

Book of Ruth

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Introduction to Book of Ruth

Only 85 Verses

This book in the Bible is only 85 verses long, compare that to the book of Luke which the first chapter alone is 80 verses and you see an incredible difference.

Powerful Love Story – Showing God can Take Hopeless/Turn into Marvelous

But in these 85 verses is a powerful love story which shows how the Lord can take a hopeless situation and turn it into something marvelous. This is a book which ministers a message of hope to any whom feel hopeless, helpless, or hurting. Today if you are hopeless, helpless, hurting – know that God has a love story for you.

Eloquent – Ben Franklin

This book is also well known as an eloquent writing, even in secular circles; when Ben Franklin was Ambassador to France he spoke to a group of Intellectuals who continually scoffed at his belief in the Bible. Ben Franklin knowing that they were unfamiliar with the Book they mocked, He said I have an intriguing love story I would like to read to you tonight, I think you will find it interesting. He then proceeded to read them a hand-written copy of the book of Ruth. After he read the four short chapters his audience was ecstatic They said that greatest love story we ever heard, you must publish it at once. Franklin answered it already has been, it's in the Bible. The scoffers were silenced.

Practices of Ancient Israel

This book gives us a look at life in ancient Israel (to understand the book we will have to look at some of the practices of that time that will seem very strange to us, yet are beautiful). This book was written several hundred years before the birth of Christ – yet without it you couldn't link David to the House of Judah, nor link Jesus' birth to Bethlehem.

It is a Love Story

This book is a love story, a beautiful love story between

- a mother and daughter (Ruth and Naomi);
- a love story between a man and a woman (Ruth and Boaz- the hero of the story);
- but most of all it is a love story between God and people – that's you – a love story that was written in blood 2000 years ago on a wooden cross, on hill called Calvary.

3 Applications

This Book has three approaches, and will minister to us in three special ways. Remember these 66 books written by 40 different authors over thousands of years are a single message system, every word and number are there by design, with a message that comes from outside our time domain, from the Creator of the Universe – God Himself. The message will be rolled up into three categories and we will study them as we come across them: there is a

1. Historical Application – this is a true story, it actually happened

2. Prophetic Revelation - an event of the past that reveals the future – in this case preparing the way for the coming Messiah

Hosea 12:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ I have also spoken by the prophets, And have multiplied visions; I have given symbols through the witness of the prophets."

Hebrews 10:7 (NKJV) ⁷ Then I said, 'Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.' "

3. Personal Application – what it means to us, and we can apply it to our daily lives.

God's Greatest Achievements

This Book is often titled – The Romance of Redemption. Let me ask you what was God's greatest achievement? Most of us immediately would think creation, as we survey the heavens, study the DNA molecule, we are staggered at this universe we live in.

But how do we measure how important something is to God? How about how much space is taken in the Bible to talk about something?

- Creation – a couple chapters in Genesis, a couple in Job, a couple Psalms, and a couple chapters in Isaiah, and we got most of it.
- Redemption - Now how much space in the Bible is given for the second major act – Redemption? All of Genesis, Exodus (Passover), Leviticus (the rules of priesthood), this Book of Ruth, the Psalms, the Books of the Prophets, the Gospels, the Epistles, the book of Revelation is the climax. —almost all of the Bible is on redemption.

Why? – Redemption Cost God His Only Begotten Son

Why? because Creation cost God 6 days - redemption cost God His only Son.

John 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Ruth – The Romance of Redemption

Ruth 1

Ruth 1:1-5

Outline Ruth Chapter 1

- Famine in the Land (1:1)
- The Family of Elimelech (1:2)
- Tragedy in the Family (1:3-5)
- Naomi and her Daughters Discuss (1:6-13)
- Orpah Leaves but Ruth Clings (1:14-18)
- Naomi and Ruth Return to Bethlehem (1:19-22)

Famine in the Land (1:1)

Ruth 1:1 Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons.

The Dark Days of Judges

The story of Ruth takes place in the days of judges (it is like an appendix to the book of judges). These were dark days for Israel, spiritual dryness. Turn back one page and read the last verse in the book of Judges.

Judges 21:25 (NKJV) ²⁵ In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Book Ruth – A Beacon of Light / In Midst of Dark Times – God was Still Moving

Then starts the Book of Ruth, this appendix to the Book of Judges, it is like the beacon from a lighthouse, this book says, but not all was dark, God was still working, and here is a wonderful story in the midst of these wicked times. Even though Israel was in a state of confusion, God was still working out His plan in those people whose hearts are open to Him. The same still holds true today.

Same is True Today – Even as Days in USA Seem so Dark

I can get discouraged of all that I see around me, as I see a great nation turning from God, saying stay out of the schools, our government, stay out of Hollywood; today man's moral conduct is determined by society, not God. Man has removed God from the formula, but He is still working in people whose hearts are open to Him.

Maybe You Ask – What Difference I Make in Dark World? / God Wastes Nothing

And maybe you feel that you make no difference in the world around you. Maybe you ask God can I really make a difference; can I really make an impact on such a dark world? What is the use anymore for the days are so dark, people are so callous to You and Your Word, it seems the days are getting darker and darker, and the Light of God is getting dimmer and dimmer in our Country, what can I do, just me, one in 320 million. To which God will say to you, you just stay faithful, regardless of the rest of the world. How do you make a difference in such a dark world, a Country that is as dark of the Book of Judges was, a Country where everyone is doing right in their own sight, where there is no King in the Country, and I mean King Jesus! What are you to do? Just remain faith to the One True King, King Jesus.

Maybe you feel all your efforts are just a waste of time, they amount to nothing. Do you remember the story of the feeding of the 5,000 (but that was just men – so add woman and children and we are talking 15-25 thousand easy). So you remember the story that they had 5 loaves and 2 fish, and Jesus prays and the loaves and the fishes were multiplied and everyone ate until they were filled. The word for filled meant they ate until they were “glutted”, like our Thanksgiving, like going to a buffet, where you eat so much you have to sneak your hand down to loosen your belt, where you can’t laugh fully (you have to give a little – hehe) because it hurts to laugh, where you can’t breathe because you have eaten so much. That is the feast they had, they ate until they were glutted. But then remember what did Jesus say after the feeding, “pick up the leftovers – let nothing be wasted”. Even though He could just speak it again when He so desired, even though He was not bound by the material laws of the world, even though He had the power of the universe surging through His veins, He says to them pick up the leftovers so nothing is wasted. God wastes nothing! Nothing! And God will not waste your life, nor your witness, He will use every drop of your life, nothing is ever wasted that you do for the Lord. So you just remain faithful, regardless how dark the days may seem, regardless how overwhelming things may appear, you simply stay faithful to Him whose hands you are in.

John 6:8-13 (NKJV) ⁸ One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to Him, ⁹ “There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. ¹¹ And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹² So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, “Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost.” ¹³ Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten.

IT DEPENDS WHOSE HANDS IT’S IN

A basketball in my hands is worth about \$19

A basketball in LeBron James’ hands is worth about \$32 million

It depends whose hands it’s in

A football in my hands is worth about \$20

A football in Joe Flaco of the Ravens hands is worth \$22 million

It depends whose hands it’s in

A tennis racket is useless in my hands

A tennis racket in Pete Sampras’ hands is a Wimbledon Championship

It depends whose hands it’s in

A rod in my hands will keep away a wild animal

A rod in Moses’ hands will part the mighty sea

It depends whose hands it’s in

A sling shot in my hands is a kid’s toy

A sling shot in David’s hand is a mighty weapon.

It depends whose hands it’s in

Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in my hands is a couple of fish sandwiches.

Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in God’s hands will feed thousands

It depends whose hands it's in

Nails in my hands might produce a birdhouse
Nails in Jesus Christ's hands will produce salvation for the entire world.
It depends whose hands it's in

And you are being held in the hands of Jesus, who wastes nothing, and therefore your life will make a difference, all you need to do is remain faithful in the hands of he who holds you.

John 10:27–28 (NKJV) ²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

The Family of Elimelech (1:2)

Ruth 1:2 The name of the man was Elimelech, the name of his wife was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion—Ephrathites of Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to the country of Moab and remained there.

They Move

So they move to Moab because there was a famine in Bethlehem.

A Famine in House of Bread?

Bethlehem, means “House of Bread”. Judah, means “Praise”. How could there be a famine in the land of the House of Bread? We know from our study in the Book of Judges, it was because everyone was doing right in their own sight, and they were not obeying the commandments of God. God had promised them, and too warned them, that if you stay obedient to my commandments I will bring rain from heaven to water your land, and thus keeping it a land flowing with milk and honey. You see Israel was not a land like Egypt where they drew water from the Nile river, to which the children were all too familiar with after 400 years of slavery, but Israel's water is supplied by rain (Deuteronomy 11:8-12). Rain was God's promise for obedience to His commandment, but drought was His promise for disobedience. Oh the famine might have been subtle, even unnoticeable at first, but there was nonetheless a turning away from the Lord, that eventually led into this severe drought and famine.

Deuteronomy 11:8–12 (NKJV) ⁸ “Therefore you shall keep every commandment which I command you today, that you may be strong, and go in and possess the land which you cross over to possess, ⁹ and that you may prolong your days in the land which the LORD swore to give your fathers, to them and their descendants, ‘a land flowing with milk and honey.’ ¹⁰ For the land which you go to possess is not like the land of Egypt from which you have come, where you sowed your seed and watered it by foot, as a vegetable garden; ¹¹ but the land which you cross over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water from the rain of heaven, ¹² a land for which the LORD your God cares; the eyes of the LORD your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year.

Deuteronomy 11:13–17 (NKJV) ¹³ ‘And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹⁴ then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil. ¹⁵ And I will send grass in your fields for your livestock, that you may eat and be filled.’ ¹⁶ Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them, ¹⁷ lest the LORD's anger be aroused against you, and He shut up the heavens so that there be no rain, and the land yield no produce, and you perish quickly from the good land which the LORD is giving you.

Maybe You are in A Spiritual Drought – Ask God to Reveal where Things are Wrong

Jesus is the Bread of Life, and our manna is the Word of God. If you are dwelling in the word, you can't help but be a worshipper and giver of praise to God. Maybe you feel a spiritual drought in your personal walk, maybe you see no fruit, no harvest, maybe all seems barren, dust and stubble. Take today and ask the Lord, is there something in my life that You want to speak to me about today? If it is obvious, then you already know that is why you are in the place you are in. But sometimes things creep in ever so slowly, like a drought it isn't something that happened overnight, but a slow gradual thing, until you look back and are not even sure when the drought began. And like a drought is gradual, so too may be the revelation of what has caused it, for it may be multiple things that have crept in. But I pray that the parchedness and dryness of your relationship with the Lord makes you thirst for that relationship with Him that is like rivers of living water washing over you. It starts with a cleansing of our sin (1 John 1:9), as sin always causes dryness and drought in our lives.

John 7:37-39 (NKJV) ³⁷ On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." ³⁹ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

John 4:7 (NKJV) ⁷ A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink."

1 John 1:8-9 (NKJV) ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Meet the Family

So now we are introduced more intimately with this family. Some other definitions: you find that nothing is in the Scriptures by accident, everything has a meaning behind it, and the names will come into play throughout this story.

- Elimelech means "God is my King." – a wonderful name considering it was the times of the judges where every man did what was pleasing in his own eyes.
- Naomi means "pleasant."
- Mahlon means "unhealthy – to blot out" – must not have looked too good at birth.
- Chilion means "puny – to perish." Can you imagine the school yard they grew up in?
- "Bethlehem" means "house of bread".
- "Judah" means "praise".
- "Ephratha" means "fruitful".

Elimelech Bails – Where do You Go When Trials Come

Now check this out... You've got a man named God is king with a pleasant wife living in prosperity, in the house of bread. He's praising God and bearing fruit. What more could a man want! But a famine puts Elimelech's faith to the test - and rather than stay put He decides to bail out. Rather than trust in God's promises he takes matters into his own hands. We will all go through trials in life, the question is, where will we go when we do. Elimelech decides to bail out from the land that was promised to him, the land he was called to live in, in hopes to escape the trial that was upon him.

Off to Moab – for 10 years / God's Washpot

Verse 2 – "And they went to the country of Moab and remained there." - They wind up being here for ten years. In Psalm 108 God refers to Moab as His washpot. A washpot was a bowl used to wash the filth of the world off, a place the feet would go into and water poured over them, to catch all the filth that picked up walking through the land. The water would then be thrown out as waste. The equivalence of today would be a sewer.

Psalm 108:9 (NKJV) ⁹ Moab is My washpot; Over Edom I will cast My shoe; Over Philistia I will triumph."

Moab Began in a Cave – Roots in Sodom

Do a study on Moab and you will see the pain that comes with it. Moab had its beginning in a cave, Genesis 19. Genesis 19 – Lot's family left Sodom, his wife gets stoned. It is Lot to raise his two girls, they get him drunk in a cave of darkness, have incestuous relationships, and born were Moab and Benammi. These two start the whole lineage of the Moabites and the Ammonites, two people that would continually haunt the children of Israel.

Genesis 19:30-38 (NKJV) ³⁰ Then Lot went up out of Zoar and dwelt in the mountains, and his two daughters were with him; for he was afraid to dwell in Zoar. And he and his two daughters dwelt in a cave. ³¹ Now the firstborn said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is no man on the earth to come in to us as is the custom of all the earth. ³² Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father." ³³ So they made their father drink wine that night. And the firstborn went in and lay with her father, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose. ³⁴ It happened on the next day that the firstborn said to the younger, "Indeed I lay with my father last night; let us make him drink wine tonight also, and you go in and lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father." ³⁵ Then they made their father drink wine that night also. And the younger arose and lay with him, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose. ³⁶ Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father. ³⁷ The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab; he is the father of the Moabites to this day. ³⁸ And the younger, she also bore a son and called his name Ben-Ammi; he is the father of the people of Ammon to this day.

Cursed Moab

Moab was cursed by God because in the wilderness wandering they came out against Israel and would not allow them to travel through the land, nor did they provide food and water to them. And then, Moab we know the story they hired Balaam to curse them, and then seduced Israel with sexual wickedness.

Deuteronomy 23:3–4 (NKJV) ³ "An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter the assembly of the LORD; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the assembly of the LORD forever, ⁴ because they did not meet you with bread and water on the road when you came out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you.

Revelation 2:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.

Moab = Sewer / It is a Blackhole

So in taking a trip to Moab, Elimelech was saying "it's getting tough here in the House of Bread, the place of praise, let's go swim in the sewer. We can be like that can't we. Where's the Lord? My devotions are dry, times are tough, wonder what I can find on cable TV to swim around in the sewer for a while. Let's say we move to Moab. Don't worry Lord I'm not moving out permanently, I'm just taking a little break from the intensity. Don't be fooled, Moab is like a black hole - easy to get sucked into, but extremely difficult to get back out. Ask Naomi she spent 10 years there.

