

THE HISTORICAL BOOKS

The Theocratic Books

(Joshua, Judges, Ruth)

Historical Books

The Theocratic Books	The Monarchical Books	The Restoration Books
Joshua	1 & 2 Samuel	Ezra
Judges	1 & 2 Kings	Nehemiah
Ruth	1 & 2 Chronicles	Esther

What is Historical Books all about?

- The 12 Historical Books pick up the story of Israel where it left off at the end of Deuteronomy. These books describe:
 - **Theocratic Books**: describe the occupation and settlement of Israel in the Promised Land under God's rule.
 - **Monarchical Books**: describe the transition from Judges to the Monarchy, the division and decline of the Kingdom, the captivities of the Northern and southern kingdom.
 - **Restoration Books**: describe the return of the remnant.

Book of JOSHUA

- Theme: Conquest
- Date Written: 1405 – 1385 B.C.
- Setting: Canaan, the Promised Land
- Author: Joshua:
 - Name means “The Lord Saves” (Mt 1:21)
(*Joshua* means *Jesus*)
 - One of the 12 spies sent by Moses (Num 13)
 - One of only 2 men of 1st generation to enter the land
 - Moses’ aide (Ex 24:13)
 - Moses’ successor
“*Be strong and courageous*” (Deut. 31:6, Josh. 1:6)

Overview

- I. Conquest of the Land (ch 1-12)
- II. Distribution of the Land (ch 13-21)
- III. Joshua's Farewell and Death (ch 22-24)

I. Conquest of the Land (ch 1-12)

- Commissioning of Joshua (1)

“.... Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them – the children of Israel.....” Josh. 1:1-9

- Spying out the land (2)
- Crossing the Jordan (3-4)
- Circumcision at Gilgal (5)
- Fall of Jericho (6)
- Achan’s Sin, recovery before taking Ai (7-8)
- List of 31 defeated kings (12)

The Spies and Rahab

- In preparation for the first battle, Joshua sends in two spies to survey Jericho.
- Rahab, a harlot, hides the spies; in return, they promise her and her family safety when Israel takes the city **(2)**.

Crossing The River Jordan

- Joshua commands the Levites to take the ark of the covenant into the river. The water dried up and Israel crossed **(3)**.
- Twelve stones are taken out of the river bed and set up in Gilgal as a memorial **(4)**.
- They are instructed to circumcise the boys and men who are uncircumcised **(5)**.
- Joshua saw a messenger from God, standing with his sword drawn **(5:13-15)**.

Taking Jericho

- God's instructions—men of war are to march around the city once a day, for **six days**. No speaking. Led by seven priests carrying trumpets and the ark of the covenant (6:1-11).
- On the **seventh day**, march around seven times, blow the trumpets, and shout. The walls will fall down! (6:15-21)
- They are not to take any of the "*accursed*" things (6:18,19).

Taking Ai after a Failure!

- A man named Achan disobeyed God's instructions and as a result, the small force sent to attack Ai was routed and 36 men died (7:1-5).
- God tells Joshua there is sin in the camp. He is to find the guilty (7:6-15). Achan is found guilty; he and his family are put to death (7:16-26).
- Ai went out to attack Israel, abandoning the city; Israel's ambushers attacked and burned the city! (8:16-20).
- Ai's army saw the smoke, and they had no power to flee. Israel easily defeated them (8:21-25)

Blessings and Curses

- After the victory in Ai, Joshua built an Altar on Mt. Ebal, and they offered sacrifices to the Lord (8:30,31).
- Joshua reads the law, and Israel renews its covenant. Half stand in front of Mt. Ebal, and half in front of Mt. Gerizim (8:32-35).

The Gibeonites

- Gibeon heard about Jericho and Ai and sought to make a covenant with Israel (9:3).
- To deceive Israel, they dressed as if they had traveled a long way (9:3-6). Joshua accepted without consulting the Lord (9:8-15).
- When Israel learned the truth, they kept the oath and did not attack Gibeon (9:17-21).
- The Gibeonites became their servants (9:24-26).

The Conquest Continues

- Joshua conquered all the southern part of Canaan.
- Now he turns his attention to the north and defeats an alliance of its kings **(11)**.
- Israel has defeated 31 of Canaan's kings and is now in control of the land **(12)**.
- Still, some parts of Canaan remain unconquered **(13:1-7)**.

