

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

SO THEY TWO WENT UNTIL THEY CAME TO BETHLEHEM

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.

SUNDAY EVENING, AUGUST 11, 2019

SCRIPTURE READING: **RUTH 1:7-22**

Ruth 1:19-22, So they two went until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi? **20:** And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me. **21:** I went out full, and the LORD hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the LORD hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me? **22:** So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest.

1. BACKGROUND

- a. The author of the Book of Ruth is unknown; however, some have suggested that Samuel was the writer.
- b. We are also uncertain of the time it was written; it is possible that it was written somewhere between 1011 and 931 BC.
- c. We do know that it was written during the period of the Judges which spans a period of 12 years. **Ruth 1:1**, Now it came to pass **in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land.** And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.
- d. The setting of this book is in the country of Moab. We have map that show where Elimelech moved his family from Bethlehem to Moab, a region Northeast of the Dead Sea.
- e. This book takes place during dismal and difficult days of the Judges.
- f. The Bible says in **Judges 17:6**, In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.
- g. It was probably written in Judah and was addressed primarily to the Israelites.
- h. The Book of Ruth captures a story of a little foreign girl who came out of paganism and idolatry in Moab.
- i. She came from a people who were in a sense, outcast people.
- j. She came to know the true and living Saviour; the Lord Jesus Christ.
- k. **Ruth 2:12**, The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.

- l. This book only contains four brief chapters, but is a mighty message from God that He wants every believer to hear and understand.
- m. This book deals primarily with Ruth being in the genealogy of the Lord Jesus Christ. **Matthew 1:1**, *The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.*
- n. **Matthew 1:5-7**, *And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse; 6: And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias; 7: And Solomon begat Roboam; and Roboam begat Abia; and Abia begat Asa;*
- o. Booz is synonymous with Boaz see **1 Chronicles 2:11-12**, *And Nahshon begat Salma, and Salma begat Boaz, 12: And Boaz begat Obed, and Obed begat Jesse,*
- p. The way she ends up in the genealogy of Jesus Christ is that she stayed with Naomi, her mother-in-law, and returned to the place where Jesus would be born, in Bethlehem of Judea. **Micah 5:2**, *But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*
- q. She marries Boaz, a kinsmen redeemer, and they had a son named Obed and he was the father of Jesse who in turn was the father of King David. **Ruth 4:17**, *And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David.*
- r. As we can see this clearly puts the Lord Jesus Christ in the Nation of Israel aligning Him with the Jewish people.
- s. As a result of that, Jesus has the right to sit on the Throne of David and rule and reign for a thousand years initially and then for all eternity. **Luke 1:32-33**, *He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.*
- t. This precious book not only gives us a connection with the second coming of Jesus Christ, but also teaches redemption.
- u. Scripture is traced from Genesis right down to the stable in Bethlehem where Jesus Christ was born in the flesh and later died for the sins of mankind. **1 Timothy 3:16**, *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. John 1:14*, *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. Hebrews 7:26*, *For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;*
- v. It teaches us the doctrine of redemption which can only be done through a mediator; none other than the Lord Jesus Christ.
- w. **1 Timothy 2:5**, *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;*
- x. Since only God could redeem, it was necessary for the Lord Jesus Christ to become the mediator. **1 Peter 1:18-19**, *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation*

received by tradition from your fathers; 19: But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

- y. Redemption is possible only through a kinsman –redeemer. Boaz is the human figure to show us the kinsmen-redeemer aspect of redemption.
- z. The kinsman redeemer concept is absolutely essential in order for man to be atoned from sin. The kinsman- redeemer here is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is our kinsman-redeemer. We must keep in mind that atonement covers up sin, but redemption means one has paid the price so that the one who is redeemed is set free. **Hebrews 7:26,** For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; **Hebrews 10:12,** But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;
- aa. The Book of Ruth is a precious book; a potent book of only four chapters that indeed carries forth a powerful message.
- bb. A couple of themes from this powerful book are:
 - 1. At times genuine love may require uncompromising sacrifice.
 - 2. Regardless of our lot in life, we can live according to the precepts of God.
 - 3. Genuine love and kindness will be rewarded.
 - 4. God abundantly blesses those who seek to live obedient lives.
 - 5. Obedient living does not allow for an accident in the eternal plan of God.
 - 6. God extends mercy to the merciful.

