

Destined for Redemption

AN ADVENT STUDY IN THE BOOK OF RUTH



GETTING STARTED

We all have things in our lives we've waited for or are currently waiting on. When you're waiting for something, how do you handle it? Do you do anything to help pass the time?

QUESTION ONE

Read Isaiah 40:30-31, Psalm 27:14, and Lamentations 3:22-26. Typically, Americans consider waiting to be unpleasant, yet Scripture tell us there is beauty and comfort to be found in waiting. What specifically do we learn about waiting from these passages?

QUESTION TWO

In Ruth 1:20-21 Naomi calls God Almighty—referring to his sovereignty, and Yahweh—referring to His complete and utter goodness. How does our perspective amid waiting change when we cling to God's character, knowing He is both completely in control and utterly good at the same time?

FOLLOW UP: Read Ruth 3. How do you see God's sovereignty and goodness unfolding throughout the chapter?

FOLLOW UP: How have you seen His sovereignty and goodness unfold in seasons of waiting in your own life? How might you internalize these passages as truths to remember the next time you find yourself in a season of waiting?

QUESTION THREE

In Ruth 2 we watched as Naomi received her rest (provision of food), and now, in chapter 3, we join Ruth in her season of waiting for rest (provision of a husband and son). According to verses 3-4, how does God use Naomi to help Ruth as she waits?

FOLLOW UP: Has God ever used you to encourage someone else in their time of difficulty after your own season of waiting?

QUESTION FOUR

Read verses 6-9. Ruth doesn't follow Naomi's instruction exactly, but rather speaks up, asking Boaz for what she wants. She demonstrates great trust in the Lord here! When have you had to step out in faith, trusting that God would move?

FOLLOW UP: In verses 10-13 Boaz leaves Ruth hanging, but with a promised answer; redemption will come, but it may be different than you expect. Have you ever had God answer your prayers with a "yes" but in a way that was different that you expected?



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QUESTION FIVE

Read verses 14-18. Ruth and Naomi must have been excited and anxious as they waited! What did Boaz do to indicate his intention to follow through on his promises? What has God given us to indicate He will do as He has promised?

QUESTION SIX

Keeping in mind the passages we read as a part of Question One, read Romans 5:3-5 and 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. How do these passages further illuminate the picture of the purpose found in waiting?

PRAYER & APPLICATION

Advent is a season of contemplation, remembering Jesus' birth, and looking forward to His return. As author Betsy Howard puts it:

"During Advent, we not only remember that Jesus came to earth as a man; we prepare our hearts for his second coming. When we sing, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," we are not role-playing what the ancient Israelites must have prayed before the coming of the Messiah. No, we are praying that Emmanuel would return and make right all that is wrong with the world. When we sing, "Let every heart prepare him room," we are not retroactively chastising the innkeepers of Bethlehem; we are preaching to all of the souls within earshot to be ready to meet their Judge and Maker unafraid."

Read 2 Timothy 4:8. What does it tell you about those who long to see Christ's return?

In closing, take time to search your heart: what does it really long for? Comfort & ease now? Or to see Christ's glorious appearing? Invite the Holy Spirit to transform your heart & mind that they might cry out, "'O come, O come, Emmanuel', make room in my heart, use me to tell others the good news of your Gospel.

