

# Unfolding God's Plan of Redemption

## *Themes from the Old Testament: Ruth*

### God's Merciful Goodness Within His Providence

#### *Refuge Under the Wings of God (Boaz to Ruth, Ruth 2:12)*

The book of Ruth is only four chapters but records for us a beautiful love story that leads to the birth of the greatest King of Israel, and beyond him, to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. It is a story of tragedy, blessing, and redemption, and models for us the grace and providence of God. It is not only a story of love in Israel's history, it is a story of grace and restoration for those who turn to God in faith.

#### I. **The Story of Ruth—A Beautiful Story of Love**

- A. Flight to Moab—Elimelech, Naomi, Mahlon, & Chilion
- B. Tragedy in a foreign land—All Naomi's family dies
- C. Blessing in a foreign land—Ruth comes to know the God of Israel
- D. The journey back to Israel, Bethlehem in Judah
- E. Gleaning in the field of Boaz
- F. The Kinsman-Redeemer
- G. Holding court within the gate

#### II. **Divine Providence and the Lineage of Messiah (Matthew 1:1-17, esp v.5)**

- A. There are four women named in the lineage of Messiah
  - 1. Tamar: tricked Judah by disguising herself as a prostitute  
The mother of Perez in the line of David
  - 2. Rahab: was a prostitute who hid the spies in Jericho  
Married Salmon and became the mother of Boaz
  - 3. Ruth: a Moabitess who became a follower of God and married Boaz  
Became the mother of Obed, the father of Jesse, the father of David
  - 4. Bathsheba: an adulteress whom David ultimately married  
Became the mother of Solomon
- B. While Jesus is truly the Lion of Judah, the Eternal King of the line of David, He is not of pure Jewish blood, and in His line are great sinners and foreigners who demonstrate God's great love for all people.
- C. Our relationship to Jesus is rooted in the love of God and not in our goodness, there is no sin too great that God cannot fold us into His family, those who repent.

#### III. **Lessons From Ruth for Today**

- A. There is no hour so dark that God's light cannot shine into it
- B. There is no tragedy that His grace cannot redeem and turn to blessing
- C. There is no sin on our part that He cannot turn about for good if we turn to Him