

We will begin our 10th lecture on “An Introduction to the Old Testament.” /We will be studying the book of Ruth. /The book of Ruth begins “in the days when the judges ruled.” /The book of Ruth takes place during the time of the judges.

/However, after Ruth 4:18, David is introduced. /It is the time of the judges, but the book of Ruth predicts the time of the kings. /Not only is David a very important king of Israel’s history, but he also is an important king in God’s plan of salvation.

/The reason is Matthew 1 says that the Lord Jesus is a descendant of David. /Jesus, conceived by the Holy Spirit, came as a human being through the Virgin Mary. Jesus’ coming was part of the plan of salvation that God had given through David. This is the important meaning of it.

/The book of Ruth teaches us about David’s birth. /Thus the book isn’t about how Ruth served her mother-in-law Naomi, but it is about how the providence of God brought David into the world.

/We need to read Ruth within the lines of God’s plan of salvation that began in Genesis. /Ruth is about how David’s ancestors meet God and how God guides these people.

/Ruth 1 starts off with the tragic story of a woman named Naomi. /Naomi is from Bethlehem in Judah, but because of a famine, she has to move to Moab. /When she emigrated to Moab, Naomi went with her husband and two sons.

/However, Naomi lost her husband. /After her husband’s death, Naomi saw her two sons marry Moabite women. /One was named Orpah, and the other was named Ruth.

/When Naomi had lived there for about 10 years, both her sons died. /Due to the famine, Naomi, who had left her home Bethlehem, lost everyone but her two daughters-in-law.

/At that time, Naomi heard good news about her hometown, that God had given the people food to eat. /Hearing this good news, she prepares to return to Bethlehem.

/Considering taking her daughters-in-law with her, Naomi tells them to go home. /Because she could not marry off her young daughters-in-law or take care of them, she tells them to go back home to Moab.

/One of them, Orpah, says goodbye to her mother-in-law and returns to her home. /However, Ruth does not return, but she insists on following Naomi. /Naomi, who cannot now raise a son for Ruth to marry, tells Ruth to go home as well.

/In Israel, there is a system in which if the older brother dies, the younger takes the widow of the older brother as his wife. /Now that Naomi had grown old, there was no possibility of this nor could she take care of Ruth, so she tells Ruth to return home.

/However, Ruth does not go home. She says her following Naomi is not simply about marriage or about following in a human way. /She wants to accept the God that Naomi believes in, and she wants to live with the people of God.

/As a Moabite woman, a foreign woman, Ruth decided to believe in God and followed her mother-in-law. /This is similar to the story of the foreign woman Rahab in the book of Joshua who decided to believe in God and help the spies.

/When Naomi and Ruth arrive at Bethlehem, it was time of the barley harvest. /Ruth goes out to glean among the ears of grain for her mother-in-law. /She begins to glean in the field of a rich man.

/The owner of the field is Boaz, who happens to be Naomi's relative. /Boaz is a man of faith, and he had heard about Ruth who had decided to believe in God and follow Naomi.

/Ruth 2:12 says, / "The LORD repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!"

/Boaz says that Ruth has come under God's wings to take refuge. /Boaz deals kindly with Ruth, a foreign woman who had come to take refuge under God's wings. /He instructs his men to pull out grain for Ruth to glean and to take good care of her.

/Seeing Ruth return with a lot of barley grain, Naomi realizes that God is treating them with mercy and taking care of them. /She thinks about Ruth, who in faith had followed her.

/Naomi wants Ruth to marry Boaz, her relative. /She sends Ruth to Boaz's threshing floor to have them get married. /Obeying her mother-in-law's words, Ruth enters the threshing floor and lies down next to Boaz's blanket.

/Ruth did not obey her mother-in-law just so that she would personally be happy. /In 3:9, Ruth says that Boaz is the one who will carry on the name of her husband and the one who will buy the land.

/The nation of Israel inherited land from God, but if the land could not be managed and had to be sold, a close relative had the duty of buying the land with his money.

/Ruth didn't just want Boaz to take her as his wife, but she wanted for him to be the relative who would pay for her mother-in-law's land. /Boaz is the relative who will redeem Naomi's inheritance.

/But Boaz says there is a closer relative to Naomi who may redeem the inheritance. /Because this closer relative has the first rights, he says they must ask him first. If the person says no, Boaz will take the right.

