

- What we've been hoping for since **ch1** has finally happened for Naomi and Ruth ... **Ch1** opens with a famine in the land and death in the family ... A family of four sells off what they own in Bethlehem and move to the land of Moab ... Once there, death strikes – Naomi's husband, Elimelech, passes away first, then her two sons, one the husband of Ruth ... Facing harsh reality, Naomi decides to head back home to Bethlehem ... Doing so, she tries to persuade her daughters-in-law to go back to their own parents ... Orpah returns home, while Ruth famously declares [vs16-17](#) ... The next two chapters sees Ruth keeping true to her commitment, which finds ultimate fulfillment in **ch4** ... Story moves from famine and death to life and fullness; from God allowing suffering to God bringing blessing
 - The good fortune of Ruth and Naomi comes by Boaz, their kinsman-redeemer ... In being a righteous man, Boaz offers a closer relative the right to redeem Naomi's land ... At first, the man agrees; it's profitable for him ... When Naomi dies, the land goes to him and he collects the benefits of the land ... If he has a son, the land remains in the family, thus making his inheritance better than what it is currently
 - However, once the man finds out that marrying Ruth is part of the deal, the man backs away and passes the right to Boaz ... In taking responsibility for Ruth, and in the chance that Ruth conceives a son, the land goes to the son of Ruth and remains with his family ... Thus, the man's hope of better inheritance is ruined ... Ironically, the one responsible to carry on his relative's name is himself nameless for all of history, while the names of Elimelech and Mahlon are forever recorded ... Boaz seizes upon the opportunity to restore the land to Naomi, and in so doing, he receives the legal right to marry Ruth
- Though Boaz fulfills his role of redeemer, it's actually in the birth of Obed that redemption is realized – [v14-15](#) ... By Obed does the family name become well known ... By Obed is the life of Naomi renewed and sustained with hope and strength and provision (physical and spiritual) ... Life will not be without trouble by no means ... Yet, no matter the trouble, there will be a resolved faith in God that arises within, causing one to endure – God will be who He says He will be, and He will do what He says He will do ... This is what it means to have hope (Yahweh is the object of our hope) ... This is what the birth of Obed declares to Ruth and Naomi
- In the birth of a baby boy born in Bethlehem has redemption come ... And through this baby is a greater redemption promised and anticipated ... Behind the actions of Boaz, behind Ruth bearing a son, behind Naomi's renewed life, is the unfailing and unwavering providence of God – [vs14-15](#) ... It's God's providence and faithful kindness that has the last word ... For Obed fathers Jesse, who fathers David – the great king of Israel
 - It's with King David that Yahweh promises a Greater King, who will build a house for His Name, establish His Kingdom, and sit upon David's Throne forever – [2Sam7:12-16](#) ... In Matthew's gospel, God fulfills His promise to David, when a baby boy is born in Bethlehem to Mary and Joseph – [1:1,5,16,21](#) ... Not only is Jesus the anticipated Greater King, He is the anticipated Greater Redeemer that is foreshadowed in Ruth through the actions of Boaz and Obed ... This Redeemer-King is promised throughout the OT:
 - [Ps130:7-8](#) ([Mat1:21](#)) ... [Is9:6-7](#) ... [Is11:10-11](#) ... [Mc5:2-4](#), [7:18-20](#) ... [Hb6:17-19](#), [9:12](#)
- The manger points us to the cross, which points us to the empty tomb, which points us to the return of the King and the completion of God's unchanging purpose ... What child is this ... (O Holy Night) What grace untold, to leave the bliss of glory and die for sinners guilty and forlorn
 - What grace is mine that He who dwells in endless light ... Called through the night to find my distant soul ... And from His scars poured mercy that would plead for me ... That I might live and in His name be known ... I lose my life to find my life in Him ... I give my all to gain the hope that never dies
- **The Lord is your Refuge, He will Redeem your life**