

Handprint of God's PROVIDENCE

Min. Kenneth Sy | Ruth 2:1-23

DISCUSS

Providence is the governing power of God that oversees His creation and works out His plans for it. After creating the world, God did not just wind it up and then let it go. He continues to interact with, govern, and be intimately involved with His creation. The word *providence* is related to the word provision as well. God exerts His providence by offering provisions for His people. He sovereignty rules over the earth as He works out His plans. Read Ruth 2:1-23 and discuss three biblical principles relating to God's providence as we look at the life of Ruth and Naomi.

Background (ch. 1-2)

- Who are Ruth and Naomi? How did they become related when Ruth was a Moabite and Naomi was a Jew?
- What catastrophic incidents happened to their family?
- What did Ruth insist on doing with Naomi?
- Who was Boaz? How was he related to Naomi?
- How did he and Ruth meet? How did meeting him help Naomi and Ruth to survive?
- What tells you that Ruth was indeed a good woman?
- Read Leviticus 19:9-10 and Exodus 22:22-23. How did God command His people to protect the widows and orphans? Based on your personal belief or culture, how should the poor widows and orphans be taken care of?
- What were the obvious indications that the life of Boaz and Ruth were in God's hands and under His sovereign control (v. 2:4-9)?
- What kind of a person was Boaz? How did he provide for Ruth, a foreigner in his country? How did Ruth respond to his kindness (v. 2:10-13)?
- How does Boaz's protectiveness symbolize God as the Protector (Psalm 91:4)?

#1: God's providence reflects His sovereignty (v. 14-17)

- How do you see the sovereignty of God in the story of Boaz and Ruth?
- Looking back and at yourself right now, how have you been seeing God's providence reflecting His sovereignty in your life? Could you honestly agree that Romans 8:28 is real in your life?

#2: God's providence is demonstrated through the kindness of other people (v. 18-21)

- How did Ruth further show her kindness to Naomi? How did Naomi respond to her kindness?
- How do you respond to other people's kindness?
- How do you show kindness to others?
- How did Jesus Christ become the ultimate providence of God for each one of us?

#3: God's providence is confirmed by His people (v. 22-23)

- How did Naomi know that the Lord God had not forgotten her?
- As you look back in your life, could you recall specific situations or circumstances that you experienced His provisions that could truly confirm His providence in your life? Share with the group.

REFLECT

Knowing God's providence, how would you resolve to put your trust in God's sovereign will in all aspects of your life? How would you like your life to be a living testimony for the Lord?

PRAY

Heavenly Father, thank You for the wonderful reminder of how You care for me as Your child. You didn't only create me, but You continue to take care of me and protect me and provide for my needs. May Your daily provisions in all aspects of my life be a daily reminder of how wonderful and loving a Heavenly Father You are! I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.