

Happy Ever After

I. Slide1 Intro: Happy Ever After

A. Prayer: Lord, we **build** our lives on your promises **not on** life's problems.

B. Slide2 WHY SHOULD WE READ THIS BOOK?

1. To **elevate** the role of women **and** of Gentiles in God's redemptive plan throughout history.
2. To **deepen** our appreciation for loyalty and devotion as exemplified by Ruth.
3. To **enjoy** the simplicity and beauty of a love story with surprising twists and turns.
4. To **see** the Providence of God at work behind the scene, behind the seemingly insignificant people and events of normal day living.
5. To **visualize** the blessings that can result from stepping out in faith and trusting the Lord in difficult circumstances.
6. To **track** the ancestry of King David and witness the dramatic way in which God preserved the Messianic line.
7. To **focus** on the qualifications and role of our Messianic Redeemer based on the typology reflected in Boaz. [it's a story w/in a story. *Nested Narrative*]

C. Recap - **Famine**: Jewish family flees from **Bethlehem** to **Moab**.

1. **Ch.1** - Naomi and Elimelech, have Malone and Chilion.
2. The 2 Jewish boys **marry Moabite women**. **All 3 men die**.
3. Naomi hears, **There's bread in Bethlehem**, heads back. **2 daughter-in-laws follow part way**. Told to go back. **Orpah does**, Ruth still follows pledging herself to: **Naomi, to God, to God's people**.
4. Naomi & Ruth make it back to Bethlehem right at **Barley Harvest**. (ray of hope)
5. **Naomi is in grief, empty, went out pleasant came back bitter**.
Ruth has a spiritual turning point!

6. **Ch.2** - Ruth *happens upon a field* owned by Boaz, who *happens* to be a kinsman redeemer (relative of Elimelech). *Boaz becomes this foreigners protection*. Blesses her (as a gleaner) with lunch, dinner, leftovers for Naomi
7. **Ch.3** - Ruth and Boaz at the threshing floor. Ruth listens to **Instructions**. She **Obeys**. She **Believes** what her redeemer says. She **Receives** His gifts. She **Waits** in patience for Him to do the rest.

a) So where we left off (*read 3:18*), my guess, *if Ruth is anything like us*, as she sits there in this quiet place of *waiting*, *she's probably running through all of her insecurities* ... I'm a Moabite, a foreigner, poor, a widow!

(1) **But** Ruth's redemption is not about *all she's not*. Her redemption is all about **who Boaz is**, **and** what he wants to accomplish.

(2) **Same with us and our Redeemer also!**

D. Boaz & Ruth, *rather than rushing into marriage*, waited for God to confirm that their desires matched his will.

- So Boaz presented Naomi's other relative w/the opportunity to buy Elimelech's property, **&** bring Naomi & Ruth into his household. *That's a hard thing to trust God for!*

II. Slide3 **REDEMPTION (1-12)** *One Hurdle* **READ**

A. **Slide4 I will Redeem It** (1-4) [*redeem* to buy back by paying a price, and setting free]

- The gate** – all **city business of importance** was decided *in the gate*, where the elders of the community gave **advice & judgment**.

B. **Reading the Fine Print** (5)

- I remember as a young boy learning about *reading the fine print!*

a) **Story** - I ordered a **car** from the back of a **cereal box**. It finally came & it was *only an inch long!* **How could this be?** The picture took up most the room on the back of the cereal box?

C. **A Bad Business Deal** (6)

1. **What will this do for ME?** He thought to himself, When the boy I give her grows up, it will be his inheritance and not my mine.
 - a) The boy would carry her dead husbands name & not mine.
2. That son could also be entitled to part of his own real-estate also.
 - a) This was just a bad business deal from his standpoint.
3. **I cannot redeem it** (OT handshake) – Anxious to claim the field, but he didn't want Ruth, or Naomi.
 - a) **Slide5 Remember the parable of the field?** *Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.* Mt.11:44
 - b) **When our Redeemer purchased the world,** was he looking for another Planet? **No,** He wanted the treasure which was buried in the world. *He Wanted You!*

D. **Slide6 Boaz Validates the Transaction** (7-10)

1. Boaz was willing to **pay any price** to redeem the woman and her estate simply because **he loves her**.
2. What a wonderful picture of Christ & **His love** for the church.
3. Here Boaz walks away with **Ruth, Real-estate, & 1 Reebok shoe**.
 - a) And his *barefoot brethren* limps away.

