

The Moabite Connection

God's plan for Israel through Ruth

¹ After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield (protection), your very great reward (prosperity and blessings)." ² But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless (focus on human needs) and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no children (confirmation of vs 1); so a servant in my household will be my heir." ⁴ Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir." ⁵ He took him outside (out of his tent – his skin – his humanity) and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them (come out of your circumstances – your limited mind and count your blessings – if it were possible)." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ⁶ Abram believed (faith comes from hearing and hearing by the word of God – Romans 10: 17) the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness (believing God at His word places a man in a right standing with God – as we read in John 3: 16) . Genesis 15:1-6 (NIV)

I called this lesson the Moabite connection because of the vital role played by *Ruth* in securing the pedigree lineage which eventually leads to Jesus Himself. (Explain the lineage from notes)

We start with of the account in Ruth of Elimelech and Naomi living now living in Moab because of a severe famine in Israel. They have two sons who are now married to Moabite women (Ruth to Mahlon and Orpah to Chilion).

Over time, Elimelech (*God is King*) and both his sons Mahlon (*sickly*) and Chilion (*wasting away*) all die, leaving Naomi and her two daughters-in law alone to fend for themselves.

This is when Ruth (meaning *fully satisfied and pleasant*) decides to return to Israel, releasing then to marry again. Ruth declares to remain with Naomi and they return together to Bethlehem.

Here we see Naomi (meaning "*my pleasantness*") immediately show her anger and disappointment by wanting to be referred to as "**Mara**" (meaning *my bitterness*). She contends that God brought her back empty handed but she fails to see God's plan for her life through Ruth (Ruth 1: 20)

Let us now look at the origins which resulted in the union of Ruth and Boaz.

Moab (meaning "*from my father*") was the son of Lot by his daughter through incest, the cousin of Abraham. You will recall that Lot's wife was turned into a pillar of Salt at Sodom for disobeying God's instruction.

In fact, Lot and his family would not have been in that predicament had it not been for his greed in his choice of the fertile grasslands surrounding Sodom.

God had decided to separate them because of the conflict that would come between them as they both prospered for their faithfulness

The Moabites were a people who lived east of the Dead Sea and who refused safe passage to the Israelites (Judges 11: 17 – 18). The Israelites were on their exodus journey to the land promised to them by God!

In fact God commanded that not a foot be placed on their soil which in fact did happen. This land today is known as the Kingdom of Jordon

In Deuteronomy 2:9 (NIV) we read;

⁹ Then the LORD said to me, "Do not harass the Moabites or provoke them to war, for I will not give you any part of their land. I have given Ar to the descendants of Lot as a possession."

NB! You see, if they (the Moabites) were destroyed as a nation, then Ruth would not have met Boaz and would not have had Obed, who in turn would not have had Jesse, who in turn would not have had David, who would not have had Solomon and so on and the line of King David would not have delivered the Saviour Jesus Christ

Furthermore, if Ruth's husband Mahlon, had not died, then Ruth would not have made her way back to Israel with her mother in law Naomi.

This event in history proves that God has a master plan which will be realized, no matter what the circumstances may be. Many intricate details have to fall into place for a master plan to come into effect. No man has this natural or supernatural insight and ability

Matthew 1 (NIV)

¹ A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham:

The promise is given to Abraham regarding the future of Israel

² **Abraham** was the father of **Isaac**, the father of **Jacob**, the father of **Judah**, ³ the father of **Perez**, the father of **Hezron**, the father of **Ram**, ⁴ the father of **Amminadab**, the father of **Nahshon**, the father of **Salmon**, ⁵ the father of **Boaz**, the father of **Obed**, the father of **Jesse**, ⁶ and Jesse the father of King **David**.

Blood to wisdom (David to Solomon)! David established the kingdom of Israel on war and bloodshed whereas God would establish his throne in peace and wisdom through Solomon

David was the father of **Solomon**, ⁷ the father of **Rehoboam**, the father of **Abijah**, the father of **Asa**, ⁸ the father of **Jehoshaphat**, the father of **Jehoram**, the father of **Uzziah**, ⁹ the father of **Jotham**, the father of **Ahaz**, the father of **Hezekiah**, ¹⁰ the father of **Manasseh**, the father of **Amon**, the father of **Josiah**, ¹¹ and Josiah the father of **Jecooniah** at the time of the exile to Babylon.

