

Theme: Ruth shows a God Who is Sovereign over all things, and people who respond to this fact with great initiative and hard work.

I. Intro – Gleanings in Ruth

- A. The concept of gleaning
- B. We will glean some topical truths from our study
- C. Look at all of Scripture but focus on Ruth

II. Divine Sovereignty in Ruth

- A. God has key role in book – mentioned 23 times
- B. Literary device – “just happened”
 - 1. Device in 1:22; 2:3
 - 2. God is working behind the scenes
- C. God providing King for His people (David & Jesus)
 - 1. A key theme in book – inclusio
 - 2. During worst times God is at work
 - 3. In most unlikely of places God is at work
- D. God is Sovereign in good times and bad
 - 1. Good times – 1:6; 2:20; 4:14; 1:8-9; 2:12; 2:20; 4:11-12
 - a. Food (1:6); kindness (2:20); children (4:14)
 - b. Blessings – 1:8-9; 2:12; 2:20; 4:11-12

2. Bad times – 1:12-13; 1:20-21

- a. God Sovereign over life & death; blessing & curse
- b. Did not hide behind “Devil did it”

III. Human Responsibility in Ruth

- A. Ruth shows great initiative (1:16-17; 2:2-3; 2:6-7; 3:9)
 - 1. Joins people of God – despite prejudice (1:16-17)
 - 2. Works for food – even though God provides (2:2-3; 2:6-7)
 - 3. Expands Naomi’s plan – goel, not just husband (3:9)
- B. Naomi shows great initiative (3:1-2a; 3:3-4)
 - 1. Sets up mtg with Boaz (3:1-2a)
 - 2. Prepares Ruth for mtg (3:3-4)
- C. Boaz shows great initiative (3:11-13; 4)
 - 1. Promises to resolve issue (3:11-13)
 - 2. Uses wise plan to get Ruth (chapter 4)
 - 3. Boaz goes into Ruth – baby does not just happen (4:13)

IV. Divine Sovereignty and Human Responsibility Today

- A. Do we really believe in Divine Sovereignty today?
 - 1. Does God control ALL things - good and bad?

2. Could God have stopped Katrina?
 3. Do we live like looters – God can't see/wont act?
 4. Do we think God is Sovereign – even when unseen?
- B. Do we really believe in human responsibility today?
1. Do we act lazy or foolishly and call it faith?
 2. Evacuation, seat belts, job, marriage
 3. Remember – faith produces **works**
- C. Trust the Sovereign God – and work hard for Him!

Divine Sovereignty and Human Responsibility

Ruth 1:22-2:3; 4:13
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We'll Be Faithful
1 Thessalonians 5:23-24