

The World of Judges and Ruth



White Young Jeon

CEMF

Introduction:

What do the 12 historical books in the O.T. that consist of pictorial revelation reveal about the restoration of God's image? We need to review the redemptive historical concepts in order to know the redemptive historical stream. Here, we can find five redemptive concepts in them that become the master key to understanding the restoration of God's image.

(1) *Temple* – the holy warfare began in the Garden of Eden with the autonomous. When Joshua worked in his conquest of Canaan, the warfare revealed the reality of the fight between God and Satan (people) against the restoration of God's image. The time of monarchy had also continued this warfare in order to achieve the same purpose. When any community quickly pursues the restoration of God's image, they can conquer against the enemy. Nevertheless, even though they accomplish victory in any situation, if they don't keep straight their paths, they will eventually fall into misery and corruption. Finally, both the purpose and the methodology of warfare is the restoration of God's image. The warfare in Christ became more serious, more concrete and more progressive. So Paul explained for them to put on the full armor of God during spiritual warfare as his last exhortation in order to achieve the sanctification of the church.

(2) *Inheritance, kinsman- redeemer* – the second concept about redemptive restoration is inheritance. Inheritance refers to pick one: "in heritage"? Or a heritage? That points to Canaan, symbolizing heaven as the last reward for God's people. Although it is invisible, heaven is revealed by the theocracy of Israel in the world. Indeed, the monarchy of Israel revealed it as the history of an invisible king, the sovereign God. Moreover, the

inheritance is revealed as the redemption of the world. That was accomplished by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is the King of kings. In the book of Ruth, redemption was changed into the kinsman-redeemer as a symbolic concept of the only redeemer, Jesus Christ, as expressed through Boaz. Except these thought they had taken a habitual consciousness of their own inheritance as their lives in Israel. For example, the event of Nabot's vineyard proved that point. The two daughters of Zelpphehad also sought to have their inheritance to God, although their father had no sons. It means that the inheritance is very important in their lives. Moreover, Rechabites' faith that they were prohibited to drink wine in his family even though he was the Diaspora reflected spiritually the meaning of their inheritance of faith. Finally, Christ who was the source of every inheritance came to the world and he actually died and was raised out of his death for the inheritance of redemption that his own people have to take. So Paul claimed that his people in Christ had all of the spiritual blessing and God is their inheritance (Eph.1:13-14).

(3) *Theocracy and monarchy* – Another concept was revealed by theocracy or monarchy. This is the purpose of the covenant of grace that God is their father and they were the people of God. At first when they received the land of Canaan after the conquest of the land, the day of Judges for 410 years revealed the theocracy in the world. Even though that day was revealed in the chaotic state of the land, the invisible God ruled over them through the authority of judges. Even though the theocracy had been changed into monarchy in the day of Samuel, the principles could not be changed for the Lord alone must be the absolute sovereign Lord in both the visible and invisible world. However, Israel rebelled against the gracious kingship of God. Ultimately, the coming of Christ completed the kingship by the redemption through the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, now the church tastes the abundant fruit of God's kingship in the world.

(4) *Temple and high hill-* The most important conflict point in the restoration of God's image was the success or failure of fellowship. In other words, only true worshippers can make the restoration. So the concepts of the altar, temple and high place have to be centered in that day. Even though the tabernacle was replaced by the temple or high place, the essence of worship could not be changed. The fellowship with God continued to be emphasized in their lives. The methodology of pagan service revealed Satan's image and man's image—unrighteousness, violence and unfaithfulness. However, if they repented their sins, they were instantly forgiven by God's mercy.

The temple was connected to the high place as the place of divine fellowship. Yet, the high place of those who were corrupted was made as the headquarter for worshipping the false god. The divine prophets fought against the false prophets. Lately, both the sites of worship of the temple or the high place will be accomplished the worship of Zion and the worship of Zaphon. They shall be ended that they must choose one among God's image and Satan's image. (Refer to *Har magedon*)

(5) The Ark, the Word of God – The most practical and genuine appearance that the purpose and method of the restoration was revealed shall be the Ark representing the Word of God. God had commanded for his covenantal people to meditate on the word of God. The Word of God is truly the essence of God's image (Josh. 1:8). The word of God can absolutely transform His people into God's image by the work of the Holy Spirit.