Many people

- get tired of being single so they figure a date with a non-believer won't hurt, but then one thing leads to another, because they have left the House of bread.
- Or I'll go flirt with the coworker since my spouse doesn't give me enough attention, never expecting an adulteress affair,
- a night out with the boys likes the good old days.
- Or maybe I'll just read this magazine once, and only for awhile.
- Or how about that job you take, ya I know it isn't pleasing to God, but I'll just do it for a short time make a lot of money and get out, but 10 years go by in the meantime.

Moab – Black Hole / God calls you to Bethlehem (House of Bread)

Moab is a black hole, and many of believers have been sucked into and have never returned. Moab will call you into the darkness and have you do things you would never imagine. But God has a place prepared for you – it's in the House of Bread, and so don't ever leave it Christian, regardless how hard it gets.

Dad's Don't Check-Out

Dads you can't check out on the spiritual things when the material and physical get tough. You kids are not only watching, they are following.

J Vernon McGee Quote

You are a preacher, whoever you are. It may be in a very small circle, but you are affecting someone. You are a preacher in your own home. This reminds me of a father who kept a jug of whiskey hidden in the corn crib. It was his habit to go out there every morning and get himself a drink. On a snowy morning he went out to the barn as was his habit, but this time he heard someone behind him. He turned around and found that it was his little son following him, stepping in the footsteps in the snow where his father had walked. The father asked, "What are you doing, son?" The boy answered, "I'm following in your footsteps." He sent the boy back into the house, and then he went out to the corn crib and smashed that jug of whiskey. He realized that he didn't want his boy to be following in his footsteps. Someone in your home is following in your footsteps. Where are you leading him?

Tragedy in the Family (1:3-5)

Ruth 1:3 Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left, and her two sons.

Life Changes Fast

Life changes fast doesn't it, it come at you like a flood sometimes. Husband and wives, cherish your moments. Choose your battles wisely. You don't have to win every one, nor do you have to fight over every one of them. Life comes at you fast, enjoy every moment you have together.

Christmas – Don't Miss it

And this holiday season, don't get wrapped up in the decoration or the shopping for the perfect gift. The perfect gift won't make for the perfect Christmas, neither will the perfect home. Stop and slow down and enjoy each other, and whatever you do, don't miss Christmas. I speak from experience, even the things that seem so important like ministry. Not sure how many times I was going so fast for the holidays, doing so many things, I missed Christmas. I was in the midst of Christmas, but I was going from activity to activity, that I really didn't soak in the moment with the people around me. Slow down beloved, let stuff remain undone, and soak in the moment we only get once a year, this Christmas season of love and joy, for our Savior, and with friends and family.

Ruth 1:4 Now they took wives of the women of Moab: the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth. And they dwelt there about ten years.

Once Leave House of Bread – God's Rule will Die

Elimelech (God is my King) dies. Once you leave the House of Bread, the rule and reign of God in your life will dissipate and die.

Situation Doesn't Overrule Word of God

No situation trumps the Word of God - should not have married outside Nation But dad taught them to apply situational morality based on the situation, not the Word of God. Some commentators say that Moabites were not one of the groups Israelites were forbidden to marry because they quote Deuteronomy 7 and the listing of the 7 nations. But those nations were the squatters who were inside the Promised land that were to be driven out of the land, and not to make a peace treaty with. God said so, because He knew if they made peace pacts with them, they would follow their false-gods too. And that was the case. The names may not be specific, but the purpose of the command is general (don't intermarry with the heathen nations around you).

Deuteronomy 7:1-5 (NKJV) ¹ "When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, ² and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them. ³ Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. ⁴ For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly. ⁵ But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire.

Once Leave House of Bread – God's Rule will Die

Elimelech (God is my King) dies. Once you leave the House of Bread, the rule and reign of God in your life will dissipate and die.

Ruth 1:5 Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband.

No Parent Should Outlive their Child

No parent should outlive their child. If that is you today, God walks with you in your pain.

Hard to Imagine

It's hard to imagine what Naomi was going through without actually going through it ourselves. First her husband and now her two sons.

Use Your Pain

I have been studying this Bible for 25 years, but I can tell you this, when I have to make a call to a family who has suffered the sorrow of parting with a spouse or a child, I want the person who has experienced it to come and comfort. My words seems to fall short, but the person who has been there, just he words "I Know" seem to ba all that needs to be said.

As Chaplain

But as a Police Chaplain I made way too many calls on the homes of parents to tell them their child had died (car accident, violence, overdose, natural causes). And I never said "I Know", because I didn't know. But I always said to them, I do not know this pain you are experiencing of a loss of a child, but God the Father knows, as His Only Son died, and He knows the pain and heartache you are experiencing today because He experienced it also. You can go to Him, you can speak to Him, He knows and understands, and he will minister and comfort you. May I pray with you right now, to Him, and may His heart minister to you as you grieve the loss of your child. So, take them to the Father when you visit them, and take them before the Father as you intercede for them in their loss. And always remember, not every would heals, so be sensitive to that and them for as long as they live.

Not Punishment

The question is often asked, is this God's punishment upon them for leaving Bethlehem and coming to Moab? To which I can answer, NO! God doesn't punish us for our sins, because the punishment for sin could never be severe enough. We deserve to be totally consumed. We read in James 2:10, that if we break just one of the commandments we are guilty of breaking all (that would mean being as guilty as a murder or blasphemer), God doesn't rank sin, they are all equally offensive to Him. And Romans 3:23 says we are all guilty, and the wages of just one sin is death.

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

James 2:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

Ezekiel 18:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

Habakkuk 1:13 (NKJV) ¹³ You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, And hold Your tongue when the wicked devours A person more righteous than he?

Poured out on Jesus

The punishment we deserve for sin was poured out on Jesus on the cross, who took our place. The theological word is "propitiation", it means to "appease wrath". Simply put, Jesus traded places with you. He took the wrath intended for you, so you could escape the wrath and become a son/daughter of God. To apply or make a theology that says god punishes us for our sin, is then to say that the sacrifice of Jesus wasn't enough. God says he has put our sin away as far as the east is from the west.

1 John 2:1-2 (NKJV) ¹ My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV) ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Psalms 103:12 (NKJV) ¹² As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Jesus did Not Come to Punish You

Gang listen to me, Jesus Christ did not come to this earth to be beaten, spat upon, mocked, scourged and then crucified on a wooden cross on some hill in Palestine 2000 years ago so He can make your life miserable. He wants you to have life and that more abundant (John 10:10), and there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

John 10:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Romans 8:1 (NKJV) ¹ There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

God Will Use Bad Things of Fallen World

So when bad things happen to us, is that God's punishment, NO! Will He use these bad things that happen in this fallen world to do something great, YES! God is not punishing you, but He working in dark times, and He wastes nothing, even your pain and sorrow.

Romans 8:28 (NKJV) ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Have You Received Him?

Have You Let Him Take Your Sin and Punishment Today?

2 Corinthians 6:2 (NKJV) ² For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

Ask Him

What must you do, ask Him (with your mouth) to forgive your sins, believe that He did through Jesus Christ, and then turn follow Him, away from your old life of your old ways, into His life and His ways.

Romans 10:9-10 (NKJV) ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Conclusion

Door always Open to Return

Moab can be dark and painful, but praise the Lord, the door is always open to return..... look at verse 6.

Ruth 1:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had visited His people by giving them bread.

Come to Throne of Grace

So now come to the throne of grace and spend time with the Lord, ask Him take this word and work it into your life.

**Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)* ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Prayer Guide

- Reverence – What do we see about our Great God?
- Response – How do I respond to all that He is?
- Requests – What can I boldly request from Him based on this?
- Readiness – What do I need to be on-guard against when I leave here today?
- Reverence – How great is Our God?

End of Study.

Ruth 1:6-22

A Cinderella Story

The book of Ruth is the Hebrew version of Cinderella. Ruth is a young lady who escapes a life of reproach and poverty by meeting a wealthy prince. Prince Boaz sweeps Ruth off her feet, and makes her his bride. The difference of course between Ruth and Cinderella is that the book of Ruth is no fairytale - no pumpkins turn into carriages. This is a real-life story set amidst the hardships of daily circumstances. And the miraculous occurrences that unfold are orchestrated not by a fairy godmother, but by God the heavenly Father.

Ruth & Esther

“Ruth” is one of two biblical books named after a woman. The other is Esther.

The book of Esther is the story of a Hebrew woman living in a Gentile land, while Ruth is the story of a Gentile woman living in the land of the Hebrews. And both stories are prophetic of the times in which we live...

- For 2000 years the Jews have been displaced from their homeland. They have been scattered among the Gentiles. Esther foreshadows God’s providential protection and preservation of Israel over the last two millenniums.
- Ruth on the other hand foreshadows God’s plan for the Gentiles. Though Ruth is an outsider she receives the blessings God intended for the Hebrews by marrying into an Israeli family. We too have married into God’s promises for the Jews. We’ve married a wealthy Hebrew prince named Jesus. We’ve fallen in love with Jesus. He has swept us off our feet and showered us with blessings. In Christ we have gained an inheritance with God’s people.

Theme – God’s Redemption of Man

The Book of Ruth is only 85 verses long. In those verses, it uses the following words

- God (Yahweh) – 17 times
- God (Elohim) – 3 times
- God (El-Shaddia) – 2 times
- Redeem (Redeemer, Redemption, Kinsman) – over 20 times

We can see with these words that that theme of this Book is “God’s Redemption”.

Re=Again

Re is the Latin prefix meaning “again.” The Bible words beginning with it have a fascination for me, for they always speak of the grace of God: restoring, renewing, regenerating, reviving. It is God doing something again after man has spoiled it.

Redemption is that activity of the grace of God that not only forgives a man’s sins but also restores and overrules all the loss occasioned by his sin.

Prince Jesus

The book of Ruth is the Hebrew version of Cinderella, let’s hear what our Prince Jesus has to say!

Naomi and her Daughters Discuss (1:6-13)

Ruth 1:6 Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had visited His people by giving them bread.

Endure – Escape - Enlist

The decision. When trouble comes to our lives, we can do one of three things: endure it, escape it, or enlist it. If we only endure our trials, then trials become our master, and we have a tendency to become hard and bitter. If we try to escape our trials, then we will probably miss the purposes God wants to achieve in our lives. But if we learn to enlist our trials, they will become our servants instead of our masters and work for us; and God will work all things together for our good and His glory (Rom. 8:28).

Romans 8:28 (NKJV) ²⁸ *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

Wrong Decision to Bail in Trails / We Walk by Sight

Elimelech made the wrong decision when he decided to leave home. What made this decision so wrong? He walked by sight and not by faith. How do you walk by faith? By claiming the promises of God and obeying the Word of God, regardless of what you see, how you feel, or what may happen. It means committing yourself to the Lord and relying wholly on Him to meet the need. When we live by faith, it glorifies God, witnesses to a lost world, and builds Christian character into our lives.

2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV) ⁷ *For we walk by faith, not by sight.*

Christians Miss Blessings by Being in Wrong Place

Christians can miss a lot of blessings of God because they are in the wrong place. Elimelech took his family to the wrong place, and they missed the blessing of God. We may be in the wrong place because of a personal sin, or we may be in the wrong place of just a bad decision. Many times, we're in the wrong place because we should be asking God where is it that you are doing a blessing and doing wondrous because then that is where I need to be. So often we forget where the blessings are, and therefore, we're not under the fount of the blessing.

Get Under the Fount where Blessings Flow (are Promised)

Every Christian should ask, where is God's blessings flowing, where does he promise blessings, and there is where I need to run to and put myself under the fountain of His blessings:

**Psalm 1:1-3 (NKJV)* ¹ *Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. ³ He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.*

Psalm 133:1 (NKJV) ¹ *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!*

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NKJV) ²⁴ *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Proverbs 22:9 (NKJV) ⁹ *He who has a generous eye will be blessed, For he gives of his bread to the poor.*

Malachi 3:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ *Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.*

Proverbs 8:34 (NKJV) ³⁴ *Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at the posts of my doors.*

Psalm 84:4 (NKJV) ⁴ *Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; They will still be praising You. Selah*

This is where the blessings flow, and this is where we want to position ourselves and remain in and under to receive the blessings God intends for His children.

God Visited

Verse 6 - the LORD had visited His people by giving them bread - God warned the people that if they turn from Him, He will stop the rain and curse the ground

Deuteronomy 11:13-17 (NKJV) ¹³ *'And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹⁴ then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil. ¹⁵ And I will send grass in your fields for your livestock, that you may eat and be filled.' ¹⁶ Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them, ¹⁷ lest the LORD's anger be aroused against you, and He shut up the heavens so that there be no rain, and the land yield no produce, and you perish quickly from the good land which the LORD is giving you.*

People Repented

So apparently, the people of Bethlehem repented, or at least some believers were praying, and God healed their land. What do you do when famine comes into your life, upon your country, repent and wait:

**Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV)* ³¹ *But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.*

Naomi Heard

Verse 6 - for she had heard - When they left Bethlehem, they had lost their land, we know this from the context of the Book. So Naomi is destitute, she has no home or land to return to.....but notice here, “for she heard”that the Lord visited His people. As long as we have an ear to hear, God can work in our lives. The door is always open, listen for the way back home.

Ruth 1:7 Therefore she went out from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.

Ruth 1:8 And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go, return each to her mother’s house. The LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.

Ruth 1:9 The LORD grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband.” So she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.

Ruth 1:10 And they said to her, “Surely we will return with you to your people.”

Ruth 1:11 But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Are there still sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?

Ruth 1:12 Turn back, my daughters, go—for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, if I should have a husband tonight and should also bear sons,

Ruth 1:13 would you wait for them till they were grown? Would you restrain yourselves from having husbands? No, my daughters; for it grieves me very much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me!”

Dealt Kindly

Verse 8 - as you have dealt with the dead and with me - The dead referring to their husbands and Elimelech.

Leverite Marriage Law / Deuteronomy 25

Verses 11-13 - would you wait for them till they were grown? Naomi is referring to the practice in Deuteronomy 25:5-10 (the Law of Leverite Marriage), and we will talk more about that in the next study. But a summation of it is that if your brother was married and died before having children, then it was up to the next oldest brother to “continue on” the lineage of that brother by impregnating the widowed sister-in-law. The child born would not be considered his, but his deceased brother.

Deuteronomy 25:5–10 (NKJV) ⁵ “If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be married to a stranger outside the family; her husband’s brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband’s brother to her. ⁶ And it shall be that the firstborn son which she bears will succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel. ⁷ But if the man does not want to take his brother’s wife, then let his brother’s wife go up to the gate to the elders, and say, ‘My husband’s brother refuses to raise up a name to his brother in Israel; he will not perform the duty of my husband’s brother.’ ⁸ Then the elders of his city shall call him and speak to him. But if he stands firm and says, ‘I do not want to take her,’ ⁹ then his brother’s wife shall come to him in the presence of the elders, remove his sandal from his foot, spit in his face, and answer and say, ‘So shall it be done to the man who will not build up his brother’s house.’ ¹⁰ And his name shall be called in Israel, ‘The house of him who had his sandal removed.’

Orpah Leaves but Ruth Clings (1:14-18)

Ruth 1:14 Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

Ruth 1:15 And she said, “Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.”

