



LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF RUTH

## #6. THE RACE OF FAITH...

*God has a destiny & a plan for your life that is beyond what you can imagine for yourself. (Ephesians 3:20-21)*

*This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it. ... Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you... (Isaiah 30:15, 18)*

### THE LINEAGE OR RACE OF JESUS

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*Now this is the genealogy of Perez: Perez begot Hezron; Hezron begot Ram, and Ram begot Salmon; Salmon begot Boaz, and Boaz begot Obed; Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David. (Ruth 4:18-22)*

*So all the generations from Abraham to David are 14 generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are 14 generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are 14 generations. (Matthew 1:17)*

*For more detailed list see Matthew 1:1-17 and Luke 3:23-38.*

## 1. THE DOMINO EFFECT

*And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. (Hebrews 11:39-40)*

**There is much to be seen in a lineage!** For it is much more than a simple list of names, helping us know the race we have come from. Every name is a story and every story affects the one after it. We are all products of our past, bearing the marks of our ancestors. We wear their noses, their skin tones and postures. We reap what they have sown, whether impoverished or blessed.

BUT, if we choose rightly and take the opportunities through faith that God gives to all His creation, we can be history makers, path changers, and destiny alterers. For when we choose to believe God and act on His behalf, everything changes ... everything is possible. (Matthew 19:26; Mark 10:27)

God is a redeeming God, faithful to a thousand generations to those who love Him (Exodus 20:5-6). He is also a Holy God holding us accountable for our disobedience and lack of repentance. Oh how the lineages in scripture remind us of these things!

It was the tenacity and faith in almighty God that drove Ruth forward to a new destiny; a destiny that ultimately led to the birthplace of the Messiah (Luke 2:4). Ruth did not want to remain in the destiny of her ancestors, so she chose a new path with Naomi. The path that she chose not only affected her life, but the lives of all she touched... and gave birth to.

## 2. UNLIKELY

*But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise;  
God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.  
1 Corinthians 1:27*

The lineage of Jesus is full of course-changing situations as the scarlet cord of redemption is displayed relentlessly through the Old Testament, culminating in Jesus' death & resurrection. I say relentless, because God made a promise to Abraham and to all those who would believe in Him afterward.

## LET'S LOOK AT SOME OF THE WOMEN FROM THE RACE OF JESUS WHO... BELIEVED.

### TAMAR

*Here's what Strong's Concordance says about Tamar's name:  
Widow of Er, the son of Judah; fiancée of Shelah, another son of Judah;  
wife of Judah and mother of Pharez and Zerah  
How's that for confusing!!*

Read Genesis 38 and 1 Chronicles 2:3-5.

THIS CHAPTER IS INSERTED, PROBABLY, BECAUSE JUDAH WAS PROGENITOR OF THE MESSIAH; AND IT WAS IN ACCORD WITH OLD TESTAMENT PURPOSE TO PRESERVE FAMILY REGISTERS ALL ALONG THE LINE OF SUCCESSION, EVEN THOUGH THEY CONTAINED SOME THINGS NOT VERY PRAISEWORTHY. (PG. 104 BIBLE HANDBOOK, HENRY HALLEY)

Write down the general story line:

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Some points to consider:

- ⚡ this is just after Joseph is sold into slavery ... instigated by Judah
- ⚡ Judah is probably still a teenager
- ⚡ he leaves home and marries a Canaanite woman ... stays for many years
- ⚡ Judah repents (Genesis 38:26) ... this seems to be the pivoting point in Judah's attitude finally coming into alignment with God
- ⚡ God gives Judah two more sons ... after taking two of them
- ⚡ A scarlet thread is used to tie to Perez at birth, as he poked his hand out

As crazy as this story seems, we have recorded in Ruth something very different. Reread Ruth 4:12.

How was Tamar remembered by her descendants?

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Why would God choose Tamar to carry His seed?

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How does this example of God working in the lives of Judah & Tamar speak to you?

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*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11*

## RAHAB

*Here's what Strong's Concordance says about Rahab's name:  
a harlot of Jericho who aided the spies to escape; saved from the destruction of Jericho;  
married Salmon, an ancestor of David and of Christ; commended for her faith in the book of James*

Read Joshua 2:1-24; 6:23-25; Hebrews 11:30-31; James 2:25

IF THERE WAS AN UNLIKELY CANDIDATE FOR THE BLESSING OF GOD, IT WAS RAHAB.  
(PG. 47 ISOM, TRIMESTER 2, OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY)

**Write down the general story line:**

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**Some points to consider:**

- ✎ Rahab was a Canaanite & a harlot
- ✎ She believed in the God of Israel (vs. 9-11)
- ✎ She made the spies swear by the name of the LORD (vs. 12)
- ✎ She let the men down the wall by a rope ... a scarlet cord! (vs. 18)
- ✎ She had to wait many days & trust in God to rescue them
- ✎ She gave up everything for her belief
- ✎ She dwelt in the land of Israel after being rescued ... no mention of where her family dwelt.

**Rahab is mentioned in Matthew 1:5:** "Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse,"

**She is Ruth's mother-in-law!!**

**Why was Rahab given so much favour?**

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**How does this women's life challenge yours? Does it make you grateful?**

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"God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. (Ephesians 2:8-9)