

Intro: In the story of Ruth we have the harsh antagonism of starvation and famine, the shame of widowhood and ostracism, the beauty of clinging devotion and redemptive romance, and the glorious provision of Providence. Through the small stories, the details of life, God has woven His fine tapestry of redemption and restoration. Through the faithful devotion of Ruth and her dependence upon the Lord to the grateful strength of Boaz and his worship of God there has been born the greatest king that Israel knew: David. You see, this story was written to show that even in the raging waters of life and through the glorious sunrises of joy, God is the Great King overseeing all of history. This Kingdom of God is at the heart of the gospel of Jesus Christ, for David was not the pinnacle of God's Kingdom, Jesus is. And with His glorious appearance and work of redemptive death and victorious resurrection, He reigns over all the earth. His Kingdom reshapes lives and restructures affections, brings healing and reconciliation, and at its core brings to the repentant heart the wondrous gracious achievement of acceptance with God. The Kingdom has come where God's people, in God's place, are under God's rule in Christ. And we preach the Kingdom rule of Jesus the Christ.

1. The Story of a Great King

- a. Why the genealogy at the end of this beautiful redemptive romance?
 - i. The point of the author of Ruth seems to be to show the providence of YHWH in the small things
 - ii. All of these small things, which the LORD is providentially and sovereignly ruling lead to large things
 - iii. David is the culmination of Providence as the great King of Israel
- b. Perez to David
 - i. Why start with Perez?
 1. Perez seems to be the ancestor that most of Bethlehem relates and honors
 2. The prayers of blessing in 4:12
 3. Perez means "breach" because he pushed in front of his twin brother in birth
 - ii. Nashon, the Esteemed Ruler (5th position, honored position)
 1. Called 'prince of the sons of Judah' in 1 Chronicles 2:10
 2. Aaron's brother-in-law (Ex 6:23), contemporary of Moses
 3. Chief of the tribe of Judah (Num 1:7; 2:3)
 4. The first leader to bring an offering to the tabernacle in the wilderness (Num 7:12)
 - a. This indicated prominence and honor
 - b. Judah was given the first right of sacrifice
 - c. Foreshadows the true sacrifice from the tribe of Judah, the Lamb of God, Jesus
 - iii. Boaz, the valiant Redeemer (7th position, more honored position)
 - iv. David, the High King (final listed, the point of the genealogy)
 1. The author is showing that God is in the midst of all of our suffering to bring about His great glory and our community good.
 2. He even uses our sin and faithless failures to bring about His plan
- c. God's Providence Shows that He is the True King
 - i. Through the small details of this one family's life
 - ii. Through the suffering and difficulties
 - iii. Through Judah's infidelity and faithlessness
 - iv. Through Ruth's previous infertility
 - v. God ruled over it all and brought the greatest King into the world!

2. Jesus is the King of Kings

- a. Israel's greatest king, David, was a shadowy type of the Great King, Jesus
 - i. All of Scripture points to Jesus Christ as the center of all of our worship

There are great stories in the Bible...but it is possible to know Bible stories, yet miss the Bible story....The Bible has a story line. It traces the history of Israel, but it does not begin there, nor does it contain what you would expect in a national history....If we forget the story line...we cut the heart out of the Bible. Sunday school stories are then told as tamer versions of the Sunday comics, where Samson substitutes for Superman. David...becomes a Hebrew version of Jack the giant killer. No, David is not a brave little boy who isn't afraid of the big bad giant. He is the Lord's anointed...God chose David as a king after his own heart in order to prepare the way for David's great Son, our Deliverer and Champion...Jesus Christ. ~Ed Clowney, *The Unfolding Mystery*