2) **The godly life of a man of God**

The theme, the restoration of God's image, is gathered by Biblical concepts in history and developed toward the broader category by the chosen men of God. It was revealed by spiritual gifts and their godly lives that were shown in their leadership as follows;

- (1) Joshua – 1:1-8, 23:1-16
- (2) Judge – 1:10, 6:34, 11:29, 14:6, 19
- (3) Samuel – I Sam 1:15, 2:1-10, 3:1-21, 7:5-10, 16:12-13
- (4) David – I Sam 16:1-13, 24:5-6, II Sam 11-26, 6:16-23, 22:-23:
- (5) Solomon – I Kings 3:1-15, 22:22-51, 10:1-9,
- (6) Elijah – I Kings 17:1-24, 18:-19:
- (7) Elisha – II Kings 2:1-25, 13:20-21
- (8) Nehemiah – 1:1-10, 5:1-19
- (9) Ezra – Neh. 8:1-18, 9:-10:
- (10) Esther – 4:14-16

Lesson 1

The Survey of the Judges

Judges

The concept of the restoration of God's image relates to redemptive ethics. When we are born again in the Spirit and the Word, we must learn redemptive ethics, the life of a true Christian, by special revelation to overcome the human ethical tendencies of our actual life. Why? Because the pilgrim of Christianity shall encounter several temptations, sometimes by appearing on the face of bright angels or, by appearing on the face of the horrible devil. We may be compelled to approach these temptations with human ethics.

The book of Judges reveals the danger of human ethics and the glory of redemptive ethics in Christian life, the actual life of the kingdom of God.

I will touch on some themes in Judges for the restoration of God's image: the eternal leader, the Angel of Jehovah, the song of redemption in Deborah and the result of human ethics in Gideon.

I. The eternal leader (Judges 1:1-10)

In the contemporary time, the people focus on leadership to lead the church correctly. What is Biblical leadership? We can learn out of the historical books. Among them, we can find the example of Biblical leadership in the church. First of all, we admit that the real leader is our God, our Lord Jesus Christ, not

man. James 3:1 says, "Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness."

Who is our real leader? He is Jesus Christ. Joshua, who had occupied Canaan, had died, but the God who is the eternal leader of Israel, works still. After 400 years, their faith was corrupted because they did not drive out the remaining tribes of the Canaanites completely and they were spiritually threatened. God therefore established the judges and led His people toward the purpose of God.

Who controls warfare as revealed by the text?

First, God Himself controls all warfare.

1) When they asked, "Who is the first fighter in this battle?" the Lord showed them clear direction (1-2). God who commanded the fighting was with them. He himself is a warrior against his enemies, and also absolutely overcomes the war, for He Himself controls the warfare. In Rev 6:2, we find that Christ and His gospel overcomes every war of Christian life. "And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer." The rider in the vision points to Christ and His gospel movement. Jesus Christ controls every war in our lives. Every war in the book of Judges has been dominated by Christ. It means that Christ Himself had taken the role of warrior in all.

2) In our spiritual warfare, our personal fight is the main point in our life. What is spiritual fighting? It is not the fight of blood and flesh but it is to sustain an intimate fellowship with God by listening to his words and praying

our need to God. Giving and taking are the normal activity of our Christian life. This is spiritual warfare. Then we find our real enemies are Satan, the world and sinful desire (*Sarks*). Among them, *Sarks* is the most dangerous enemy in our Christian life because the other two enemies work on the outside, but this enemy works from the inside—the soul, the spirit and emotion, intellect and volition. We can find the contacting point of our spiritual warfare. Where is it? It is the area of thinking. The Scriptures say it repeatedly to us. In Rom 8:5-8, we can find that teaching to us. “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.” When we take care of our thoughts, we can enjoy special grace.

3) When we study the Bible and theology, we should take care of our thinking before God. The function of thought is very important to know the truth rightly. How is it important in our lives? The Scripture says “For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion rose against the knowledge of God, and takes every thought captive to obey Christ.” (II Corinthians 10:4-5). Here, what are they—arguments, opinion, all thoughts? In short, it is our thinking. Our thought points ourselves. What is the method of managing our thoughts very well? To depend on the thoughts of God, the Scripture, deeply. We must be certain to dwell in the Word of God. Do you and your thoughts stay in the Word of God, or on your own thoughts? This

occurs especially if we remain in the secular thoughts of our heart. Multitudes of problems and bad thinking would occur in our lives. The Lord warned us to be careful in our lives against the evil that comes from the inside to the outside. Mark 7:20-22 points out: "For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person." So, we need to concentrate on our concern and thinking to overcome our inner evil.

Second, they overcame all warfare through obeying the command of God.

