

Ancestry Dot Com part 4

12/22/19

Matthew 1:1-17

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

²Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶and Jesse the father of David the king. **Jump down to verse 16**

and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

¹⁷So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. ¹

Today, we will wrap up our Christmas series, as we have focused our attention on the genealogy of Jesus..... Next week, we will look to the Scriptures to remind us that as much as those in the first century expected the advent of a Savior that they longed for, hoped for, prayed for and looked for....., we too should be living in expectation for the final advent, the final arrival, the 2nd and or final coming of the Savior...

This time, he will not be coming to redeem; rather, he will be coming to judge and bring those who are His to His home in heaven, forever.....sometimes we forget that, we, too, should be waiting, hoping, looking, and longing for our ultimate deliverance.....when Christ fulfill his promise to return and bring us to Himself.....

Most of you know that today is the 4th part of a 3 hour sermon where we looked at some of the more unique parts of the genealogy of the Lord Jesus laid out for us in Matthew 1.... and it is important for me to note again that Matthew is using the genealogy to show us the importance of the covenant God made with Abraham, the Covenant He made with David..... and he is also highlighting the rebellion that had taken place in the nation that caused Israel to be conquered in 722 B.C. and Judah to be conquered by Babylon in 586.

¹ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Mt 1:16–17). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

This is the reference to the deportation in verse 17.....It is also important to note that Matthew is declaring that Jesus is human, born of Mary; Jesus is the Savior who was promised; and Jesus is God..... Those are the big picture themes of this genealogy, and what we discovered when we looked at it in more detail is that there are several significant names here that show God's grace and mercy to the sinful, the abused, the down trodden, the nations.... Those outside the covenant of Israel.

And, of course those unique names are Tamar in verse 3, Rahab and Ruth in verse 5, and the wife of Uriah in verse 6.

And, the point I have been making since we began is that since Matthew added these to his genealogy, he is expecting us to know the back story behind the name, or if we do not know it, go and find out who they are and why they are here.....

Last week, when we began looking at Ruth, we had to do a little homework since there are several things we need to know from the Old Testament so we can understand the book....

So we spent some time trying to understand that the OT is full of types, pictures, portraits and shadows that point to Christ. We discovered that the nation of Moab began with an incestuous union, and later, the nation did not help Israel and so they were under a curse..... And we also looked at the laws of a Levirate marriage and the laws on property redemption.

Once we built that as a foundation, we noticed in chapter 1 of the book of Ruth that Naomi and Ruth were widows, Ruth was Naomi's daughter in law, and they were joined by love and loyalty. As widows, their situation was pitiful, and hopeless. They had little means, and no way to earn a living... They needed someone to take over the property that belonged to Naomi, and someone to marry Ruth..... their difficult circumstances are really a picture of life without a redeemer, life without a Savior, life without Christ.....

Ruth left her homeland, left her Moabites Gods, followed Naomi back to Israel, and is beginning to follow the Lord God....

And, where we left off last week was that though Naomi had explained that her life was bitter, and God had dealt harshly with her..... that, contrary to her statement, and to how she felt.....God, had, in fact, provided for her by having Ruth come back with her..... and the point we left on was that

God's providential difficulty was equally met by his providential care

We see this so clearly in verse 22 of Ruth 1

So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest. ²

Naomi was not alone, Ruth was with her.....They came to Bethlehem representing the future birth place of Jesus..... And they were there at the beginning of the barely harvest, representing that the famine is over and help is on the way.....

and, beloved, we need to understand the difficulties we face in life in the same manner. Anyone who has lived on this sin cursed world for any number of years has experienced “hard providences.” These are difficulties in life that are outside our control.... That come upon us because we live in a world that has been cursed by sin..... earth is not heaven..... so, here, we face illness, injury, death, conflict, job loss, and all manner of unexpected turns of events all through our lives.....

And, there are times when we may have the feelings that Naomi has had..... that God’s hand has been against us, our lives have been miserable.... The Hall mark happily ever after that everyone longs for is just not true in this life.....

