

# From Turbulence to Rest

28 NOV – 4 DEC 2023

RU 1-4, 1 SA 1-16, PS 23

Week 11

The Book of Ruth takes place in the latter part of the Judges period. It is a story of love, devotion and redemption. As Boaz redeemed Naomi, great-grandson David will deliver Israel and Jesus will redeem us all. The book of 1 Samuel describes the transition of leadership in Israel from judges to kings – a transition from theocracy to God-appointed monarchy. With the turmoil under the rule of the Judges, Israel needs a prophet and God gives them Samuel. When Samuel grows old, the people demand a king and God gives them Saul. Saul does not obey God, so God gives them David. The God of Israel continues to be the true King of Israel. Psalm 23 reminds us that in life or death, times of plenty or want, God is good and worthy of our trust and describes the wisdom, strength, and kindness of God.

## Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: RU 1:1 – 4:12  
Day 2: RU 4:13-22  
Day 3: 1 SA 1:1 – 6:21  
Day 4: 1 SA 7:1 – 17  
Day 5: 1 SA 8:1-22  
Day 6: 1 SA 9:1 – 12:25  
Day 7: 1 SA 13:1-16:23; PS 23

## Outline

Ruth and Boaz [Day 1 and 2]  
God raises up Samuel as prophet and judge [Day 3]  
Samuel’s Public Ministry [Day 4]  
Israel demands a king: Saul [Day 5]  
Saul and David [Day 6]  
Saul Rejected as King [Day 7]  
God is the Good Shepherd [Day 7]

## Key Characters

Ruth	Naomi
Boaz	Eli
Hannah	Samson
Samuel	Saul
Jonathan	David

## Key Locations

Moab  
Bethlehem  
Ramah  
Jerusalem (Jebus)  
Gibeah  
Gilgal  
Shiloh  
Philistia

## Key Terms

Kinsman Redeemer  
Gleaning  
Kingship  
Monarchy  
Covenant  
Rebellion  
Sin

## Key Verses

“Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.” [RU 1:16]

Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed is the Lord who has not left you without a redeemer today, and may his name become famous in Israel [RU 4:14]

Only fear the Lord and serve Him in truth with all your heart, for consider what great things He has done for you. But if you still do wickedly, both you and your king will be swept away. [1 SA 12:24-25]

“The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” [1 SA 16:7]

EPOCH 4  
(1200 – 930 BC)

**Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)**

**Ru1:** Naomi, an Ephraimite, lived in Moab. Her husband and two sons died so she returned to Bethlehem with her daughter-in-law, Ruth.

**Ru2:** Naomi had a rich relative named Boaz. Ruth went to glean in his fields. Boaz gave her food and told his men to leave grain for her.

**Ru3:** Naomi told Ruth to go and sleep at Boaz's feet. When Boaz awoke, Ruth said, "You are my kinsman." Boaz said that he would marry her.

**Ru4:** Boaz settled the inheritance with another kinsman and married Ruth. Ruth bore a son, Obed. Obed was father of Jesse, father of David.

**1Sa1:** Hannah had no children. She cried out to the LORD, "Remember your servant." She bore a son, Samuel, and took him to Eli the priest.

**1Sa2:** Hannah prayed, "The LORD humbles and lifts up." Eli's sons did evil but Samuel served the LORD. A prophet condemned the house of Eli.

**1Sa3:** The LORD called Samuel. Eli told Samuel to answer, "Speak, LORD." The LORD told Samuel that he was about to judge the house of Eli.

**1Sa4:** The Israelites were defeated by the Philistines and Eli's sons were killed. When Eli heard that the ark had been captured, he died.

**1Sa5:** The Philistines put the ark in their temple. Their god fell on his face before it. The city became cursed so they sent the ark away.

**1Sa6:** The Philistines sent the ark away with guilt offerings. The people of Beth Shemesh found it and rejoiced but some were struck down.

**1Sa7:** The ark was taken to Kiriath-jearim. The Philistines attacked Israel. Samuel cried out to the LORD and the Israelites defeated them.

**1Sa8:** The elders of Israel asked Samuel to appoint a king. Samuel warned them what it would mean. The LORD told Samuel to give them a king.

**1Sa9:** Saul went looking for his father's donkeys. The LORD told Samuel to anoint him ruler of Israel. Samuel invited Saul to eat with him.

## Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

1Sa10: Samuel anointed Saul and gave him signs. The Spirit of God came upon Saul and he prophesied. Saul was chosen to rule the Israelites.

1Sa11: The Ammonites attacked Jabesh-gilead. Saul gathered the Israelites and defeated the Ammonites. The people made Saul king at Gilgal.

1Sa12: Samuel said, "The LORD brought your fathers out of Egypt. Now he has given you the king you asked for. Fear the LORD and serve him."

1Sa13: The Philistines encamped at Michmash. Saul made offerings to the LORD by himself. Samuel told Saul that his kingdom would not last.

