

I. Introduction.

II. God does great things for His people – individual and family redemption. v. 13-17

A. God blesses us with the gifts of marriage and children. 4:13

1. Marriage is a great blessing from God. Gen. 2:18 Prov. 19:14 18:22 Ecc. 9:9
2. The sexual union comes after the publicly made marriage covenant. v. 13
Mt. 19:6 Heb. 13:4
3. Children are God's blessing upon the sexual union in marriage. Ps. 127:1ff
4. God is sovereign over conception and childbirth. 4:13b 1:6 Ecc. 11:5 Jer. 1:5
Ps. 139:13ff Gen. 29:31 25:21
5. Obed is one of the miracle babies in Scripture. 1:4 Gen. 3:15 17:16 21:1-2 25:21
1 Sam. 1:19-20 Judges 13 Rom. 4:18ff Ga. 4:4
6. How can our culture's low view of marriage, sexual purity and the value of life in the womb be changed? 1 Cor. 6:9-11

B. Boaz is richly blessed by God. 4:10-12

1. This man has been an outstanding example of faithfulness to God and lovingkindness to his family – a true kinsman-redeemer. 2:8-9,15-16 3:13 4:1-10
2. Like Adam, God gives him a worthy woman to complete him – a wife fit for a king. 3:11 Gen. 2:18-25 Prov. 31:10,23
3. God makes the name of Boaz great – a father of kings. 4:11b-12

C. Ruth is richly blessed by God. 4:11,13

1. She who was far from God – a Moabitess and an idol worshiper – is brought near by God's grace through repentance and faith. 1:16-17 2:12 Ps. 62:4
2. Her experience is our experience! Eph. 2:11-13 Col. 1:13-14 Mt. 28:18ff Acts 1:8
3. After ten years of barrenness in her first marriage, she bears a son to Boaz through whom the family, the nation and the world will be redeemed. 4:13
4. Ruth's status is elevated from that of a lowly foreign widow who had to survive by gleaning to that of a matriarch in Israel. 2:10,13 4:10
5. The prayers of Naomi, Boaz and the witnesses are answered. 1:9 2:12 4:11

D. Naomi is richly blessed by God. 4:14-17

1. Why are we told that *Naomi* has a son? 4:17a,10 1:11-13
2. Naomi is the central character in the book of Ruth. 1:5 4:14
3. She desperately needed redemption – her situation seemed hopeless. 1:12-13,20-21
4. The LORD redeems her and her family through her grandson Obed! 4:14-15
5. Her grandson will be a great blessing in her old age. 4:15a 1 Tim. 5:4
6. What Naomi lost in the beginning of the story is restored – the LORD Who emptied her has filled her again. 4:16-17 1:21,5 Job 1:2 42:13 Ps. 23:3
7. How is Ruth better than seven sons?
8. What is the meaning of the naming of Obed? v. 17
9. The LORD, against Whom Naomi had once spoken, is now rightfully praised. 4:14a 1:20-21 Rom. 8:28

III. God does greater things for His people – national and worldwide redemption. v. 18-22

A. Why doesn't the story conclude with the happy ending for our main characters?

1. God is doing something much bigger.
2. The book of Ruth points to a greater Redeemer than Boaz.

- B. God works through these events to bring a redeemer (David) for Israel.**
1. Does God really care about Israel?
 2. Israel's condition during the days of the Judges was like that of Naomi when she returned from Moab. 1:5,13,20-21 Judges 21:25
 3. God, through Ruth and Boaz, is raising up a king (David) who will unite Israel, defeat her enemies, establish her borders and make her a world power. 1 Ki. 5:4
- C. God is also working out His ultimate plan of redemption through Christ. Mt. 1:5ff**
1. Does God really care about the world? 1 John 5:19
 2. The world's condition is like that of Naomi and Israel – in rebellion against God and under His judgment.
 3. God has sent His Son into the world to redeem people from every tribe, tongue, people and nation. Gen. 12:3 John 3:16 Rev. 5:9 2 Sam. 7:12-14
 4. A thousand years later, again in Bethlehem, the LORD will use an ordinary man and woman to bring redemption to His people. Mt. 1-2 Lu. 1-2 Jo. 7:42 Mic. 5:2
 5. A Son is miraculously given to redeem His people. 4:13 Isa. 9:6 7:14 1 Co. 6:9ff Ga. 3:13 4:4 1 Pet. 1:18
 6. Jesus is the Servant (Obed) Who restores and sustains life. 4:13,17 Mark 10:45 Isa. 42:1 49:6 52:13-53:12 Phil. 2:6-8 John 10:10 11:25-26 1 Pet. 1:3-4
- D. What is the significance of this genealogy? 4:18-22 2 Tim. 3:16-17**
1. This is a record of God's faithfulness to His promises.
 2. God is faithful in spite of human sin. Gen. 38 Mt. 1:5

IV. Conclusion – God's stories have happy endings for God's people.

- A. God cares – the book of Ruth has been a great example of God's providence.**
1. God works out His extraordinary purposes in the lives of ordinary people. 1:1
 2. God works through calamities. 1:1
 3. God works by means of our ordinary actions – in ways of which we are typically unaware. 2:3
 4. God blesses the faithfulness and the initiative of His people. 2:2 3:1 4:1
 5. God has good purposes for His people in spite of our sins and failures. 1:1,4
 6. God overcomes many obstacles to achieve His purpose.
 7. What God is doing in our lives is bigger than we think – impacting many others, even future generations.
- B. Are you tempted to question whether God cares – “Where is my happy ending?”**
1. By faith we can know that He is working out His purposes in our lives.
 2. God's faithfulness to us in Christ should help us to be assured that nothing can separate us from His love. Rom. 8:28-39 8:18

Discussion questions

1. What do you learn about God from the book of Ruth?
2. What do you learn about God's providence from the life of Naomi?
3. How is Naomi's story like that of Job?
4. What do you learn about God's grace in the life of Ruth?
5. If your family was to die and then the Lord was to give you a new family, would that new family be comfort enough? Or is there more comfort needed? What is that comfort?
6. What is the significance of the genealogy which ends the book of Ruth?
7. How can you look upon your present hardships in light of the book of Ruth?
8. How can you look upon your past failures in light of the book of Ruth?
9. Where can you see Christ and the gospel in the book of Ruth?