



## Facing Uncertainty

### Ruth 1:1-5

- Going through the book of Ruth leading up to Christmas and during the advent season.  
This Old Testament story has a lot of parallels to the advent season and the central message of the Gospel.
- We serve a God who cares greatly for us, has a plan for our lives, and offers to us the gift of redemption. Redeem to reclaim or recover something.
  - o **Message:** In the time of famine, Naomi loses her husband and sons, facing unimaginable hardship. Her story reflects a world in need of hope, much like our need for Christ before Christmas. Even in hardship, God is preparing a path to redemption.

- **Application:** Trust that God’s plan works even through our darkest seasons.  
Advent reminds us that in our trials, God is already preparing a Redeemer.

**Main Point:** When we face the uncertainties of life, we can find comfort in the certainty of God.

## I. The plan of God

- a. We see glimpse of the Gospel story in the first few verses of this book. The Book of Ruth was probably written sometime around the reign of King David. The book ends with a focus on the lineage of David. The story is in reference to a course of events that happened during the period of the judges in Israel’s history.
- b. This was probably 1,000 years before the coming of Christ. It may be easy to skip over the lineage parts of the Bible. There are a lot of them. But they’re important. It reminds us that God has a plan all along.
- c. This lineage would pass through Ruth and David, and eventually lead to Jesus.
- d. A man named Elimelech is mentioned here in this first part of Chapter 1. He and his sons would play a role here. They’re from Bethlehem. Of course, that is important considering this is where Jesus would be born around 1,000 years later.
- e. 1,000 years is a long time. If we were to go back in time 1,000 years, we would see a world that we wouldn’t even recognize. Before the discovery of the Americas. Before the Magna Carta, the Renaissance, or the Guttenberg printing press.
- f. And yet, God is able to intricately weave together a story that has a common theme that points to Christ and involves people from 1,000 years apart.*
- g. How comforting that is for us today.

## II. The place where God puts you

- a. Two words to think about in this story and then apply it to your life when you think about Moab – *proximity and tension*.
- b. In the Bible, Moab was a region located east of the Dead Sea, in what is now modern-day Jordan. The land of Moab was known for its highlands and plains, and it bordered Israel to the west. The Moabites were descendants of Moab, the son of Lot (Genesis 19:37). Throughout the Old Testament, Israel and Moab had a complex and often hostile relationship, though they were also related through family ties.
- c. Moab appears frequently in the Old Testament. It was known for its worship of the god Chemosh (Judges 11:24), and Moabite religious practices were often a point of conflict with Israel's monotheistic worship of Yahweh. Despite this tension, Moab played a significant role in Israel's history. For example:
  - i. **The Book of Ruth** – Ruth, the Moabitess, is one of the most famous figures associated with Moab. Her story shows a positive connection, as she becomes part of Israel and the lineage of King David and Jesus.
  - ii. **Conflict with Israel** – Moab opposed Israel at various times, such as in Numbers 22, where Balak, the Moabite king, hires Balaam to curse Israel.
  - iii. **Refuge for David** – David, before he became king, found temporary refuge in Moab (1 Samuel 22:3-4), highlighting the shifting alliances between the two nations.

- d. Moab's location and its distinct culture influenced its interactions with Israel, and despite the conflicts, God incorporated Moabites, such as Ruth, into His redemptive plan.
- e. While we may be asking God to move us away from something – God may leave you in the middle of that something and let you stay in the tension of the moment.
- f. We tend to put a lot of hope in the idea of greener grass. “Wouldn't it be nice if...”
- g. *God is using wherever you are – physically and spiritually – for His redemptive purposes.*

### III. The people of God

- a. There are people mentioned in this story that are really important to God's plan. In the story that God is writing in your life – there will always be other people involved.
  - i. People that you meet as acquaintances. Some of these people come and go in your life. Maybe closer for a season and further away later on.
  - ii. People that become like family. These are people that God has allowed you to cross paths with, and you make a strong relational connection with these people. No matter what – you know that these people will always be there for you.
  - iii. People that are family. Your closeness to family may shift and change. Most siblings are certainly closer to one another when they're growing up and living in the same household. But your stories are intricately connected. There are legal and spiritual effects of these relationships.

- b. Every one of these groups of people are used by God to mold and form your story and your walk with the Lord. For better or worse.
- c. There are fewer things in life that I like than uncertainty. I like to have a plan. I don't mind being flexible with that plan. But I want to be prepared for whatever may come.
- d. There are a lot of things in life that we just have to accept as uncertain.
- e. Corrie Ten Boom – Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.