God of Maob – Chemosh / Vile Practices

The God of the Moabites was “Chemosh”. They made human sacrifices to this god (2 Kings 3:26-27):

Numbers 21:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ Woe to you, Moab! You have perished, O people of Chemosh! He has given his sons as fugitives, And his daughters into captivity, To Sihon king of the Amorites.

1 Kings 11:7–8 (NKJV) ⁷ Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon. ⁸ And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

1 Kings 11:33 (NKJV) ³³ because they have forsaken Me, and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the people of Ammon, and have not walked in My ways to do what is right in My eyes and keep My statutes and My judgments, as did his father David.

2 Kings 3:26–27 (NKJV) ²⁶ And when the king of Moab saw that the battle was too fierce for him, he took with him seven hundred men who drew swords, to break through to the king of Edom, but they could not. ²⁷ Then he took his eldest son who would have reigned in his place, and offered him as a burnt offering upon the wall; and there was great indignation against Israel. So they departed from him and returned to their own land.

Naomi – Looking Past Spiritual into the Physical

We see the effects of no spiritual leadership in the household for these women were never lead to become Judaizers. They were given the go ahead to go back and worship false gods. Naomi was looking past the spiritual into the physical. Rather than caring that these girls were going to hell, she was more concerned that they would be taken care of here in this world.

Matthew 16:26 (NKJV) ²⁶ For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

How Often we Get 2 Reversed

How often we get the two reversed, we think we have to be physically secured before we can get focused spirituality. The physical healing will only last until the next trial; the spiritual healing will take them through the next trial, and the next, and the next.

Here & Now – There & Later

We can tend to think the physical is here-and-now, and the spiritual is there-and-later, and always putting the physical things before the spiritual, always thinking the spiritual will always be there, but the physical went and thus we have to deal with physical first.

Street Witnessing in CA

I remember sharing on the streets in California, and I meet a man who said he was too stoned to receive Jesus, I said I would rather stumble into heaven drunk, than go to hell stone cold sober – I said listen to me, God loves you. I tell you I watched his glazed eyes clear instantly, and immediately he was perfectly coherent of every word I said. At the end he prayed to receive Jesus. It was supernatural – but of course it is, because the Gospel is supernatural. I have seen people with Alzheimer’s come out of it and hear the gospel and then slip back into Alzheimer’s. Renee shared the Gospel with a woman who was in a coma, she came out of the coma and heard the gospel and then slipped back into the coma. Shortly thereafter that woman recovered (even though we were told she was in her last moments of life), and she committed her life to Christ and went on to be a faithful follower of Jesus. The Gospel is supernatural.

Funny regarding this man I just spoke about - Three months later I saw him and didn’t recognize him, he was cleaned up both bodily and spiritually. I said what are you cleaning the car up for, he said me and buddies are heading to Arkansas to street witness, that’s what God has told us to do. Then he said, can you tell us how to get to Arkansas. I said Route 10 East; I figured I’d point and God would get them there.

Orpah Agrees with Logic and Splits

Orpah agrees with this logic and splits, she’s not waiting that long for another husband. Notice we never hear of her again.

The Kingdom of God is Near

Orpah shows much emotion, but no devotion; conviction, but no commitment. Hey do you want to go to the House of Bread, and the place of Praise.....no thanks I stay here in the toilet bowl, and worship the gods of this world. Moab was an idol worshipping country, yet she wasn’t willing to leave it all. Just like the parable of the Sower and the Seed in Mark 4. Some believers get totally excited when they hear a sermon, but then fall away quickly when hard times come because they are not grounded in the word. There are those who get all emotional and then leave, and then there are those like Ruth who cleave with devotion.

Mark 4:3–8 (NKJV) ³ “Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. ⁴ And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it. ⁵ Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. ⁶ But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away. ⁷ And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. ⁸ But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.”

6 Inches from the Head to the heart

Verse 14. So Orpah, she makes her decision. See, the gospel of following Jesus Christ is a decision. No one has to follow God. Although, it's supernatural when God is drawing, and God is speaking, God still gives man a freewill choice. It's a decision. It's a marriage vow, if you would, where God is asking a person, "Will you marry me and enter into a lifelong marriage covenant and commitment with me?" He would want no one to be married against their will. Orpah had a decision to make; she did, and she chose not.

She wasn't far from the kingdom of God, only 50 miles. She had even started to walk towards Bethlehem. Then she stopped and turned back because what Naomi had said to her made some type of logical sense to her. "I will not find a husband in Bethlehem. I have to go back and go to Moab because that's where I will find my husband and find my fulfillment." She was close to the kingdom of God, but she missed it by eternity. They say there's only six inches from the head to the heart, and many people miss the kingdom of God by only six inches.

How Often we Get 2 Reversed

How often we get the two reversed, we think we have to be physically secured before we can get focused spirituality. The physical healing will only last until the next trial; the spiritual healing will take them through the next trial, and the next, and the next.

Ruth 1:16 But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. Ruth 1:17 Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me."

Ruth 1:18 When she saw that she was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her.

Wedding Vows

So this glorious, beautiful commitment of Ruth, and it's one that's traditionally now, just a, a beautiful expression of, of fidelity, and, and of love. "Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you lodge, I will lodge. Your people, will be my people, your God, my God. God forbid that anything but death should part us." You remember something else from the ceremony? "Until death do us part." Ruth's name means friend, and we see the beginning of the work of God in her, and the great friend she truly is to Naomi – she never abandons this older women to fend for herself, she stayed with her. Ruth was raised in Moab, an idol worshipping country, yet she was willing to leave it all, make her life a living sacrifice for the other. We need to all come back to our wedding vows, and live them just as we spoke them, until death do us part. Too many wedding vows being spoken in word only, and not in deed. Beloved, live your vow out today, be a friend, and be a living sacrifice to the one you made the vow to.

3X told to Go Back / Weak Witness / The Gospel is Supernatural

Three times Naomi says, "Go back." We saw it in Verse 8, in Verse 11, and Verse 12. Even with the weak witness of Naomi, Ruth still wanted to follow Naomi's God. Praise God people's salvation does not depend on us. We can't stop the work of God, but God will use us greatly to aid in it if we are willing to submit to be used. The gospel is supernatural, and therefore we should approach it as such. John 6:44, "No one comes to the son unless drawn by the Father." We can see that there is nothing that can draw people to Christ unless the Father is drawing them.

**John 6:44 (NKJV) ⁴⁴ No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.*

What a Terrible Witness – God is Against Me / Who Would Ever Want to Follow?

Back in Verse 13, Naomi says, "God is against me." Now, that's a great witness, isn't it? You would think with that witness, it's hard to believe that all of Moab didn't want to follow her and meet her God and find out who he was. Really, if we told people, "Come to Jesus so that He can afflict you. Come to Jesus so that He may crush you. Come to Jesus so that He may punish you for your sin, it would be hard to believe that the world wouldn't be lining up to follow such an invite now, isn't it. May we not present God in such a negative way. He is a God of love. He gave His only begotten Son; that's how much he loves us. As we said, "This is not punishment." The calamity that has come upon her is the result of a fallen world. Even in the midst of the pain and suffering, there is a God who will draw

near to us be He understands what it is to lose a loved one as God the Father gave his only begotten son and was separated from Him via the death of the cross.

The Gospel is Supernatural / Freedom and Power Believing it is Supernatural

Even with the weak witness of Naomi, Ruth still follows. There is something supernatural going on here. We sit, and we can try to say, "Look at Ruth; she heard about the God of Israel and she wanted to follow," which I don't think that's true because Naomi's telling her to go back to her gods. Naomi never elevated her God of Israel. It doesn't appear that the husband or the father ever elevated the God of Israel because they remained in Moab. I see nothing that was spiritual invested into Ruth to want to make this commitment. All that I see is that something supernatural is going on.

It's supernatural. The gospel, it's supernatural, and when we believe it to be just that, that it's supernatural, we will move beyond the fear of sharing our faith into the joy and the power of sharing our faith because we will see it's nothing to do with us. Absolutely nothing to do with us. It's all supernatural.

John 6:44 (NKJV) ⁴⁴ No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

Ruth Dissatisfied with Maob / Left Empty

The God of the Moabites was Chemosh. He was, as they made him to be, a horrible God to follow as they made human sacrifices. So the question or the thought can be made, "Why wouldn't Ruth want to leave and get out of Moab?" Maybe there was a dissatisfaction with the world around her. Maybe she was sickened by the practices in Moab and knew there was something more. Maybe there was an emptiness, and that emptiness was long before the loss of her husband and her father-in-law. She had a husband, she had a father-in-law, but still knowing something was missing. Many times it isn't until a person is empty that they sense there's something more. I believe that's how God designs every man. He puts a God-shaped void in their hearts that they know there's something missing, and they want more.

Ray B Personal Testimony of Emptiness

I can testify to that. At the age of 27, I had what they would consider an American dream, working at the Space Center, launching rocks- rockets, successful, living on the beach, had the toys to go with it, jet skis, cars, et cetera. Had all the social life to go with it, and yet I would go home and look into the mirror and see emptiness. I could literally look into my eyes, as I stood before a mirror, and look into the bottom of my soul, and I just knew it was empty, and I knew there was something more. God started a stirring, and I started a seeking, but more so, it was no one comes to the son unless drawn by the father. It was God drawing me at His perfect timing for it was time. I saw the world. It was empty. I was empty. I was dissatisfied with anything the world could offer me, and I knew that marriage and a white picket fence wasn't going to change that. That is when God reached into my heart and showed me His love and changed me forever. That's 25 years now, and I haven't turned back once to look back and miss the world. I was ready to get out of Moab and head to Bethlehem.

Maybe that is you today, you are dissatisfied, you are empty, you know there is something more to life than what you are living. I pray you hear the God of heaven speaking to you right now, and you can hear Him, saying "that is right", there is more, and it is a personal relationship with Me. You are empty and disconnected because you were created by God, for a relationship with Him (Revelation 4:11).

**Revelation 4:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."*

Errant Doctrine – God Doesn't Wish All to Come to Him

It's supernatural. It's God's calling, and may you hear today, he wishes that none would parish, that all would seek repentance as God calls every man and excludes no man. I just want to make a point, maybe you're heard a teaching of theology that says that God chooses some and doesn't chose others, and that if you weren't chosen by God then you were destined for hell, and that is a lie. That is a misrepresentation of the word of God and the heart of God. God wishes that none should parish and all should seek repentance. God says that he gave his only begotten son to the whole world, and he would speak to you today, "I make my wedding proposal, my marriage proposal to every man and every woman, and I give them the opportunity to choose." He offers it to you today.

He's sovereign. He knows, but He still offers every man and woman. We see Orpah given the offer. She, it appears, rejects, yet God still offer. Here he offers Ruth, and she accepts. God offers you, and waits for your decision. If you believe that doctrine, then you would sit, and I think of everyone of us would go, "If God chooses, there is no way He would ever choose me, because look at me." That defies grace. God chooses any man or woman who will come, so you come and receive his grace.

2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV) ⁹ *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

John 3:16–21 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸ "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹ But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."*

Naomi and Ruth Return to Bethlehem (1:19-22)

Ruth 1:19 Now the two of them went until they came to Bethlehem. And it happened, when they had come to Bethlehem, that all the city was excited because of them; and the women said, "Is this Naomi?"

Ruth 1:20 But she said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.

Ruth 1:21 I went out full, and the LORD has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?"

Naomi Blames God / We Can forget Sin Entered by Adam

Now one thing I note here, and that is Naomi is blaming God for the problems that have befallen her. She's blaming God for the death of her husband and her sons. She talks about the hand of God, against her, and how God has dealt bitterly with her. It is an unfortunate thing that so often in the time of death, we somehow seek to blame God. Especially in untimely deaths. Ruth was bitter, and it is possible for a person to become bitter against God, at the time of death of one of their loved ones, especially a person's children. We somehow blame God for the tragedies. We forget that death came by sin. By one man, sin entered the world, death by sin, so that death passed unto all men for all sin. In a primary sense, man is responsible for death, not God. Had man not sinned, then death would not be an issue. Death came as the result of sin. Not only death, but the sorrows and the miseries and the griefs. But so often we blame God, because we reason that God could have averted if He had so desired, or was inclined to do so.

Romans 5:12 (NKJV) ¹² *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—*

We Miss Them – AND We Miss they Are in Front of King of Glory (In Glory)

When we part in the sorrow of death, it's really us who has the sorrow because we miss them. We love them, we wish they were here. May we recognize, for those that have put their trust in Jesus Christ, they are beholding Jesus Christ, the gospel is true, and it has delivered them out of the darkness of death and hell into the presence of light, the light of Jesus Christ in the heavenly places. That's where they stand, and they walk new. They're healed of their disease, they have a body and a mind that's sharp again. Cancer is gone, the cause of death is left, and now they dance before the king. Oh, we should be dancing for them, but I know it's hard when we lose a loved one.

Be Sorry Today – For they Are Separated from Jesus / I Don't Want to Cry after they Die

I will tell you when we should be sorrowing. That is right now, today, for the people that we know who do not know Jesus Christ. Because being sorry for their separation from Jesus after they die is the wrong time to be sorry, we have to be sorry about it right now, and we have to do something about it right now. We have to share the gospel with them so that when they die, we don't cry. We won't have sorrow because we know they will go and be in the arms of Jesus. We have to believe that there's a supernatural working of God that's happening, and we have to present it as such that it's supernatural and nothing to do with us, but we have to do the boldness of approaching them and saying, "Let me share with you this good news."

We get the physical and the spiritual reversed; we sorrow after they die physically, whereas we should be sorrowing right now that they are dead spiritually.

When I Die – Don't Cry

Let me say this, when I die, don't cry for me. Keep the casket closed because that body that you see was just a tent that I camped in while I sojourned here. That is not my body, that is not who I am, I am in the presence of Jesus Christ Himself, and I am more alive than I ever was on this earth. Don't cry for me. I will be dancing before the King in joy, and that is pretty amazing because I never could dance before.

But Do me this 1 Thing

At my funeral, you can share stories and have memories, but I'm going to ask you please do this one thing for me. I only ask one thing after I leave this earth, and that is that you will proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ at my funeral. At my funeral, do not hold back proclaiming the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, of the God who so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever should believe in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life. Whoever would be the preacher, or whoever would be the person that has been tasked to preach the gospel, may they say, "Ray said for me to tell you this as if he was speaking." Then you share the gospel. "Ray said for me to tell you that I am in heaven right now beholding and holding Jesus Christ. I lived my whole life for this moment, and it was worth every bit of it." He says to you, "Live for him, don't live for yourself. It will be worth it." If you are not sure that you're sure that you will be received into heaven and into the arms of Jesus Christ, that your sins are forgiven, then please hear these words of this pastor as he's going to tell you how you can have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ today as you walk on this earth, and as you take your last breath and walk into heaven into his arms. Hear this man and the gospel that he will tell you.