1) The tribes of Judah and Simon destroyed the Canaanites and the Brithite, killed Adonibethek and occupied Jerusalem and Southern mountain (5-10) by obeying the command of God. The secret of their victory is to follow the order of the Lord. If they did not admit to the authority of the Lord, they shall surely fail in warfare. Obedience is the main key to overcome spiritual warfare. Paul had pointed to the important factors of this warfare as follows: Ephesian chapter 6 said that it is the fighting activity against the evil spirit and it is to stand firm in Christ. We must be equipped by Christ with: the helmet of salvation, the breastplate of righteousness, the belt of the truth, the sword of the Spirit, the shield of the faith and the shoes of the gospel of peace. Simply put these points to the obedience of the commandments of God. Every day, we have to learn to obey the word of God in our life of warfare. When I preached the word of God at a village house, I had explained the gospel by using pictures to the old man. He had great concern for Jesus. When I led him to the invitation of Jesus into his life, the rooster cried out in

several times and, there were two noisy children. I felt that Satan attacked us during our important time. Regardless, I obeyed the direction of God for my duty was to proclaim the gospel. He accepted Jesus Christ as his savior. Already he became a new person in his life. Whenever, wherever, we need to follow the direction of God. This is obedience. Successful evangelism is to only preach of Christ to him and to commit the result to God.

2) In our lives although we walk through the great valley, if we follow the command we can overcome all things. We have to learn to enjoy obeying the Word of God. Our Lord Jesus Christ commanded his great mission for us. "Go to all nations, make disciples and baptize them and teach the word of God in order to keep His teaching." What is the only condition to get his wonderful blessing? It is to follow Him, with no turning back. This will result in true happiness in our lives.

Third, Jehovah led the coming and going of Israel according to God's will.

1) Verse 2 says "The Lord said, "Judah shall go up; behold, I have given the land into his hand." Moses, Joshua and the other leaders had died at their due dates; the Lord, Jehovah himself commanded their way in Canaanite life, the life of warfare. He commanded the priority of the warfare to Judah. And He guided the union of them for the successful warfare. Our leader leads us at his will.

2) The Lord is our Lord, Jesus Christ. He is the Angel of Jehovah, who was revealed before Joshua, led the warfare to occupy Jericho and helped Israel in the several battles until slaying all the Canaanites. The Lord leads us into abundant life. Ps 23: 1-3 "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes

me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. *He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*" Ps 126:1-6 also says "When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.' The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad." Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like streams in the Negev! *Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.*

Why did they sow the seed with tears, weeping and struggle? Because they were so truthful, the will of God stood firm in the soil of truth and faithfulness. Then we shall produce wonderful fruit in our lives.

Conclusion:

Cambodia's history proves that a good leader was very important for their great life in the family. We know that Pol Pot, who was a dictator of Cambodia history, killed many peoples. Now they taste the bad influence in our lives. And, Buddha's philosophy (teaching) influences nearly all Cambodians in their lives. When I proclaim the gospel to them, they are often inclined towards religious pluralism. That is a very severe situation. There is importance in having one leader to lead the church on earth. Who is the true leader in history and in the contemporary time? Only Jesus Christ must be the real leader (John14:6). Who is your eternal leader? We should follow his guide as the good shepherd in our lives. In our school

life, we should have assurance that our leader is Jesus Christ and should serve him humbly and learn his attitude, his purpose and his method.

I. The angel of Jehovah (Judges 2:1-10)

Both the beginner and the consummator of the restoration of God's image, Christ reveals His identification more obviously to us in the book of Judges by the role of the angel of Jehovah. The issue that Christ worked on in the Old Testament is very important to understanding the stream of the redemption in the history, the main source of the restoration of the image of God. I Corinthians 10:1-2 obviously comment to us the important stream. "For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ." Christ—the Rock—follows them always. The passage should apply to every event in the Old Testament. So, we must find the wonderful proof out of the revelation in the Old Testament. Symbolism and typology should be interpreted by the perspective of redemption. Among them, the Angel of the Lord in the text belongs to this stream.

The Angel of the Lord who worked at Bochim and rebuked Israel was a unique angel, who was called for the pre-incarnated Christ. It is a very wonderful fact that Christ worked in the day of the Old Testament for his people. What is the evidence of this?

First, He reveals the deliverer of Israel by himself.

1) Verses 1-2 say, "Now the angel of the Lord went up from Gial to Bochim. And he said, "I brought you up from Egypt and brought you into the land that I swore to give to your fathers. I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you.'" He claimed that he himself saved the Israelites out of Egypt. Exodus reveals that the Almighty God, Jehovah, delivered them out of their miserable state. The Almighty God now appeared as the face of the Angel of the Lord.

2) In the day of Judges, He was still working for his people. He who appeared as the face of an angel was not a general angel. He worked as the Almighty God. He was the same to the commander of the military, the same being who led the Israelites, and appeared before Joshua to enter Canaan. Who is he? He is really the Christ before incarnation. Although Joshua passed away, He led his people without pause through life in Egypt, the wilderness and Canaan.

3) In light of the New Testament, Jesus Christ is with us eternally (Mt.28:18-19). The uplifted Jesus Christ works in his people, church, and Christians by the power of the Holy Spirit. What does he work in our lives? He accomplishes the redemption in His people personally and universally. Today, the Angel of the Lord works in our lives to accomplish the redemption.

