

perspective is that God created us and is ultimately concerned with our well-being. This is Naomi's view. However, God does all for His glory. These are not mutually exclusive. At the end of the book, we see a family rescued, Ruth enjoying the goodness of God, and God glorifying himself.

However, there is an even bigger theme that runs throughout. *The entire story of Ruth reflects the story of Christ.* Ruth and Naomi are helpless -- they cannot help themselves; they must have help from the outside to survive. Boaz is a kinsman, who rescues them from a certain fate. *He provides grace and mercy; he loves Ruth despite her background and helplessness.* Ruth is rescued yet others receive benefits and blessings from that rescue, picturing what Jesus Christ does for us



Sunday mornings, starting January 6

WWW.GRANDVILLEBIBLE.ORG

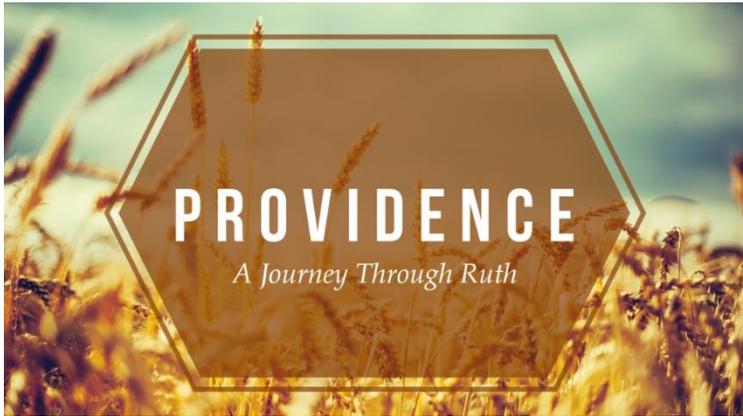
The book of Ruth is one of the most beautiful love stories in the Bible. As such, it is one of only two books named after women, and the only O. T. book named after someone who not racially Jewish!

We can all relate to *Ruth*, as the story of people



coping with life in varied ways. **ELIMELECH**, the husband of Naomi, copes with a famine by moving his family to Moab, a neighboring country, in the hope of providing for his family. Although he had the best intentions, he dies. His sons, **MAHLON & CHILON**, decide to remain, and marry Moabite women. However, due to unforeseen reasons both die, leaving three widows, no child, and no hope.

They all cope with life differently. *Naomi* blames God, is bitter and depressed. But if you lost your sons and husband, would you be bitter? *Orpah*,



one daughter-in-law, takes a pragmatic approach and decides to return to her home. And who can blame her? Life in Moab was predictable, comfortable, certain. She could return to her own family to be taken care of, and possibly find a husband, so she takes the practical approach. On the other hand, *Ruth*, a newer believer, has faith He will provide. She reacts in faith, and continues to make faith-based decisions. *AND, God is at work behind the scenes, using all their actions and reactions to His glory to accomplish His plans.* By the end of the book, God has blessed the characters in ways that they can never imagine. At the same time, He has also blessed the world through her!!

Another theme throughout is a contrast in attitudes – Ruth: a God-centered life vs Naomi: a self-centered life. Ruth constantly trusts God. Her desire

is centered on God, not her circumstances. Ruth keeps her focus on God, her ultimate provider and security. She does not obsess over of her needs, but keeps perspective.

Naomi, on the other hand, lives a self-centered life. She speaks of God, believes in God, and honors God, yet trusts herself or others to provide her lasting satisfaction. She puts her trust in her husband, her sons, herself. Naomi is like many, who profess Christ; YET when it comes right down to it, we really trust in ourselves. We focus on these desires instead of God. We have functional saviors we think serve us, *when all along* God ultimately will meet our needs to bring His glory!



And we live our lives, as Naomi does. We profess to trust God, yet live as if the Bible is man-centered. We tend to take a perspective that the Bible is all about our needs, our wants, our desires. Our