



Ruth

Context

- The time of the Judges
- Redemption History: a king is coming!

Theme: *God sovereignly orchestrates all things - even trials - for the good of His people, who He will one day redeem through the perfect rule of the kinsman King.*

I. The Bitterness of Sin—Ruth 1:11-12, 20

II. The Kindness of Kinsman Redemption—Ruth 4:9-10

III. The Wisdom of God's Good Plan—Ruth 4:13-17

1st & 2nd Samuel

- Historical Context
Events occurred between ca. 1100 and 970 BC
- Redemptive-Historical Context
Another step forward: The king is crowned!

Theme: *God rules His people through the king who is a representative of the people and whose actions will bring God's blessing or punishment.*

I. Kingship

- 1 Sam. 8:19-20: “We want a king!”
- The “X” Pattern: Leaders’ Decline and Rise
 - The Decline of Eli: 1 Sam. 2:29-30
 - The Rise of Samuel: 1 Sam. 3:19-20
- 2 Sam. 21:1: The King = The Representative of the People
- 2 Sam. 8:14-15: David = The Type of Christ

II. Rest

- 2 Sam. 7: The Davidic Covenant
 - 7:1-3: David desires a “house” for God...
 - 7:5-6: God doesn’t need that kind of house...
 - 7:10-11: God renews promises to Abraham...
 - 7:12-16: God promises David a “house”
- Near and Far Fulfillment of Prophecy
 - 7:13 – Solomon builds a “house” (temple)
 - 7:13 – Jesus is the everlasting king
 - * Heb. 3:6: *“Christ is faithful over God’s house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.”*
- Our rest in Christ – Heb. 1:3

Major Dates of Old Testament Events

Event	Date
Call of Abraham	ca. 2,000 BC

Event	Date
Joseph in Egypt	ca. 1850 BC
Exodus	1445 BC
Conquest of Canaan	ca. 1400 BC
Time of the Judges	ca. 1390-1050 BC
Crowning of King Saul	1050 BC
Crowning of King David	1010 BC
Crowning of King Solomon	970 BC
Construction of the Temple	started in 966 BC
Division of the Kingdom	931 BC
Scattering of the Northern Kingdom	722 BC
Daniel Taken Captive to Babylon	ca. 606 BC
Exile of the Southern Kingdom	586 BC
Return from Exile	537 BC
The Prophets Fall Silent	ca. 450 BC

A Study Outline for Ruth

- i. Ruth 1 – God brings affliction.
- ii. Ruth 2 – God arranges circumstances.
- iii. Ruth 3 – God builds suspense.
- iv. Ruth 4 – God provides a redeemer. (And soon a kingly redeemer!)

A Study Outline for 1st and 2nd Samuel¹

- i. 1 Samuel 1-7 – Samuel is a prophet from God's grace.
- ii. 1 Samuel 8-14 – Saul is a king in God's place.
- iii. 1 Samuel 15-2 Samuel 8 – David is a man after God's heart.
- iv. 2 Samuel 9-20 – David is a servant under God's rod.
- v. 2 Samuel 21-24 – Israel is a kingdom in God's hands.

¹The first four sections end with concluding summations of each central figure's work.

Job

Introduction to the Wisdom Literature

Introduction to Job

Theme

God is completely sovereign over all the affairs of his universe, for his own glory. But often his motives, reasons, and goals behind what he does are not revealed to us. Yet we find in his character, and in our Redeemer, reason to trust in his care.

We Often Suffer

Chapters 1-2

Job loses:

- His wealth
- His family
- His health

We Only Sometimes Understand

Overview of the book of Job (See outline)

God's verdict on each player in the story

- Job's three friends: rebuke
- Job: affirmation of his statements about God; blessing
- Elihu: silence

Cycles of dialog

- Assumption of Job's friends

- Job's response

Four logical pillars

- The reality of Job's suffering
- God's sovereignty
- God's goodness
- Job's innocence

Summary: there *is* no satisfying explanation for Job or his friends

We Can Always Trust

“And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:7

God's reasons for trusting his character (chapters 38-41)

Additional reasons to trust (chapters 1-2)

Job's suffering was because of his *virtue*.

Our reasons to trust: progression of revelation through Scripture

- Naomi's reason to trust
- Job's reason to trust
- Habakkuk's reason to trust
- The ultimate evidence: the cross of Jesus Christ

Conclusion

“Have you considered my servant?”

Study Outline for Job

i. Job 1-2 – God sets His plan in action

ii. Job 3-14 – First Round of Discussion:²

Job's friends insist that this calamity has come upon him because he's sinned, and therefore must repent. Job maintains that he is innocent in this situation.

iii. Job 15-21 – Second Round of Discussion:

Job's friends insist that his speech is wrong (i.e.: he either doesn't know what he's talking about, or he's lying). But Job insists that he's right.

iv. Job 22-26 – Third Round of Discussion:

Job's friends say he's hiding something. But Job says he's righteous.

v. Job 27-31 – Two Monologues by Job:

Man cannot discover God's wisdom.

vi. Job 32-37 – Four Monologues by Elihu:

Human observers cannot expect to adequately understand God's dealings in justice and mercy, for indeed, God might have a loving purpose after all in Job's sufferings. Even still, in this suffering, it is still of great value to lead a godly life.

vii. Job 38-42 – God questions Job:

“Who are you, oh man, to doubt and question the wisdom and workings of the Almighty?”

This material is adapted from a course with the same name developed by Capitol Hill Baptist Church. It has been modified for our purposes and has been condensed to fit our time schedule. The original version is available on their website at <https://www.capitolhillbaptist.org/resources/core-seminars/series/old-testament-overview/>

²Each round of discussion follows this pattern: one of Job's friends speaks, then Job responds to that friend before another friend speaks, then Job responds to that friend, and so forth.