

Ruth - Lesson 10

Hope for the Future: The Nation of Israel & the Church Age in Ruth

Introduction

The book of Ruth is a story of hope – not only for the Israelites, but for all people: Jew & Gentile.

I. Israel in the Book of Ruth.

Ruth 1:1-2 This is not only the story of Elimelech but also a type that prefigures the future of the Nation of Israel.

Elimelech's name means "My God is my King." But Elimelech engaged in compromise and left his homeland of Israel. He aligned with the heathen godless nations. This sojourn ended with a return of the remnant (Naomi) to the land of Israel. Naomi returns in bitterness.

This foreshadows the Nation of Israel's coming judgment and deportation.

Israel – fell to Assyria and Judah – fell to Babylon.

Jeremiah 9:12-6 --- God will give them bitter water to drink.

A remnant, however, returns under Ezra and Nehemiah.

This is the near view fulfillment.

The far view is captured in Ezekiel 37:1-14, 21-28 when in the end times, the Jewish people return to their homeland.

II. A "foreshadowing" of the Church Age.

The church was a mystery in the Old Testament. Ephesians 3:1-12

It was established at Pentecost, which was a feast that celebrates harvest and firstfruits.

Acts 2

"This particular Day of Pentecost (in Acts 2) was the firstfruits of Christ's church, the beginning of the great harvest of souls who would come to know Christ and be joined together through the work of the Holy Spirit. "

Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Commentary.

In Jewish liturgy, the scroll of Ruth is read on Pentecost.

Matthew 16:18

III. Hope –

The book of Ruth teaches us that the sovereign plan and purpose of God is being fulfilled – in Israel and in the Church. And in our lives as well.

Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose.

“Work together” is the Greek word “synergei” from which we get our English word, synergy.

Synergy is the interaction of discrete agencies, agents or conditions such that the total effect is greater than the sum of the individual effects.

$$2+2 = 1000 !$$

Summary of Ruth:

At a time when the Nation of Israel had rejected God as King, Ruth points us to the True King, Shiloh: The One from the Tribe of Judah “to whom it rightfully belongs.” This is a King Who desires a relationship with us. He is our Kinsman-Redeemer. Just as Ruth grew in her relationship with Boaz, (ultimately placing herself at his feet at the threshing floor), so also our deeper relationship with Christ comes through submission and trust – and His refining process in our lives.

Through all of this, God is sovereignly working His purposes in the world.

Applications:

How does the Book of Ruth encourage you in today’s world and society?

In what ways have you seen God “synergize” things in your life, that is, bring about greater things than you could have ever expected?