

Ruth (Part 12)
(Prominent Themes – Part 3)

IV. God's Sovereignty and Providence

-God's Sovereignty: His absolute control over all things as Supreme Ruler (Gen. 50:20; Ps. 115:3; Is. 45: 6, 7; 14:24, 27; Dan. 4:35; Amos 3:6; Hab. 1:13; Rom. 8:28; Eph. 1:11; 1 John 1:5)

1689 2nd London BCF 3:1 (God's Decree): *"From all eternity God decreed everything that occurs. Yet God did this in such a way that He is neither the author of sin nor has any fellowship with any in their sin."*

-God's Providence: His sustenance and direction of all things according to His own good pleasure, and for His own glory (Acts 17:24-28; Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3)

1689 2nd London BCF 5:1 (Divine Providence): *"God the good Creator of all things, in His infinite power and wisdom, upholds, directs, arranges, and governs all creatures and things by His perfectly wise and holy providence; to the praise of the glory of His wisdom, power, justice, infinite goodness, and mercy." Par. 2*: *"All things come to pass unchangeably and certainly in relation to the foreknowledge and decree of God, who is the first cause. Thus, nothing happens to anyone by chance or outside of God's providence."*

-In the book of Ruth, God's sovereignty and providence can be discerned in natural events (1:1, 6; see also Lev. 26, Deut. 28); in the lives of the main characters (2:3; 4:13); in the theology of the main characters (1:8, 9, 20, 21; 2:12, 20, 3:10; 4:11).

V. God's Eternal Purpose of Redemption Through Christ

-God has an eternal plan to redeem sinners by the blood of His Son (Eph. 1:7).

-Ruth points to that plan.

-Ruth points to the Redeemer in Boaz; in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2); in Naomi's blessing; in David's background (Matt. 1:1-6)

Practical Lessons

→God sovereignly and providentially overrules sin and even uses it to accomplish His eternal purpose of redemption through Christ (Acts 4:27, 28)

→Has God made you empty? He is able to fill you again. He is able to restore the years the locust has eaten.

→We can pray with hope and confidence. We can be hopeful even in the midst of painful trials.