

Advent 2025 Reflections: Week 2

This week we will take four more characters from Matthew's Genealogy of Christ, look at a parable exclusive to Matthew's Gospel and consider some more of Stephen Cottrell's advice for a meaningful, and less stressful, Advent

The Genealogy of Christ, according to Matthew.

Following our look at the Patriarchs last week, we skip through a few generations and arrive at Boaz, Ruth, David and Solomon.

Boaz and Ruth

The story of Ruth and Boaz really begins with Elimelech and his wife, Naomi. They were a Jewish couple, from Bethlehem, who moved to Moab to escape a famine. Their two sons married Moabite women, one of whom was Ruth. When all the men of the family died, Ruth opted to go with her mother-in-law when she returned to Judah.

The story of Ruth is a beautiful one and can be found in the Book of Ruth – one of only two Biblical books named for women. Ruth is also one of the very few women to be named in the genealogy.

Boaz was a relative of Elimelech. Ruth's deceased father-in-law, and he took pity on Ruth when she was gleaning in his fields. Eventually the couple married and became parents to Obed, the grandfather of King David.

The Book of Ruth is one of the shortest books in the Bible, a beautiful love story which can be read in one sitting and one I highly recommend to all my fellow romantics!

David and Solomon

Two names we all know and probably know the main points of their respective stories. David is most revered because of his kingship and the fact that the Messiah was known to be descended from him and his royal line. David's path wasn't always either obvious or smooth though. The youngest of his father's seven sons, he began life as a shepherd and even when living in the royal court, his life wasn't easy given the jealous rages of King Saul. (See 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 Kings).

Solomon was David's son, destined to succeed his father as king, and renowned for his wisdom. (See 1 Kings 3)

Perhaps the most encouraging thing for us to take from the stories of these two men is that they were fallible. Both are honoured as "heroes of the Old Testament" and both made some very major errors of judgement. We don't have to be perfect to serve God well – we just have to be willing!

Material unique to Matthew: study parable of the unforgiving servant

From Cottrell's book: focus on food, hospitality and over-indulgence. Find out re St Paul's/Maggs/Foodbank. See p.34/5