II. Distribution of the Land (ch 13-21)

- Land for Caleb
- Allotment for 9 ½ tribes:
Judah, Ephraim, ½ Manasseh, Benjamin, Simeon, Zebulun, Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, Dan
- Land for Joshua
- Cities of Refuge
- Towns for the Levites (48 towns)

“So the LORD gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it. The LORD gave them rest all around, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers. And not a man of all their enemies stood against them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.”
(Joshua 21:43-45)

III. Joshua's Farewell & Death (22-24)

- **Reminds the people of God's faithfulness**

"... not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed." (23:14)

- **Encourages the people to serve God**

"... choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, ... But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD ." (24:15)

"Be very strong; be careful to obey all that is written in the Book of the Law ..." (23:6)

- The people agree to follow God **(24:16-22)** and Joshua sets up a stone to be a witness of the covenant between God and the people **(24:23-28)**. Joshua dies at the age of 110.

Joshua as another Moses

“As I was with Moses, so I will be with you.” Joshua 1:5b

Moses	Joshua
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crossed Red sea on dry ground. Used rod.• Theophony at burning bush. God promises to be with him• Presents God’s law to the people at Sinai and Shittim	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crossed the Jordan river on dry ground. Used the ark• Theophony near Jericho. Meets commander of God’s army who promises victory.• Presents God’s law to the people at Shechem

Lessons Learned in Joshua

1. God Keeps His Promises

- ***Genesis – Deuteronomy contains***
God's promises to his people (Gen 12:2,7)
- ***Joshua contains***
Initial fulfillment of the promise
“Not one of all the LORD's good promises to the house of Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.” (Josh 21:45)
- The nation of Israel finds a home

2. The Importance of Obedience

- Obedience leads to victory
 - Jericho
- Disobedience leads to defeat
 - Ai

Life Lessons from Joshua

- Faithfulness is a requirement for service.
- Serving others prepares you to lead others.
- Victory occurs when you let God fight your battles.
- Guidance from God for daily living comes from His word, the Bible.
- At times you must make a stand for your beliefs.
- Living for God requires ongoing obedience.
- Active Faith does not require that you understand all or any of what God is doing in your life. You don't need to understand. You need only to obey and then reap the blessings of that obedience.

Joshua & Jesus As “Redeemers”

Joshua

- Led Israel to victories
- Succeeds Moses and wins victory unreached by Moses
- Met the “Commander of the army of the Lord”
- Rahab’s scarlet cord
- Rahab became grand mother for Christ

Jesus

- Brings many sons to glory [Heb 2:10](#)
- Succeed Mosaic Law, won victory unreachable by the Law [John 1:17](#)
- Pre-incarnate appearance [Josh. 5:15](#) with [Ex. 3:2](#)
- Safety through His blood [Heb. 9:19-22](#)
- Christ’s genealogy [Matt. 1:5](#)

