

## CREATOR GOD'S SMALL PLAN: To Bless & Honor Ruth & Naomi

Ruth 4:13-17

<sup>13</sup>Boaz married Ruth – and God helped Ruth become pregnant. Ruth had a baby boy. <sup>14</sup>The women of Bethlehem said to Naomi, “Praise God! God gave you a redeemer.” <sup>17</sup>They named the baby Obed.

## GOD'S VERY GREAT PLAN: To Bless All Peoples in the World

### GOD USES BOAZ & RUTH FOR HIS VERY GREAT PLAN

Matthew 1:2-17

- 2     **ABRAHAM** was the father of Isaac,     [Abraham = the father of all Israel – about 2000 B.C.]  
       Isaac was the father of Jacob,  
       Jacob was the father of **JUDAH**,     [Judah = father of the tribe of Judah – about 1800 B.C.]  
       (then six generations later)
- 5     Salmon was the father of Boaz –     [Salmon – about 1400 B.C.]  
       Boaz's mother was Rahab,  
       Boaz was the father of Obed –  
       Obed's mother was Ruth,  
       Obed was the father of Jesse,
- 6     Jesse was the father of **KING DAVID**,     [the greatest king of Israel – about 1000 B.C.]  
 17    then there were twenty-eight generations from David to **JESUS** the Messiah.     [about A.D. 1]

### GOD USES ABRAHAM FOR HIS VERY GREAT PLAN

Genesis 12: 1-3     (about 2000 B.C.)

<sup>1</sup>God said to Abraham, <sup>2</sup>“I will make you into a great country – [you will be the father of Israel]. And I will bless you. And I will make your name great. <sup>3</sup>And all people in the world will be blessed through you.”

*What do you think?*

*How will God bless all people in the world through Abraham?*

### GOD USES JUDAH FOR HIS VERY GREAT PLAN     (Boaz and Naomi were in the tribe of Judah)

Genesis 49:10

<sup>10</sup>The tribe of Judah will always have the king's scepter – Judah will have the scepter until the true owner of the scepter will come. Then the true owner will take the scepter – and all countries in the world will obey the true owner of the scepter.

*What do you think?*

*Who is the true owner of the scepter?*

## **GOD USES KING DAVID FOR HIS VERY GREAT PLAN**

(David was in the tribe of Judah)

1 Samuel 13:13-14 & 16:1, 13

Psalms 89:3-4

2 Samuel 7:16

(about 1000 B.C.)

1 Sam. 13:13 The prophet Samuel said to King Saul (the first king of Israel), "Saul, you were foolish. You did not obey God's command. 14 So your kingdom will end. You did not obey God. So God found a man who follows God's heart – this man loves God. And God chose this man to be the new king."

1 Sam. 16:1 God said to Samuel, "Go to Jesse – he lives in Bethlehem [in Judah]. I have chosen Jesse's son to be the new king. Take oil – and pour it on the head of Jesse's son." 13 So Samuel took the oil – and Samuel anointed David to be king. Then God's Spirit came on David – and God's Spirit gave David power.

Psalms 89:3 God said to King David, "I chose you. And I promise you: Your family line will be forever. Your throne will continue forever." 2 Sam. 7:16 "Your kingdom will continue forever."

*What do you think?*

*Who will sit on David's throne forever?*

## **GOD'S VERY GREAT PLAN IS – JESUS!**

**Jesus is Our King Forever.**

Luke 1: 26-38

(about A.D. 1)

26 God sent the angel Gabriel 27 to talk to a virgin. The virgin's name was Mary. Mary was engaged to Joseph.

28 The angel said to her, 31 "You will become pregnant, and you will have a son. You must name him Jesus. 32 He will be very great. He will be called: Son of the Most High God.

"God will give Jesus the throne of his ancestor David. 33 Jesus will be king of Israel forever. Jesus' kingdom will never end."

34 "I am a virgin," Mary said. "How is this possible?" 35 The angel answered her, "God's Holy Spirit will come on you. God's power will be over you. So your son will be called the Son of God. 37 Nothing is impossible with God!"

**Jesus is Our Redeemer.** Matthew 1: 18-21 John 3:16-17

Matt. 1:18 Mary was engaged to Joseph. Joseph and Mary had not slept together [but Mary was pregnant]. 20 So one of God's angels came to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The baby inside her is from God's Holy Spirit. 21 She will have a son.

"You must name the baby Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."  
[Jesus = "the Lord saves"]

John 3:17 God sent his only Son Jesus to the world – God sent Jesus from heaven to save the world.  
 16 God loved the world very much – so God gave his only Son Jesus to us. If you believe in Jesus you will not die spiritually – you will live forever.

### **But are All People Thankful to Creator God?**

Romans 1:19-21

1:19 All people can know about Creator God. Knowing about God is very clear to everyone – because God made it clear to everyone. 20 We cannot see God, but we can know who God is: We know that he is powerful forever, and we know that he is really God. Why do we know this? Because we can see everything that God has made – from the creation of the world all people can clearly see what God has made. So people have no excuse – people cannot say: I don't know Creator God. 21 People did know God. But people did not praise God – people did not say: You are God. And people did not say: Thank you, God.

### **Jesus Takes Away Our Shame – and Jesus Gives Us Honor**

Ephesians 2:1-3, 4-7

1 Peter 1:18-19

Ephesians 2:8-13, 19

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

Eph. 2:1-2 Before we believed in Jesus, we were spiritually dead – our sins made us dead. We followed Satan – Satan works in people who do not obey God. 3 Bad desires and thoughts came from inside us – and we followed those bad desires and bad thoughts. And of course, God's great anger was on us.

