

The God of the Ordinary
RUTH

Ruth 4:13-17
A Climactic Providence (pt. 1)

¹³ So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife, and he went in to her. And the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ May he also be to you a restorer of life and a sustainer of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you and is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him."

¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her lap, and became his nurse. ¹⁷ The neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi!" So they named him Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

(Ruth 4:13-17)

Climactic Providence

1. The Lord's Provision

- the Lord enabled Ruth to conceive and give birth to a son (she was "fully rewarded")
- through Ruth, the Lord provided a "redeemer" (go'el) for Naomi

Climactic Providence

2. Ruth's Final Kindness

- she bore a redeemer-son to provide and care for Naomi
- she gave the gift of a son for Naomi to care for as her own ("foster-mother")

Climactic Providence

3. Naomi's Fulfillment

- her life was restored and her future secured – her emptiness had been made full
- "a son has been born to Naomi!" – her childless, heirless state was over

Climactic Providence

Lessons:

*Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy and shall break
In blessings on your head.*

*Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.*

(William Cowper, 1774)

Climactic Providence

Lessons:

1. In our sufferings, God is at work with a good, though often unseen, purpose for great joy in our life

Climactic Providence

Lessons:

2. The Lord has not left us without a Redeemer to restore our life and sustain us forever