

Transforming Daily
“... now it came to pass ...”
Ruth 1:1a.

The phrase “now it came to pass” is a very familiar phrase used throughout the Scriptures. The phrase basically indicates the sovereign will of God, that is, God either allows, assigns, arranges, or appoints every circumstance in life. Nothing is without purpose, and for the Christian, no matter the level of pain or pleasure in any given situation, it is for the glory of God (Romans 8). “Now it came to pass” used here is an introduction to a fantastic story of grace and redemption. The story is both of immediate and future interest; immediate interest to the lives of the specific characters in the storyline, and future interest for those who are in need of Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

“Now” and “pass” operate together to indicate a past/present sense of being. As a matter of fact, the whole phrase is just one word in Hebrew. In other words, the phrase introduces a set of present circumstances based on previous conditions. A third dimension that is implied in the phrase “now it came to pass” is the future outcome. Sort of like $1+1=2$. The 1s would represent past conditions, the + would represent present circumstances, and the 2 would be the future outcome. I know it sounds oversimplified (especially if you consider the exponential dynamic in life such as multiple marriages, blended families, physical deformities, etc.

Another way to view the phrase “now it came to pass” is to understand that all of us are either entering into, in the midst of, or just coming out of a faith crisis. Our lives may experience this formula multiple times a day. That’s why our happiness is based on “happenstance” and our joy should be sourced in Jesus Christ. Happenstance changes from moment to moment Jesus never changes. Therefore the believer can rejoice always even when faced or experiencing adversity or troubling times.

The comedian/Christian vocal artist, Mark Lowery says that “now it came to pass” is his favorite verse in the Bible. He humorously points out that looks and strength, intelligence and ingenuity, age and health, fame and fortune as well as fear and pain will all come to pass. Keep this in mind. No one controls anything. It is an illusion to think that we do. But whereas none of us controls anything around us, all of us influence everything around us.

Are you experiencing a rough patch of circumstances right now? Expectations unfulfilled at the moment? Perhaps you didn’t plan on things working out this way with your marriage, children, finances, or health? On the other hand are things better for you than they have ever been? Is it all falling into place? Do you feel strong and confident? If you can relate to any of these situations, keep your eyes on Jesus and give God the glory because soon it might be said, “Now it came to pass.”