Second, He built the covenant and kept it faithfully.

1) As the subjective partner of covenant, God Himself claimed that he establishes it (1). The angel claimed the same authority of God. As we know, the general angels cannot be bowed to by others. They always refused their worship for they are the servants who served his chosen people, the church. (Heb 1:14)

2) But this passage claims that He Himself is God. He has the authority of God. It is a very wonderful expression. He was the same angel to appear before Gideon and Manoa, the parent of Samson. They bowed to him and he commanded them. He was revealed to Haggai by the well and to Abraham who was sitting down in the shadow of an oak tree at Mamre and to Jacob by the river Jabbok. Although each appeared in several different modes to them, He was the same Angel of the Lord who will be accomplished by Jesus Christ.

Why did he reveal himself to his people sometimes? In a word, he establishes the covenant faithfully. Holy war was not just a simple fight to conquer territory or to sustain their inheritance. It had a more important purpose, to acquire heavenly territory, to accomplish the universal church in the world. So, the small warfare of the Israelites in Canaan belongs to the great redemption of the church.

Third, he affirmed that his sayings are surely the command of God.

Their blessing and curse depended on the attitude of obedience to his command. He is the Lord. It is a surprising fact that Christ in the New

Testament saved the church of wilderness out of the sin and led them and provided grace. Therefore, we must have assurance that only the one who obeys the Word of Christ, who is the fulfillment of all symbolisms and all types, shall be saved from their miserable sins.

Conclusion:

Such activities had prepared the foundation and background that God shall work to accomplish the great economy of redemption that will blossom by the redemptive ethic in Christ. Next, we must examine the negative or positive points through reviewing the ministry of Deborah, Gideon and Samson.

II. **The Song of Deborah** (Judges 5:1-18)

The Lord of redemption that had worked by several men and various events did not lead toward the human plan but accomplishes the economy of eternal God in the beginning, the redemption of his own people. The harmony between His righteousness and his people's obedience, the redemptive ethic was spread by Deborah's song in Israel. What Deborah and Barak did, who after tasting the victory of God praised the Lord, was an example of the glory of redemptive ethic.

What points do they reveal in their praise?

First, the man who does not devote himself to the sanctuary of God shall be destroyed absolutely (2).

The enemy of Jehovah, the enemy of righteousness and the enemy of the Word of God cannot help himself but to live a life in darkness as the tree behind the sun. When we devote ourselves to spiritual warfare moment by moment, we can enjoy the devotional life to the Lord.

Second, the decision of Jael by ignoring human relationship for the Lord was very precious.

Jael who was a pagan killed Sisera, her husband's friend, because she saw the kingdom of God. Just like Rahab or Ruth did, she could stand up in the camp of God because she could see the glory of God. One who loves the Lord very much shall have future hope and we shall be filled with living hope.

Third, what assurance did Deborah take? (Judges 5:19-31)

Deborah, who had seen that God destroyed his enemies, was assured that only Jehovah could accomplish what was according to the prophecy that Meroz shall be cursed by the help of Jehovah (23).

How could she take such assurance? She had seen that God destroyed his enemies by the shaking of the earth that points to the presence of God (4-5). For the victory of spiritual warfare shall be achieved by putting on the full armor. Deborah, Barak, Jael and Israel had obeyed the command of the Lord for the victory. The principle of victory in spiritual battle is to love the Word of the Lord with a passionate heart. The seven parts of the full armor of God as pointed out by Paul are: salvation, righteousness, truth, evangelism, faith, and the Word and prayer; we must stand firm with a devoted heart (Ephesians 6:14-18). Let's become the Christians as the dew

of the early morning to our age.

III. Redemptive ethic and humanistic ethic (Judges 6:11-24)

1. Redemptive ethic of Gideon

1) Calling of Gideon (Judges 6:11-24)

In the life of Gideon, the song of redemption was revealed as the other figure. Although he became a good channel that God used, his children became evil tools against the redemptive ethic. Who called for Gideon as a judge? How did he respond to his calling?

First, the Lord God who is subjective called for him as a judge.

The angel of Jehovah who called for Jehovah was the Lord, the pre-incarnated Christ. The Lord permitted the mission on the criteria of his calling as he called for them as the Apostles. Redemptive ethic should be dependent on God. We should think of two kinds of callings: calling of salvation and calling of mission.

Second, how did he respond to God's calling?

He wanted the assurance of his calling obviously. He who did not take a doubt cannot have real assurance (Herman Bavinck). Because he saw the presence of Jehovah on Jehovah's altar, he got the name, Jehovah's Shalom (Jehovah's peace).

