

December 11th



# Advent 2022

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—Trevin Wax  
*This is Our Time*

## —A SEASON OF LONGING—

### “*NAOMI & MARY: LONGING FOR FULLNESS*”

#### **Introduction:**

Because we live in a fallen world that we look to be made new, we often experience a combination of emotions that feels like a hopeful aching. This feeling can be referred to as *longing* and it is perhaps associated more with the season of Advent than any other time of year. These feelings of longing are often related to people, things, places, and times. In scripture, there are two primary Greek words that are used to refer to the idea of longing:

- (1) ἐπιποθέω (*epipothēō*) — To strongly desire or need; to long for.
- (2) ὀρέγω (*oregō*) — Lit. ‘to stretch oneself or reach out one’s hand.’ Fig. ‘to aspire, strive for, long for.’

**Key Point:** In a fallen world, our longings are often associated with a feeling of emptiness. The hope of Advent is that God has come to us in the Person of Christ and that He fills all in us that is \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **The Longings of Naomi**

- The events of the book of Ruth reflect the turbulent nature of the time period of the \_\_\_\_\_.

Judges 21:25—*In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*

Ruth 1:1-4—<sup>1</sup>*In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons.* <sup>2</sup>*The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion.* <sup>3</sup>*But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons.* <sup>4</sup>*These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years*

- Naomi experienced \_\_\_\_\_ even in the midst of \_\_\_\_\_.

Ruth 1:5—*and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.*

Ruth 1:16-18—<sup>16</sup>*But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.”* <sup>17</sup>*Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.”* <sup>18</sup>*And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.*

Ruth 1:19-21—<sup>19</sup>*So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women said, “Is this Naomi?”* <sup>20</sup>*She said to them, “Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.”* <sup>21</sup>*I went away full, and the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the Lord has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?”*

**Key Point:** Naomi’s longings centered on her painful \_\_\_\_\_ and her uncertain \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **The Longings of Mary**

- The time period in which Mary lived was filled with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ instability.

Luke 1:5, 8-9—<sup>5</sup>*In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. . . .* <sup>8</sup>*Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty,* <sup>9</sup>*according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense.*

- The angel’s message addressed Mary’s immediate future and the ultimate \_\_\_\_\_ of her people.

Luke 1:26-28—<sup>26</sup>*In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,* <sup>27</sup>*to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary.* <sup>28</sup>*And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!”* <sup>29</sup>*But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.* <sup>30</sup>*And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.*

Luke 1:31-33—<sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Luke 1:38—And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

**Key Point:** Mary’s longings centered on beginning her \_\_\_\_\_ life with Joseph and what the life of her son would mean for the unfolding of God’s plans and purposes.

## The God Who Fills What is Lacking

- **Naomi recognized that the Lord had met her in her longings and made provision for her and her family!**

Ruth 4:13-18—<sup>13</sup> So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son <sup>14</sup> Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! <sup>15</sup> He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.” <sup>16</sup> Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. <sup>17</sup> And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

<sup>18</sup> Now these are the generations of Perez: Perez fathered Hezron, <sup>19</sup> Hezron fathered Ram, Ram fathered Amminadab, <sup>20</sup> Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered Salmon, <sup>21</sup> Salmon fathered Boaz, Boaz fathered Obed, <sup>22</sup> Obed fathered Jesse, and Jesse fathered David.

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Luke 1:46-49; 53-55—<sup>46</sup> And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup> for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name...<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup> as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

**Key Point:** The story of Ruth and Naomi anticipated the ultimate \_\_\_\_\_ that God would provide for His people through the birth of the Lord Jesus!

## Advent & Our Longings

1. **We do well to reflect this Advent on how God, in the incarnation of Christ, has \_\_\_\_\_ us in our longings.**

Luke 2:18-19—<sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

2. **We do well to reflect this Advent on the reality that feelings of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ will still be a part of our experience in a fallen world as we wait for our redemption to be made complete.**

Luke 2:33-35—<sup>33</sup> And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup> (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

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- Naomi experienced kindness even in the midst of tragedy.

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