Ruth- From Bitter to Better 10.25.26

Ruth 1:1

1 In the days when the judges ruled in Israel, a severe famine came upon the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah left his home and went to live in the country of Moab, taking his wife and two sons with him.

Judges 21:25

25 In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.

8 But on the way, Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back to your mothers' homes. And may the Lord reward you for your kindness to your husbands and to me.

13 Would you wait for them to grow up and refuse to marry someone else? No, of course not, my daughters! Things are far more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord himself has raised his fist against me."

16 But Ruth replied, "Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. **17** Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!"

20 "Don't call me Naomi," she responded. "Instead, call me Mara,[a] for the Almighty has made life very bitter for me. **21** I went away full, but the Lord has brought me home empty. Why call me Naomi when the Lord has caused me to suffer[b] and the Almighty has sent such tragedy upon me?"

Leviticus 19:9-10 New Living Translation

9 "When you harvest the crops of your land, do not harvest the grain along the edges of your fields, and do not pick up what the harvesters drop. **10** It is the same with your grape crop—do not strip every last bunch of grapes from the

vines, and do not pick up the grapes that fall to the ground. Leave them for the poor and the foreigners living among you. I am the Lord your God.

Ruth 2 [3] So Ruth went out to gather grain behind the harvesters. And as it happened, she found herself working in a field that belonged to Boaz, the relative of her father-in-law, Elimelech.

Ruth 2

[11] "Yes, I know," Boaz replied. "But I also know about everything you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband. I have heard how you left your father and mother and your own land to live here among complete strangers. [12] May the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge, reward you fully for what you have done."

[20] "May the Lord bless him!" Naomi told her daughter-in-law. "He is showing his kindness to us as well as to your dead husband.[b] That man is one of our closest relatives, one of our family redeemers."

Ruth 3

[9] "Who are you?" he asked.

"I am your servant Ruth," she replied. "Spread the corner of your covering over me, for you are my family redeemer."

Ruth 3

[17] and she added, "He gave me these six scoops of barley and said, 'Don't go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.'"

Ruth 4

[13] So Boaz took Ruth into his home, and she became his wife. When he slept with her, the Lord enabled her to become pregnant, and she gave birth to a son. [14] Then the women of the town said to Naomi, "Praise the Lord, who has now provided a redeemer for your family! May this child be famous in Israel. [15] May he restore your youth and care for you in your old age. For he is the son

of your daughter-in-law who loves you and has been better to you than seven sons!”

16 Naomi took the baby and cuddled him to her breast. And she cared for him as if he were her own.

17 The neighbor women said, “Now at last Naomi has a son again!” And they named him Obed. He became the father of Jesse and the grandfather of David.

Take away 1: God is present in pain.

- Naomi’s sorrow is real.
- God’s providence is hidden, not absent.
- Suffering is not proof of abandonment.

Take away 2: Covenant love stays.

- Ruth’s loyalty is costly.
- Faithfulness is revealed in hard places.
- Love is more than feeling; it is commitment.

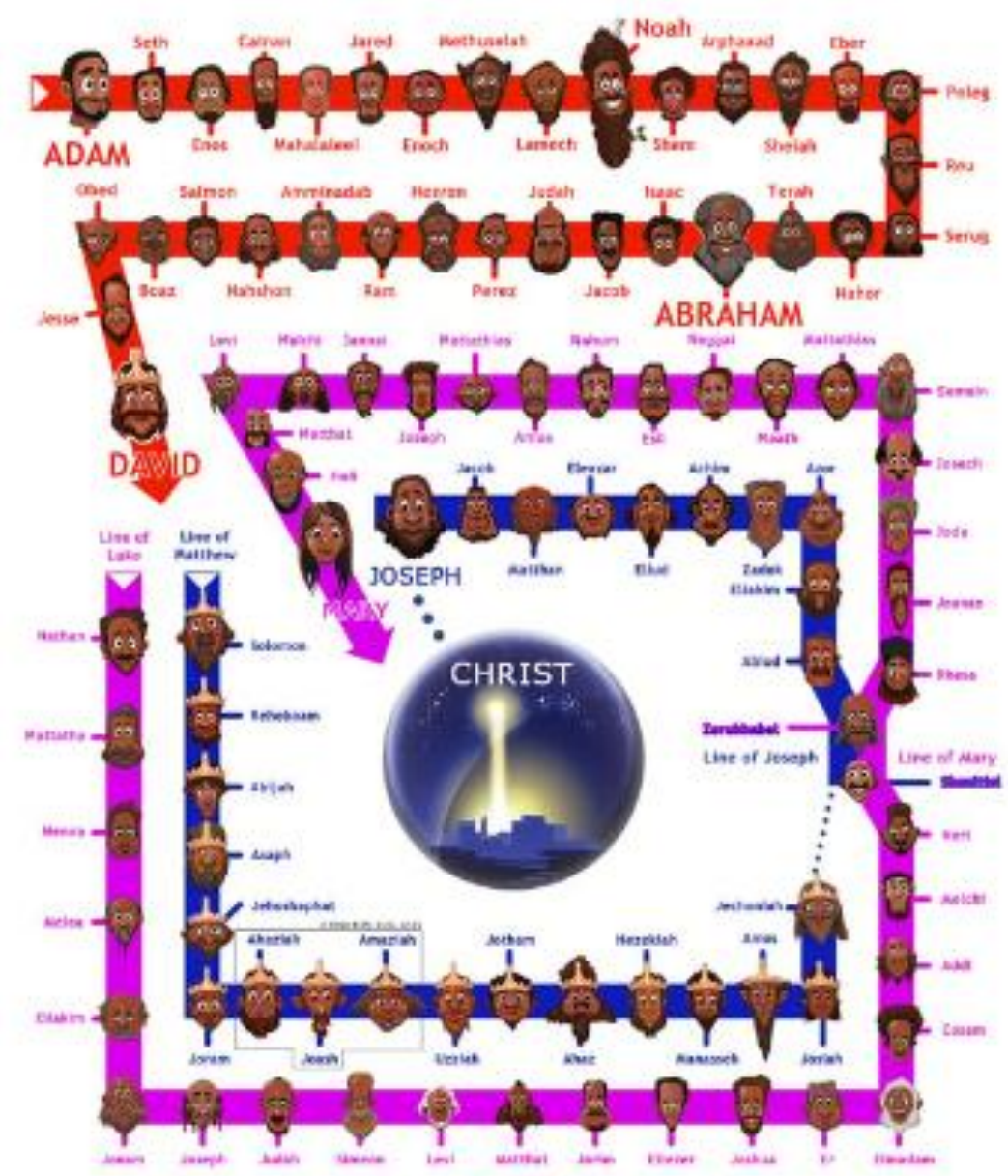
Take away 3: God provides through ordinary people.

- Boaz notices, protects, and gives.
- Providence often looks like a field, a meal, a conversation, a timely kindness.
- God works through human obedience.

Take away 4: The Redeemer has a name.

- Boaz points beyond himself.

- Christ is the true Redeemer who pays the price.
- The book of Ruth is not only about Ruth; it is about the God who redeems.



Ephesians 3:20 New Living Translation

[20] Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.