2) Condition of spiritual leadership (Judges 6:25-40)

Again, the Holy Spirit revealed spiritual leadership, the redemptive ethical state.

First, God's calling needs assurance in his heart. Although Gideon himself was so weak, God appointed him as a great warrior (12). As we become assured in the calling of God, obviously we can execute the mission joyfully until the end. Because the one who commits the mission to us is God, the Lord of all things.

Second, he needs the obedience of the word. As Gideon obediently cut down the Asherah wood idol, he experienced the grace of Immanuel of God. Obedience is better than miracles (Luther). The life of a leader should concentrate on obedience.

Third, he should receive the fullness of Holy Spirit. As shown in verses 33-40, the spirit of Jehovah came on Gideon, and he could find assurance in the salvation and the response of God through prayer. Because the work of the Lord should be followed by the will of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8). Spiritual leadership establishes redemptive ethic. The redemptive ethic of Gideon—righteousness, mercy and faithfulness by following the Holy Spirit, who is the redemptive ethic spirit—was established in Canaan and in Israel.

Then the Spirit reveals the criteria of discernment to accomplish the redemptive ethic in the church of Canaan.

3) The criteria of discernment (Judges 7:1-14) In order to overcome a

military that was both united and multitudinous, it was good enough to only have 300 warriors. The criteria to collect these important warriors were revealed as follows:

First, God commanded that the coward should come back to their home. The Lord works through the men of the faith and makes the men of the faith. (Heb11:6) Second, God removed the people who fall down into the easy going attitude by bowing down on the ground and drank the water, just as the field that was picked by thorn, the man that failed into the temptation of money, worry of world and worldly pleasure cannot be used by God. In a word redemptive ethic is criteria of all discernment. Third, only the awaking person as the persons who saw in the future in the text could be used in the spiritual warfare. Redemptive ethic needs the spiritual discerning function in the church. Only the people who have the redemptive ethic that they were prepared themselves as the faithful personality to living God and his word are able to serve the kingdom of God. And also Gideon's ministry revealed the method of redemptive ethic obviously.

4) The method of God's work (Judges 7:15-25) How did Gideon overcome? First, God never works through too many people. It proved that God works in small numbers to reduce numbers of 32000 into just 300 people to teach of taking a humble heart. The miracle of the five loaves of bread and two fish and the movement of mustard seed and yeast show the method to enlarge the kingdom of God. A small number of people that has faith are stronger than a vast military that is equipped with new

weapons. A few that have devoted themselves to God can transform the world (John Wesley). Second, He made him work as a spiritual leader. Gideon's warriors were men of obedience. Because they knew that God fought against their enemies, they obeyed the direction of Gideon like children. The principle that destroyed the City of Jericho was obedience. Third, we should believe that everything depends on the hand of God. Verses 7-9 remark about the words "for I have given it into your hand" obviously. As we fear the sovereign God, we can overcome our enemies. We should follow the Lord.

2. Human Ethic of Gideon

1) True victory (Judges 8:1-17) -The inner victory is more important than the outer victory. The solution of inner separation is more important than to overcome a great united military. First, the tribe of Ephraim (1-5), Sukkoth people (5-7), the complaint of Peniel (8-9) broke the harmony of Israel. The work of the Lord should be participation into oneness of the Holy Spirit. It is the thing that made God pleased (Ephesians 3:4). We should put our heart on the internal more than the external. The man who controls himself is more of a great warrior than the man who occupies seven cities. Second, the crisis was solved by the wisdom of Gideon. Although he calmed their anger, he rebuked the Sukkoth people and Peniel who refused his requests for fighting. The man who does not devote himself to the Lord has the problem about love. So, Paul warned that the one who does not love the Lord shall be cursed by God.

2) Snare of faith (Judges 8:18-28)- Although Gideon came out victorious in his warfare, he had a big trouble to manage his victory. The work that killed Zebah and Zalmunna, God's enemy, was built by the righteousness of God. As the people requested that God shall rule over them he did well as a judge. But because he did not follow the Word of God, he was failed by being held in the snare. He tried to make an ephod of the gold pieces that his people offered. Finally, Israel failed to keep the worship of fear of God because of the serving of idols (27). Although his motive is pure, because of his ignorance of the method of worship, he failed. Although we believe right, it is more important to do right. To harmonize these two things, we should try to have a personal fellowship. So, the Lord stressed to examine you by having a sound relationship.

