

Intro: **Zoom.** We only see a small piece of God's much bigger plan, purpose and picture.

Thesis: "The Lord will turn every bitter experience into sweet redemption for His people"

I. Redeemed by a Son (13-16)

- A. **The Lord gave conception.** Miraculous? 10 years! God did it! "A son is given."
- B. **Naomi's Redeemer.** This child your holding is your Redeemer/Savior. **v.4:14**
- C. **His Name Renowned.** Famous! "No other Name given on earth by which men must be saved..."
- D. **He's a Restorer of Life.** New life. Changed Life. Resurrected Life.
- E. **He's Nourisher of the Elderly.** "To live is Christ."
- F. **He's a sign of the Lord's favor and grace. (So is Ruth).** "Grace entered the world thru Jesus."
- G. **Beautiful Sweet Image/Scene.** Naomi takes boy, lays him in lap, cares for him.
 1. **Bitter-Sweet Redemption.** Mara? "Naomi, Naomi, Naomi" 3x. **REPETITION!**
 2. **Cowper:** "Bud may have a bitter taste, but sweet will be its flower."
 3. **Naomi is caring for, nurturing her Redeemer/Savior. Mary.**

II. Progress of Redemption (17-22)

- A. **A Son born to Naomi?** Or Ruth? Both. Yes.
- B. His Name is **Obed** = "Worker. Laborer. Servant."
- C. **His Name shall be Jesus.** Save His people from their sins. Lord Saves/Salvation.
- D. Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and His Name will be **IMMANUEL.** God with us!
- E. **Perez > Obed > Jesse > David!!** Wait a second! That Obed? What?! **MIND BLOWN!**
- F. **It's all connected! David > Solomon > Jesus.**

ILLUSTRATION: Pixar Cinematic Universe. It's all connected. // **Disney Cinematic Universe.** Elsa and Anna are actually the older sister of Tarzan. Confirmed. What?! **Mind Blown!**

APPLICATION:

1. **Bitter Sweet Redemptions:**

- a. **Suffering and Sadness. Lord never left Naomi.** He was always working//With her whole time.
- b. **Goodness of God.** "All my life you have been faithful/so so good/all my days, held in your hands"
- c. **Sin/Temptations/Convictions/Repentance/Trials**
- d. **The CROSS.** Jesus's suffering/death/resurrection is Ultimate Bitter-Sweet Redemption. "Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross." That's the patter for the believer.

2. **PROVIDENCE.**

- a. **John Piper. Book. Highlighter. Bible. Every Page. Whole Bible.**
- b. **Ruth is a prime example of God's providence in every small detail. ZOOM.**

3. **WHY?** (Naomi's Story reminds us God can use/redeem our suffering and hard pasts, to help others.)

- a. **Kress. Born with Hydranencephaly.** Why? **Death of a son or child.** Why?
- b. **Joni Erickson Tada.** Why? Joni and friends.
- c. **Ed Welch.** Father with severe depression. Hospitalized many times. His own anxiety. Why?
- d. **Teen Challenge. U-Turn 4 Christ. Reconciliation Ministries.** Addictions. Broken families. Why?
- e. **Marcus Lattimore.** Injured knee. Why? Coaching kids. Speaking for FCA.
- f. **Social anxiety from childhood.** Share Group. Active siblings. Felt unseen/be good/easy. Why?

CONCLUSION:

- **What's your Why? How is or will God use it. How does He want to use you and your story?**
- **We live in a sinful and fallen world.** Impacted by our own sin, choices and the sin and choices of others. And whatever hardship we experience in our lives, God can use/redeem to help others.