4 But God has great mercy – and God loves us very much. 5 So when we were spiritually dead, God made us alive with Jesus Christ. Jesus became alive again, so God made us alive again too. It is God's wonderful gift to us – we are saved by God's grace. 6 We became alive with Jesus, so now we are in Jesus – so we sit with Jesus in heaven. 7 Why did God do this for us? So that, in eternity, God can show us his amazing grace. God shows us his amazing grace by being very kind to us in Jesus.

1 Pet. 1:18 You were redeemed from your ancestor's empty way of life. You were not redeemed with money – because money does not last. 19 You were redeemed with the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

Eph. 2:8 You are saved by God's grace – so it is a gift from God. You receive God's gift by believing in Jesus. You cannot save yourself. 9 You cannot save yourself by trying to be a good person – you cannot work to be good. You cannot boast: I am a good person. 10 It is God who makes you good – God makes you good in Jesus Christ. God makes you good so that you can do good things – God already decided the good works he wants you to do.

12 Before you believed in Jesus, you were far from Jesus. You were not a citizen in God's kingdom – you were a foreigner. You did not have hope – and you did not have God. 13 You were far away from God – but Jesus' blood brought you near to God. 19 Now you are not a foreigner. You are a citizen with all God's people. You are in God's family.

2 Cor. 5:17 All people who believe in Jesus become new people – they are new creations. The old is gone. The new has come. 18 This is Creator God's gift to us! God makes us his friends! 20 And God gives us special work to do. So we say to other people: 'Please become Creator God's friend too!' God wants us to speak for him – God wants to invite other people through us.

**CONTENT QUESTIONS****DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What was Ruth & Naomi's situation before Boaz redeemed them? Do you remember?

(Shame & Emptiness: poor, widows, no children, no heir, no protection or protector, losing their land, their family line ending)

- What was Ruth & Naomi's situation after Boaz redeemed them?

(Honor & Blessing: riches, a husband, a child, an heir, their family line continuing, a protector, getting back their land, becoming the ancestor of King David and the Messiah.)

What one thing that changed Ruth and Naomi's situation?  
Where did their honor and blessing come from?

Important Question:  
Boaz was very kind to Ruth from the beginning.

But what happens, if Ruth says to Boaz, "I don't want to marry you?"

- What is the name of Boaz & Ruth's baby? (Ruth 4:17)
- Obed is the grandfather of whom? (Matthew 1:5-6)
- Who was born 28 generations after King David? (verse 17)

Did Boaz & Ruth know about Creator God's great, future plans?  
Or, did Boaz & Ruth mostly think about their own lives?

Why is it important for us to believe in God?  
Is it only important for us personally?  
Who else is it important for?

Do we know how God will use us many years from now?

- How did God honor Abraham? (Genesis 12:2)
- When Creator God talked to Abraham, who else was God thinking about? (verse 3)

Was God thinking only about Israel?

Was God also thinking about your country?  
What did God want to do for your people? (verse 3)

How long has God been thinking about your country?

[This is at the very beginning of the Bible! –

about page 10 of the 1000 page English Bible –

and about page 15 of the 2000 page Japanese Bible.]

- How did God bless all people in the world through Abraham?  
(Matthew 1:2 & 17, Abraham —> Messiah)
- What was Judah's special position in Israel? (Genesis 49:10)

Who do you think is the true owner of the scepter? (Luke 1:32)

- Why did God choose David to be king? (1 Samuel 13:14)
- What did God promise David? (Psalm 89:3)

Who do you think will sit on David's throne forever?

- Who was Jesus' mother? (Luke 1:26-31)
- Who was Jesus' real father? (Luke 1:32, 35)
  - Who was Jesus' stepfather on earth? (Matthew 1:18-20)
- Whose throne will Jesus sit on? How long will Jesus' kingdom last? (Luke 1:32-33)
- What does Jesus name mean? Why was Jesus given this name? (Matthew 1:21)
- Why did God the Father send his Son into the world? (John 3:17)
- How does God feel about the world? (John 3:16)

Boaz was Ruth and Naomi's redeemer.

Who is the Redeemer for the whole world?

- Can people see Creator God? (Romans 1:20)
- We cannot see God, but can we know about Creator God? (Romans 1:19)
  - What can we know about God? (verse 20)
    - Why can we know this? (verse 20)
- Do people praise and thank God? (verse 21)

Do you think that this is rude and shameful?

- What is everyone's shameful situation before Jesus redeems them?  
(Ephesians 2:1-3) (and Ephesians 2:12)
- How does God feel about people? (Ephesians 2:4)
- So what does God do for people? (Ephesians 2:5-7)
- What does God redeem people from? (1 Peter 1:18)

Is God saying:

Everything about our culture is bad?

Everything about our ancestors' way of life is bad?

Or is Creator God saying:

We must believe in Jesus – we must love and obey our Heavenly Father?

And we should thank God for our family and our country?

We should enjoy the good things about our family and country?

But we must not do the bad things that people do in our country?

And we must not pray to our ancestors' gods?

- How does God redeem us? How does he buy us back – and bring us back to himself? (verse 19)
  - How can people get saved? (Ephesians 2:8)
    - What does God do for us? (verse 8)
    - Can we save ourselves? (verse 8)
    - What must we not do? (verse 9)
  - Who makes people good? (verse 10)
- What is our honorable situation after Jesus redeems us?  
(Ephesians 2:13, 19 & 2 Corinthians 5:17)

How big is God's plan to redeem us?

How big is God's plan to make us his friends?