1Sa14: Saul's son Jonathan went against the Philistines and routed them. Saul made an oath that no one should eat but Jonathan was spared.

1Sa15: The LORD told Saul to destroy Amalek but Saul spared King Agag. Samuel told Saul that the LORD had rejected him. Samuel killed Agag.

1Sa16: The LORD sent Samuel to anoint Jesse's son David as king. The Spirit came upon David. Saul sent for David to play the harp for him.

Ps23: The LORD is my shepherd. He leads me in paths of righteousness. I will fear no evil. I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

## Teachings About God

- God cares for people committed to him in the midst of faith challenges.
- God is sovereign and has providence over all.
- Despite human evil God works to bring about his plan for an everlasting kingdom with an everlasting king.
- God was responsible for shaping Israel's destiny. He allowed Israel's choice of Saul to stand, but judged Saul for his disobedience.
- The spirit of God is seen as the divine enabler, enabling both Saul and David to serve.
- God values heart obedience more than external conformity to rituals.
- God is worthy of our trust in life or in death, in times of plenty or want. He is an almighty rescuer.
- God is always with us and we have nothing to fear.

## Teachings About Humanity

- Society must care for its widows and foreigners.
- Loving kindness and loyal friendship are necessary in human relationship.
- People find great blessing when they live in obedience to God.
- Conversion and commitment to God is a way of life, not just a point of decision.
- Book of Samuel filled with tension between the dangers of a king and the hope for an enduring dynasty.
- God uses flawed humans to fulfill his plan
- People can face great difficulties and yet serve God wholeheartedly.
- Humans are flawed and need a shepherd, protector, and guide.
- We need times of rest for spiritual restoration. God has designed us for rest as well as work.

## Teachings About Salvation

- God brings people to eternal fullness and joy.
- God's grace extends to the most unlikely.
- God chooses from people beyond the Israelites.
- A right relationship with God inevitably brings obedience from the heart.
- Death does not win in the end – the Lord has gone before us and provided the way for us to follow.

## Reflections of Christ/Holy Spirit

- Boaz as redeemer is a prefiguring of Jesus.
- Ruth is the great grandmother of David and is part of the genealogy of Christ.
- Saul and David foreshadow Israel's true king Jesus.
- Jesus is in the lineage of David and is called Son of David, a term that is equivalent to Messiah.
- Samuel's model of priest, prophet, and political leader foreshadows Jesus' role as prophet, priest, and king.

## Literary Genres/Techniques

- Ruth is narrative written in excellent Hebrew.
- Samuel is historical narrative
- 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel are written as one story focused on Samuel, Saul, and David
- Hannah's song (1 Samuel 2) is poetry
- Psalm 23 is a pastoral poem.
- Psalm 23 uses the metaphor of a shepherd's care for his sheep to describe the wisdom, strength and kindness of God.

## Author/Date of Writing

- Ruth occurs late in the period of Judges.
- Ruth's author unknown but likely written between 1000 and 500 BC to Israelites living after David came to power.
- Samuel author unknown but likely written during Solomon's reign c950 BC to Israelites living during the monarchy

## What did I learn about God?

- Both Ruth (RU 16-17) and Naomi (RU 20-21) confess God's sovereign control of events, each in her own way. What truth does each convey of God? Of themselves? Of their success in coping with stress? Which confession do you think would most startle the original readers? Why?
- How does Jesus Christ, like Boaz, function as a "kinsman-redeemer" for us?
- Observing Hannah's prayer (1 SA 2:1-10), which was likely sung as a hymn of praise by her and later by the nation of Israel, what do you learn of the God whom she worships? How does this song fit the nation of Israel as well as Hannah alone?
- Why do you think Samuel enjoyed God's favor? His youth and innocence? The good parenting he received? He chose to honor the Lord? He had a special calling and relationship with God? His mother prayed for him?

## What did I learn about human nature?

- What do you think Boaz's motives were in seeking to be the kinsman-redeemer? Love for Ruth? Duty? Real estate expansion? Honor? Other?
- In the end, the whole community welcomes Ruth. What do you think brought her from being an outsider to being accepted?
- Why do the Israelites want a king? Why are they willing to ignore the warning about a king?
- Why do sheep (PS 23) represent believers so well? What kinds of duties did shepherds provide in Biblical times? How do those duties correspond with those performed by pastors?

## What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Where in your life now are you inclined to trust in your own strength instead of God's? What will you do to learn to trust in God's strength?
- What is one of the best things your parents did in raising you? What do you feel is the most important thing you can do to raise a child right?
- How do you hear the voice of the Lord? Are your prayers more like, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening" or "Listen Lord for your servant is speaking"?
- Psalm 23 talks about living life with God. However, in our broken world there is much to fear. As a child, how were you taught to deal with fear or stress? How did your parents or caregivers model this for you?

## Shared Time/Culture Insights

- What ethnic enmity complicates prospects for Naomi's daughters-in-law? Given the social problems facing these widows, why does Naomi tell Ruth and Orpah to return to their families?