

ONE STORY | ONE SAVIOR - UNIT 2 | LESSON 3

OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY – The Promise Preserved Through Failed Leadership

God is a PROMISE Protecting God




God 1) **PROVIDES** “shadow | type” rulers who 2) fail to **RESCUE** His people 3) **DEFEAT** His enemies and 4) **KEEP** them in the Land 5) so that His people would be with Him for their **JOY**. 6) God, however, shall **FULFILL** all of His promises in **JESUS**.

Understanding the Book of Ruth

“The Father of David”

Ruth 4:13, 17

¹³ So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son. ¹⁷ They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

	<p>THE HEAD – Do you understand the singular nature of God’s Story and how God is faithful to complete His promises?</p>
	<p>THE HEART – Have you trusted in Jesus in your understanding of His Word?</p>
	<p>THE HAND – Do you see how God includes all the nations of the world in the fulfilling of His promises?</p>

EMPHASIS

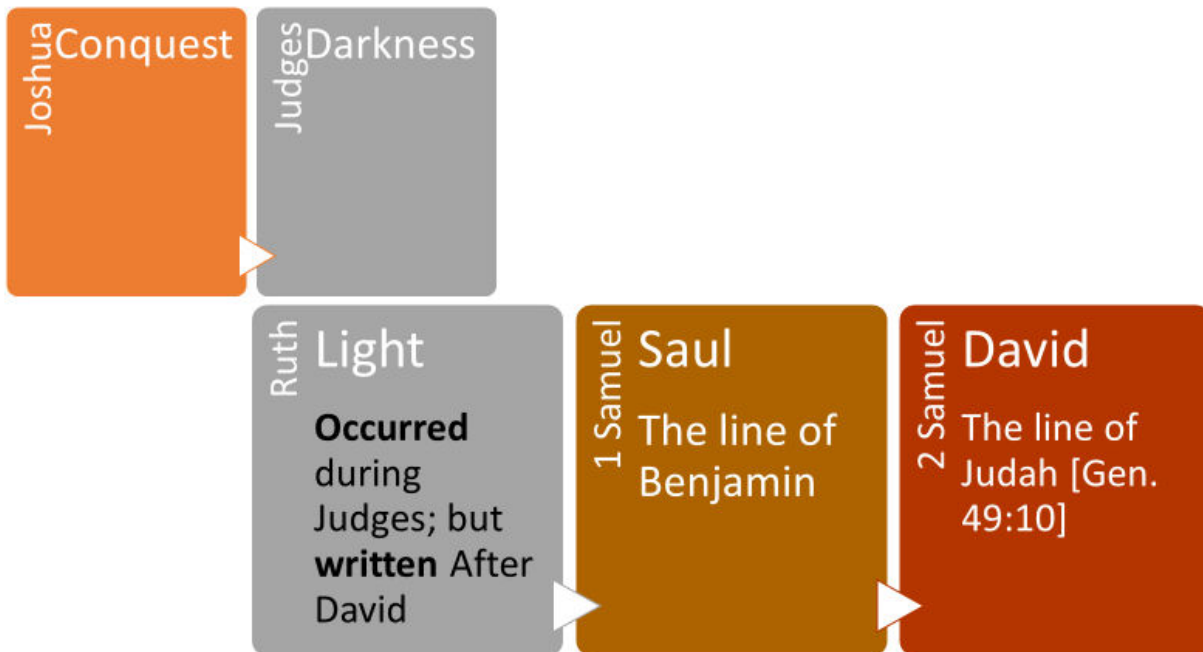
1. Ruth shows how God’s plan includes all people groups AND how He is faithful to fulfill His promise to provide a SEED that would crush the serpent’s head (Ruth 4:13-17).
2. God’s promises are certain because of who He is and not because of who we are or what we do.

It is of interest to note how **the Bible has only two women who have books named after them**; Ruth and Esther. Notice the following chart of comparison.

Ruth	The Tale of Two Women	Esther
A Gentile Woman		A Jewish Woman
Lived Among The Jews		Lived Among The Gentiles
Married A Jewish Man In The Royal Line Of David		Married A Gentile Man Who Ruled An Empire
A Story Of Faith And Blessing		A Story Of Faith And Blessing

In both cases, God is protecting the SEED PROMISE.

LITERARY CONTEXT



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- A. **Moabites** [Gen. 19:37; Deut. 23:2-4 - **CURSED**]
- B. The Days of the **Judges** [Judges 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25 - **LAWLESS**]

The Book opens with two strikes against it. **First**, Ruth is a Moabite. **Second**, there is anarchy in the land. Ruth happens in the days of the Judges when there was no king in Israel.

- A. There Was Decay Morally (Judges 17:6; 21:25).
- B. There Was Decay Militarily (1 Sam. 13:22).
- C. There Was Decay Politically (Judges 5:8; 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25).
- D. There Was Decay Economically (Judges 6:4; Ruth 1:1).
- E. There Was Decay Religiously (Judges 5:8).

