

SERMON OUTLINE

Speaker: Dr Philip Satterthwaite

Text : Judges 2:6 - 3:6; Ruth 1:1-2

Title : Good People In A Bad Time

Introduction

The Book of Ruth: not a love story!

1. The Days of the Judges

- The historical context: some gains in Canaan; the Philistine threat
- The ‘spiral of decline’: the people go away from God (Judges 2:6 - 3:6)
- The ‘spiral of decline’ in Israel’s judges
- A sordid incident from the end of the Book of Judges (Judges 19 - 21)

2. The Book of Ruth and the Days of the Judges

- Gibeah and Bethlehem: ‘old-time’ sin vs. ‘old-time’ virtue
- The hand of God? The Book of Judges compared to the Book of Ruth
- Naomi’s accusation against God (Ruth 1)

3. Unspectacular Faith: Ordinary People Used by God

- The ordinariness of the events in the Book of Ruth
- *Khesed* (‘kindness’, ‘commitment’) in the Book of Ruth
- The negotiations in Ruth 4 (cf. Lev. 25:25ff; Deut. 25:5-10)
- God’s providence in the Book of Ruth
- The answer to Naomi’s accusation (Ruth 4)
- The genealogy of David (Ruth 4:18-22)

Conclusion

God is at work as much in the ordinary as the spectacular
Meeting people’s needs and the ministry of the gospel