



The Future Son

Have you ever watched a movie or read a book in which the ending of the story changes the entire way that we perceive the entire story from the beginning? It could be a revelation about a particular character or the relationship that was hidden from the beginning. The ending of Ruth does the same thing for the rest of the book of Ruth.

When we read the ending of Ruth, our perception of the early chapters of Ruth should deepen. What seems to be coincidental is no longer merely the case. Instead of reading Ruth as a tragedy that befell a family, the stakes are elevated because we know the ending of Ruth. Instead of reading Boaz's integrity that results in blessing a family, Boaz's actions impacted the world. What exactly is this ending that changes our perception of the entire book? Let's dive in and have a look.

Launch

- 1) Discuss about the ending of a story or movie that changed your entire perception of the rest of the story (beware of spoilers for those who care about these things!).

THE FUTURE SON

Read Ruth 4:13-22.

- 2) What happened when Boaz married Ruth and made love to her? (v13)
 - a. How did the women around Naomi react to the birth of her grandson? (v14-15)
- 3) Whose lineage did Boaz turn out to be? (v16-22)
 - a. What is so special about that lineage?

Read 2 Samuel 7:14-11b-16.

- 4) List the promises that God gave to David and his offspring.
- 5) What will endure forever and ever? (v15-16) What are some ways that that can endure forever?



Read Psalm 2:6-8, Isaiah 9:6-7.

- 6) What kind of king will this person be from the lineage of David?

Read Matthew 1:1-17.

- 7) Whose genealogy is Matthew laying out?

- 8) Which four names were given prominence in this genealogy?

- 9) What extra significance then can we read back to the story of Ruth, knowing that it leads to this genealogy in Matthew?

- 10) Ultimately, what did this future son of Ruth do for God's people throughout the world? (cf. Matt 1:21)

- 11) Do you think that Ruth and Boaz knew who their future son is going to be?
 - a. What encouragement can we draw from our daily lives as we live faithfully to God in this world and with integrity, considering what happened to Ruth and Boaz?

Conclusion

Ruth and Boaz's future son is Jesus Christ, the king of Israel, who would save his people from their sins! Humanly speaking, it would have been impossible for them to know this. All they did was to live faithfully and with integrity in whatever their circumstances they found themselves in. Looking back with spiritual hindsight (and with the help of Scripture!), we see that God was working great things in their lives. Their offspring leads to the promised Davidic king and kingdom, one that will endure forever and ever. One way for that promise to be fulfilled is for David's offspring to keep having offspring for all eternity. The other way is for one of David's offspring to live forever – Jesus Christ himself. He is reigns on David's throne forever, and he will save his people from their sins. He is Immanuel, God with us! Ruth and Boaz's life was not an accident, but one where God orchestrated for his plan of redemption to be accomplished.