

Ruth: No Hope and Without God

Ruth 1:1-22

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God gives us Ruth to teach us about redemption.

Salvation is modeled and shown to us by the story of Ruth.

God saves and He saves the unlikely.

Ephesians 2:12 reminds us of the scope of God's grace.

Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. (Ephesians 2:12)

Ruth isn't a Jew. Ruth is a Moabite.

Ruth is separated, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and a stranger to the covenant of promises. She is without hope and without God.

Ruth's redemption story is our redemption story.

In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. (Ruth 1:1)

There is a famine because of sin.

³ If you walk in my statutes and observe my commandments and do them, ⁴ then I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.... (Leviticus 26:3-4)

¹⁴ But if you will not listen to me and will not do all these commandments...if you spurn my statutes, I will set my face against you. (Leviticus 26:14-15, 17)

God never demanded perfection, but God did expect obedience.

² The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. (Ruth 1:2)

They aren't experiencing the blessing of God because of sin.

³ But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. (Ruth 1:3)

⁴ These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years. (Ruth 1:4)

Moabites were haters of God. Antagonistic toward God and His people.

We were without hope, without God in this world.

⁵ and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband. (Ruth 1:5)

Naomi returns home.

⁶ Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the Lord had visited his people and given them food. (Ruth 1:6)

⁷ So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. ⁸ But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me." (Ruth 1:7-8)

⁹ "The Lord grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!" Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. (Ruth 1:9)

¹⁰ And they said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." (Ruth 1:10)

¹¹ But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands?" ¹² Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons. (Ruth 1:11-12)

I can't promise you physical blessing. I can promise nothing!

¹³ would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the Lord has gone out against me." ¹⁴ Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. (Ruth 1:13-14)

³ We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (Romans 5:3-5)

¹⁵ And she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." (Ruth 1:15)

Naomi doesn't make it easy. She doesn't promise blessing.

¹⁶ But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." (Ruth 1:16-17)

¹⁸ And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more. (Ruth 1:18)

²² So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest. (Ruth 1:22)

Big Idea: In Christ, we are no longer strangers without hope and God, but heirs of His covenant promise.