Yet, in the middle of these days and even years of difficulty, we need to follow Naomi’s example by coming to Bethlehem, coming to Jesus, coming to Christ for help and comfort and care..... and clearly this is the main theme and main story of Ruth, and a big reason why she is in the genaology.....we do find and we can find rest and comfort in this life, as we come to God to help us.....

We find out in chapter 2 verse 1 that the help is on the way

“Now Naomi had a relative of her husband’s, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. ³”

If chapter 1 was a picture of life without a redeemer, life without Christ, the kind of misery and difficulty one can have living in a sin cursed world where famine, death, broken families and difficulty face everyone one of us.....then chapter 2 is a picture of Christ, the Savior, hope, and the one who delivers.....

Boaz is a portrait of Jesus..... in his humanness, obviously not perfect..... don’t forget that all the Old Testament shadows and types are just that..... they are not exact, they are more reminders and replicas.....pointing to the greater Boaz, the greater Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ....

² [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ru 1:22). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

³ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ru 2:1). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Notice the way he is described, the way he treats people and the way he treats Ruth.... In chapter 2 verse 1, we discover he is both a relative and a worthy man....the word worthy can mean wealthy, a man of standing, a man of prominence, or it can mean warrior..... He is a man who is known in the community as a man of valor, integrity, honesty, and benevolence..... and you see that in how he treats both his servants and how he treats Ruth.

The story for Boaz to meet Ruth is set up in verse 2, follow along as I read....

And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."³ So she set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech⁴

There are several references in the Old Testament law that allows for the poor and sojourners in the country to go onto private property and basically pick up the scraps, after the fields have been gleaned by the harvesters.....this was a way for those who are poor to provide for themselves, and have to work to eat.....

Ruth is not going out asking for a hand out..... she is looking for a harvested field that still might have a few ears of corn laying on the ground, and she will work all day so she and Naomi will have something to eat that day..... then, she will do it tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow.....

Now, we have already been introduced to Boaz, and now we see how God sovereignly and providential had Ruth, "just happen" to stumble across his land, his field and she is gleaning from his left over produce.....It would not be any different here where some of you own property that does not have a fence around it..... and someone who was wandering around might not even be aware that they just crossed over a property line...

Well, Ruth did not stumble onto the property Boaz owned..... she was led there, directed by God while she was working to provide for her and Naomi....Again, God's providential difficulty is equally met by his providential care.....I won't be able to take the time to point out every reference and inference to God's providential sovereignty in this book..... but it appears so often and regularly that you could easily do a full study on it.....

And, we immediately see Boaz as kind, gracious, friendly, and generous..... and don't miss that little mention in verse 4 that he is from Bethlehem..... the entire story takes place in the future birth place of Jesus, and that is not an accident.....In verse 4, he blesses his workers..... he says to the reapers, "The Lord be with you!" and they bless him back....."The Lord bless you!"

⁴ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ru 2:2-3). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

there is a mini love fest going on here..... "The Lord bless you..... no, he bless you..... no, no, no.... he bless you....." having a benevolent boss makes life so nice.....

those of you who are out in the day to day grind of working 8 to 12 hours 5 to 7 days a week, have you ever had a boss come in and say to the workforce, "The Lord be with you?" Just showing Boaz is a good man, a gracious man, a kind man.....

He notices that a young woman is in his field, asks who she is..... and his supervisor tells him who she is and how hard she has been working..... and this bring us up to verse 8.....

Let me read verse 8 through verse 16... as Boaz speaks to Ruth for the first time...

⁸Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. ⁹Let your eyes be on the field that they are reaping, and go after them. Have I not charged the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn." ¹⁰Then she fell on her face, bowing to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?" ¹¹But Boaz answered her, "All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. ¹²The 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!" ¹³Then she said, "I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, though I am not one of your servants."