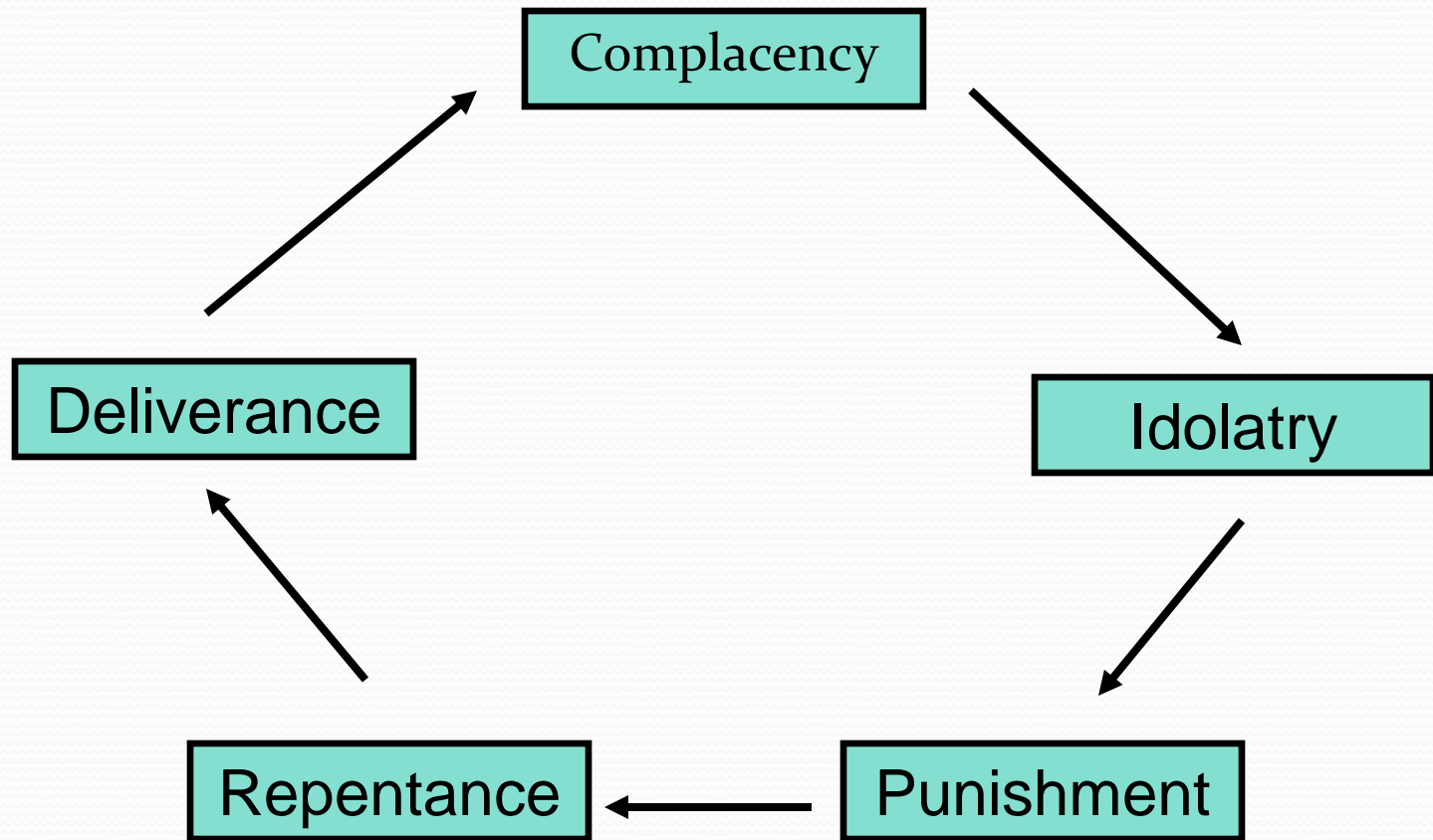
JUDGES

- Author: Samuel (by tradition)
- Covers the time between Joshua & Samuel, when judges led Israel
- Why were there judges?
 - *Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders. (2:16)*
- Key Verse: *In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit. (17:6;21:25)*
 - God should be King (8:23)
 - Man uses freedom as a license to sin
 - Darkest time

Recurring Cycle in Judges

(2:11, 3:7, 3:12, 4:1, 6:1, 10:6, 13:1)

“The children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord”



Overview of Judges

I. GOD'S TRAINING

- A. WHO WILL BE FIRST TO GO AND FIGHT? (1:1-18)
- B. FAILURE TO DRIVE OUT THE ENEMIES (1:19-2:5)
- C. PATTERN OF NATIONAL DECLINE (2:6-3:6)

II. ISRAEL RESCUED BY JUDGES (3:7-16:31)

- A. 12 JUDGES
- B. LESSONS

III. IN THOSE DAYS ISRAEL HAD NO KING

A. ISRAEL'S IDOLATRY (17:1-18:31)

- 1. MICAH'S IDOL
- 2. LEVITE'S SELF-SEEKING SERVICE
- 3. DANITES' EASY-GOING LIFE

B. THE DEPTHS OF MORAL CORRUPTION (19:1-21:25)

- 1. A LEVITE AND HIS CONCUBINE
- 2. THE WICKED MEN OF GIBEAH
- 3. "SUCH A THING HAS NEVER BEEN DONE"
- 4. WIVES FOR THE BENJAMITES

ISRAEL RESCUED BY JUDGES

(3:7-16:31)

