

“Life from Death (Even for The Dead)”

Ruth 4:13-22
August 2, 2020

I. Life from Death for Ruth (Ruth 4:13)

- A. Ruth had been childless in her first marriage to Mahlon.
- B. With Boaz, the Lord “enabled her to conceive”.

II. Life from Death for Naomi (Ruth 4:14-17a)

- A. Because of Ruth, Naomi had a “son” again.
- B. Because of Ruth, Naomi’s life was fuller than it had ever been.

III. Life from Death for Israel (Ruth 4:17b)

- A. Obed would be the grandfather of King David.
- B. David would breathe life (for a time) into spiritually dead Israel.
- C. David’s greater descendant Jesus, through His death and resurrection, would give eternal life to the elect of Israel.

IV. Life from Death for the World (Ruth 4:18-22)

Matthew 1:5 - and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse

- A. The line of David (and Christ’s!) is filled with gentiles (Tamar, Rahab, Ruth).
- B. Jesus’ genealogy hints at the eternal life He would bring to gentile believers (most of us!).

Ephesians 2:12–13 - ¹² Remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Romans 5:17 - For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:4–5 - ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)

V. Life for the Dead

- A. The formerly idolatrous Ruth and formerly bitter Naomi did not deserve the life the Lord brought into their lives.
- B. The same can be said for spiritually dead Old Testament Israel and for the spiritually dead pagan nations of the world.
- C. The same can, of course, be said about us as believers today.
- D. Yet our merciful Lord has given life to us all.

VI. Reasonable Responses to the Life God Gives Us

- A. Gratitude for His unbelievable love and commitment.
- B. Hope for our personal future and for the world's future, despite how things look in the present – God still brings life from death.
- C. Living as those who have already been raised from death to life.

***Romans 6:11–13** - ¹¹ Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, ¹³ and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.*