3) Gideon's family (Judges 8:29-35) - The demand of God that the Lord's workers should have a sound family aims to make a complete family. Gideon had failed to manage his family even though he overcame his warfare. At what point did he fail? First, he failed in married life. Having many wives did not follow the principle of creation. Although this fact was ignored by God, the essential will of God was not same. The bright day of the New Testament should keep the principle of creation more obviously for God uses us well until the end. Second, he failed the nutrition of his children. The unharmonious state of 70 children became the clue to call for cruel murder (9:5). The cruel rebellion of Abimelech brought great tragedy to Israel. Third, his faithful character was broken. This is shown by his promise that his family would not rule over Israel and his fallen nature

of making Israel worship idols (33-34). The example of leadership is so important.

Conclusion:

As the restoration of God's image in Joshua revealed, the restoration of God's image in the book of Judges reveals the same stream but more progressively, by revealing the elements of redemptive ethic in the background of dark chaos in the valley, in the fivefold of the evil circuit of rebellion, corruption, discipline, salvation and peace. This stream actually reveals our actual Christian life in the world. To accomplish the redemptive ethic is our mission in life. So Jesus Christ warned the hierarchy to devote themselves to faithfulness and trust before God personally. "But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you" (Matthew 6:6). Although the restoration of God's image revealed in Joshua was revealed as the same stream, it was more progressive than Judges.

Ruth

1) The book of Ruth takes the background of relationship that was made between Israel and Moabites. The Moabites were originally created by the relationship between Lot and his second daughter. They inhabited the Eastward area of the Dead Sea and had abundant pasture for their sheep. At one time, Moab was even stronger than Israel's economy. The field of Moab was an especially historical place where the second generation had gathered before they entered Canaan.

Naomi who belonged to in the tribe of Judah immigrated to Moab out of Israel where they had departed due to the serious famine (1:1). At that time, Moab was an abundant environment. They had lived there for 10 years and her husband and two sons had died due to diseases and had left three widows. Naomi returned to her native land of Israel, Bethlehem, with her daughter-in-law. Ruth, who was her second son's widow, confessed: "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. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried, I will be buried..." (1: 16-17). There, the faithful Ruth served her mother-in-law just as her confession declared. God led her to marry a kinsman-redeemer, Boaz, in providence. She was the mother of the king Jesus Christ despite her being a pagan woman. The book of Ruth concentrates on the kinsman-redeemer (4:14-17).

Why did God accomplish His own divine economy through such a special case? The history reveals that God's will was accomplished not by

man's will, but God's own wisdom and grace. So we can find that God's providence in the universalism is very wonderful through this book.

2) The Restoration of God's image in the book of Ruth relates closely to the two terms: providence of God and the universalism of redemption.

I. The invisible hand of the Providence of God

The creator is the provider, the God of providence and the God of redemption. After He created all things by His word, He rules over them by His Word in order to accomplish his redemption—the restoration of God's image; righteousness, mercy and faithfulness. The book of Ruth clearly casts the light of providence to us. The suffering of Naomi's family, the devotional serving life of Ruth to her mother-in-law and the entrance into the genealogy of the Messiah were included in the providence of God. In other words, God Himself ruled over a person, a family, a nation and a church by the invisible hand of God. The hand finally shall accomplish the Restoration of God's image.

First, the providence is stronger and broader than the miracle.

1) According to John Calvin's Institute, as we understand the faith of providence, we get much comfort. Wonders rise striking feeling and comfort in people who expected something in their lives. The family of Naomi who had lived in Moab did not encounter wonderful miracles, such as curing their chronic diseases or solving financial problems. They had lived ordinary immigrant lives for 10 years without receiving the influence

of theocracy in Moab. Nevertheless, the Lord prepared more wonderful events for the miserable family to accomplish the eternal economy for the redemption of Jesus Christ, just like the salvation of Israel that was delivered out of Egypt. After 50 years, David, who was a grandson of Boaz and Ruth, became the king of the monarchy that was a symbol of Jesus Christ, the true kinsman-redeemer.

Ruth had some problems in participating with the kinsman-redeemer, as the following: 1) Orpah, the first daughter-in-law had to give up her right; 2) Boaz was the second kinsman-redeemer; 3) the witnesses could refuse since Ruth was a pagan woman from the people of Kmos, a pagan god; and 4) Boaz himself could have refused Ruth as his wife. Despite these crises remaining in the situation, God led Ruth to participate with the Kinsman-redeemer by the providence of God. Providence is the womb of miracles. Free will and predestination of God do not contradict each other in providence. The people of God should hold the hand of the living God of providence in order to change Mara into Elim.

Second, the people of God have to focus on the inheritance.

1) Inheritance means the abundant fruit that comes from salvation. It is the redemptive ethic. It is the grace and peace that God rules over and provides for His people just like the milk and honey of Canaan. It is a blessing more abundant than Joseph's prosperity and ultimately reaches to the heavens. So it is the eternal inheritance. From this perspective, the Apostle Paul prayed that God opened the eyes of of the Christians of the Church of Ephesus and knew the abundant inheritance in Christ (Eph.1:18).