2. INTRODUCTION

Refer to Morning message August 11, 2019

3. ELEVEN POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

g. They went on the way to return unto the land of Judah

- 1. **Ruth 1:7,** *Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her; and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah.*
- 2. Naomi is going to have a talk with these girls and she suggests that they return to their Moabite ways.
- 3. Naomi tells them she has no more sons and if they returned to the land with her they would be outcasts.
- 4. It reminds me that the Jews had no dealing with the Samaritans. **John 4:9,** *Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.*
- 5. There were also no dealings with the Moabites because of their idolatry.

h. And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law

- 1. **Ruth 1:8,** And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, *Go, return each to her mother's house: the LORD deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me.*
- 2. Naomi is a wonderful woman, but she is telling these foreign girls that there is no hope for them and encourages them to go back to their own mothers.

i. The Lord grant you that ye may find rest

- 1. **Ruth 1:9,** The LORD grant you that ye may find rest, *each of you in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept.*
- 2. This is a wonderful relationship that Naomi had with her daughters-in-law.

3. They embraced as they were ready to depart.
4. There is no question that the Lord Jesus is in the midst and is controlling the situation here.
5. *"The LORD grant you that ye may find rest"*-speaks of marriage

j. Surely we will return with thee unto thy people

1. **Ruth 1:10-11**, *And they said unto her, **Surely we will return with thee unto thy people.** 11: And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?*
2. The Mosaic law says when a man died the nearest kin was to marry his wife and if there was a brother he was the one to do the honors.
3. **Deuteronomy 25:5-9**, *If brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: her husband's brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of an husband's brother unto her. 6: And it shall be, that the firstborn which she beareth shall succeed in the name of his brother which is dead, that his name be not put out of Israel. 7: And if the man like not to take his brother's wife, then let his brother's wife go up to the gate unto the elders, and say, My husband's brother refuseth to raise up unto his brother a name in Israel, he will not perform the duty of my husband's brother. 8: Then the elders of his city shall call him, and speak unto him: and if he stand to it, and say, I like not to take her; 9: Then shall his brother's wife come unto him in the presence of the elders, and loose his shoe from off his foot, and spit in his face, and shall answer and say, So shall it be done unto that man that will not build up his brother's house.*
4. It seems like a strange law. It is not in existence for us today because it is not mail for the church. Do not react to this in a negative way; it was God's method of protecting Israel and we will see how it fits into this overall scheme later during a later message.
5. Later on, Boaz became the kinsmen redeemer.
6. We can understand this is a picture of Christ going to the cross, identifying with sinful mankind and taking the burden of our sin away. **Isaiah 53:6**, *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

k. Turn again, my daughters, go your way

1. **Ruth 1:12-13**, ***Turn again, my daughters, go your way;** for I am too old to have an husband. If I should say, I have hope, if I should have an husband also to night, and should also bear sons; 13: Would ye tarry for them till they were grown? would ye stay for them from having husbands? nay, my daughters; for it grieveth me much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD is gone out against me.*
2. Again, Naomi reminds them that she will have no more children and they will not be able to have husbands from her.
3. God intervenes in this family. Always remember that God blesses His people when they are obedient. Naomi and Ruth are on the threshold of great blessings from God although neither can see it at this point.
4. *"the hand of the LORD is gone out against me."* – indicates that she was not

operating in the perfect will of God, but His permissive will.

5. God had judged that family. As a matter of fact they were children of God and had come under strict chastisement. **Hebrews 12:7-8**, *If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 8: But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.*

6. God will do this when we are not in His perfect will.

l. And they lifted up their voice, and wept again

1. **Ruth 1:14**, **And they lifted up their voice, and wept again:** *and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her.*

2. This relationship continues and they wept because of their potential departure from each other.

3. Orpah made her decision. She decided to go back to her homeland.

4. You can see that her decision to go along with the Jews was not a true one. She returns unto her gods.

m. Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people

1. **Ruth 1:15**, *And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law.*

2. Orpah's decision for God had not been real.

3. She is going back to idolatry and paganism.

4. We will never hear from her again.

5. I have said many times that God does not regulate the lives of unbelievers; He holds unbelievers to the message of the cross.