/At last, Boaz meets the relative who is to redeem the land. /Boaz asks him if he will redeem the land that Naomi must sell.

/This relative thinks that because Naomi is old, he will be able to take the land as his own. He says he will redeem the land. /But Boaz tells him something else. /He says he must marry Ruth the Moabite woman and have a child, to whom the land is given.

/Ruth 4:6 tells us that the relative, thinking it to be a loss, says he won't redeem the land. /Hearing the man say this, Boaz says he will marry Ruth and that he will give Naomi's land as an inheritance.

/In this way, Ruth and Boaz get married, and they have a son. /Naomi becomes the child's nurse. /God was taking care of Naomi, the miserable woman.

/God took care of Ruth, who had followed her mother-in-law's faith, and he made her an ancestor of David. /Ruth becomes David's great grandmother. /God in his plan of salvation brought David into the world through the foreign woman, Ruth.

/God's plan to bless all people of all nations belongs to his sovereignty. God fulfills this plan through his covenant, and he also fulfills it through people and their obedience, faith, and devotion.

/God used Abraham as the gateway to blessing all people of all nations. In this way, God, through Boaz and Ruth, brings David into the world, someone who would bring blessing to all people.

/God produces David, who is Jesus' ancestor, through Boaz, a man who displays his love even when he is at loss, and through Ruth, a woman who follows her mother-in-law to the end. /God fulfills his work of salvation today.

/He fulfills the work of salvation through people who have received God's love and grace through Jesus, people who love and serve like Jesus. /We need to remember this. If we love even when we are losing something, we will reveal the power of the gospel.

/Jesus in Matthew 5 says that those who are pure in heart, meek, poor in spirit, those who are peacemakers, and merciful, they will be blessed. /God's love and salvation are passed on through people who love like Boaz did.

/Through Ruth, God shows us how David was born from his ancestors. The books of Samuel are about how David becomes Israel's king and how God carries out his work of salvation through David.

/Samuel appears to be the main character of the books of Samuel, but the main character is actually David. /It shows us how God raises David as king. It also shows us how David, as Jesus' ancestor, is used for God's work of salvation.

/Samuel is used in the work of raising David up. The books of Samuel begin with the story of Samuel's mother, Hannah. /Hannah was a woman who could not have children.

/The reason is God had closed her womb. /Thus Hannah experiences much sorrow. /At that time, a woman who could not have a child was not treated well. Because she could not have children, Hannah was persecuted by Peninnah.

/Still, Hannah did not live in despair. /1 Samuel 1:10 tells us that Hannah, with a distressed heart, prayed to the LORD and wept. /Hannah prayed before God, appealing to him about her misery. Hannah vows to give God her child if he would give her a child.

/God opens Hannah's womb and gives her a son. /As she had vowed, Hannah goes to the house of the LORD to give her child to God. If we look at 1 Samuel 2, we see Hannah praying a prayer of thanksgiving to God.

/The prayer is also the main theme of the books of Samuel. /1 Samuel 2:6,7 are important. "The LORD kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. The LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts."

/What kind of God is God? He kills, and he brings to life. God makes rich and makes poor. /Hannah, who previously could not have children, wore the grace of God to have a child and become a precious woman.

/Through the books of Samuel, we see God who brings people to life and kills some people, who raises up those he chooses to raise up. /1 Samuel 2:9,10 also tell us how God does his work.

/Verses 9-10 are important verses that represent the entire Old Testament. / "'He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness, for not by might shall a man prevail. The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; against them he will thunder in heaven. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed.'"

/The Sovereign God saves Israel and all the people of all nations. /Who does he raise up to do this? He works through those who are anointed, such as David.

/Adversaries of the God who fulfills salvations through his anointed will be broken to pieces. /No one can defeat David, who is raised up for the work of salvation, and no one can go against Jesus Christ who comes as David's descendant.

/No one can go against or disturb God's work of salvation. /God delivers miserable sinners in the way he helped Hannah, a distressed woman.

/Hannah received God's grace, and in this grace, she became a woman who sang of God's work of salvation. /We will now go into the story of the books of Samuel.

/We see whom God lowers and judges. /God judges Eli's sons who serve as priests in Shiloh. /Eli's sons Hophni and Phinehas despised worshiping God.

