



Daily Devotionals

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RUTH 4:18-22 YOU ARE IN THE STORY

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¹⁸ *This, then, is the family line of Perez:*

Perez was the father of Hezron, ¹⁹ Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, ²⁰ Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, ²¹ Salmon the father of Boaz, Boaz the father of Obed, ²² Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David.

The story of Ruth is a story about God, who has no end. Therefore, although we read the happy ending of this particular story, we are reminded that it is but a chapter of the entire narrative of the story of God. As a chapter it has a place in the greater work. So the Book of Ruth starts with the statement, *“In the days when the judges ruled...”* and ends with the genealogy of Boaz. In doing so it reminds us that the story of our lives is also a part of the greater narrative of God.

This understanding that we have a place in the overarching story of God gives us a perspective on the events and conditions of our daily lives that delivers us from the myopic exaggeration of our problems and victories that leads to pride and despair. We are part of the story of redemption of which the final chapter has already been written and its glorious conclusion guaranteed.

There is a principle in literature called “Chekhov’s gun” that states that a good author will not mention anything in one chapter of a novel that will not be used by the end of the same. The example is usually given of a pistol that is put on the table in chapter one and will be used by the final sentence. Since God has written the greatest story ever known, and is the perfect story teller, each of our lives is ruled by Chekhov’s principle. You are guaranteed that there is no event or circumstance in your life that will not be used by God in order to achieve his end – the perfect, gracious and loving conclusion of the story. We fit into God’s plan of redemption and through it we are redeemed. But even beyond that, God gives ultimate meaning to our lives by including our stories in his *magnum opus*.

My Lord God and Father of all, as I live out the circumstances and situations of my life, remind me that you have written me into your story of redemption and salvation. Not only is my name in your book, but you are also using my life to reach others so that their names might also be written into the story. Thank you for my family and friends through whom I have come to a knowledge of you and of

your desire to include me in your story. Thank you also for the wonderful glimpse of the glorious conclusion of the story through the resurrection of your Son, the great grandson of Ruth and Boaz, Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

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