¹⁴And at mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come here and eat some bread and dip your morsel in the wine." So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed to her roasted grain. And she ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over. ¹⁵When she rose to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. ¹⁶And also pull out some from the bundles for her and leave it for her to glean, and do not rebuke her." ⁵

Everything in here points to the Lord Jesus.....Let me walk back through it and show you what I mean:

He is first a protector..... as he encourages her in verse 8 not to go to anyone's field but his....this will protect her from being harmed in someone else's field, .and in verse 9, he has charged the young men who work for him not to touch her, either..... Boaz assures her safety and assures her purity

⁵ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ru 2:8–16). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Along with that, when she is thirsty, she is encouraged to come and drink from the water his men have drawn..... we don't think of the practicality of this in the century we live in where water is available from our sinks, drinking fountains, and bottles in the store....

In this time period quenching one's thirst was had work...drawing water from a well took time and effort....And Boaz basically tells Ruth that when you are thirsty, my water, the water drawn from my well, my water will satisfy, the water I give will quench your thirst.....

Doesn't your mind go immediately to the woman at the well who Jesus told that those who drink from the water he gives will never thirst again.... Of course, Boaz, is not giving out living water.... but it is pointing to the water that Jesus will eventually give that springs up to eternal life.

And, don't forget that the water Jesus offered was offered to a Samaritan women, a non Jew.....and this water is offered to a Moabite, a non Jew, as well....

And, this brings us to our third point..... notice Boaz' knowledge of Ruth..... he is well-informed....of both her ethnicity, and her new found faith..... He know she is a foreigner.... He know she has left Moab.... He knows that she has been caring for her Mother in law.....and, he knows, as verse 12, so wonderfully states, he knows that she has taken "refuge under the wings of the God of Israel."

What a great metaphor..... when Jesus lamented over Jerusalem, he stated how he longed "to gather them together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!"⁶ And, here we have Ruth, an outsider, a Moabite, a non-Jew fleeing Moab with her Mother in law and taking refuge under the wings of the Lord.....

And, if you look again at the last part of verse 11 carefully, does this ring any bells for you? Does it sound like anything else in Scripture that we have been mentioning throughout this series on the genealogy of Christ? "and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before."⁷

Remember Abraham in Genesis 12 left his native land, left the home of his mother and father to come to a place that he did not know..... Boaz is very aware that Ruth is following the footsteps of Abraham....as I said last week, she is the "all" when Abraham is promised that "all nations" will be blessed through Christ.....and quite honestly, this is part of the life of a Christian in any age and in any century..... all who come must leave everything and follow Christ.

Martin Luther stated it this way when he wrote, "A mighty fortress is our God," when he stated,

6 [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Mt 23:37). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

7 [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Ru 2:11). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

“Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also, the body they may kill, God’s truth abideth still... His kingdom is forever...”

Ruth left everything to follow the God of Israel.....I wonder if you have? Salvation is more than the phrase that has become a cliché, “having Jesus in your heart.” That particular phrase is not in the Bible.... Salvation, the kind of Salvation that Ruth laid claim to is a full recognition that you are a sinner, outside of God’s family, out His favor, and under His just condemnation....

And, it is coming to Him in repentance, determining to give up your sin, give up your life, and asking Him for mercy and to save you from the sin you are repenting of.... And, as the invitation song so wonderfully states, “Though none go with me, still I will follow...” That is Ruth’s testimony.... I hope it is yours....

and Ruth in verse 13 is overwhelmed at the comfort and kindness that is being demonstrated to her, even though she does not even qualify to be one of his servants.... She stills sees herself as an outsider.....

but his kindness does not stop here..... in verse 14, not only will he be sure her thirst is quenched.....he also feeds her.... He allows her to eat at his table... and she eats until she is satisfied, and there is some left over.....It reminds me of the marriage supper of the lamb in Revelation 19

And, it also reminds us of Jesus..... when he fed 5,000 everyone was satisfied and there were several baskets left over..... when he fed 4,000 the same thing happened..... remember when he prepared supper for the disciples on the shoreline, after he died and rose again.... He cares for and meets the needs of those who are his.....It is the table the good shepherd prepares for those who are his sheep in Psalm 23.... it goes on to say that surely goodness and mercy will follow his sheep all the days of their lives..... Boaz cares for Ruth, like Jesus cares for His own.....