Likewise, God made the Colossian Christians share the inheritance to neighbors in Christ's love (Col. 1:12). Also, the apostle committed the Ephesian elders to the Lord and His word in order to participate into the eternal inheritance (Act. 20:32). And the inheritance was expressed in the life of the early church in devoting themselves to receiving the Apostle's teaching, fellowship, eagerly praying, evangelizing and eating with joy and purity (Act. 2:42-47).

2) What is the kinsman-redeemer in the system of the Law? Kinsman is the inheritance that represents the property in Canaan for each tribe and each family. The redeemer means one who takes responsibility of the inheritance when the original owner passes away for some reason, like Boaz. The inheritance of Elimelek was transferred to Boaz, the kinsman-redeemer. His duty to the inheritance included his wife, Ruth. Like Boaz lived in the center of inheritance, the people of God have to live in the center of salvation (redemption).

1) Even though Naomi (pleasant) was changed into Mara (bitterness), in the grace of God's providence, she was restored through the process of training in the hand of the Lord. Ruth was the grandmother of the King, Christ Jesus (Mt.1:).

Third, we have to follow the stream of Christ's kingship.

1) God used the faithful life that Ruth had. She, who was a woman of wisdom, was an example of self-denial, cross-bearing and a devotional life even though she learned them from her mother-in-law, Naomi. Particularly

her serving her mother-in-law was a main seed in her devotional life. From this life, she learned the following wonderful virtues:

(1) Godliness- Redemptive ethic needs redemptive personality. She accepted Naomi's God as her Lord. Ruth's redemptive personality depended on redemptive godliness, the fear of the Lord. Her faith was the same character as Abraham, David and the new covenantal people of the New Testament because she stood firm on the camp of Jehovah, Naomi's God. The Book of Hebrew suggests her deed was faith.

Faith is a choice. Lot's wrong choice made him destroy his life, but the choice of Abraham and Moses led them to taste heavenly treasures in their lives. We are assured that the human ethic is very miserable in the world.

(2) Faithfulness – Ruth's redemptive truth was expressed by redemptive ethic. We can decipher two features in it.

The first feature is faithfulness. She sustained her unchangeable state in her life. She was faithful to the family and her neighbors. Her faithfulness dominated her life. The Spirit of the truth worked in her life, although she was very insignificant in Moab. Through her redemption, the Spirit reveals the universal feature of redemption and opened the way that any chosen people among the Gentiles can approach redemption. When the Spirit of truth comes upon us, he shall lead us into the truth (Jn. 16:13).

The case of her life is the same as our redemption. The Spirit comes to the church; it automatically was received by Him eternally and in every area until accomplishing the redemption. The Spirit produced the redemptive ethic in her life.

In the global era, we must be faithful in any small thing in Christ. It is the way of victory. Ruth's faithfulness is an example of our church.

(3) Diligence – And also her faithfulness cooperated with her diligence. Faithfulness relates to diligence but idleness deceitfulness. Christ's faithfulness and diligence was the channel to accomplish the redemption in Christian life. She had spiritual diligence serving her mother-in-law (2:2-23). The spiritual diligence brings about wisdom and insight to solve any issue that occurs in the Christian life. Through her faithfulness and diligence, she met Boaz who was the forefather.

Especially in the day of world mission, we need this example of Ruth's redemptive ethic. As Peter taught us to become a virtuous missionary in I Peter 2:9, we must be in pursuit of this diligence to establish virtue in our ministry. The missionary should become one who establishes this virtue to establish the kingdom of God.

2) The Christian ethic and action are very important in completing our salvation. The criteria of judgment on the white throne shall be the faith that has deeds and the ethic; that is, the redemptive ethic (Mt 25).

2. Universalism of redemption

The restoration of God's Image focuses on the limited people, the chosen people, but is the universalism redemption. As we see before Ruth, the universal character of redemption was revealed in many events. Although God chose the Israelites as the people of covenant in the world, God

revealed obviously to call his own people out of the entire world. For example, Melchizedek blessed Abram. "And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!" (Gen15:18-20). Rahab was saved by God because of her fear of God. "But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. And she said, "True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. And when the gate was about to be closed at dark, the men went out. I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them." But she had brought them up to the roof and hid them with the stalks of flax that she had laid in order on the roof. So the men pursued after them on the way to the Jordan as far as the fords. And the gate was shut as soon as the pursuers had gone out" (Joshua 2:4-7). Ruth had also participated in the glory of the Messiah by the hand of God's providence: "and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king" (Matthew 1:5-7). These proved that the redemption has the character of universalism. In the New Testament, Jesus Christ intentionally visited the chosen people, and the pagans and Gentiles were invited by Christ. Why did Christ visit a Samaritan woman? And why did Christ commend the Roman centurion because of his great faith? This points to the character of universal redemption.