- ii. Matthew follows this genealogy to show that Jesus is from the tribe of Judah and the son of David, but also that he was particularly the MESSIAH (Matt 1)
 - b. The Kingdom of God is central to the gospel
 - i. **Mark 1:14-15** Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God,¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."
 - ii. It was only "at hand" because Christ had not died and been resurrected, yet
 - c. The Kingdom of Christ is not of this world
 - i. **John 18:36** Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world."
 - d. Jesus is the Universal King
 - i. Unlike David, Jesus rules over all Creation
 - ii. **Ephesians 1:20-21** that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.
 - iii. **1 Tim 6:15** – Jesus is the King of those who reign as kings and the Lord of those who reign as lords
 - iv. **Rev 17:14; 19:16** – He is the King of those who reign as kings
3. What Does This Mean? (see Mark 1:14ff)
- a. Our Savior Reigns with Authority
 - i. **Matthew 28:18** And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
 - 1. The Great Commission begins with this statement of Jesus' Kingship authority
 - 2. When Jesus asks us to make disciples of all the nations, He is with us as the King over all the Universe!
 - ii. Authority over every area of our lives
 - 1. Career? – "I have a fishing beyond your fishing" (Mark 1:16-18)
 - 2. Family? – "I have a family beyond your family" (Mark 1:19-20)
 - 3. Because we are accepted by God through the blood of the King, it radically changes the way our entire lives are freed up to live for God and others
 - iii. Authority over spiritual powers in our lives
 - 1. Jesus cast out demons with power (Mark 1:23-26)
 - a. Jesus comes as more than simply a King with rules of the Kingdom, He comes as a Healer ("the hands of the King are healing hands")
 - b. He comes as a Savior and liberator
 - 2. Something always controls us

- a. Maybe not demons
 - b. But some ultimate affection becomes our master when it determines our acceptance, joy, or significance before God
 - 3. As we submit to the King, these other lords are removed from positions of mastery over our lives (idolatry of the heart)
- iv. Authority to forgive sins and make us right with God
 - 1. “your sins are forgiven” (Mark 2:5)
 - 2. Though physical healing is important and a sign of the kingdom, it is the spiritual reconciliation with God that is the true mark of the Kingdom of God
 - 3. The Kingdom is not entered through doing good deeds or avoiding bad deeds, it is only entered through conversion: “Repent and believe the gospel”
- b. It means that we enter into this Kingdom through our weakness, not through our strength
 - i. “Repent and believe the gospel!”
 - ii. Remember the Path that the King Took to Glory: Brokenness and Submission
 - 1. Has the Spirit loosened your opposition to God’s over-arching sovereignty? Has the pride of your heart been humbled? Has God’s Spirit emptied you of your self-rule, taught you the depth and severity of your sinfulness, nothingness, and **led you to God’s pardoning mercy, and Christ’s justifying righteousness**, through the deep, dark valley of the soul’s submission before Him?
 - 2. It is in the deepest night of the soul that the glory of God in Christ breaks in like the dawn’s rising sun in the freedom of redemption and the gracious and powerful forgiveness of God’s goodness in Jesus in all its luminescence.
 - 3. Jesus walked through the deep darkness of God’s wrath in the tomb and came out in even greater glory!
 - iii. Now Jesus stands never to be humiliated again! He has passed beyond the reaches of brokenness and weakness to sit at the Father’s right hand of glory. Let faith rest in His risen glory through weakness.
 - 1. Think of where Jesus is right now: Heaven. In the presence of stupendous glory where the Father resides, where all is perfect and healed.
 - 2. Rest in this power of Christ, for you, too, can anticipate such a beauty in the power and glory of God’s redemption.
- c. Look to the King’s Salvation as the Basis of Your Hope!
 - i. Remember the Great Kindness of the King Towards You
 - 1. Eph 1:3-14
 - 2. Titus 3:4-7
 - 3. Quote from C & J Morris from “Saving a Life: How We Found Courage When Death Rescued Our Son”, p139:
 “The other question is a *willingness* question. Is Jesus *willing* to deliver the help we need? A leper came to Jesus once and spoke that question, ‘If you’re willing, you can make me clean.’ Most translations say Jesus was ‘filled with compassion’ when the man spoke to Him, but Today’s New International Version says he was ‘indignant’....He was indignant because the man doubted His compassion for his pain, His willingness to answer his request. It was as if the man’s question hit right at the very heart of what Jesus’ presence in the world is all about – He is here because He is willing. He went to the cross because He is willing. Willing is too weak of a word. His entire being is always, intentionally, passionately poured into helping us.”

