

8/31/2025

GABC Ames, Foundations Recap

WELCOM BACK!

STRUCTURE

- Creation to **Monarchy** – Genesis through Ruth
- Monarchy to Exile – Samuel through Chronicles
- Exile to **Christ** – Daniel, Esther, Ezra/Nehemiah
- Ends with **Expectation**

THEOLOGY

Big Idea: God is not a **participant** in history, he is the **Author** of History

- God's **promises** will be fulfilled
- It is more important to be **faithful** than to make things work contrary to God's will

REDEMPTION

Big Idea: It all points to Christ

Genesis 3:15 (Protoevangelium) "I will put enmity between you [the Serpent] and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

Genesis 12:1-3 "Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will **bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse**, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Genesis 49:10 (Proto-Davidic Promise) "Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. **He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him? The scepter shall not depart from Judah**, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples."

Numbers 24:9 (Abrahamic/Davidic Promises merged) "He crouched, he **lay down like a lion and like a lioness; who will rouse him up? Blessed are those who bless you, and cursed are those who curse you.**" And Num.

24:17, "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and **a scepter shall rise out of Israel**; it shall crush the forehead of Moab and break down all the sons of Sheth."

Deuteronomy 18:15 (Christ the **Prophet**) "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen."

1 Chronicles 17:11-13 (Christ the **King**) "When your days are fulfilled to walk with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹² He shall build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. ¹³ I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from him who was before you."

Zechariah 3:8-9 (Christ the **Priest**) "Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, you and your friends who sit before you, for they are men who are a sign: behold, I will bring my servant the Branch. ⁹ For behold, on the stone that I have set before Joshua, on a single stone with seven eyes, I will engrave its inscription, declares the Lord of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day."

Old Testament Narrative ends with the people back in the land having returned from **physical** exile in Babylon, but all is not well. The prophets and narrative make clear that the people are still in a very real **spiritual** exile.

The narrative closes with the people of God waiting for a New **Moses** to usher in the New **Exodus** to establish the throne of the New **David** who will bring about an age of **worldwide** blessing. The Old Testament ends leaning forward to the New **Covenant**, the Old Testament ends leaning forward towards **Jesus Christ**.

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RUTH

Ruth is a narrative introduction to David and the **Psalms**. Ruth holds up Boaz as a Kinsman Redeemer who is the **agent** of God's blessing for Ruth and Naomi when they were in poverty. Ruth reminds the reader that David was to **Israel** what Boaz was to Ruth in order to point forward to what the Christ will be to the **World**. Ruth looks **back** to Boaz and David to help us look **forward** to the Christ, the Son of David.

Ruth pairs with the Psalms. Ruth gives the narrative and family introduction to David in order to point to the **ideal** David. The Psalms, especially the first two Psalms, give the poetic introduction to the ideal and coming David.

Ruth tells the story of how God saved a faithful **family** through Boaz – small scale. In order to remind us of how God saved a faithful **nation** through David – medium scale. In order to point us forward to how he is and will save a faithful **global people** through Jesus – global scale.

STRUCTURE

- Exile, Death, Gospel, Faith, Return (repentance), Redemption, Glorification
- Exile: 1:1-4 – left promised land b/c of famine to go to Moab
- Death: 1:3-5 – husband and sons died
- Gospel: 1:6 – Naomi heard that God had given bread to Israel.
- Faith: 1:16-17 – Ruth makes a religious covenant with Naomi to join herself to her people and God.
- Return (repentance): 1:19-22 – Ruth and Naomi return (shuv = repent) to Bethlehem
- Redemption: 2:1,8-9,11-12, 3:9 – Boaz gives her protection, food, and drink in response to her faith in the Lord – agent and picture of God's redemption.
 - 2:12 (Boaz) "The LORD repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, **under whose wings** you have come to take refuge!"
 - 3:9 (Ruth) "**Spread your wings** over your servant, for you are a redeemer."
- Glorification: 4:11, 14-15 – Married with blessing and life hopes
- Closing Genealogy – only genealogy at the end of a book. In Old Testament, genealogies introduce the beginning of a story: "here's the genealogy of the hero of this coming story"

THEOLOGY

God's Redeeming **Providence**

"[Ruth] is a story about the firm, guiding 'hands' of divine providence at work in the world," Robert Hubbard, *Book of Ruth*, 18.

God's Redeeming **Promise**

Return and find bread and life through God's appointed redeemer. Turn to Christ and you will find life. You don't have to live in the land of famine and death. Even in **judgement** God is working redemption.

REDEMPTION

Ruth is about Christ, and about what it looks like to turn to Christ. Ruth is the story of death and **resurrection** in Christ.

Exile, Death, Gospel, Faith, Repentance, Redemption, Glorification.

All of us were in Moab, but then we heard that God had visited Israel, there is bread in Bethlehem. Will you return? Or will you stay in Moab?

Ruth isn't just hope for Israel, but hope for the **nations**.

"[The Book of Ruth] does not just have implications for the Davidic dynasty; the story shows that the Davidic dynasty has implications for the nations. When Ruth first meets Boaz, he praises her [in Ruth 2:12] for finding refuge under the 'wings' of [the LORD]. When she reminds him of his responsibility as a kinsman redeemer, she tells him to spread the 'wing' of his garment over her. His marriage to her anticipates the nations' finding refuge under the wings of [The LORD] through a Davidic descendant. This stress on finding **refuge** becomes extremely important, especially in the next book of the Writings, [the Psalms]." Dempster, 194.

The Psalms, and the rest of the wisdom literature becomes a spelling out of what it looks like for the **nations** to find **refuge** under the wings of the Lord.

Psalm 2:12, "Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. **Blessed are all who take refuge in him.**

Psalm 5:11, "But let all **who take refuge in you** rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and **spread your protection over them**, that those who love your name may exult in you."

Psalm 16:1, "Preserve me, O God, for **in you I take refuge.**"

Psalm 34:8, "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man **who takes refuge in him!**"

Psalm 36:7, "How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind **take refuge in the shadow of your wings.**"

Psalm 57:1, "Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my **soul takes refuge**; in the **shadow of your wings I will take refuge**, till the storms of destruction pass by."

Psalm 91:1-2, "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, '**My refuge** and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'"

APPLICATION

Turn to Christ, the greater David, the greater Boaz, and take shelter in the shadow of the wings of the Most High.

- He offers forgiveness and redemption.
- He offers bread and wine and protection.

Live faithfully, and entrust yourself to God in the highs and lows of a very **normal** life.

- God is telling a bigger story in and with our **little** stories.
- "The little story of Ruth has been caught up in a much larger Story," Stephen Dempster, *Dominion and Dynasty*, 193-94.

The story of Ruth is about Naomi the Israelite, and Ruth the Gentile returning to the promised land to take refuge in the Lord through the Lord's appointed redeemer, Boaz.

Ruth introduces us to David, and sets up the Psalms, where we see both Naomies and Ruths, Jews and Gentiles, invited to find **refuge** in God through the Lord's anointed King, the Son of David.

Ruth invites us to repent of our sin and self, to leave behind our own Moabs, and to take **covenant** refuge in the Lord through the greater David, Jesus, the true bread sent from the Lord in Bethlehem.