

Ruth 1-2 – 16 December 2021

“Approaching Our Redemption Part 1 of 2”

Introduction

*Although author is unknown, book ends w/ genealogy ending w/ David; great evidence it's written about 1000BC

*The book of Ruth takes place in the very ungodly time period of the Judges (1380BC-1050BC)

*It reminds us that anyone can choose to seek & serve God *regardless of the culture around them*

*Not only any Jew can seek/serve God, book shows that *even Gentiles* can find grace in their Redeemer

*Two views from this book

*Ruth aided along by Naomi in finding grace in the face of her redeemer Boaz

*The Gentiles aided along by Israel in finding grace in the face of our Redeemer Jesus

***So today, here are the first 2 of 4 factors in approaching the Lord for redemption**

1st factor in approaching the Lord for redemption is our choice to leave comfort & seek God (Chap 1)

Read Chap 1:1-2

1. Elimelech took his wife & 2 sons out of “the house of bread” Bethlehem & to the washpot of Moab
2. Sojourn – to temporarily go to dwell
3. They’ll end up staying until death save Naomi

Read Chap 1:3-5

1. So, this Jewish women Naomi is left with two Gentile daughters-in-law after the men die
2. These 2 young ladies have been exposed to the God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob for > 10 years
 - a. What do they think?
 - b. They were only connected to Naomi by marriage law, which is now complete & done

Read Chap 1:6

1. So the stage is set for God to work
2. The picture of what God is here doing is set

- a. Jew (Naomi) hears of God's provision and wants to return to it
- b. Gentiles (Orpah & Ruth) have choice to make

Read Chap 1:7

1. Everyone will go along with the status quo & to stay in their comfort zone.
2. They're just following out of a sense of keeping the norm – this isn't a deep choice...yet

Read Chap 1:8-9a

1. Naomi blesses them from the LORD God & wants them to remarry in Moab assuming that they will choose to retain their Gentile identity
2. Notice both daughters are full of good works
3. Naomi here gives the daughters their 1st bit of resistance to coming toward the Lord

Read Chap 1:9b-10

1. Both ladies are emotional about the prospect of parting with the norm – all they've known

Read Chap 1:11-13

1. Naomi in reality and truth says that she has nothing to offer these 2 Gentiles ladies
 - a. Naomi doesn't, but God does
 - b. Ruth isn't doing this for material gain
2. So, this is their 2nd bit of resistance to coming toward the Lord

Read Chap 1:14-15

1. After the 2nd prompting, Orpah stays in Moab
2. Orpah took the natural approach to stay where most things are comfortable to her
 - a. Thinks she has greatest chance of husband
 - b. Thinks her best life is apart from the LORD
3. For Ruth, this is the 3rd bit of resistance to coming toward the Lord
 - a. Vs 9 – You can marry if you stay in Moab
 - b. Vs 11 – Naomi has no husband for you
 - c. Vs 15 – You friends are doing it
 - d. These are same tricks we fall for today

Read Chap 1:16-17

1. After the 3rd prompting to stay in Moab, Ruth makes a very intentional decision
 - a. Not just to go with Naomi like vs 7
 - b. Not just to cleave to her like vs 14
 - c. But to identify with Naomi's God in vs 16
2. Ruth is speaking w/ belief in the LORD God by name –she has great desire to come toward God
3. Let me make point that human race has the desire to come to God but not the ability
 - a. We have no ability on our own
 - i. Read Rom 5:6-8 – “yet w/o strength, while we were sinners”
 - ii. Read Rom 3:11 – “none that seek God” in context means that no one wholly lives for God in purity & of their own volition
 - b. Yet God gives us ability to desire Him
 - i. Read Deut 4:29 – “You'll find Me when you seek with all your heart”

- ii. Read Jer 24:7 – God gives us a heart to seek
- iii. Read Psm 119:10 – David sought God w/
whole heart & asked God to help him stay
- c. God give us ability to turn our heart fully
over to His love / power, then rewards us for it
 - i. Read Heb 11:6

Read Chap 1:18

- 1. We do the opposite – we try convincing people
to come to the Lord
 - a. Whereas we should be telling them to count
the cost before coming to the Lord

Read Chap 1:19-21

- 1. Don't call me pleasant, but call me bitter
- 2. Naomi the Jew, misrepresented the goodness of
God in her life
 - a. She had Ruth right there, she's not empty

Read Chap 1:22

- 1. Barley season means there's work to be done

2nd factor in approaching the Lord for redemption is God's grace to bring us near (Chap 2)

Read Chap 2:1-2

1. These gals are destitute & dependent on others
2. Jewish law allowed for the poor to glean the edges of the crops for their food
3. She doesn't know who's field she'll end up in yet, but it will be Boaz's field
 - a. Boaz is not only rich but he's family
4. Ruth is hoping someone, wherever she ends up, will show philao or storgea love & keep the Law
 - a. One who obeys leaving the corners of wheat
 - b. One who obeys allowing the poor to take it

Read Chap 2:3

1. "It just so happened" that the field she picked was Boaz's field – NO, God set this up
2. Don't have to look for a marriage – just be about living for the Lord and it will "hap"pen!

Read Chap 2:4-7

1. Boaz inquires & finds that she's hardworking

Read Chap 2:8-9

1. Offer of grace from the Kinsman-Redeemer
2. She's done nothing to deserve his charity
3. Desire & Ability
 - a. Earlier we saw that Ruth had desire, but no ability to prosper materially or spiritually
 - b. Now we see that Boaz has great ability, but no desire (or reason) except that of love

Read Chap 2:10

1. This is the church talking to Christ
2. God had a connection with us when there was not relationship or connection at all – that's grace!

Read Chap 2:11-12

1. In a simple firsthand way Boaz is impressed with her care for Naomi (Israel) & that she was willing to leave her land (pagan) to come to Israel
2. She's living the life of a god-honoring saint

Read Chap 2:13

1. Thx for speaking kindly to me even though I'm a Gentile – God speaks kindly
2. Represents God's grace of compassion to us

Read Chap 2:14-17

1. Boaz graces her w/ eating w/ them & allowing her to have more grain than just the corners
2. Represents God's grace of provision to us

Read Chap 2:18-19

1. Notice Ruth's kindness to even bring a meal home to Naomi and explain the story of the day
2. Boaz knew what she needed
 - a. Represents God's intimacy w/ us
 - b. Gen 16:13 – Hagar – “God who seeth me”

Read Chap 2:20

1. Identity of the man is revealed – he's family!
2. “and to the dead” alludes to marrying Boaz

Read Chap 2:21

1. Enduring relationship sought
2. God wants us to stay close to the other servants (or the church) until the end of the ages

Read Chap 2:22-23

1. Once the Lord has showed you kindness, it would be adultery to leave and go to another
2. When you truly see the grace of God, why would you go anywhere else?
 - a. There's work; but that just means purpose, not struggle
 - b. There's value here b/c there's relationship!
 - i. Relationship based on God's grace, not our work

Conclusion

So to find redemption, we begin approaching God & watch what He will do

1. We need to choose to leave comfort & seek God

- a. We need to respond to the knowledge of God from creation and what He's already showed us thru others
- b. There are definite things we'll leave behind, but restore them in a fresh new life in the Promised Land!

2. Then God's grace will bring us nearer

- a. As you're seeking to come closer to God, He makes the "happenings" of your life work together for good
- b. In the presence of God are blessings unmerited
- c. In the presence of God are graces that only God can give!

Chap 3-4 – The culmination of the redemption