And finally, he lightens Ruth’s load..... She had been out in the field looking for stray ears of corn, that she could collect, then husk, then take off the kernels and beat into flour..... who knows how far she had to walk throughout the day in order to find the stray ears..... and Boaz makes it easy for Ruth by instructing his men in verse 16 to “pull out some of the bundles for her and leave it for her to glean.”

It is like Jesus saying, “Take my yoke upon you for my burden is easy and my yoke is light.” Instead of having to look all over the field for a few ears of corn, they just left several ears right in plain sight so she would not have to work so hard to find what she needed to feed herself and Naomi.

It reminds me of our Easter egg hunts..... for the older kids, we try to really hide the eggs..... but our younger grand kids, we put the eggs in plain sight, we make it easy for them..... to give them a lighter load and a better chance.....

Boaz is amazing..... Ruth is a foreigner, a widow, a poor woman, one who is outside the covenant, outside the assembly and she is protected, she is given drink, she is known, she is well fed at his table, and she has her load lightened..... She is being treated as a member of God's family instead of a foreigner..... treated as a friend and not a servant....Boaz foreshadows how Jesus cares for his servants.....

After a long day, when Ruth came back to Naomi, Notice verse 19 of chapter 2.....

"And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you." So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz." ²⁰ And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "May he be blessed by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!" Naomi also said to her, "The man is a close relative of ours, one of our redeemers." ²¹

And, this is the first time the word redeemer is used in this book..... remember the word redeem means to purchase..... to buy back..... in means ransom, which is a sum of money paid to release a prisoner....so the redeemer would be using his own resources to free another from a condition that they cannot help themselves out of.....Redemption is costly for the redeemer, and free for the redeemed.....

Now, remember I said that there was a transition from hopelessness to hope? Listen to Naomi, listen to the one who said, "call me Mara because my life is bitter and God's hand is against me....." Listen to her now..... "May he be blessed by the Lord, whose kindness had not forsaken the living or the dead."

She and Ruth are living.....their husbands are dead..... and as a close relative and one of their Redeemers, Boaz is in a position to help both. Boaz is in a position to give offspring to the dead, and allow the living to keep their land.....and to be provided for both now and in the future.....

Naomi encourages Ruth to stay in the fields of Boaz and she does so until the end of the barley harvest, which lasts around 2 months..... So for at least 2 months, Ruth continues to work daily to provide for their needs, as she goes into the fields of Boaz to find produce that was still laying on the ground in an effort to sustain both her and her mother in law....

In Chapter 3, now that the foundation has been laid for what Ruth represents, one outside the covenant, one who needs a Savior, one who needs a deliverer.....and who Boaz represents, the

one who is a Savior, the one who is a deliverer.....Ruth now follows Naomi's instructions to come before Boaz and make a formal request for him to obey the laws of Redemption by redeeming the land they cannot afford and by marrying her in order to have children through her deceased husband.... She will be asking Boaz to redeem her....

For us, this might seem a bit forward.... It might seem a bit unusual..... Naomi tells Ruth to get herself all gussied up and according to verse 3 she is cleaned up, perfumed up, and dressed up..... she goes to the place where the grain is being separated from the chaff, she waits until Boaz settles down for the night, then sneaks in, lays at his feet and is told by Naomi that Boaz will know what to do next.

We will pick it up in verse 8

“At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet! ⁹ He said, “Who are you?” And she answered, “I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer.” ¹⁰ And he said, “May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich. ¹¹ And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you ask, for all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman. ¹² And now it is true that I am a redeemer. Yet there is a redeemer nearer than I. ¹³ Remain tonight, and in the morning, if he will redeem you, good; let him do it. But if he is not willing to redeem you, then, as the LORD lives, I will redeem you. Lie down until the morning.” ⁸

There are several things interesting about this..... this is not the main point, but let me be clear for you younger ladies..... older women know how men act.....I mean, we really aren't that hard to figure out, and Naomi can predict Boaz' ever move..... She knows what he will do when he discovers that Ruth is at his feet....