/Despite their father's warnings, the sons sleep with the women who serve at the tent of meeting. /However, Samuel grows up before God. /1 Samuel 2:29, 30 tell us that God despises those who despise him and honors those who honor him.

/God says he will kill Eli's sons Hophni and Phinehas on the same day. /In 1 Samuel 2:35, God says he will raise up a faithful priest to do the work of salvation.

/The word keeps us waiting for this faithful priest raised by God, for the anointed one. /This person is Jesus Christ. /God calls Samuel and lets him know that Eli's two sons will be judged.

/Eli's sons, carrying the ark of the covenant of God in their own way, lose in battle and die. /They thought carrying the ark of the covenant into battle would bring them victory.

/God despises and judges those who do not know God, those who use God for their personal gain. /The Philistines, who win the battle, take the ark of the covenant of God, but they meet disaster sent from God.

/Suffering from these disasters, the Philistines return the ark of God to the people of Israel. /Samuel took care of the ark of the covenant. He also brings victory over the Philistines by starting a repentance movement before God.

/The judge Samuel destroys the Philistines and delivers Israel. /However, Samuel's sons receive bribes and pervert justice. Consequently, the people demand a king.

/God is the true God who reigns over Israel. However, the people demand that they choose a king who is not God. /God warns them of the scars and failures that are to come if they rely on people, but Israel does not listen and continues to demand a king.

/Despite the people's lack of faith, God decides to give the people a king, to raise up Saul as king. /God anoints Saul as king. 1 Samuel 9:16 makes it known that God, through Saul, wanted to deliver the Israelites from the hands of the Philistines.

/To secure their safety, the Israelites reject God and ask for a king. But God plans to save Israel in spite of this.

/Joseph's brothers sold Joseph in their evil ways, but God changed the evil for good, and he used Joseph to deliver Israel. Similarly, the people of Israel did the evil of requesting for a king, but God wants to change the evil into good to save Israel.

/God raises up Saul as king, and he desires to save Israel through him. Therefore God's plan is for Saul to deliver the Israelites through their war against the Philistines.

/If we look at 1 Samuel 13, we see that for two years after Saul becomes king, the Israelites do not have war with the Philistines. /Instead, his son Jonathan actively starts a battle and wins it.

/When fighting the Philistines, Saul was supposed to wait for seven days for Samuel. /Saul must go to war only after Samuel arrives and gives the offering. /However, Saul, fearing the scattering of his people, gives the offering to God.

/Not everyone is allowed to give Israel's offerings. Saul scorned the offering that was to be given by the priest Samuel and did wrong by giving the offering himself. /Secondly, in 1 Samuel 15, God plans to use Saul to punish the Amalekites.

/God commands Saul to completely kill the Amalekites, but Saul spares the Amalek king and the best of the animals. /Samuel tells this to Saul, who does not obey the word of God. He tells Saul that God will no longer have him be king, that someone else will become king.

/God killed Eli's sons, Hophni and Phinehas, but he elevated Samuel and used him. In this way, God now lowers Saul and says he will use David instead.

/David appears in 1 Samuel 16, and David is anointed by Samuel as king. /David fights the Philistines and is victorious. /He had not officially become king, but David saved Israel from the Philistines.

/The Israelites lifted up and praised David, who had killed Goliath and saved Israel. Saul, who is consumed by jealousy, tries to kill David. /Saul dies in the battle of Gilboa. Until his death, Saul attempts to kill David.

/Because of Saul, David lives his life running away from here to there, but David does not kill Saul. /He honors that fact that God anointed Saul as king, and he forgave Saul.

/If we read up to chapter 31, we see that David, while chased by Saul, saves many Israelites in the southern region of Judea. /We now see who is the true king of Israel. /It is David.

/David becomes Israel's king in 1 Samuel 5. /As soon as he becomes king, David, unlike Saul, reigns with the ark of the covenant of God at the center. /He brings the ark of the covenant from a different region to his city.

/As the ark of God is brought into the city, David dances and welcomes God. /At this time Michal criticizes David. David praises God, who had anointed the lowly David as king.

/God lowers people and he lifts them up, and he does amazing works of salvation by using people as deliverers. /Our life and death, our fortunes and misfortunes are in God's hands. It is up to God to use us to bless others.

/In our next lecture, we will study 2 Samuel 7, which talks about the promise of Jesus' coming.

/Thank you.