Tell them

All have sinned and need a Savior

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Tell them

The wages of sin is death, eternal death, hell (absence of Light – absence of God)

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Tell them

God traded places with them, he took our punishment, on a cross that was due us for breaking God's Holy Commandments. He died there for our sins. He came to pay a debt he did not owe because we owed a debt we could not pay

Romans 5:8 (NKJV) ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Tell them

They must turn and repent from their sins and purpose to follow Jesus

Acts 3:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

Tell them

They need to do it today, and they need to do it with their mouth, believing in their heart, that as Jesus died for their sins taking it to the grave, He rose again from the dead, and there is the power of the Gospel and God, that He can raise the dead, and so too shall we be raised from the dead and enter right into heaven when we die.

Romans 10:9–13 (NKJV) ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

Convey That Before You Die

Each one of you tell that pastor to preach the gospel without fear, to preach it in spirit and truth, to preach it as it something supernatural, and the people will believe it and hear, that people want to hear this gospel, and they're dying to hear this gospel, then they need to hear it before they die. I think it's important for every believer here today to convey this to whoever is the appropriate person, whether it's your spouse or your family and tell them, or tell me, "When I die, you preach the gospel at my funeral. You tell them that they can have new life and you tell them that I have told you to share how."

Ruth 1:22 So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. Now they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

Naomi Not Coming Back Empty

22 - So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her,- Naomi wasn't coming back empty, she was bringing Ruth with her, someone who was committed to her. How often we look right past the blessing of God when we are so focused on ourselves. There was almost nothing worse than being a widow in the ancient world. Widows were taken advantage of or ignored. They were almost always poverty stricken. But Ruth is willing to take care of her.

Be a Giver of Thanks in Your Prayer Life

Verse 19. She says, "Mara, because I am no longer pleasant," which Naomi means but I'm bitter, "and so we find ourselves in a place we'll always be bitter when we look at what we don't have rather than what we do have." The Lord says to us, "In all things give thanks." Are you a giver of thanks? Does your prayer life include thanksgiving? Because it needs to because thanksgiving is the guard against bitterness. Thanksgiving is the guard against feeling sorry and self-pity. Become a thanks-giver of what God has given, and you'll see that what great things God has given. Thanksgiving reminds us what we do have, what is good, and what is a blessing, but Naomi is afflicted, no doubt. When we focus on the affliction, then we'll never get to see the goodness because the focus on that what is wrong will always overshadow all that is right and all that God has done.

Psalm 100:4-5 (NKJV) ⁴ Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. ⁵ For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.

Naomi Didn't Know Rest of Story / Chp 4 be Nursing Grandchild of Seed of Messiah

Naomi also didn't know the rest of the story. That this daughter-in-law would bear a son that would be in the lineage leading up to King David, and ultimately the Messiah. She didn't know chapter 4 where she will be nursing her grandchild, a seed of the Messiah to come.

Don't Give up in the Trials

Don't give-up in the trials, cause you never know where they will lead you. I suffered long and hard in Louisiana, but it was a path that brought me to Baltimore, I would have never left Cocoa Beach Florida to come to Baltimore. I would never have ended up here, had I not been there. I praise the Lord for that, because it was here that I met my bride, my love for a lifetime:

Conclusion

Naomi is the Old Testament picture of the prodigal son. She is returning home, and we will see God fully receives her back. Maybe you once dwelt in Bethlehem, Judah, the House of Bread and Place of Praise, but you thought there might be something better, and you left, and you went to Moab, and you're still in Moab. You thought it would just be a four season, but it's been more than that, but now you've heard that God has spoken, and God has visited, and that God is calling you to come home, so you come home tonight. You come home, God is waiting. He'll leave the light on for you.

Luke 15:11-32 (NKJV) ¹¹ Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. ¹² And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. ¹³ And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. ¹⁴ But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. ¹⁵ Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. ¹⁶ And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and will say to

him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you,¹⁹ and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."²⁰ "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.²³ And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry;²⁴ for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.²⁵ "Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing.²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant.²⁷ And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.'²⁸ "But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him.²⁹ So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends.³⁰ But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.'³¹ "And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours.³² It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.' "

Invitation to – House of Bread

Maybe you've never been to Bethlehem at all. You're in Moab, and it's lush and it's green, and it physically has provided, but you're no longer satisfied with Moab. You know that there's something missing, and you know that there's something more. May you realize and recognize its God himself drawing you to come to His Bethlehem, Judah, the House of Bread, the Place of Praise, place where He will meet you and provide a home for you, and the two of you will abide together forever. What you're feeling in your heart is God calling you to come to a new land, to leave the place that you are, and to come and leave the relationships that you have, and come and have a relationship with Him. Today you come. You come, God's waiting for you.

Come to Throne of Grace

So now come to the throne of grace and spend time with the Lord, ask Him take this word and work it into your life.

**Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Prayer Guide

- Reverence – What do we see about our Great God?
- Response – How do I respond to all that He is?
- Requests – What can I boldly request from Him based on this?
- Readiness – What do I need to be on-guard against when I leave here today?
- Reverence – How great is Our God?

End of Study.

Ruth 2

Immediately

As we ended chapter one we hear Naomi say call me bitter, I went out full and came back empty. We can sympathize with her, how much pain can a heart take? She lost her husband and then both sons. But as we said, she didn't know the rest of the story – that God was and is always working. 36 times in the book of Mark the word "immediately" is used

- immediately they left their nets and followed Him (1:18)
- immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed (1:42)
- immediately he arose, took up the bed and went forth (2:12)
- immediately he received his sight (10:52)

I like that, because that is the Life of the Christian, with God on the throne, things can change for the better in a moment, out of the blue, unexpectedly.....immediately.

And so we open chapter two, things change immediately, God is on the move. And, be reminded, so too is the way it is in your life, you never know when your immediately will come, we just know that it will.

Ruth 2:1 There was a relative of Naomi's husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech. His name was Boaz.

Gerald Green

Did you hear about the young man who said to his sweetheart, "Darling, I'm not wealthy, and handsome, and I don't have a mansion, and a Mercedes, and a yacht, like Gerald Green, but I love you baby with all my heart." The girl replied, "Well, I love you too... but tell me more about this Gerald Green?" Hey, Boaz was a Gerald Green and more.

Remember When Jesus Rode on to the Scene

Boaz, He is the hero of the story, and here he rides upon the scene. Boaz we will see is a type, a picture, of Jesus Christ, our Hero. Do you remember when Jesus rode upon the scene of your life? The first time you saw him. The first time you laid eyes upon him. The first time you realized that He loved you, adored you, and desired you personally. It's good to go back and remember that moment; I remember it like it was yesterday even though some 25 years ago, and it was like I was walking on a cloud, I knew I was clean, I was forgiven, and that God Himself wanted a personal relationship with me. Jesus was and always will be, MY HERO.

Boaz – Standing in Strength

The hero of our story – Boaz. Boaz means "standing in strength". Even though the country was corrupt and bankrupt as a result that in those days there was no king in Israel, every man did that which was right in his own eyes, Boaz stood strong in the days of the famine and stayed true in the days of filth.

Judges 21:25 (NKJV) ²⁵ In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

When Solomon would build the Temple, he would call one of the two main pillars of the Temple, Boaz, which means "standing in strength" and the other Jachin which means "He will establish". I pray that every time you come into this "temple" (church) you are strengthened and established as you meet with the Lord and He meets you.

1 Kings 7:21 (NKJV) ²¹ Then he set up the pillars by the vestibule of the temple; he set up the pillar on the right and called its name Jachin, and he set up the pillar on the left and called its name Boaz.

We Need More Men Today Like Boaz

Boaz – standing in strength. We need more men today like Boaz, men who stand in strength, not wavering and flowing with the tides of the world, but men who go against the tide of the world, men who stand tall and firm for the things of God, men who are passionate about being men of strength and righteous. Oh Lord may we men here today, be those men, raise up an army of mighty men of strength.

1 Corinthians 16:13–14 (ESV) ¹³ *Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.* ¹⁴ *Let all that you do be done in love.*

Maybe You are a Jachin

Who was Jachin? So impressed was Solomon that he named the two pillars of the temple after Boaz and Jachin; now we know the story of Boaz, but who is Jachin? Search the scriptures and you won't find him except his family lineage. But so great was this man to Solomon that he named one of the two pillars after him. I like that, someone who was great, but few knew about it, he just did his thing day behind the scenes, nobody noticing Except God. That is such a picture of the Body of Christ, the Church of God, that there are all kinds of people who are pillars in the church, but nobody notices them, or recognizes them, or gives them recognition, but they are truly pillars in the church. They are vital to the body. Christian there is great honor in being a Boaz in the Church, and there is equal honor in being a Jachin. So if you are called to be a Jachin in the church today, be firmly established in that, and know that God sees you, and considers you a great pillar in the church.

Boaz a Kinsman of Elimelech

Verse 1 - a relative of Naomi's husband – This is the key element of the story: Boaz is a kinsman, he is in the family tree (on Elimelech side). This word kinsman is also translated 'redeemer' – it is from the Hebrew word 'goel', which is used 98 times in the Old Testament. It can mean to be a relative, or to buy back. Often you will hear them used together – kinsman-redeemer. Here in verse 1 the word for relative is not "goel", just a generic word for relative. But as the story develops we will see the word "goel" used (2:20), which is the word that means "kinsman redeemer".

Ruth 2:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ *Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "Blessed be he of the LORD, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!" And Naomi said to her, "This man is a relation of ours, one of our close relatives (goel)."*

The word kinsman (goel) has its root in the 25th chapter Leviticus where God outlined a plan to prevent capitalism from getting out of hand.

This Jewish Law was called the Law of Redemption (Leviticus 25:47-52), (this is essential for our understanding of revelation chapter 5 (Jesus taking the scroll) we will talk more about that in chapter 4).

Leviticus 25:47–52 (NKJV) ⁴⁷ *'Now if a sojourner or stranger close to you becomes rich, and one of your brethren who dwells by him becomes poor, and sells himself to the stranger or sojourner close to you, or to a member of the stranger's family, ⁴⁸ after he is sold he may be redeemed again. One of his brothers may redeem him; ⁴⁹ or his uncle or his uncle's son may redeem him; or anyone who is near of kin to him in his family may redeem him; or if he is able he may redeem himself. ⁵⁰ Thus he shall reckon with him who bought him: The price of his release shall be according to the number of years, from the year that he was sold to him until the Year of Jubilee; it shall be according to the time of a hired servant for him. ⁵¹ If there are still many years remaining, according to them he shall repay the price of his redemption from the money with which he was bought. ⁵² And if there remain but a few years until the Year of Jubilee, then he shall reckon with him, and according to his years he shall repay him the price of his redemption.*

Selling Property / Rules of Redemption

It is contrary to our capitalistic way of thinking. We are used to property purchases here in America that when we buy a piece of property it is ours/heirs until the day we sell it – full title. Israel didn't operate that way, if you remember before they came into the land of Israel, it was divided between the twelve tribes. So basically, the twelve tribes all got land grants to live on and harvest the land. It was their family's for life (the land was to stay within the tribe - that is why genealogies are so important in the Bible – it proved who owned the land). As your family grew, then Dad would cut a piece off and give it to the son's as an inheritance.

If you got in trouble financially (bankruptcy, poor business practices, or financial mismanagement), you quote "sold your land" (but it is more what you and I would call a lease – you leased the land to someone else to use for awhile). So when you sold your property the title deed included in it the "Rules of Redemption" – a procedure for buying the property back. You would sell the land for a period of time (usually 7 years), and the owner could purchase the land back if he was able within that period. But even if he was not able, a kinsman (near relative) could come and buy it back and return it to the family. And still if no one could, then every 50 years was the "Year of Jubilee" and all properties purchased by corporations or wealthy individuals due to bankruptcy were to revert to the original owner. Also, in the year of Jubilee, all debts were canceled. It was the Father's safeguard against greed which causes such disparity between the rich and the poor, and it prevented the rich from monopolizing on the poor – it was a great equalizer.

As gracious as the year of Jubilee was however, 50 years is a long time to be without your land, especially if you're a farmer. So the Lord made this provision – The Kinsman Redeemer. That is why the word, goel is translated both kinsman and redeemer.

BTW – Year of Jubilee All a Spiritual Picture

By the way, the Year of Jubilee is a spiritual picture of God cancelling all debts that are against us, all our offenses before Him, and Him restoring us fully. And best of all, we don't have to wait 50 years, but He did it once and done when He went to the cross 2,000 years ago for our sin.

Boaz is a Type of Jesus

For the rest of the study we will be talking of what is called a “type” in the Bible. Everywhere we look in the Old Testament we will see Jesus Christ, for the Bible is about Jesus Christ.

Hosea 12:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ I have also spoken by the prophets, And have multiplied visions; I have given symbols through the witness of the prophets.”

Hebrews 10:7 (NKJV) ⁷ Then I said, 'Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.' ”

Through our studies we will relate how Boaz is like (a type of) Jesus.

Naomi will realize later in this chapter that Boaz is a kinsman, the “Goel”, and can possibly redeem their land, He can rescue them from their poverty. You can see the type here,

- Boaz can rescue them from poverty and Jesus can rescue us from our spiritual poverty.
- Boaz is a picture of our kinsmen redeemer, Jesus Christ, our Goel,
- we are bankrupt, like Ruth and Naomi, we have nothing; but, There is one who is wealthy, there is one who stands in strength, He is our kinsman Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

As you watch this love story of Boaz redeeming Ruth, know that this is a picture of Jesus Christ redeeming you.

Ruth 2:2 So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, “Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor.” And she said to her, “Go, my daughter.”

The Law of Gleaning

Here is another Jewish Law (the Law of Gleaning). The law of the times said a landowner could only harvest the field once and you could not pick anything off the ground. So the poor could pick up anything that was left. Remember the first harvest not everything would be ripened yet; so people could come later and still be provided for. This was their form of welfare, but if you notice, no work, no food.

Leviticus 19:9–10 (NKJV) ⁹ ‘When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰ And you shall not glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather every grape of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I am the LORD your God.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.

Welfare Today / Our Children Need to Serve Themselves

We as a Nation, and we as individuals, we should look out for those who are in real need. We need to help those in their time of need. There are many people who need welfare, but unfortunately many today are abusing the system. Welfare is allowing them to be lazy and ungrateful. For many, welfare enables them to live a life that is un-pleasing to God. Parents apply this to your kids, don't wait on them hand and foot, give them everything they want, submit to them when they whine or put on a fit. What you do is enable them to develop a pattern for life. A pattern of selfishness, and that it is for others to serve them. They will carry this into their marriages, and every other aspect of their life.

God will Always Leave Corners for You

Christian, this is God's Word that is still true for you today. He will always leave you a corner to glean from, in whatever trial you are going through.

Ruth 2:3 Then she left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. And she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech.

Tribe of Judah

Just to give you an estimate of the randomness that is before us. We were told back when the nation of Israel came out of Egypt, that number of men who were of fighting age (over 20) were 74,600. So, if they kept roughly that number, we are saying there is some serious odds going on here of “just happening” of running into Boaz, and mind you, on her first day out! I think not!

Numbers 1:27 (NKJV) ²⁷ those who were numbered of the tribe of Judah were seventy-four thousand six hundred.