And once Ruth lays at his feet and he finds out she desire him to redeem her, then take a look at verse 18, at the conversation Ruth and Naomi had later.....

“Noami replied, “Wait, my daughter, until you learn how the matter turns out, for the man will not rest but will settle the matter today.” ⁹

Naomi not only knows what Boaz will do..... she also knows how fast he will do it.....he won't rest until he gets this resolved... Older women have insight and discernment and knowledge that younger women have not developed yet, just because they have not lived long enough...

⁸ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ru 3:8–13). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ru 3:18). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

When Paul encourages Timothy as a pastor “to teach the older women to teach the younger women” a variety of different things..... we need to emphasize the same thing....You younger ladies, your mom’s and grandmas and even those in the congregation who you are not related to who are older..... the women who have lived many years, have been married for many years, have raised children, and have had failure and success.....and who have walked with God.... there is so much to glean from them..... and if you are ever struggling spiritually, or personally, or in your marriage, or raising your children, you don’t need to go far for help.....

Do not be afraid to reach out to some of our older women, here at Grace.... And you older women, let me encourage you to look around and begin praying for some of our younger ladies asking God for wisdom for how you might be an encouragement to them.....

Ruth could have never done this on her own..... Naomi helped guide her along, each step of the way....

2ndly, remember, Ruth was from the nation of Moab..... and she is childless, similar to Lot’s daughters..... however, her intention, as she went to lay before Boaz was not to have relations outside the covenant.... It was to keep the covenant, it was to fulfill the covenant... it was to keep the law and obey the law.....She was from the nation of Moab, but she left her Moabite roots behind and is submitting to God, his plan, his rule, his protection, and his word.....and there is a contrast in her behavior and the behavior of Lot’s daughters....

Anyone woman can get pregnant by any man.....but God’s promise and provision comes through His Word and His time table..... There is a Joseph like integrity here..... remember, Joseph took Mary as his wife, and did not have relations with her until after Jesus was born.....

and for those of you who are not married....Ruth’s actions and motives were pure..... and Boaz’ actions were pure as well..... he had her stay til morning, and had her leave early enough to not have anything said about her that would damage her reputation... this is not the main point of the text, but in our own culture that is driven by sex and sensuality, they are a model of purity....

and it appears to me that the reason why Boaz never entreated Ruth about being her redeemer was his awareness that he was not the first in line to redeem her.....so he is humbled that she would even consider him.....

If you were reading the whole story in one sitting, like Ben Franklin did with his French literary friends.....you would be in suspense right now, wondering what was going to happen..... in chapter 4, we discover that the nearest kinsman was willing to buy the property, but was unwilling to take Ruth as a wife..... so the next nearest kinsman was Boaz, and in God's providence and mercy... Verse 9 of chapter 4 gives his final statement:

"Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and to Mahlon. ¹⁰ Also Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought to be my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his native place. You are witnesses this day."

And there you have it..... the widow Ruth the Moabite is saved, redeemed, rescued from her widowhood by Boaz.....and Naomi is saved, redeemed, and rescued, as well.....

you have to understand everything I just went over to understand why Ruth is in the genealogy and how this relates to the story of Christmas..... Boaz redeemed the property and married Ruth.....Now, Notice chapter 4 verse 13.....when I read this, I am going to ask at the end, "who is the redeemed and who is the redeemer?" And see if you can pick up the unexpected twist at the end of the book..... notice verse 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. ¹⁴ Then 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! ¹⁵ He 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." ¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. ¹⁷ And 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."

What a strange twist..... for the entire story of Ruth, we thought Boaz was the redeemer, and he was.....we thought Ruth was the redeemed and she was..... but there is a greater redemption in the story.....and a greater redeemer in the story.....