- ii. His promises are TRUE and TRUSTWORTHY
 - 1. See the infinite resources of your Savior-King! There is nothing that you truly need to glorify Him that He does not possess or give graciously. He has every spiritual blessing poured out for you in His fathomless love.
 - 2. There is no trouble in your life which the promises of God, in Christ, cannot meet with mercy and grace.
 - 3. There is no sinful desire within you that Jesus, by His power and authority, cannot bring to death with the expulsive power of His Holy Spirit.
- iii. Jesus has endeavored to bind Himself so closely to His redeemed that He will not consider Himself whole without her! He fills her up so that she becomes His fullness.
 - 1. He is not insufficient in any way, for “He fills all in all” and is doing the filling of the Body, not vice versa
 - 2. But His love for His people is so great that He has condescended to bind Himself to us
 - a. So the Head without the body is incomplete.
 - b. The body w/o the Head is incomplete
 - c. “Abide in me and I in you.” (John 14:20; 15:4)
 - d. “one flesh” (Eph 5:30-32)
 - e. “hidden with Christ in God” (Col 3:3-4)
 - f. “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Col 1:27)
- iv. Strange paradox of the Redeemed community’s unity with her Savior-King
 - 1. We can see here the greatness of the love of Christ, that He has bound Himself so closely to His broken people!! What a Savior!! What a Redeemer! Who can fathom this love of such a King?! Behold the goodness of God in Jesus Christ!
- d. Acknowledge Him in All Your Ways!
 - i. Jesus is the KING who is worthy of our allegiance
 - 1. The Kingdom means decisive personal submission to Jesus Christ as the Lord
 - a. “Follow Me” – you pick up your nets and go
 - i. “at once they left...” (Mark 1:18)
 - ii. “without delay he called them and they left...” (Mark 1:20)
 - b. This shows that entering into the Kingdom takes a decisive act of radical, exclusive commitment to Jesus as the Savior of your sins and the as the King of your life.
 - 2. We have a King who RULES us in wisdom and REIGNS in us with His power
 - ii. Consider the gospel of the Kingdom
 - 1. Doctrines of the gospel
 - a. Full pardon
 - b. Free justification
 - c. Glorious adoption
 - d. Sanctification
 - i. Let these truths govern your soul and functionally control your heart
 - ii. Let these deep truths become your essential controlling reality to identify you with Jesus, your glorious Savior.
 - 2. Promises of the gospel
 - a. Let these doctrines sink deep with the soul to soothe your tears and salve your anxieties.

- b. Ask the Spirit to lead you into a deep acquaintance with the riches of the beauty of His gospel.
 - i. There is no need which Jesus cannot meet.
 - ii. Every wound has a balm; every fear has a promise; every battle has armor; every hunger has sufficient morsel in Jesus!
- c. Remember that your home is with your risen, authoritative, and glorious Lord who rules the Universe by His awesome power
 - i. Fear not the loss of this world
 - ii. Fear not the powers of this world
 - iii. Rest in the knowledge of the power of Jesus and in His glorious goodness and generosity toward you
 - iv. Anticipate and yearn for the day of His ultimate defeat of the last enemy (death) where you will be glorified with Him in the presence of the Father

Conclusion:

To the praise of His glorious grace! The Lord over all that exists has condescended to His chosen ones in order to magnify His glory to the Universe. He has bound Himself to His people in great love and sealed them with His very Spirit. You are His body, you have been filled with His will, power and purpose for all of eternity so that you might show the excellencies of the King's glorious grace (1 Pe 2:9-10), the surpassing the greatness of His power to take resistant and rebellious enemies, dead in their sins and enslaved to their ignorance, and make them humble, dependant, worshipful people of His glory.

Proclaim the Kingdom of God, entered through repentance and faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ! Lay down your nets and follow Christ as the Ultimate King of glory, the Savior of your soul, and the Healer of the nations. He is the one with authority over our lives, so let us come to Him in submission and joy, gratefully worshipping the King through Kingdom living by faith. He is worthy of our allegiance, He is worthy of our lives, He is worthy to be praised throughout the ends of the earth.