- **OTHNIEL:** CALEB'S YOUNGER BROTHER (40 YEARS)
- **EHUD:** A LEFT-HANDED MAN (80 YEARS)
- **SHAMGAR:** WRITTEN IN ONE VERSE (31)
- **DEBORAH:** THE NAME MEANS "HONEY BEE." SHE RAISED UP BARAK
- **GIDEON:** HE WAS A MAN OF HIS TIMES. HE TRIED HIS BEST TO DO RIGHT THINGS. BUT HE ALSO MADE MISTAKES
- **TOLA**
- **JAIR**
- **JEPHTHAH:** HIS MOTHER WAS A PROSTITUTE. HE MADE AN UNNECESSARY VOW TO GOD AND SACRIFICE HIS DAUGHTER.
- **IBZAR:** (7 YEARS)
- **ELON:** (10 YEARS)
- **ABDON:** (8 YEARS)
- **SAMSON:** A NAZIRITE

The Most Famous Judges

DEBORAH (40 years, Ch. 4): She is the fourth judge, who was a prophetess, called Barak to lead Israel's army against Sisera. He agreed to go, but only if she went with him.

- They fought near Megiddo, and Israel's army routed the Canaanites. Sisera fled on foot. Deborah and Barak sang on that day (chapter 5).

GIDEON (40 years, Ch. 6-8): He was the fifth judge.

- The Midianites and Amalekites join forces and subdue Israel for seven years. Israel flees to the mountains for safety and can only harvest their crops in secret.
- God calls on Gideon to fight against the Midianites. At night Gideon destroys the altar of Baal. God gives Gideon two signs:
 - *Fleece of wool on threshing floor. Dew on fleece, but not on the floor.*
 - *Next morning, dew on floor, but not on fleece.*
- Gideon led Israel against the Medianites after he reduced the number from 32,000 to 300 to show that God—not the army's size—is the reason for Israel's victory. The battle cry is, "***The sword of Jehovah and Gideon.***" The enemies panic and kill each other!
- They seek to make Gideon a king, but he refuses.

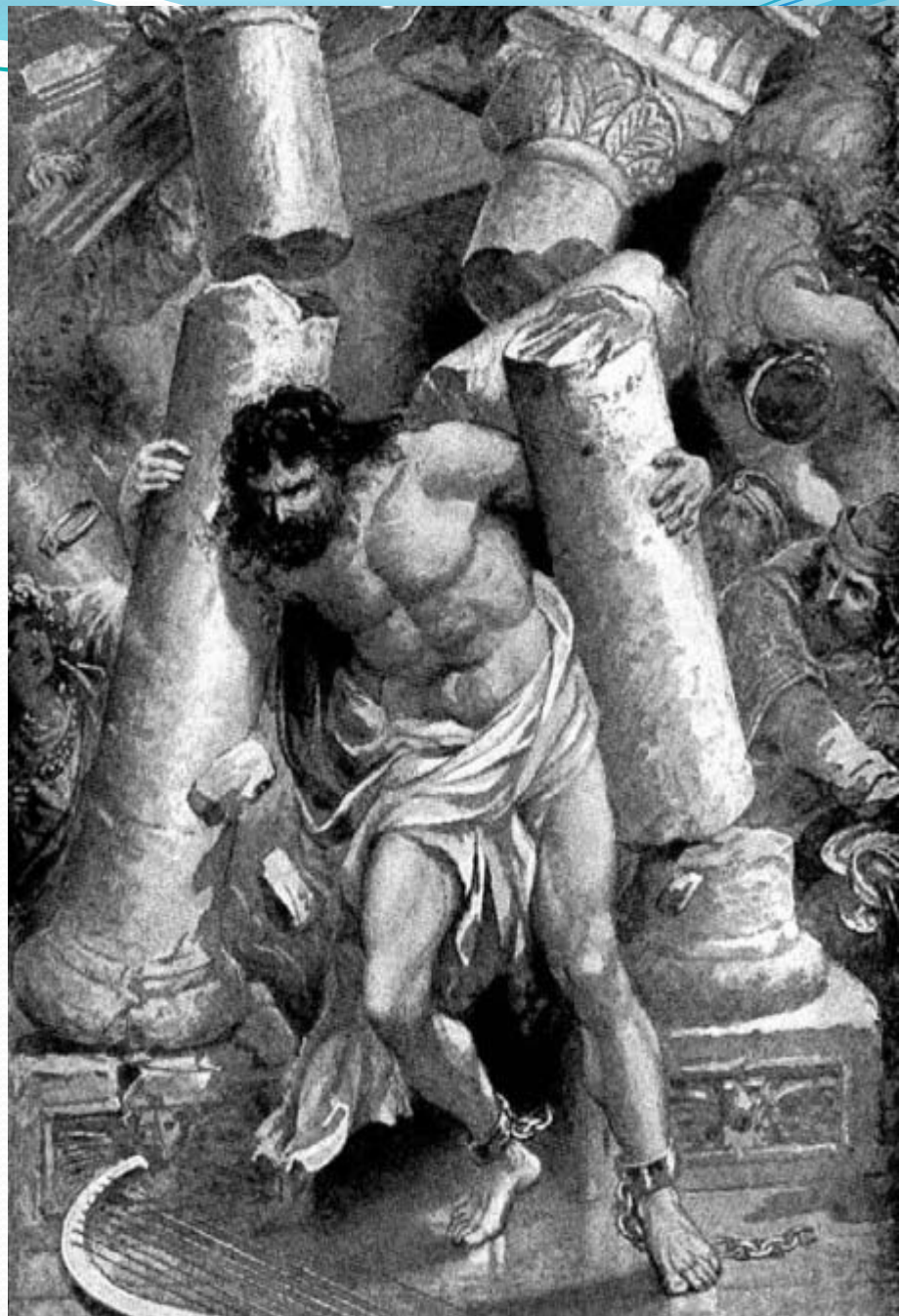
JEPHTHAH (Ch. 11-12), a man of valor, became the **ninth** judge.