E. **The Witnesses Validate the Transaction** (11,12)

1. (12) **Why mention Perez?** Perez's birth was an example of a **levirate marriage** whereby the brother or relative of the dead husband marries his widow. (Gen.38) [Judah/Shuah: Er, Onan, Shelah. Er/Tamar/**God kills**. Onan/Tamar, **God kills** cuz he emits on the grnd. Judah says wait for Shelah. She plays the harlot traps Judah/they have **Perez**]

III. **Slide7 CONCEPTION (13-17) The Lord's Goodness to Naomi READ**

A. (13) **Boaz & Ruth approached marriage w/complete trust in God.**

1. They followed His law, they maintained purity, & they moved ahead w/ confidence as God opened doors. They glorified Him in their romantic

desires. **And the result?** God not only blessed them, but blessed Naomi ... **& us!** Chuck Swindoll; pg.76

- B. (15) When tragedy strikes don't ask, *How can God let this happen to me?* **Instead, trust Him.** **He will be with you** even *in the hard times*.
- C. **7 sons** – 7 sons symbolized *the supreme blessing* that could come to a Hebrew family. (1 Sam.2:5; Job1:2)
- D. (16) **Became his nurse** - *guardian, custodian* of some sort.
 - 1. It was also a sign of acceptance.
- E. (17) Although the child was born to Boaz and Ruth, **it would continue the lineage of Naomi** and her deceased husband and son.

IV. Slide8 **GENERATIONS (18-22)** *Distinguished Descendant* **READ**

- A. **The descendants of Perez** make Judah a prominent tribe.
- B. **This 10 name genealogy** presents *the royal ancestry* of **David**.
 - 1. The book ends with a reminder of **redemption** by focusing on this vital link in which **Jew & Gentile** unite to share in the ancestry of King David, through whom came **Jesus the Christ**.
- C. **So the Book of Ruth** is about a nice girl who got lucky???
[sounds like **Hallmark Movies**: *wealthy Prince marries coffee barista*]
 - 1. **No!** Remember, *the seemingly ordinary events* in the book of Ruth (eg., travels, marriages, deaths, harvesting, eating, sleeping, purchasing land) revealed **the guiding activity of the Sov God**.
- D. **Contrast from ch.1 to ch.4**
 - 1. **From tears to Joy.** from hard labor to rest. from emptiness to fullness. from fear to peace & assurance. from a funeral to a wedding. life once bitter, tasted sweet again.
 - a) Bethlehem the place of **bread** has indeed become a place of **satisfaction & nourishment** for her soul.

2. **The difference? Obeying the Word of God.** When Ruth put herself at the feet of her Redeemer & entrusted herself to him, he took over & changed everything. With the Word, pg.158

E. Regarding Naomi

F. No matter how difficult *circumstances* may be, the only place for God's people is in the will of God. There is a high cost to backsliding.

1. However, God is willing to forgive backsliders & restore them to favor. Naomi could never regain the lost time out of God's will, but she did regain her Joy & Testimony. WWW, Outlines in the OT

G. In Ch.1 Ruth had nothing but her faith. Ch.2 she lived on leftovers. Ch.3 she received generous gifts. But once she belonged to Boaz (Ch.4) everything he owned belonged to her.

1. Eph.1:3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.*

2. 2 Cor.8:9 *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.*

H. *Happy Ever After* was my title.

1. Only in Gods plan of redemption do we live happily ever after!

2. Note all the main characters are winners; there are *no losers at all*. It doesn't mean there aren't *hardships* along the way ... but in the end, *truly Happily ever after*.

I. Slide9 One animal sacrifice per man (Cain & Abel) (Gen.3)

One sacrifice per family (Passover) (Ex.12:3–14)

One sacrifice per nation (Day of Atonement) (Tab. in Wilderness)

One sacrifice per world (Jesus) (Jn.1:29. Heb.10:1–14)

1. God is both the purchaser and the price.

2. For Christ, who is God, **purchased** these *blessings* by offering Himself as the **price** of our salvation. *Jonathon Edwards*

J. Keywords: redeem, Boaz, Ruth, Naomi.