6. We see a remarkable turning point; two girls- one turn back to idolatry and the other becomes a member of the genealogy of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

7. Ruth is mentioned in the very first chapter of the New Testament. **Matthew 1:5**, *And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;*

8. She was told to go back to her gods but she stays with the true and living God.

n. Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God

1. **Ruth 1:16**, *And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:*

2. She made a decision which is seven fold. This deals with true repentance.

3. **2 Corinthians 7:10**, *For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death*

o. Where thou diest, will I die

1. **Ruth 1:17**, **Where thou diest, will I die,** *and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.*

2. Ruth made her decision and she stayed on course.

3. The seven fold decision is what repentance is based on.

4. Repentance simply means to change one's mind.

5. *"for whither thou goest, I will go;"* – she is staying with Naomi regardless of what the situation is. We have to stay on the firing line regardless of the opposition.

6. "where thou lodgest, I will lodge:" – Whatever the conditions were, she was ready to accept it, whether it was poverty, famine, etc. She was going to stay the course.
 7. "thy people shall be my people" – She says she is forsaking all idolatry; she wants to identify with the people of God. What a precious thing it is to identify with God's people. She didn't care if she was an outcast. When God calls us to a field we must be willing to stay.
 8. "thy God my God:" – Although it might not be what people think on the outside, she was in for the long haul. It was God's providential plan to get Ruth into the genealogy of Jesus Christ. The hope of Israel is what God had given them. **1 Corinthians 4:2**, Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.
 9. "Where thou diest, will I die." – The Israelites believed that someday they would be raised from the dead to live in that land. This was the hope of Abraham. He never believed that he was going to Heaven; he believed he would be raised from the dead in that land. **Hebrews 11:10**, For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Joseph had this same hope and his ancestors were instructed to not leave his bones in Egypt. Joshua 24:32, And the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver: and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph.
 10. "and there will I be buried:" - The hope is in that land, just as the hope of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had been, she now has the Old Testament hope.
 11. "the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me." – It did not make any difference what hour of the day it was; it was a matter of life and death. Ruth sets forth real repentance.
 12. There were tears that were shed from Orpah, but tears do not necessarily bring repentance; it is what is in the heart that counts. **Romans 10:10**, For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 1 Samuel 16:7, But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.
 13. Ruth made a decision for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and would accept whatever went along with it. **John 1:12**, But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:
- p. When she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her**
1. **Ruth 1:18**, When she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.
 2. She knew that this girl had made her final decision and there was no way she was going to change her mind so she left speaking unto her.
- q. So they two went until they came to Bethlehem**
1. **Ruth 1:19-22**, So they two went until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi? 20: And she said unto them, Call me not

*Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me. **21:** I went out full, and the LORD hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the LORD hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me? **22:** So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest.*

2. This woman indicates that she has gone through chastisement and severe judgment, and now she is back where God wanted her to be. **Romans 8:1**, *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*
3. When the father saw the prodigal son afar off, he came and fell on his face, kissed him, and the fatted calf was given for a banquet. All of this for the boy who returned home. **Luke 15:20**, *And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.*
4. Naomi told her friends to call her Mara, but the Spirit of God blesses her immensely. **John 10:10**, *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*
5. Do you know Jesus as Saviour? If you do not, you need to repent of your sins and come to His side.

4. CONCLUSION

- a. Do you know the Saviour?
- a. **John 3:16**, *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*
- b. A body has been prepared for the Lord Jesus Christ. **Hebrews 10:5**, *Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, but a body hast thou prepared me:*
- c. Sacrifice and offerings to God He did not want. All the animals in the Old Testament that were sacrificed was pointing to the time that the perfect Lamb of God would go to the cross and die for the sins of mankind. **John 1:29**, *The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*
- d. It is faith in God that activates the process of salvation. We are saved by grace through faith. We are in Christ; His blood has cleansed us from all sin. **Hebrews 9:22**, *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.* Faith enables us to lay hold on the salvation plan that Jesus has given us.
- e. Trusting in Him as personal Saviour puts one in the body of Christ and we are complete in Him. **Colossians 2:10**, *And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: **1 Corinthians 12:13**, For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. **2 Corinthians 5:17**, Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*
- f. It is **only** the Lord Jesus Christ who can save mankind. There are not six thousand ways to get to God; there is one way. **John 14:6**, *Jesus saith unto him, I am the*

way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

- g. **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
Romans 3:10, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
- h. **Romans 10:9-10**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- i. Please stand.

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