- Deprived of his inheritance because he was the son of a prostitute, was driven out of Gilead into the Land of Tob, where he formed a band of powerful men.
- When the Philistines and Ammon had oppressed them for 18 years, Israel called on Jephthah to rescue them.
- He consented to help them if they made him king, if he was victorious.
- Jephthah promised God that if He would give him victory, he would sacrifice the first thing that came out to greet him.
- When he returned from the victory, the first to greet him was his daughter. He kept his vow!
- The Ephraimites became angry with the men of Gilead because they had not been asked to fight against the Philistines.
- Civil war followed and 42,000 Ephraimites died.

SAMSON (20 years, Ch 13-16), the **13th** judge.

- He was born miraculously from a barren woman and aged father “Manoah” by a promise from the Lord “And no razor shall come upon his head...He shall be a Nazirite to God” (13:5).
- He grew up and showed his power in many incidents (14:5-6, 19, 15:8, 14-17, 16:3).

- Samson fell in love with a Philistine woman, Delilah.
- The Philistines agree to pay her to find the source of his strength.
- He lies to her three times, but finally tells her the truth--he will lose his strength if his hair is cut.
- While he sleeps, she has his hair cut, binds him with rope, and delivers him to the Philistines.
- They put out his eyes and place him in prison. He is forced to turn the millstone to grind grain.
- While he is in prison, Samson's hair begins to grow again.
- The Philistines hold a great feast and bring him out to make sport of him.
- They lead him between two pillars that support the house where they are gathered.
- Samson prays to God and asks Him to return his strength so he can avenge his eyes.
- He topples the pillars and causes the house to collapse, killing himself and all the Philistines. He kills more in death than during his entire life!



LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE JUDGES

- God used ordinary people to do extraordinary things
 - Many had humble backgrounds
- They were not perfect
 - Many made mistakes or sinned and ended up as failures
 - Do not be judgmental of the judges
 - All leaders should be careful not to fall into the same mistakes as them
- Shows man's need for an eternal deliverer
 - Deliverance of the human judges was always temporary, partial and imperfect
 - They point to Jesus Christ, the true Judge (Ps 110:6), King (Gen 49:10), and Deliverer (Job 19:25)

Could We Be Like Israel during the time of Judges?

We can easily be like them, if we:

- allow our relationship with God to slip.
- stop studying the word of God carefully, and stop living according to its teachings, we quickly forget His grace. We do what we see fit to do
- stop repenting of our sins. Sins begin to live with us and control us. We tend to follow our sinful desires rather than the word of God.
- place our priority on something other than the word of God. We begin to be influenced by the idols around us and even start worshipping them – idols such as money, power and ambition.

Life Lessons from Judges

- Don't compromise with the world – it leads to defeat.
- Don't sin – it results in suffering.
- Don't wait until you are without hope to cry out to God.
- Don't do what is right in your own eyes—do what's right in God's eyes.

Christ in the Book of Judges

- Each Judge is a saviour, ruler and deliverer.
 - Christ is the Saviour, King, and Deliverer
- None of these Judges was perfect.
 - The need for a righteous king => Jesus Christ
- Some of the Judges were warrior-rulers (Othniel and Gideon), one was a priest (Eli), two were prophets (Deborah and Samuel).
 - A cumulative picture of the 3 offices of Christ; the ultimate King, Priest and Prophet.