- 1) In the chaotic day of Judges, a Moabite woman, Ruth, was called by

God in order to participate in the work of the redemption. Why did the Holy Spirit stress her participation in the redemption because the redemption of God has a universal character?

2) Really, the universal redemption attained the climax of the eschatological day.

When Christ was born physically in Bethlehem, the magi searched for him in order to worship him (Mt 2:1-6). In the Acts we can see that diaspora came back to Jerusalem providentially. They received the Holy Spirit and lived as a witness of the gospel.

Conclusion:

The Christian has to hold the providence of God because the heavenly comfort comes out of the faith of providence. Although they were suffering in their actual situation, the invisible hand of God prepared everything and provided for his people at the proper time, training them for accomplishing the purpose of redemption in history. The case of Ruth cast one of the brightest lights to us to see the stream of universal redemptive history. This is the main reason to proclaim the gospel to the entire world to win the lost.

Judgers Redemptive Historical Verses

1. Eternal leader (Judges 1:13) "And Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, captured it. And he gave him Achsah his daughter for a wife."

2. The Angel of Jehovah (Judges 2:7) "[7](#)And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great work that the LORD had done for Israel."

3. Testing God (Judges 3:7) "And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. They forgot the LORD their God and served the Baals and the Asheroth."

4. God of love (Judges 4:3-4) "Then the people of Israel cried out to the LORD for help, for he had 900 chariots of iron and he oppressed the people of Israel cruelly for twenty years. [4](#)Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time."

5. How to overcome spirituality (Judges 4:23) "So on that day God subdued Jabin the king of Canaan before the people of Israel."

6. The Son of Deborah (Judges 5:9) "My heart goes out to the commanders of Israel who offered themselves willingly among the people. Bless the LORD."

7. Conviction of Deborah (Judges 5:31) "So may all your enemies perish, O LORD! But your friends be like the sun as he rises in his might."

8. Let's listen to the word of prophet (Judges 6:8)
the LORD sent a prophet to the people of Israel. And he said to them, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I led you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of slavery."

9. Calling of Gideon (Judges 6:22) "Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the LORD. And Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face."

10. Conditions of Spiritual Leaders (Judges 6:27) "So Gideon took ten men of his servants and did as the LORD had told him. But because he was too afraid of his family and the men of the town to do it by day, he did it by night."

11. Discerning Criteria (Judges 7: 4) "And the LORD said to Gideon, "The people are still too many. Take them down to the water, and I will test them for you there, and anyone of whom I say

to you, 'This one shall go with you,' shall go with you, and anyone of whom I say to you, 'This one shall not go with you,' shall not go."

12. True Victory (Judge 8:3) "God has given into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb. What have I been able to do in comparison with you?" Then their anger^a against him subsided when he said this."

13. Snare of Faith (Judge 8:23) "Gideon said to them, "I will not rule over you, and my son will not rule over you; the LORD will rule over you."

14. Gideon's Family (Judge 8:33-34) "As soon as Gideon died, the people of Israel turned again and whored after the Baals and made Baal-berith their god. And the people of Israel did not remember the LORD their God, who had delivered them from the hand of all their enemies on every side."

15. To Keeping the inheritance of Faith (Judge 9:6) "And all the leaders of Shechem came together, and all Beth-millo, and they went and made Abimelech king, by the oak of the pillar at Shechem."

16. The work of evil spirit (Judge 9:15) "And the bramble said to the trees, 'If in good faith you are anointing me king over you, then come and take refuge in my shade, but if not, let fire come out of the bramble and devour the cedars of Lebanon.'"

17. The Truth that repay as to his deed (Judge 9:23) " And God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the leaders of Shechem, and the leaders of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech"

18. Let's leave out of idols (Judg 10:15) " And the people of Israel said to the LORD, "We have sinned; do to us whatever seems good to you. Only please deliver us this day.""

19. Qualification for God's worker (Judge 11:11) "So Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and leader over them. And Jephthah spoke all his words before the LORD at Mizpah."

20. Spiritual Leadership (Judg 11:21) "And the LORD, the God of Israel, gave Sihon and all his people into the hand of Israel, and they defeated them. So Israel took possession of all the land of the Amorites, who inhabited that country."

21. Devotion of Jephthah (Judg 11:31) "then whatever comes out from the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the Ammonites shall be the LORD's, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering."

22. The Christian as the Nazarite (Judg 13:13-14) "And the angel of the LORD said to Manoah, "Of all that I said to the woman let her be careful. She may not eat of anything that comes from the vine,

neither let her drink wine or strong drink, or eat any unclean thing.
All that I commanded her let her observe."