God Directs Our Steps – We have to Step Back and Realize that / Ray Finds a Wife

She happened? I don't think so. I am sure wealthy Boaz had many fields and many workers, yet he on this first day came across Ruth in one of his many fields. This was a divine appointment (not co-incidence, but a God-incidence). God directed her steps. Sometimes we have to step back to really see and realize – ohh yea, that was the Lord. We are always looking for miracles, not realizing God works in ordinary more so than the jaw dropping miracles.

When I was moving up here from Louisiana my final deciding factor wasn't pay and benefits, it was whether there was a Calvary Chapel within driving distance. Northrop Grumman said if that is what you, I hope you find it, we will extend your job offer for 30 days. There were two Calvary's within driving distance, one was 10 minutes closer (and that makes a difference when you're driving 40 minutes), and that is where I wanted to go. Well I hit their Web site, and couldn't find directions, I went to Calvary Chapel Baltimore's, and the directions were clear and easy.....so I said well I'll go there. A few months later the Assistant Pastor heads back to California, I was leading Missions, filling in for the Pastor when he has to be out.....all the while developing a friendship with a young lady, who 3 years later will be my wife. All because a Web site? I don't think so.

We don't need to stress-out about making things work out, God is way ahead of us, He will set everything up for us. If we let God set it up it will work out much better. Remember Jacob was always trying to set things up, and when he finally came to an end of himself, that's when God worked. And so too will it be for you and me when we do that same; just letting go and letting God.

Proverbs 3:5–6 (NKJV) ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

God of Details

God is a God of details, and He is in every detail of your life. There is freedom, there is power, there is peace, in knowing this and believing this. I can have peace in the midst of the storm knowing He has brought (or at the minimum allowed this into my life). There is freedom in that place because we know if He has brought us into the place, then He will take us through it too. And there is power, because rather than living in fear of uncertainties of this life, we can face them head on knowing our God is for us, who can be against us, and we need not fear but simply trust in Him, which trust brings us to a place of pure power (because we know God is with us).

Romans 8:31–32 (NKJV) ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV) ⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Ruth 2:4 Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, “The LORD be with you!” And they answered him, “The LORD bless you!”

Boaz – Walking Among Us

Boaz appears to be a godly man during a time of spiritual decline. Boaz (the Lord of the Harvest) walked among his reapers saying, “the Lord be with you”, even as our Jesus is called Emmanuel, “God with us.” God still walks among us today, He is in this place, He says to you, “the Lord be with you.” Notice interestingly, where did Boaz come up from, he who walked among the reapers, from Bethlehem (where Immanuel was born).

Matthew 1:23 (NKJV) ²³ *“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”*

Goodbye

Mutual salutations were common in Bible days; the one greeting and blessing another, and the other returning the greeting and blessing. This is similar today to two people saying “Good-bye” to each other. Although not known by most, they are using an expression that once meant: “God be with you.”

The American Heritage dictionary says that good-bye is an alteration of God be with you. More than one person has undoubtedly wondered exactly how good-bye is derived from the phrase “God be with you.” To understand this, it’s helpful to see earlier forms of the expression, such as God be wy you, b’w’y, godbwye, god buy’ ye, and goodb’wy. The first word of the expression is now good and not God, for good replaced God by analogy with such expressions as good day, perhaps after people no longer had a clear idea of the original sense of the expression.

A letter written in 1573 by a Gabriel Harvey contains the first recorded use of good-bye: “To requite your gallonde [gallon] of godbwyes, I regive you a pottle of howdyes” Obviously, howdyes has become howdy, a colloquial greeting.

Freeman, J. M., & Chadwick, H. J. (1998). Manners & customs of the Bible (p. 200). North Brunswick, NJ: Bridge-Logos Publishers.

Boaz – Great Management Example

For those of you who are in management, or lead in ministry, or lead on your campus or sports team, notice the relationship that Boaz has with those that work for him. The Lord be with you, and they answer, the Lord bless you. Boaz had a relationship with his workers, he shows them respect by blessing them, and they bless him back. I’ve worked for a Boaz before, and I loved serving him. I just naturally wanted to serve him. I worked for Boaz’ evil twin and struggled with an attitude continually. The Boaz management relationship, besides being a good witness, is great business too.

Ruth 2:5 Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, “Whose young woman is this?”

Ruth 2:6 So the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered and said, “It is the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab.

Ruth 2:7 And she said, ‘Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.’ So she came and has continued from morning until now, though she rested a little in the house.”

Sheaves

Bundles of grain stalks tied together for transport to the threshing floor.

Unnamed Servant

Notice the unnamed Servant (remember Genesis 24 the unnamed servant finding a bride (Rebekah) for Abraham’s son (Issac). Here again we see an unnamed servant bringing the bride to the Lover. The Holy Spirit, the One who seeks a bride for Christ, the one who moves in secrecy, never speaking of Himself, always pointing to Jesus. And the Father sends the Spirit, to find/bring a bride to the Son. We get to be part of this, as we share Christ with people as a co-laborer with the Holy Spirit, we get to introduce the wedding couple. To date, no one has ever been upset with me for introducing them to Christ who they married, or their spouse they married. It is a wonderful joy to make such introductions. And it is always, just simply supernatural, because the Gospel is supernatural.

John 16:8–11 (NKJV) ⁸ *And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹ of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹ of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.*

John 6:44 (NKJV) ⁴⁴ *No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.*

Ruth 2:8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, “You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women.

Ruth 2:9 Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn.”

Daughter

Boaz was about 45–55 years old and a contemporary of Elimelech and Naomi. He would naturally see Ruth as a daughter (3:10, 11), much like Naomi did (cf. 2:2, 22; 3:1, 16, 18). Boaz contrasted himself with younger men (3:10). my maids. The ones who tied up the sheaves.

Stay Here – Safe, Satisfy, Thirst / Bring Problem Here – I Will Fix It / Drugs to Marriage

Boaz was saying, stay here, you will be safe here. Stay here and you will never have to worry about being hungry or thirsty again. Stay in this field and all will be provided to you. Jesus says to us, you have a problem, bring it here, and I will fix it. Drugs, alcohol, job, a bad temper. Marriage problems – bring them to me and I will fix your problem. But you have to stay in this field.

Boaz says don't draw your own water. Ruth didn't have to draw her own water, it was provided for her by her husband-to-be. Our Greater than Boaz says to us today:

John 4:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

John 6:35 (NKJV) ³⁵ And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

Glean Not in Another Field

"Go not glean in another field" - that is what our Greater than Boaz would say to you today. Do not go look for some deeper theological truth, some exciting experience, or some new slant on doctrine. Today so many people are not content with just sitting under Jesus' feet, reading their Bible, and going to church. They get bored, so they want something new – stay in a church where you are taught the Word.

When I was in Louisiana, they had some liberal churches. I went to one church and:

- The usher seating me asked, smoking or nonsmoking.
- They had a two-drink limit on communion
- The one church deep in the bayou, the church bus had gun racks above the windows.
- One name-it claim church had an ATM in the foyer.

Seriously, you have to be careful which field you glean in. Some people say, ohh you should have heard so and so sermon, it was so funny. I say what was it about? They go I'm not sure but it was so funny. Or they say I went to this church, it is so exciting, they have a cappuccino bar, it is loaded with singles. I say how was the teaching – They go I'm not sure but the cappuccino was good, and it was 2 to 1 girls to guys.Don't leave the House of Bread.

Stay in the field of redemption, simply saying I will spend all my days marveling that I've been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.

Ruth 2:10 So she fell on her face, bowed down to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?"

Ruth a Foreigner – Cursed to 10th Generation

Not only was Ruth a stranger, she was a Moabitess. Deuteronomy 23:3, the Moabites were cursed by God not to allow them to come near the Tabernacle/Temple for ten generations even if you had Israelite blood in you.

Deuteronomy 23:3–4 (NKJV) ³ "An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter the assembly of the LORD; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the assembly of the LORD forever, ⁴ because they did not meet you with bread and water on the road when you came out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you.

Ruth Blown Away

Indeed the Moabites were a cursed people and Ruth knew it. That is why she was blown away by Boaz. This godly man was so good to her – why have I found favor in thy sight.

Boaz Doesn't Cast Her Off – Nor God You / Nothing Past-Present-Future Separate You From God

Boaz doesn't cast her off, and neither does our Greater than Boaz. There is nothing in our past/present/or future that will separate you from God.

John 6:37 (NKJV) ³⁷ All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

Ephesians 2:11–13 (NKJV) ¹¹ Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—¹² that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

You Know Grace – When You Hunger for It

Ruth says, I will glean in the field of he who gives me grace. She's asking for grace. When you need grace, you hunger and thirst for it. You're desperate for it. You just look for anybody, please, give me grace. And then when someone does, you know grace. You're warmed, you're loved by their grace. May we be a people who give people grace, even when they don't deserve it, even when they may deserve something other than grace. Why should we? Because that's what our Lord has done for us and it's a picture of what he speaks and shows us in this passage today. When we find grace, we can't help but to fall down and just be humbled by the grace. Whether it be the grace of the Lord and we realize it or the grace of another person and we realize it. Grace is humbling as we see Ruth bow down, falls on her knees and is just blown away by what just was extended to her by Boaz.

Ruth 2:11 And Boaz answered and said to her, “It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before.

Ruth 2:12 The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge.”

Wings

Scripture pictures God as catching Israel up on His wings in the Exodus (Ex 19:4; Dt 32:11). God is here portrayed as a mother bird sheltering the young and fragile with her wings (cf. Pss 17:8; 36:7; 57:1; 61:4; 63:7; 91:1, 4). Boaz blessed Ruth in light of her newfound commitment to and dependence on the Lord. Later, he would become God's answer to this prayer (cf. 3:9).

Boaz will Be Answer to His Prayer

Boaz prayers over Ruth and how interesting we shall see in the next chapter he will be the answer to his prayer of intercession for her. That's awesome how God does that.

Ruth 2:13 Then she said, “Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants.”

Ruth 2:14 Now Boaz said to her at mealtime, “Come here, and eat of the bread, and dip your piece of bread in the vinegar.” So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed parched grain to her; and she ate and was satisfied, and kept some back.

Chomets & Parched Grain

Vinegar (Hebrew chomets) was a beverage consisting generally of wine or strong drink turned sour. It was probably made by mixing water and new grape juice and leaving it to ferment. The Nazarites were forbidden to drink it (Numbers 6:3). It may have been excessively sour (Proverbs 10:26). It was similar to the posea of the Romans, which was a thin sour wine, unintoxicating, and used only by the poor. This is what is referred to under the name vinegar in the KJV (wine, wine vinegar, NIV) in the narrative of the crucifixion of our Lord (see Matthew 27:34, 48; Luke 23:36; John 19:29–30).

The parched (roasted, NIV) corn is prepared from grains of wheat not yet fully ripe. These are sometimes roasted in a pan or on an iron plate (how fitting as Jesus would be put into the fire of the cross – Ray's footnote). Sometimes the stalks are tied in small bundles and the heads of grain held over the fire until roasted. Grain thus roasted was at times eaten with bread. In Leviticus 23:14, the roasted grain is classed with bread and new grain

(green ears, KJV). Jesse sent an ephah of it and ten loaves of bread to his sons in the army by the hand of David (1 Samuel 17:18). Abigail took five measures of it as part of her present to David (1 Samuel 25:18). David also received it with other provisions from the hands of his friends when he was in need, after having fled from his rebellious son Absalom (2 Samuel 17:28).

In Leviticus 2:14 it is called “green ears of corn dried by the fire” in the KJV, but more accurately in the NIV: “new grain roasted in the fire,” for corn wasn’t known in either Europe or the Middle East until it was brought from the Americas into Europe by Columbus and other explorers. Grain, especially rice, is the most common food element throughout the world.

Freeman, J. M., & Chadwick, H. J. (1998). Manners & customs of the Bible (pp. 200–201). North Brunswick, NJ: Bridge-Logos Publishers.

Communion

Here Boaz invites his bride-to-be to come and eat bread and drink wine with him: bread and wine, a picture of Communion. The Love Story Develops.

1 Corinthians 11:20–22 (NKJV) ²⁰ Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord’s Supper. ²¹ For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk. ²² What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you.

Ruth 2:15 And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, “Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her.

Ruth 2:16 Also let grain from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave it that she may glean, and do not rebuke her.”

Boaz Taken by Ruth / Hope Doesn’t Fall off his Horse / You Take Jesus’ Breath Away

Boaz even said let her glean where they have not harvested yet, which is not required by the Law of Gleaning, so he is giving special exception to her. Boaz is taken by this young woman, He desires her, but he doesn’t know if she desires him – Gang, this is a picture of Christ, He is taken by you, He looks at you and falls in love – He desires you, you are Ruth, and He is the Greater than Boaz. Its all over for Boaz, He was taken by Ruth; I hope he wasn’t riding on a horse or sleeping in the top bunk, he is going to fall off and hurt himself. I think Boaz is smitten. His heart and his breath have been taken away. Did I tell you? This is a picture of our greater than Boaz Jesus Christ and how he looks upon you and you take his breath away. Do you believe that today? You should. God wrote this love story just for you. He proved it on a cross 1000 years later. He called you, wherever that place was, to come to you, extending his hand for marriage. Have you ever taken his hand, you can begin that relationship today by asking him into your heart, into your life.

Handful of Purpose (Grace)

And so they leave for Ruth, handfuls of grain. Isn't that just like the Lord, leaving us handfuls of grace, of blessings that we just happen along and we pick up and so often we don't even realize it was from the hand of God himself. Handfuls of grace. Handfuls of help. Again, the book of Ruth is a picture of God, are greater than Boaz, providing for his bride, as Boaz did for Ruth.

Ruth 2:16 (KJV 1900) ¹⁶ And let fall also some of the handfuls of purpose for her, and leave them, that she may glean them, and rebuke her not.

The handful of purpose, are always handfuls of God’s grace and love upon us.

Ruth 2:17 So she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.

Threshing

This was done by the gleaners at the close of their day’s work, sticks or stones were used as convenient though rude instruments for threshing the grain they had gathered. After Ruth beat out (threshed) her barley, she had an ephah, about three-fifths of a bushel, which was enough to sustain two women for about five days. This came out to about 25 pounds (so not a bad day of work for Ruth, but a greater day of God working).

Ruth 2:18 Then she took it up and went into the city, and her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. So she brought out and gave to her what she had kept back after she had been satisfied.

Ruth 2:19 And her mother-in-law said to her, “Where have you gleaned today? And where did you work? Blessed be the one who took notice of you.” So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, and said, “The man’s name with whom I worked today is Boaz.”

Ruth 2:20 Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “Blessed be he of the LORD, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!” And Naomi said to her, “This man is a relation of ours, one of our close relatives.”

Law of Leverite Marriage

But there is another Law here that it important, and that is the Law of “Leverite Marriage Law. A summation of it is that if your brother was married and died before having children, then it was up to the next oldest brother to “continue on” the lineage of that brother by impregnating the widowed sister-in-law. The child born would not be considered his, but his deceased brother. That person was called a “goel”, or a “kinsman-redeemer”.

