journeys were primarily for the purpose of what seemed to be best for her physical circumstances. She left with husband and sons but now her only family was not flesh and blood. There were no grandchildren to tie them together. It would be a long tough journey. It would require much preparation. I could be very dangerous path. Going alone would be much harder. I don't imagine I would be anxious to make that journey. She originally had both daughters in law with her. They prepared/packed and set out together. She had two determined and committed daughters in law so she probably enjoyed their company a lot, but she suddenly realized that she had to think about the sacrifices they were making and she didn't want to be selfish. Naomi strongly encourages them to re-think this trip. Now Ruth and Orpah have to make a big decision.

We constantly have to make decisions. It is always best to follow God and obediently and selflessly do His will. Sometimes we do what seems to make more sense to us or what we want to do. God's ways are much higher than ours. We think in the natural. God is supernatural. We also know that even when we make poor decisions, or when our circumstances seem unbearable, God is still at work. Our job is to praise Him in the midst of the circumstances and look for direction on our next decisions. God will work for our good and His glory. The great news is that no matter how alone we feel, how tough our circumstances, how many poor decisions we have made, or how much we think our journey appears, we can turn to God and put Him in control. He understands and wants to show us the path to a joy filled life if trust Him.

I want to remind you that you have all you need to live God's supernatural life by reminding yourself of who you are in Christ.

Love and Prayers,
Sandy Yates



You Are Who
God Says
You Are

- ♥ You are Beautiful~Ps. 45:11
- ♥ You are Unique~Ps. 139:13
- ♥ You are Loved~Jer.31:3
- ♥ You are Special~Eph.2:10
- ♥ You are Created with a Purpose~Jer.29:11
- ♥ You are Cared For~Eph.3:17,18,19
- ♥ You are Lovely~Dan.12:3
- ♥ You are Precious~1-Cor.6:20
- ♥ You are Strong~Ps.18:35
- ♥ You are Important~1-Pet.2:9
- ♥ You are Forgiven~Ps.103:12
- ♥ You are a New Creation~2-Cor.5:17
- ♥ You are Protected~Ps.121:3
- ♥ You are Empowered~Phil.4:13
- ♥ You are Chosen~Jn.15:16
- ♥ You are Family~Eph.2:19
- ♥ You are Mine~Is.43:1