**Finding Hope in a God Who Provides**

**The Prodigy of Hope[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**Isaiah 46:9‐10** ‐ *Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, “My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure”…*

**Romans 8:28** ‐ *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

**Jeremiah 29:11** – “*For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

**Judges 21:25** ‐ *In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*

**Ruth 1:9** ‐ *May the Lord grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband*

**Ruth 1:15** ‐ *Then she said, “Behold, your sister‐in‐law has gone back to her people and her gods; return after your sister‐in‐law.”*

**Ruth 1:16** ‐ *But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.”*

**Ruth 1:20‐21** ‐ *…“Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went out full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the Lord has witnessed against me and the Almighty has afflicted me?”*

Three reasons living for God always results in a great ending.

**I. God Can Replace Bitterness with Redemption**

A. He enabled a barren woman to conceive

**v. 13** ‐ *And the LORD enabled her to conceive…*

B. He provided a redeemer for Naomi

**v. 14** ‐ *Then the women said to Naomi…*

1. She wasn’t empty anymore

**v. 14** ‐ *Blessed is the LORD who has not left you without a redeemer today…*

2. His name would become famous in Israel

**v. 14** ‐ *may his name become famous in Israel.*

**Matthew 1:5‐6** ‐ *Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David…*

3. He was her restorer of life

**v. 15** ‐ *May he also be to you a restorer of life…*

**Proverbs 25:13** ‐ *Like the coolness of snow at harvest time is a trustworthy messenger to those who send him; he refreshes the spirit of his masters.*

4. He was a sustainer in her old age

**v. 15** ‐ *a sustainer of your old age.*

C. These promises were based in the proven faithfulness of Ruth

1. She loves you

**v. 15** ‐ *who loves you*

2. She is better than seven sons

**v. 15** ‐ *is better to you than seven sons.*

“Ruth’s own love for Naomi will be bequeathed to him” (W. Randolph, p. 70).

“More than anyone else in the history of Israel, Ruth embodies the fundamental principle of the nation’s ethic: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart” (Deuteronomy 6:5) “and your neighbor as yourself” (Leviticus 19:18). In Leviticus 19:34 Moses instructs the Israelites to love the stranger as they love themselves. Ironically, it is this stranger from Moab who shows the Israelites what this means” (Younger, p. 483).

**II. God Can Replace Emptiness with Hope**

A. The child was laid in Naomi’s lap

**Ruth 4:16** ‐ *Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her lap…*

**Ruth 1:5** ‐ *Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died, and the woman was bereft of her two children and her husband.*

B. She became his nurse

**v. 16** ‐ *and became his nurse.*

C. The neighbor women rejoiced that a son had been born to Naomi

**Ruth 4:17** ‐ *The neighbor women gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi!” So they named him Obed.*

**III. God Can Replace Waywardness with Salvation**

**Ruth 4:21‐22** ‐ *and to Salmon was born Boaz, and to Boaz, Obed, and to Obed was born Jesse, and to Jesse, David.*

**Luke 2:4‐7** ‐ *Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

**Romans 11:26‐27** ‐ *and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, “The deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob. This is my covenant with them, when I take away their sins.”*

**Romans 11:33‐36** ‐ *Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.*

1. Dr. Steve Viars, Faith Baptist Church, Lafayette, IN [↑](#footnote-ref-1)