Deuteronomy 25:5–10 (NKJV) ⁵ “If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be married to a stranger outside the family; her husband’s brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband’s brother to her. ⁶ And it shall be that the firstborn son which she bears will succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel. ⁷ But if the man does not want to take his brother’s wife, then let his brother’s wife go up to the gate to the elders, and say, ‘My husband’s brother refuses to raise up a name to his brother in Israel; he will not perform the duty of my husband’s brother.’ ⁸ Then the elders of his city shall call him and speak to him. But if he stands firm and says, ‘I do not want to take her,’ ⁹ then his brother’s wife shall come to him in the presence of the elders, remove his sandal from his foot, spit in his face, and answer and say, ‘So shall it be done to the man who will not build up his brother’s house.’ ¹⁰ And his name shall be called in Israel, ‘The house of him who had his sandal removed.’

Boaz in Full Obedience – Receives Full Blessings

It's very important to note here how Boaz is still honoring the law of God. It's been 10 years of a famine. Finally, crops are in, the rain has fallen, and yet what we see Boaz; he's not saying forget the law. This is a special circumstance. This is not situational morality. Glean the field three, four, five times. Kick all the foreigners out. Let no one take a sheaf of wheat or barley because we need every last kernel because we don't know if there's going to be a famine tomorrow, but he doesn't. He's trusting the Lord. Even after a drought and a famine he still trusts the Lord and he's honoring the Lord. He's allowing the strangers, the widows, the orphans to come into his field and to glean. We gather much from his great obedience.

And if you will consider this: if he was not in full obedience none of this of story would have happened. If he was in partial obedience he would not have allowed Ruth or any stranger into the field. He'd have said that upfront to his hired servant. Don't let anybody come into this field. We need every last kernel because we know not what's going to come next month, next year, but he's fully obedient. He allows God to do what God will do in trust, and so he honors the word of God, this law of God, and here Ruth shows up. If he'd have been in the partial obedience Ruth would have never been allowed into his field, and he would have never, therefore, met Ruth. They'd have never got married. They would've never had a child. They would have never seeded a child that would be in the lineage of the Messiah and the kingship of Israel. All this happens because of full obedience not partial.

You know, Christian, we don't get to choose between partial and full obedience. You will not be blessed of God and find his perfect will for your life in a place of partial obedience. It just does not work that way. It ends when we are fully obedient. God's full will and perfect will for our life will unfold. Let's all consider that. Let's examine our hearts, even right now. Is there anything that I'm in partial obedience to? Maybe you're wondering why things haven't unfolded the way you think or hoped that they should. Maybe it's because you're in a partial obedience.

- Maybe you're not loving your wife as Christ loved the church. You're just partially obedient.
- Maybe, wives, you're not submitting and honoring your husband as God commands. You're just partially obedient.
- Maybe you're not fully obedient but just partially obedient regarding the things of the flesh and rather than putting them out and away, you allow some to stay, to set up a camp in your life.

Christian, full obedience will bring the full promises of God. The perfect will of God in your life. Partial obedience will leave you with partial blessing

Ruth 2:21 Ruth the Moabitess said, “He also said to me, ‘You shall stay close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.’ ”

Ruth 2:22 And Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, “It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, and that people do not meet you in any other field.”

Ruth Shows Her Youth

Ruth is showing here youth here, (in verse 8) Boaz said abide by my maidens, yet Ruth said young men. Naomi shows spirituality by giving wise counsel, she says go with the maidens. To all, especially you singles - Our Jesus is saying to us to be careful as we work together not to cross the line, it's a beautiful thing to enjoy the Lord together, to worship together, to laugh together; but Satan seeks to exploit this by turning agape love into emotional or even physical love.

Ruth 2:23 So she stayed close by the young women of Boaz, to glean until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest; and she dwelt with her mother-in-law.

50 Days between Barley & Wheat

Barley harvest usually began about mid-Apr. and wheat harvest extended to mid-June—a period of intense labor for about two months. This generally coincided with the 7 weeks between Passover and the Feast of Weeks, i.e., Pentecost (cf. Lv 23:15, 16; Dt 16:9–12).

Come to Throne of Grace

So now come to the throne of grace and spend time with the Lord, ask Him take this word and work it into your life.

**Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Prayer Guide

- Reverence – What do we see about our Great God?
- Response – How do I respond to all that He is?
- Requests – What can I boldly request from Him based on this?
- Readiness – What do I need to be on-guard against when I leave here today?
- Reverence – How great is Our God?

End of Study.

Ruth 3

Ruth 3:1-18

Chapters 1-2

So to catch us up on the story. A man named Elimelech moves his wife (Naomi) and two sons (Chilion and Mahlon) from the land of Israel (Bethlehem) to Moab because Israel was facing a famine in the land. The famine will last some ten years in Bethlehem, but Moab (about 50 miles away) seems to be doing quite well. However, even with food on the table in Moab things take a turn for the worse as Elimelech dies and leaves Naomi a widow. The two sons marry (Orpah and Ruth), but they too die, and now the girls are widows. Naomi hears there is bread in Bethlehem again and says I am heading home girls. You go back home to your parents and start a new life, remarry, serve the gods of Moab. Orpah says see ya later have a nice life, but leave says to Naomi, I will go where you go, and your God shall be my God. So she returns to Bethlehem with Naomi, and last chapter she comes across the field of a wealthy landowner (Boaz) and starts to pick wheat and barley there, she not only grabs the attention of Boaz, she steals his heart. A love story unfolds, and chapter 3 blows away anything Hollywood can produce because this is a true story that was scripted in heaven by God Himself. So lets pick it up in verse 1.

Ruth 1:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. ¹⁷ Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me."

Outline Chapter 3:

- Ruth – Set Apart from all Others (3:1-2)
- Ruth Washes Up (3:3)
- Naomi the Matchmaker (3:4-5)
- Ruth Comes Softly (3:6-7)
- Boaz Awakes (3:8-9)
- Blessed are you Ruth (3:10-11)
- There is a Closer Kin (3:12-13)
- Until the Morning (3:14-15)
- Boaz will not Rest (3:16-18)

Ruth – Set Apart from all Others (3:1-2)

Ruth 3:1 Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you?"

Time Lapse?

Verse 1. I don't know what the time lapse is between chapter 2 to chapter 3 but there is some period of time it seems to be. In this period of time Naomi is scheming, Naomi is plotting, Naomi is match-making. She is planning it all out. Now we don't know how many days it's been since that verse we ended with in chapter 2 but it could be anywhere from a week to seven weeks. We can't tell for sure. It seems to be up on the earlier end because he's going to be winnowing barley and not wheat so it's probably more up front. In any case, it doesn't appear to be the next day. The immediate conversation and what we see here is Naomi's been thinking about what's been said to her about, "Whose field were you in, Ruth?" And she replies, "A man named Boaz", to which Naomi says, "He's one of our kin". Then the wheels start to turn and the matchmaking dress, an apron comes out because Naomi is now on a mission.

What a Difference From Chapter 1

What a difference from chapter 1 is the speaking of Naomi. Isn't it amazing how back in chapter 1 she says to Ruth, "You go back to your gods, you go back to your family, you go back to (Chemosh), that vile god that they worship in Moab", but here she is in chapter 3 now, "Shall I not secure your future, daughter?" It's amazing how much wisdom, it's amazing how much her heart has changed, it's amazing how much compassion she now has just two chapters later. The reason that is, is because she's back in the land that she was called to be in. She's back in Bethlehem, the House of Bread. It's amazing for us how much wisdom, how much understanding, how much compassion, how much love we will have when we're where we should be, when we stay close to where God has

called us to be. It'll be a natural outpouring and a natural flow of wisdom, knowledge and understanding in the heart of God, because it is there we are at our closest attachment to the Vine.

John 15:5 (NKJV) ⁵ "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Christians, stay close to him. Stay where he calls you to be. Stay in the Word. Stay in fellowship. Stay in the path of the godly, not the ungodly, as we read in Psalm 1. You stay in the place that God has called you regardless of the trial, regardless of what's going on around you. You just stay and you will be filled with the wisdom and heart and love of God. It is amazing, the wisdom and the heart that we have when we're in the right place. How about you and me? Is wisdom and the heart of God flowing from us, from within us? Are we filled with the caring, the compassion, the word that's just soaking and seeping in us. We have trust, we have peace. If we are, stay there. Don't let anything get in the way. If not, get everything out of the way and get back to that place.

Psalm 1:1-3 (NKJV) ¹ Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. ³ He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

Ruth 3:2 Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.

Seen Apart from All Others

Naomi says, Boaz whose young women you were with. Isn't that interesting that she says of all things, "the young women you were with?" She didn't say, "Boaz, the one who you dipped bread with into the wine", nor did she say, "Boaz, the one who said stay in my field and I will protect you." Not Boaz, the one who says, "Glean among my gleaners. You don't have to stay in the corner of the field." Not Boaz the one who says, "You can stay and glean here for all the harvest, not just today but everyday." Not Boaz who said, "No need to bring your own water in. Drink the water that is provided by me." Of all the things it said, Boaz whose young women you were with.

Why is that? Because the picture is being told of all the young women who are in Boaz' field, Boaz recognized you. Boaz said to you and not the other women, "Dip your bread into the wine that I dip. Drink from the water that I provide you." Boaz didn't say that to any of the other women. Boaz didn't say to any of the other women, "You stay in my field until the end of the harvest." Boaz didn't say, "You stay in my field and you can glean among the gleaners and not have to stay on the outside." Boaz didn't say to the other women, "I've told my young men to keep their distance from you." Of all the women, Ruth stood out to Boaz. Ruth was the one who captured Boaz' eye and Naomi is saying, "Of all the young women, you were the one that stood out to Boaz."

And Boaz, our picture of Jesus, Ruth the picture of us, so God tells the story. You of all the people, you individually, stand out to me. I see you amongst all the people. You're unique and you're special. You catch my eye. I don't know how that works but him being God, he's able to. He's able to look at each of us individually as if we were the only one in the world. He's able to look at us and with the whole world going on, he's able to look at us as if we are the whole world. You're greater than Boaz.

Psalm 139:15-16 (NKJV) ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

Ruth 2:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where have you gleaned today? And where did you work? Blessed be the one who took notice of you." So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz."

Jesus Christ, he looks at you as if you're the only one. With the ability that only God can have, He looks at your child, each and every one of them, as if they are the only one. He looks at your spouse as if the only one. He looks at that person sitting to your right, sitting to your left, as if they are the only one in all the world. That's how special each person is to him that they stand out in the unique way apart from each other, like individual grains of sand, like individual snowflakes. Not one of them the same and everyone unique and each one capturing the eye of God. May I also say even that person that you're not very crazy about, maybe even rubs you the wrong way. Yet God can look at them and see them as unique and special, one of a kind to him and they stand out in all the crowd.

Ruth Washes Up (3:3)

Ruth 3:3 Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.

How Clean-Anointed-Clothed could she Be?

Naomi tells Ruth to clean herself up, but I have to ask you, just how clean could Ruth make herself? Naomi says to anoint yourself. How anointed, perfumed up, could Ruth become? Naomi says, "Put your best dress on," to which I would ask, "What is Ruth's best dress at this point?" Mind you, these two women, Naomi and Ruth, probably have nothing. After the loss of Naomi's husband, after the loss of the two sons, one of course being Ruth's husband, these widows are running and living off of vapors, and we know it to be so because when they come to town, Ruth is begging and hopeful that someone will show her grace that she can glean in their fields so that they might have something to eat. How much money did they come into town with?

Moab to Bethlehem, it's like a 50 mile journey. If I was to ask you if you, being a woman, were to walk 50 miles, what could you carry? How much could you carry? You would be taking the barest of minimum that you could have. You'd probably be coming in to Bethlehem with the clothes on your back. What is Ruth's best dress? I don't think it's much more than something that's very worn and tattered. What's her perfume? It's surely not the fine perfumes of Egypt. In fact I would know the clothes ... Her best dressed that she's going to have, Boaz at the end of this chapter's going to load it up with a whole bunch of barley. Possibly 60 pounds of barley. I can tell you this scarf that she has isn't fine Egyptian silk, because it would've ripped right through. This is probably some big, thick, almost blanket-like piece of clothing. Ruth isn't coming all perfumed up with fine clothes. I don't even know how clean she can get because they don't have a house to live. It says they're living in the city.

I wonder where they were living. They had no money. They didn't have a home to return to. I don't know how clean Ruth could've got because I don't think they have a house at this point. Maybe someone's letting them stay at the side of their house in the back yard. Maybe they're in a manger scene like we see at Christmas. I don't know but I don't think they're living on the high end by any means.

God is Attracted to Poverty

We're going to see Boaz receive Ruth, and our greater in Boaz, Jesus Christ, he's attracted to poverty. He's attracted to those who have not. They're the very people that move his heart, because they're the very people that say, "Cast your wing upon me. Put me under the shadow of your wing, because I have nothing." God is attracted and moved by that and can't resist that. God's attracted to what the world looks down upon or looks past. What the world doesn't even notice. What the world sees right through. What the world sometimes pretend they don't see. Because they don't want to see it. It makes them uncomfortable looking at that person in poverty but God's attracted to it. Ruth's a foreigner. She's cast out to the tenth generation, we've been told (Deuteronomy 23). She doesn't fit in. She's broke, but God's drawn to her, attracted to her. See Matthew chapter 5, verse 3.

Matthew 5:3 (NKJV) ³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Naomi the Matchmaker (3:4-5)

Ruth 3:4 Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do."

Ruth 3:5 And she said to her, "All that you say to me I will do."

In Fact he is Winnowing Barley / Naomi Running Recon – Gather Intel

Back in verse 2 Naomi says, "in fact he's winnowing barley tonight." Like, she's saying, "Hey I just realized that." Come on, Naomi, give me a break. We know you were running recon and intel all week. Naomi knows where Boaz's winnowing the barley and I would say and expect that Boaz has many fields. He would have multiple locations to be at but Naomi knows exactly where he will be that night because I believe Naomi is the originator of Match.com and she is playing matchmaker.

Naomi's been doing some recon here. Let's be honest. She's a woman, this is what women do. She knows exactly where Boaz is going to be and this isn't some coincidence. She's been doing her recon, intelligence gathering. She probably has some night vision goggles that she's been making use of to find out where he goes at night and what's his routine. She probably has a tracker on what his daily movements are, what he does on each day of the week so she can lock down exactly what his rhythm is. She's probably even hacked his cell phone to get some GPS tracking on him because she knows exactly where she's going to be because she's playing matchmaker.

I'm reminded of when I was leading mission trips up at the church in Baltimore. I just thought it was interesting as I did everything from arrange hotels to airfare to mission work. I arranged where everybody sat on the airplane and I just continually seem to be this coincidence that I ended up that mine and Renee's seat were always next to each other. That was long before we even dated. Just an interesting thought as I look back how that coincidentally worked out.

