



# RUTH

TRAGEDY & TRIUMPH

*in the providence of God*

# Pastor Alfred Dwayne Hill





**PROVIDE-ence**

# PROVIDENCE

***The continuing action of God by which he preserves in existence the creation which he has brought into being and guides it to his intended purposes for it.***

**-Millard Erickson**

In the darkest of times, God is plotting for the good of his children.



The providence of God extends  
over all our calamities.

# Deuteronomy 7:3-4

Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, for they will turn your children away from following me to serve other gods, and the Lord's anger will burn against you and will destroy you.

# Deuteronomy 7:1-3

When the Lord your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations – the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites...Do not intermarry with them...



God's providence is sometimes very hard. It's true, God had dealt bitterly with Naomi –at least in the short run, it could only feel like bitterness. Perhaps someone will say, “It was all owing to the sin of going to Moab and marrying foreign wives.” Maybe so. But not necessarily.

Psalm 34:19 says, “Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.”

Neither the OT or the NT promises that believers will escape affliction in this life. “Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22). The one who suffered most deserved it least: Jesus Christ. There is no sure connection between our suffering and our behavior. It is not at all certain, therefore, that Naomi’s affliction was owing to God’s displeasure with her.

- John Piper

TRAGEDY



SIN

NOT ALWAYS TRUE

# Ruth 1:20-21

“Don’t call me Naomi,” she told them. “Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The Lord has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me.”



God comforts us in our suffering  
by restoring life.

# Ruth 1:6-7

When Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.

# Ruth 1:9-10

“May the Lord grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband.”  
Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud and said to her, “We will go back with you to your people.”

# Ruth 1:15-16

“Look,” said Naomi, “your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.” But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.”





In the darkest of times, God is plotting for the God of his children.

# Ruth 1:22

So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning.

# Ruth 4:13-22

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he made love to her, the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. The women said to Naomi: “Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has give him birth.”

# Ruth 4:13-22 continued

Then Naomi took the child in her arms and cared for him. The women living there said, “Naomi has a son!” And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David...

## Ruth 4:13-22 continued...

This, then, is the family line of Perez: Perez was the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminidab the father of Nahshon, Nashon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, Boaz the father of Obed, Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David.

We must remember, as we face difficult times, that God's bitter providences are not his last word.

- John Piper

# Doris Hill and Friends





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