Who left full and came back empty?..... who left with a husband and sons and came back a barren, bitter widow? Who came back to Bethlehem after 10 years of hardship, death, devastation, mourning, and loss? Naomi.....and who, at the conclusion of the story is redeemed?

Naomi! Verse 14, "Blessed be the Lord who has not left you this day without a redeemer and may his name be renowned in Israel!"

And, who is the redeemer? Whose name is renown in Israel? Who is the He in verse 14? jump to verse 15, "He 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." the one whose name is renown, the He..... the redeemer is **HIM**..... Ruth's son.....Naomi's

grandson is the redeemer..... HE has redeemed, replenished, rescued, restored, brought salvation to Naomi.....

If Naomi was younger, she would have been redeemed by Boaz.....and she would have had a son to take away her reproach.....and this baby, this boy, this son became Naomi's son..... verse 17,

" And 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."

So, what is the point?

Remember, the Old Testament is full of pictures and types and portraits of Christ..... and here is the first picture that a baby could be part of the story of redemption..... and not just any baby..... but a baby coming from the seed of Abraham, through the tribe of Judah, who will be the grandfather of King David..... and a precursor to another baby who will be born in Bethlehem, who will be called Immanuel, which is God with us.....

Beloved we have an extra ordinary God who uses the ordinary to fulfill all of his good purposes..... it began with a Marriage and Children between Naomi and Elemelech, then a famine and a move to Moab; death, marriage, more death and a move back to Bethlehem..... Back in Bethlehem, there is now sowing and reaping, a good, benevolent land owner, obedience to God's law, marriage and birth..... and God using all of these things to his glory and honor....to fulfill His purposes and plans....

He does this in your life, too..... Our extra ordinary god works in the ordinary day to day operations of His children to make his name great among the nations.....Day by day, going to work, raising children, living your life..... God is working behind the scenes in thousands of circumstances to continue to bring glory to His great name.....

Several hundred years later, God will use a census to bring Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem.... and Mary will give birth to a son, who they will call Jesus and he will save His people from sin.....

and this baby won't just redeem or provide redemption for one destitute grandmother.....this baby, born of a virgin, laid in a manger because there is no room for them in the Inn will be born as king, sitting on an eternal throne, the ultimate fulfillment of the covenant God made with Abraham and with David; and he will redeem all those who are his....

His redemption, however, will not be through monetary exchange.....His redemption will be through the giving of His life.....

Galatians 3:13

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—¹⁴ so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.."

You see, Ruth was from Moab, she was a Gentile, and she was under a curse that alienated her from God and the assembly of his people.....We as sons of Adam and Eve are also under the curse of sin and death..... and we also are separated from God because of our sin.....We are all like Ruth, born outside the covenant, not able to go into the assembly of God's people....

But, "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, by becoming a curse for us....." He purchased the debt we owe to God because of our sin by becoming sin for us, taking on the wrath and punishment we deserve, so we can receive the mercy and grace we don't deserve.....

He who knew no sin became sin for us so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God..... and this is really the story of Christmas.....

Every Old Testament Redeemer was temporary and short lived..... baby Obed was a restorer of life and nourishment and vitality for Naomi.... Boaz brought redemption for Ruth.....Obed Fathered Jesse who Fathered King David, who reigned for 40 years, but even David, the model king failed the nation because of His sin....

The story of Ruth is telling the bigger story that one day someone is coming, a baby will be born in Bethlehem who will Redeem his people permanently..... who will reign forever victoriously, and who will live on eternally.....The perfect, holy son of God.....

The genealogy of Christ full of ruined, reclaimed, redeemed sinners..... From Manassah to David to Tamar to Rahab to Ruth.....May we continue to reflect on the grace and mercy poured out on us through Christ....coming down from heaven, born of a virgin, laid in a manger, hanging on a cross, dying for sin, rising in victory, ascending into glory..... to one day bring us to Himself for His final advent.

How thankful we are for that first Christmas, or that first Noel.....