My poor brother. He's a handsome man. He definitely got all of my mother's looks and I can say that because I got none of her looks, but my mother, man, she was always trying to play matchmaker for my brother. I'll never forget one Christmas, me and my brother drove up to Pennsylvania from Florida and my mother has a Christmas party and she invites all the family. She invites a few of her friends from work. Had to limit it because she worked in the hospital and had hundreds of friends that obviously would be close friends in that type of environment but she decided that one of her closest friends this year was a young single girl the same age as my brother and so out of a couple thousand nurses, this one nurse was the one who got to be invited to the Christmas party.

My mother asked my brother to put on a fireworks display because he stopped at the fireworks store there south of the border in South Carolina (Pedro says chili today, hot tamale) and bought all these fireworks and he was into it and so he was going to put on this firework display and me and my friend Dean, who was there, we were giving my brother a hard time like, "Hey, this better be a good display, mom's got this girl lined up. You've got to impress her," and so we were giving him a hard time about it and so we have this large glass window, sliding door all glass, that went from the house out onto our patio deck and then underneath our deck two or three steps down was a cement patio, so we're out there, me, my brother and Dean, and my brother's lighting these fireworks and everybody's inside the house kind of lined up in a row watching down the row as he's sending up these fireworks.

Everybody's giving their ooh's and their ah's and clapping and you can hear them through the glass, of course. My brother lights this one firework and it's supposed to spin like a helicopter upward and then explode just about six foot in the air which would be perfect eye level. Instead of going up ... It went up about six inches, then it went down and it started to spin a hundred miles an hour into the deck like it was going to catch the deck on fire, so my brother runs over and rather than have it blow up on the deck or catch a fire on the deck, he runs over to kick it off of the deck into the snow

Because this is December. It's Pennsylvania. It's icy, it's slippery, it's cold, He runs over, kicks it, and it was like one of those cartoons where his feet went over his head. He was like five feet in the air, it seemed like. His feet were seven feet in the air and he came down with a thud and a boom on the deck, but I'm telling you, he bounced up so quick that if you blinked and missed it, you didn't see it, but he bounces up and he runs off the deck, down into the lower patio area and me and Dean come running down. We're laughing. We're like, "Whoa, that was smooth, man," and he's like, "That's so embarrassing. Do you think everybody saw that? Do you think that girl saw that or do you think possibly I got up in time?" Just then, the sliding door opens and my sister screams out the door, in front of everybody, "Richie, are you okay? That was a tremendous fall. Did you hurt yourself, do we need to call an ambulance?"

Needless to say, my brother didn't get a date, but oh, mothers and their matchmaking. That's just something that must be in their DNA and it's Naomi's DNA and I'm reminded of Renee. When there's a single guy or gal and Renee will say to me, "So, who can we set so and so up with?" To which my answer is, "Nobody. None. Zero. Zilch." I think all the guys can relate to that.

Full Obedience – Full Blessings

Ruth says, "All that you say, I will do." Once again we come to that place, partial obedience, partial blessing, full obedience, full blessing. Here we saw in the last chapter as we studied, Boaz' full obedience brought full blessing and here Naomi is saying, "All that you say I will do", and she will find herself with the full blessing of God.

I'm reminded of the story of the widow with the son back in 1 Kings 17. The prophet Elijah comes. There's a severe famine and drought upon the land and he says to her, "Make me a meal and then God will see to it that your oil never runs dry and your flour never runs empty." What we read in the story is that the woman does exactly as the prophet said. She didn't say, "Oh, no. I'll make my meal for myself and my son and then what's left I'll make for you." Rather she takes the full obedience of the word that was given to her from a god and she did exactly that even though it seemed like it would be sacrifice, even though it seemed like she would be expediting the trial to the point of death, to the point that the trial would consume her but she did in obedience as the prophet spoke the word of God. She did full obedience and she found herself in full blessing and so too will you when you go full obedience to the word of God and not partial obedience.

1 Kings 17:8–16 (NKJV) ⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, ⁹ "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you." ¹⁰ So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink." ¹¹ And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." ¹² So she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." ¹³ And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ For thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth.'" ¹⁵ So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶ The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke by Elijah.

Ruth Comes Softly (3:6-7)

Ruth 3:6 So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her.

Ruth 3:7 And after Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was cheerful, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay down.

God is Attracted to Weakness

It says "And Ruth comes softly." God is attracted to weakness, yet we so often think the opposite. We think we have to have it all together before God will be attracted to us. We think we have to be strong for God because he doesn't want no wimps and weak kneed followers. We think we have to be perfect and what we see in this story is God is attracted to weakness and here comes Ruth, humbly, softly, and she just bows down at the feet of Boaz, hoping to find grace and favor from him. She didn't come in with a thud. She came in like a whisper. God is attracted to weakness and God will speak to us and He says, "Come just as you are. You don't have to be strong. You don't have to get yourself in some perfect condition. Come as you are, because I'm attracted to weakness and I'll take you as you are."

God is attracted to humility. Read Matthew chapter 5, verses 4-6.

Matthew 5:4–5 (NKJV) ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. ⁵ Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

Boaz Awakes (3:8-9)

Ruth 3:8 Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet.

Ruth 3:9 And he said, "Who are you?" So she answered, "I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative."

Boaz Thought he was Dreaming – For He had Definitely been Daydreaming

Boaz awakes. Boaz probably thought he was dreaming but he's not, but I can guarantee you, Boaz has been daydreaming. He surely has been daydreaming about Ruth and he is taken and blown away that Ruth would choose him over the young men, but he's been daydreaming. "Oh, I wish Ruth would be drawn to me." He's probably having daydreams about them dipping their bread in the vinegar cup together and actually touching and

then looking and giggling at each other. He's probably having daydreams about a lion running out of the field and he jumps off his horse and he fends off the lion and rescues Ruth and she says, "Oh, you're so strong", well "I have been working out". He's daydreaming because that's what people do when they're in love and I think I could even say to you, "Your God daydreams about you because He's in love with you."

Boaz, you're not dreaming but your daydream is at your feet right now. The one you've been thinking about non stop, just like Jesus. Psalm 139. The numbers of grains of sand on the seashore is how He thinks towards us.
Psalm 139:17–18 (NKJV) ¹⁷ *How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!* ¹⁸ *If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.*

Blessed are you Ruth (3:10-11)

Ruth 3:10 Then he said, “Blessed are you of the LORD, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich.

Ruth 3:11 And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman.

Ruth not Chasing the World / I don't want World – I want You

Verse 10. Boaz says, "Blessed are you for not running after the younger men". So it is obvious that Boaz is much older than Ruth. You could have been running after the world. You could have been dancing in all the excitement that's going on right now with the barley harvest, the time of celebration. You could have any young man that you want. You could give yourself away as many times as you want but you have chosen me." And Boaz' heart was moved and so is God's heart when he looks and sees us doing the same, "I don't want the world, I want you."

God is Attracted to Purity

God is attracted to purity. Verse 11 tells us that Ruth was virtuous. She's not running around with the world. It's not a requirement for salvation but for each and every one of us today, God is greatly attracted to purity. Read Matthew chapter 5, verse 8.

Matthew 5:8 (NKJV) ⁸ *Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.*

Ruth's Role – Let Boaz do the Work

What was Ruth's role? Simply to submit herself at the feet of Boaz and do nothing more. The rest was up to Boaz. The rest was Boaz' work, not Ruth's. There was no work that Ruth could do except lay at the feet of Boaz and say, "Please redeem me and make me your own." From that point on there was no work that she could accomplish. All the work now was up to Boaz to accomplish and we know the rest of the story that he will.

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV) ⁸ *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,* ⁹ *not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

Titus 3:5–7 (NKJV) ⁵ *not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,* ⁶ *whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,* ⁷ *that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

There is a Closer Kin (3:12-13)

Ruth 3:12 Now it is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I.

Ruth 3:13 Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be that if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you—good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as the LORD lives! Lie down until morning.”

Spoiler Alert

Verse 12, there is one closer. Hey, spoiler alert. The one closer, the near kin, closer than Boaz, he won't because he can't. We'll talk more about that in chapter 4 but the spoiler alert is Boaz is going to get the girl.

Boaz a Gentleman

Verse 13. Notice there is no immorality that happens. Boaz treats Ruth with respect. He doesn't lay a hand on her and may that be something that singles that are dating can look at this and see. Boaz is a gentleman from the

beginning to the end and you singles, be a gentleman and a woman of God to the end, and notice you're single until you're married and until you're married, you're single. Get it?

Spit in Face – Walk Home without Shoe / For the Joy Set before Him

The kin who is closer could say no and if he was and would say no, then the person would be spit in their face and their shoe taken. They would walk home without a shoe as a symbol of shame that they weren't man enough to step up and do what God would ask of him to do. But how amazing, Jesus said yes and yet He was still spit on. Jesus was more than taken from shoe-less. He was stripped down to nothing and yet, He would say, "for the joy that was set before me, I endured the cross." You can do a word play there. Jesus calls you "Joy" because you are the joy that set before Him.

Deuteronomy 25:5–10 (NKJV) ⁵ "If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be married to a stranger outside the family; her husband's brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her. ⁶ And it shall be that the firstborn son which she bears will succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel. ⁷ But if the man does not want to take his brother's wife, then let his brother's wife go up to the gate to the elders, and say, 'My husband's brother refuses to raise up a name to his brother in Israel; he will not perform the duty of my husband's brother.' ⁸ Then the elders of his city shall call him and speak to him. But if he stands firm and says, 'I do not want to take her,' ⁹ then his brother's wife shall come to him in the presence of the elders, remove his sandal from his foot, spit in his face, and answer and say, 'So shall it be done to the man who will not build up his brother's house.' ¹⁰ And his name shall be called in Israel, 'The house of him who had his sandal removed.'

Hebrews 12:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

It's a Law – God Bounds Himself to the Law

This law of the kinsman redeemer, it was a law. It was expected to be followed even though some less than a man could reject it but the man of God, it was a law. It was to be obeyed and so too it is to God himself. This law of redemption, the [Go'el]. It's a law that God has to obey. It's the law that God has bound himself to that He will follow to any man who says, "I wish to be bought back from my sin." Man has sold himself into poverty. Man has sold himself into slavery. Man has sold himself into sin and he needs to be brought back. He needs to be bought back and any man who says, "I want to be redeemed", God by his very own law must redeem that man. What an amazing God that we have.

2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV) ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Lost Boat / You are Twice Mine

God created us and now because of sin, He has to buy us back. I am reminded of the story of the little boy who made this model boat and he built it from scratch, poured himself into it, labored over it to every last detail and created this beautiful model boat that actually floated. He took it down to the lake and put it in and then a strong wind came and took his boat and just ran it down the stream and the little boy lost the boat. Several weeks later as the little boy was walking through the town, he passed the model shop and there behold in the front window was the very model boat that he had created, up for sale. He says to his father, "I want to buy my boat back." The father says, "Son, it will cost you every last cent that you have." The little boy says, "I don't care. I'm willing to pay it all to get my boat back that I created." The father gave the boy all the money that the boy had saved up through his whole life. The boy went in and bought that boat back. As he walked out the store with the boat, hugging and holding it close, he says, "I made you and now I bought you. You are twice mine." So too does the Lord say to each and everyone of us, "I made you and I bought you and now you are twice mine."

Until the Morning (3:14-15)

Ruth 3:14 So she lay at his feet until morning, and she arose before one could recognize another. Then he said, "Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor."

Ruth 3:15 Also he said, "Bring the shawl that is on you and hold it." And when she held it, he measured six ephahs of barley, and laid it on her. Then she went into the city.

Boaz Protector of Weak / Bethlehem Dangerous Place

Verse 13, Boaz says, "Stay here," and I bet you it killed Boaz that she even had to leave at all. Boaz would be wishing that this night could be the beginning of a night forever, but Boaz, we see his heart, the protector of the weak. Bethlehem's a dangerous town because of all Israel is dangerous, because we know what we read during the days of Judges and everyone's doing right in their own sight and we read stories back in Judges of some of the wickedness that was going on. Here, Boaz, you can't go out there on the streets at night, these people are wicked, so here, Boaz, he's protecting her even though he can't have her at this time.

Boaz Doesn't Sleep

You can be sure of this, Boaz doesn't sleep a wink; all he is thinking about, oh I want the girl, Lord please give me the girl ☺. Please give me the Bride. Again, so too Jesus' love for you.

Ephah in Italics

Verse 15. The word ephah is in italics because if it was six ephahs of barley, we're talking about close to 150 to 180 pounds of barley. I don't think Ruth has the physical means to do that. It probably means six measures. He probably scooped out six scoops into the shaw to send back with Ruth to give to Naomi.

Boaz will not Rest (3:16-18)

Ruth 3:16 When she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "Is that you, my daughter?" Then she told her all that the man had done for her.

Ruth 3:17 And she said, "These six ephahs of barley he gave me; for he said to me, 'Do not go empty-handed to your mother-in-law.'"

Ruth 3:18 Then she said, "Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day."

Boaz Will not Rest

Boaz will not rest; love never rests

God does Not Rest – Working Since Foundation of World

God does not rest and will not rest until he has you or until you say no. Boaz will not rest and Jesus will not rest until He has you. Scripture say He was slain before the foundations of the world. Four thousand years, He waited without rest to get to the cross. So that He could buy us back. Because God will not rest. He will pursue you to the ends of the earth. He wishes that none should perish and all should seek repentance. God waited 4,000 years to redeem but he never rested. He waited 4,000 years before he went to the cross to redeem man, but he never rested along the way. All the way, God was working in bringing all of history to the one place, the cross, the place of redemption.

Revelation 13:8 (NKJV) ⁸ All who dwell on the earth will worship him (speaking of the anti-christ), whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

2 Peter 3:8-9 (NKJV) ⁸ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Christmas Traditions / Its Always been about a Tree

And this Christmas season that we've entered into (... I'll let you draw your own conclusions about Santa), but you know, I'm always asked at some point during this time of year about the challenge of commercialism and paganism and how the saying is that Christmas has been hijacked and all those type of things.

The question of Christmas trees in the houses and the giving of presents and all those type of things. May I say just a few things about that. That is that Christmas, this Gospel, has always been about a tree. It has always been about a cave. The Gospel has always been about a tree. All the way back in the garden, it was a tree, the tree of knowledge and good and evil and the tree of life. It's always been about a tree.

And when God would build His temple in Jerusalem, Solomon would build it. There'd only be one light in all the temple and that one light would illuminate the whole temple, which was overlaid wall to wall with gold. You can imagine it. That one light was what was called the menorah. That was made out of gold and it was shaped in the form of an olive branch. It had olive blossoms on it and then at the very top it had bowls and those bowls had oil in it. Those bowls were lit and those lights were what lit the whole temple.

It's always been about a tree and there in the temple was a tree with lights on it. God's very house, as it was called, and that tree was to represent Jesus Christ being the light to all men. The Messiah would be the light of all men and shine. It was always about a tree because the Savior would come and leave heaven and He would climb a tree. Like red ornaments, a picture of original sin, that apple. Jesus would climb a tree and take on the sin of the world and provide a way for man to be redeemed and bought back.

Genesis 2:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Genesis 3:6–7 (NKJV)

⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

Galatians 3:13 (NKJV) ¹³ Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),

Deuteronomy 21:22–23 (NKJV) ²² "If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, ²³ his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance; for he who is hanged is accursed of God.