BIBLICAL CONTEXT

The nation of Israel lived in violation of the VASSAL TREATY. As a consequence of this violation, they were under its curse.

Because of **the SEED PROMISE [ROYAL GIFT COVENANT]**, God would provide a way for their enemies to be destroyed and for them to be delivered. Ruth, a Gentile, would be God’s means of raising up a deliverer.

STRUCTURE

Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3	Chapter 4
Moab - Jerusalem	Jerusalem		
The Problem - Despair Without Rule (v. 1); Famine (v. 1); Leaves Jerusalem (v. 1); Marries non-Jews (v. 4); Widowed (v. 5) The Solution – Hope Ruth Stays (vv. 14-18); Naomi Returns (vv. 19-22)	Ruth works in the fields of Boaz (vv. 1, 2)	Ruth takes a “leap of faith” (vv. 9-13)	Boaz marries Ruth (vv. 13-22)

1. The Story of Ruth **begins** with **tragedy** [famine, pagans, and death]
 - The Story of Ruth **continues** with **travel and trust** [Ruth joins Naomi and travels back to Jerusalem.

2. The Story of Ruth **ends with triumph** [Boaz “redeems” the house of Elimelech, marries Ruth and becomes the great grandfather of King David and ultimately of King Jesus].

- ¹³So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son. ¹⁴Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! ¹⁵He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.” ¹⁶Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. ¹⁷And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David. (Ruth 4:13-17)

God, in contrast to His people, takes a faithful Moabite woman to perpetuate the SEED PROMISE. Ruth becomes the Great Grand Mother of King David and ultimately of King Jesus.

JESUS IN THE TEXT

Ruth was King David’s Great Grandmother. The Seed Promise line is perpetuated.

“Ruth is the story of a young Moabite widow who comes to know the covenant love of the one true God and the joy of belonging to his people through her Jewish mother-in-law, Naomi. As these two women navigate through difficult as well as ordinary circumstances, there is unmistakable evidence of God’s sovereign hand at work to redeem a people for himself. Like Ruth, we too need a Kinsman-Redeemer who will do what is necessary to remedy our helpless condition. He is the hero of the story as the faithful God who with great loving-kindness (*hesed*) cares for his own and provides what they need. In Ruth’s story we see a reflection of our own. For we too were “alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world” (Eph. 2:12). Like Ruth, we too need a Kinsman-Redeemer who will do what is necessary to remedy our helpless condition.”¹

“The language of redemption permeates the story of Ruth: words built on the root “redeem” (*ga-al*) appear 23 times. Key to understanding the narrative is the concept of the kinsman-redeemer, the closest living male relative who had the duty to preserve the family name and land. He could do this in a number of ways: buying back either land that a poor relative had to sell or the family member that had sold himself into slavery to pay debts (Lev. 25:25, 47–49), avenging the death of a family member (Num.35:19–21), or marrying the widow of a deceased relative (Deut. 25:5–10). All of these duties could be refused, including marriage to the late relative’s widow (now known as “levirate” marriage, *levir* being the Latin translation of the Hebrew word for brother-in-law). In certain cases, one could be a *goel* (Hebrew for “close relative” or “redeemer”) without being a *levir* (one who would provide an heir to the deceased relative through marrying his widow). In Ruth’s case, the kinsman-redeemer Boaz elects to carry out the duties of both, buying her estate and taking her as his bride.”²

APPLICATION

God takes a Moabite [Ruth] and places her in the context of **KINSMAN REDEEMER** and **LEVIRATE MARRIAGE** and pushes the **SEED PROMISE** forward.

Ruth is a shadow of, "I can't, but God can, and Jesus will." God will do for the nation what it cannot do for itself. God is faithful to keep His covenant promise to Adam and through Adam to Abraham and through Abraham to the world.

The story of Ruth is everyone's story. You and I do not deserve the mercy and grace of God, yet He dispenses it none-the-less. If we have eyes to see and ears to hear we will be able to see and hear just how wonderful God is and how He has been guiding our lives all along.

VISUALS

1. Have the kids take home the worksheet and fill it in with their parents and bring it back next week. This week show your family tree.
2. Filling in your Family Tree; having the student fill in theirs.
3. Line up dominos and then knock them over. Each one is a link in a chain starting at one end and ending in the other. Bring in a chain as well. Ruth is one domino, one link in a long line that ends with Jesus.
4. Have them make a paper chain, writing on each link a different part of the story from Genesis up to Ruth.
5. This illustrates Genesis 3:15 and 3:21.

MEMORY VERSE

Ruth 4:13, 17

¹³ So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son. ¹⁷ They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, **the father of David**.

RESOURCES

ENDNOTES

¹ <https://www.crossway.org/articles/the-gospel-in-ruth/>

² <https://www.crossway.org/articles/the-gospel-in-ruth/>