The Jews lose focus and totally alienate God from their worship resulting in exile

¹² After the exile to Babylon:

Jecooniah was the father of **Shealtiel**, the father of **Zerubbabel**, ¹³ the father of **Abiud**, the father of **Eliakim**, the father of **Azor**, ¹⁴ the father of **Zadok**, the father of **Akim**, the father of **Eliud**, ¹⁵ the father of **Eleazar**, the father of **Matthan**, the father of **Jacob**, ¹⁶ and Jacob the father of **Joseph**, the husband of Mary, of whom was born **Jesus**, who is called Christ.

¹⁷ Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Christ.

However if you count the generations after the exile you get only thirteen. This is because the inheritance which is passed down through the generations is established in us through Jesus Christ. We are the fourteenth and final generation of the genealogy of Abraham, thus fulfilling scripture.

The blood covenant which is established through the sacrifice of the body of Christ gave birth to the ultimate and final lineage which becomes fulfilled through us, i.e. those born during and after the birth of Jesus.

The New Testament church becomes the joint heirs with the Son and the bride of Christ!

In other words we can trace our lineage back to Abraham, Noah and Adam to God.

The Word of God refers to us as a "**chosen generation and a royal priesthood**"!

This is because a generation refers to the offspring of the same parents by direct descent, who are born and are alive at any one time, thereby confirming their lineage

Genealogy refers to the lineage pedigree of descendants of a known origin

We can already see that in the fourteen generations from Abraham to David, God was already planning his restoration strategy.

The Israelites would always remain under the protection and promises of God, but the gentiles were largely excluded.

Solomon did include us gentiles under the banner of aliens in his prayer to God in 2 Chronicles 6, provided that we observed God's laws, decrees, customs and beliefs. Now look at God's plan in action. One would have thought that the death of all the men in her household would have caused Naomi to give up, but God had a plan

- If the lineage of Christ through Ruth was not interrupted, then Ruth would have had a son from her husband **Mahlon** which would have been cursed because his name in Hebrew (means "**sickly**").
- If she through some chance had chosen the other brother "**Chilion**", she would also have cursed her offspring as his name in Hebrew (means "**wasting away**")

Do not forget that your genealogy is determined by a proven pedigree of each offspring being born to the same parents (married) going back or forward in generations with the same condition applicable to the lineage

Remember that the saviour of the world would come from this lineage pedigree and furthermore that we would come from Him (Jesus)

If we consider the message in Haggai 1, we see that God chose people very wisely in order to restore Israel after their 70 years in exile, **the third generation of Jews**

3RD generation of Jews (Line of Rulers)

We read that God gave a "**festive**" (Haggai), good tidings message to the offspring of Babel (Zerubbabel) in order **to reveal His salvation** (Jeshua) to His people, because He **was asked by man** (Shealtiel), **to unveil** (Jehozadak) **His restoration plan.**

1st generation of Jews (Line of Fatherhood)

The Word came from God to the "**father of a multitude**" (Abraham) that He would **restore "their joy through the son of laughter"** (Isaac) **and dispossessed a people of their land to give it to His chosen people** (Jacob) who will then "**rule with God forever**" (Israel)

The first generation Jews are established under their Father Abraham by direct promise and covenant from God in that Abraham was the chosen one to father the nation Israel

The pedigree that the first generation would pass on to the second generation of Israelites is furthermore seen in God's choice of messenger.

2nd generation of Jews (Line of Kings)

Hear o Israel, God is King (Elimelech), who reveals his power and strength (Boaz) that we may worship (Obed) the existence of Yahweh (Jesse) because we are the beloved of God (David) and are promised peace (Solomon) in all of Israel (representing all men who accept the God of Israel as King)

Look at the woman God chooses to reveal that God is King. My joy (Naomi) is worth seen (Ruth)

I believe that God chooses and names us to reveal His plans for our lives and for the restoration of the world.

Now I know that you can everything or nothing into this use of names, but face it, it makes sense when you put the names to meanings

Next week we will look at the relationship between Ruth and Naomi whose joint effort restored Israel under one King in preparation for Jesus