The Book of Ruth

- Title- Ruth
- Background- During the time of the judges
- Date and Author- During David's reign (around 1000 BC) but the author is unknown
- Themes
 - God's mercy to two widows
 - Redemption
- Key Verse- 1:16b-17

"Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God will be my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me."

Three Main Characters

Naomi -- means "*pleasant*"

- Changed her name to Mara, which means *bitter*
- She begins the book empty and hopeless and ends the book renewed and with a new son

Ruth -- means "*friendship*"

- A young Moabite widow
- By faith, leaves her country, people and gods to follow Naomi and her God.
- She is listed in Jesus' genealogy (Mt 1:5)

Boaz – means "*in him is strength*"

- An old, wealthy relative of Naomi
- An upright man, concerned about Naomi, and generous to Ruth
- Marries Ruth and becomes an ancestor of Jesus

Outline

- I. Ruth's Faith (ch 1)
- II. Ruth and Boaz (ch 2)
- III. Naomi finds a home for Ruth (ch 3)
- IV. Boaz marries Ruth (4:1-12)
- V. Obed given to Naomi (4:13-22)

I. Ruth's Faith (ch 1)

- a. Naomi loses her husband and sons in Moab
- b. Orpah and Ruth told to go home
- c. Ruth clings to Naomi

"Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God will be my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried."

- d. Naomi returns to Bethlehem with Ruth

II. Ruth and Boaz (ch 2)

a. Ruth gleans food for her and Naomi

b. Boaz praises Ruth for her selflessness (2:11-12)

Boaz replied, "I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband – how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge".

c) Boaz' generosity

d) Naomi's spirit revives

III. Naomi finds a home for Ruth (ch 3)

- a. Naomi wants to provide for Ruth
- b. Naomi tells Ruth to ask Boaz to marry her
- c. Ruth obeys
- d. Boaz promises to help
 1. Points out that there is a closer kin
 2. Promises to marry her if the other will not

The Levirate Marriage (Deuteronomy 25:5-10):

- When a man died without children, his widow married his brother to carry on the family line
 - Guarded a family's inheritance in the promised land
 - Provided for the widow, who might be destitute

IV. Boaz marries Ruth (4:1-12)

- a. Closer kinsmen refuses to marry Ruth
 - Afraid to loose his own estate
- b. Boaz marries Ruth
- c. Elders pray for Ruth and her children

V. Obed given to Naomi (4:13-22)

- a. Ruth gives birth to Obed
- b. Obed given to Naomi
 - Life is no longer bitter
- c. Obed is the grandfather of King David and an ancestor of Jesus

The Relationship of Ruth and Naomi

- Naomi's love to send Ruth and Orpah away
- Ruth's selfless love not to leave Naomi alone
- Ruth developed her faith through Naomi
 - Faith to leave everything and risk poverty and alienation, in order to be one of God's people
 - Reminds us of Abraham, Rebecca and Moses
- When Naomi lost hope, God used Ruth to give her hope again

Spiritual meaning of Ruth's Story...

- In this story, Boaz became a kinsman-redeemer, or a close relative who in essence redeems the Gentile Ruth and gives her a home.
- The book of Ruth gives us an important analogy of the work of Christ. Like Boaz, Jesus is related to us by His physical birth, able to pay the price of redemption, willing to redeem, and able to redeem. And like Ruth, you must choose to accept redemption and leave the transaction to Jesus, who makes the redemption a reality.

Life Lessons from Ruth

- What you think to be a tragedy is God's opportunity to show Himself faithful.
- Your abundance is an opportunity to help the less fortunate.
- God honours faithfulness.
- Character is a noble quality that God honours.
- Adverse circumstances give you the opportunity to exhibit godly character.

Boaz & Jesus As “Redeemers”

Boaz

- Redeemed Ruth
- Redeemed Ruth from “curse” of being a widow
- Redeemed Ruth to raise up sons
- Redeemed Ruth, purifying her to himself

Jesus

- Redeemed Israel **Lk 24:21**
- Redeemed us from the “curse of Law” **Gal 3:13**
- Redeemed us to adopt us as “sons” **Gal 4:1-7**
- Redeemed us, purifying us to Himself **Titus 2:11-14**