Exodus 25:31–40 (NKJV) ³¹ "You shall also make a lampstand of pure gold; the lampstand shall be of hammered work. Its shaft, its branches, its bowls, its ornamental knobs, and flowers shall be of one piece. ³² And six branches shall come out of its sides: three branches of the lampstand out of one side, and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side. ³³ Three bowls shall be made like almond blossoms on one branch, with an ornamental knob and a flower, and three bowls made like almond blossoms on the other branch, with an ornamental knob and a flower—and so for the six branches that come out of the lampstand. ³⁴ On the lampstand itself four bowls shall be made like almond blossoms, each with its ornamental knob and flower. ³⁵ And there shall be a knob under the first two branches of the same, a knob under the second two branches of the same, and a knob under the third two branches of the same, according to the six branches that extend from the lampstand. ³⁶ Their knobs and their branches shall be of one piece; all of it shall be one hammered piece of pure gold. ³⁷ You shall make seven lamps for it, and they shall arrange its lamps so that they give light in front of it. ³⁸ And its wick-trimmers and their trays shall be of pure gold. ³⁹ It shall be made of a talent of pure gold, with all these utensils. ⁴⁰ And see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.

John 8:12 (NKJV) ¹² Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Revelation 21:23 (NKJV) ²³ The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.

Revelation 22:1–5 (NKJV) ¹ And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. ² In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. ⁴ They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. ⁵ There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

Christmas Always Been about a Cave

Christmas has always been about a cave. As Jesus would be born, we glamorize it and call it a manger. It was nothing more than a dug-out hole into the side of a mud hill or a rock. A cave is what it would be. Jesus would be born in a cave where animals would do what animals would do in that barnyard setting. Jesus born in a cave and then 33 years later after living a perfect sinless life, He would go and be laid in a cave. In both cases, He would be wrapped in swaddling clothes. Both cases as a babe He would be wrapped in that swaddling clothes, and 33 years later, He would be wrapped in His burial cloths again and laid in that tomb, which is nothing more than a cave. Christmas has always been about a cave.

Three days later on our Easter Sunrise Resurrection, that cave would be empty. As Jesus would take sin and death to the grave. Leave it there. Walk out of that cave and rise again and ascend into Heaven. Christmas has always

been about a tree and it's always been about a cave. This Gospel has always been about a God who would not rest until He redeemed man. He will not rest today as He cries out to anyone here today who does not know Him. He will not rest because He chases you in love and says, "come unto me. I'm offering you eternal life with me. Forgiveness of your sin. Turn and follow and come."

Luke 2:6-7 (NKJV) ⁶ So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. ⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Matthew 27:59-60 (NKJV) ⁵⁹ When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰ and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.

Matthew 28:1-8 (NKJV) ¹ Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. ² And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. ³ His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. ⁴ And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. ⁷ And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you." ⁸ So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.

Romans 10:9-13 (NKJV) ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

For those that have received, this is what we celebrate for Christmas.

Something Big Happened

One of the things you can look all around this world. Nearly all the world is going to be celebrating Christmas. Right around there's lights adorned everywhere. There's all kinds of ornaments and displays and special times. You know what it all speaks? Something big happened. Something so big that the whole world slows down. Something so big that people decorate not just a room, but their whole house and a front yard to boot. Businesses stop. People's hearts change and all of it speaks of this. Something big happened 2,000 years ago. So big that we still slow down and stop the earth for it every December.

Luke 2:8-14 (NKJV) ⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

God's Christmas Gift – Is You

God has a gift He gives. His only begotten son. God wants a gift from you. And it's you.

John 3:16-17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Come to Throne of Grace

So now come to the throne of grace and spend time with the Lord, ask Him take this word and work it into your life.

**Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)* ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Prayer Guide

- Reverence – What do we see about our Great God?
- Response – How do I respond to all that He is?
- Requests – What can I boldly request from Him based on this?
- Readiness – What do I need to be on-guard against when I leave here today?
- Reverence – How great is Our God?

End of Study.

Ruth 4

Ruth 4:1-22

Only 85 Verses

This book in the Bible is only 85 verses long, compare that to the book of Luke which the first chapter alone is 80 verses and you see an incredible difference.

Powerful Love Story – Showing God can Take Hopeless/Turn into Marvelous

But in these 85 verses is a powerful love story which shows how the Lord can take a hopeless situation and turn it into something marvelous. This is a book which ministers a message of hope to any whom feel hopeless, helpless, or hurting. Today if you are hopeless, helpless, hurting – know that God has a love story for you.

Eloquent – Ben Franklin

This book is also well known as an eloquent writing, even in secular circles; when Ben Franklin was Ambassador to France he spoke to a group of Intellectuals who continually scoffed at his belief in the Bible. Ben Franklin knowing that they were unfamiliar with the Book they mocked, He said I have an intriguing love story I would like to read to you tonight, I think you will find it interesting. He then proceeded to read them a hand-written copy of the book of Ruth. After he read the four short chapters his audience was ecstatic They said that greatest love story we ever heard, you must publish it at once. Franklin answered it already has been, it's in the Bible. The scoffers were silenced.

Practices of Ancient Israel

This book gives us a look at life in ancient Israel (to understand the book we will have to look at some of the practices of that time that will seem very strange to us, yet are beautiful). This book was written several hundred years before the birth of Christ – yet without it you couldn't link David to the House of Judah, nor link Jesus' birth to Bethlehem.

It is a Love Story

This book is a love story, a beautiful love story between

- a mother and daughter (Ruth and Naomi);
- a love story between a man and a woman (Ruth and Boaz- the hero of the story);
- but most of all it is a love story between God and people – that's you – a love story that was written in blood 2000 years ago on a wooden cross, on hill called Calvary.

3 Applications

This Book has three approaches, and will minister to us in three special ways. Remember these 66 books written by 40 different authors over thousands of years are a single message system, every word and number are there by design, with a message that comes from outside our time domain, from the Creator of the Universe – God Himself. The message will be rolled up into three categories and we will study them as we come across them: there is a

1. Historical Application – this is a true story, it actually happened

2. Prophetic Revelation - an event of the past that reveals the future – in this case preparing the way for the coming Messiah

Hosea 12:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ I have also spoken by the prophets, And have multiplied visions; I have given symbols through the witness of the prophets."

Hebrews 10:7 (NKJV) ⁷ Then I said, 'Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.' "

3. Personal Application – what it means to us, and we can apply it to our daily lives.

God's Greatest Achievements

This Book is often titled – The Romance of Redemption. Let me ask you what was God's greatest achievement? Most of us would immediately think creation, as we survey the heavens, study the DNA molecule, we are staggered at this universe we live in.

But how do we measure how important something is to God? How about how much space is taken in the Bible to talk about something?

- Creation – a couple chapters in Genesis, a couple in Job, a couple Psalms, and a couple chapters in Isaiah, and we got most of it.
- Redemption - Now how much space in the Bible is given for the second major act – Redemption? All of Genesis, Exodus (Passover), Leviticus (the rules of priesthood), this Book of Ruth, the Psalms, the Books of the Prophets, the Gospels, the Epistles, the book of Revelation is the climax. —almost all of the Bible is on redemption.

Why? – Redemption Cost God His Only Begotten Son

Why? because Creation cost God 6 days - redemption cost God His only Son.

John 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Chapter 3 Ends with No Sleep for Boaz / Would not Rest Until got the Girl / So Too Jesus and You

We come into chapter 4 on the heels of verse 18 of chapter 3. Boaz didn't sleep a wink that night, for all he had on his mind, was the girl, the Bride, the wife, the love, the beauty, the one who captured his heart and took his breath away. And remind you, Boaz is a picture of Christ, and Ruth is a picture of you, and God never rested until He had you, because you take his breath away, you captured His heart, and you moved Him so much so that He never rested until He had you, even meaning going to the cross to buy you, redeem you, purchase you out of slavery, to make you His wife, His bride, simply said..... His, all His!

Ruth 3:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ Then she said, "Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day."

Outline 4:1-22

Boaz *Waits* at Gate for the Closer Relative (4:1)

Boaz *Gathers* 10 Elders of the City (4:2)

Boaz *Informs* Naomi and Ruth's need to be Redeemed (4:3-6)

Boaz *Redeems* the Land and the Bride (4:7-10)

Boaz *Receives* the Blessings of the Elders (4:11-12)

Boaz *Takes* his Bride Ruth (4:13)

Boaz *Begets* (fathers) the Lineage of the King (4:14-22)

Boaz *Waits* at Gate for the Closer Relative (4:1)

Ruth 4:1 Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there; and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz had spoken came by. So Boaz said, "Come aside, friend, sit down here." So he came aside and sat down.

Here is the Nearer Kin

Here we see the kinsman that Boaz had mentioned back in chapter 3.

City Gates

The city gate is where all the business transactions took place in those days. What we would consider "Court House" today. Traveling businessmen would do their business at the gate; they would make their contacts at the gate. If there was a matter within the city that needed to be dealt with, you meet the elders of the city at the gate and deal with it. Boaz sat at the gate therefore he must have had authority and standing in the community, he was a senior guy in the city.

Husbands Notice Boaz's Priority

Husbands notice this, it is morning now, Boaz has sent Ruth home, and he immediately heads to the gate. Boaz leaves the threshing floor during the harvest, his big money time, after several years of famine at that, - why because he is tending to his priority, the love of his life. Men, ladies too, it is easy to let work get in the way of your marriage. Be a Boaz, take care of your spouse first.

It is also important to add, men don't do anything for your wife today that you are not willing to do 10 years, 20 years from now. Don't give them a whirlwind dating romance, and then once you are married stop doing those things. Your wife will remember, and you will break her heart.

When you stop buying her roses, to you it saves you a stop, to her she isn't worth the stop. She'll ask herself if it's the few pounds she gained, the lines in her face, does she still move your heart like when you first met.

Men don't let business (whether its work, or the business of cleaning the garage) take priority over the love of your life.

Boaz Gathers 10 Elders of the City (4:2)

Ruth 4:2 And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down.

Biblical Typology / 10 = Witness / Picture of the Law

So here is the prophetic picture, the biblical typology, the story within the story, about God redeeming you. 10 is the number of witness in Biblical typology. We arrive at these meaning of the numbers by how they are used consistently in the Bible. 7 days for creation, seven equals complete (not perfection), six equals man for he is not complete, 8 is new beginnings (as Sunday starts a new day of the week). The 10 elders of the city are an illustration of who our near kinsman is, It's the law, the law came first before Jesus. For us the 10 commandments testify against us - it witnesses against us that we have sinned against God and cannot enter into His presence.

John 1:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Law came Before Jesus

The law came before Jesus came to redeem us; the law was already in place with its do's and don'ts, it was an unmerciful nearer kinsman, which laid claim to you and me.

Galatians 3:24 (NKJV) ²⁴ Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Romans 3:19-20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. ²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Boaz Informs Naomi and Ruth's need to be Redeemed (4:3-6)

Ruth 4:3 Then he said to the close relative, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, sold the piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech.

Ruth 4:4 And I thought to inform you, saying, 'Buy it back in the presence of the inhabitants and the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know; for there is no one but you to redeem it, and I am next after you.' " And he said, "I will redeem it."

Ruth 4:5 Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy it from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance."

Ruth 4:6 And the close relative said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance. You redeem my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot redeem it."

Recap Leviticus 25 and Deuteronomy 25

So again for a refresher. God had put in place in Israel that if anyone came upon hard times and had to sell their land for whatever reason, every 50 years (called the Year of Jubilee), that the land would revert back to them and their family regardless how much money had been paid for the land. But if before that time the seller/original owner came up with the money to buy the land back, they could. And/Or, if one of the sellers/original owners immediate family relationship (brother, uncle, cousin) they could buy it back for the family. That person was called

a “Kinsman Redeemer”, a “Goel – in the Hebrew”. And, it also all tied into what is called the “Law of the Leverite Marriage”, in which if a husband died, one of the husband's Kinsman Redeemer was expected to carry on the brother's family name and lineage by taking the widow as a wife, and have a child with her that would be considered the deceased brother's son, and thus his name and lineage would carry forth.

Leviticus 25:47–52 (NKJV) ⁴⁷ Now if a sojourner or stranger close to you becomes rich, and one of your brethren who dwells by him becomes poor, and sells himself to the stranger or sojourner close to you, or to a member of the stranger's family, ⁴⁸ after he is sold he may be redeemed again. One of his brothers may redeem him; ⁴⁹ or his uncle or his uncle's son may redeem him; or anyone who is near of kin to him in his family may redeem him; or if he is able he may redeem himself. ⁵⁰ Thus he shall reckon with him who bought him: The price of his release shall be according to the number of years, from the year that he was sold to him until the Year of Jubilee; it shall be according to the time of a hired servant for him. ⁵¹ If there are still many years remaining, according to them he shall repay the price of his redemption from the money with which he was bought. ⁵² And if there remain but a few years until the Year of Jubilee, then he shall reckon with him, and according to his years he shall repay him the price of his redemption.

Deuteronomy 25:5–10 (NKJV) ⁵ If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be married to a stranger outside the family; her husband's brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her. ⁶ And it shall be that the firstborn son which she bears will succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel. ⁷ But if the man does not want to take his brother's wife, then let his brother's wife go up to the gate to the elders, and say, 'My husband's brother refuses to raise up a name to his brother in Israel; he will not perform the duty of my husband's brother.' ⁸ Then the elders of his city shall call him and speak to him. But if he stands firm and says, 'I do not want to take her,' ⁹ then his brother's wife shall come to him in the presence of the elders, remove his sandal from his foot, spit in his face, and answer and say, 'So shall it be done to the man who will not build up his brother's house.' ¹⁰ And his name shall be called in Israel, 'The house of him who had his sandal removed.'

Right & Responsibility / Yes to Property – No to People

So the kinsman not only had the right to redeem the property (payoff all debt existing against the property), but an obligation to take care of the family, and in this case it meant to take care of both Naomi and Ruth. This kinsman redeemer, says I like the property, yes sir I am all about building bigger barns, but no thanks to helping people, expanding property yes, helping people no.

Nearer Kin becomes Mr. Irrelevant

Back in verse 1, Boaz said “come aside friend”, and the word for friend actually reads “so and so”. The meaning is that Boaz knew exactly the nearer-kin name. It could have well read, and Boaz said “come aside Joe Smith”. But Joe Smith is left out, because Joe Smith made himself irrelevant, he made himself unmemorable, because he chose not to man-up, step-up, and fulfill the role God gave him opportunity to fulfill. And so it will be for each and every one of us, when God gives us opportunity to do something “great or small”, but we say no thanks, that would be inconvenient for me, that would mess up my livelihood, take me away from my comfort and ease time, I can't do it, let someone else do it. And we do that enough times, we become irrelevant, a life that leaves no mark in the Kingdom, maybe even unmemorable.

Boaz Redeems the Land and the Bride (4:7-10)

Ruth 4:7 Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging, to confirm anything: one man took off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was a confirmation in Israel.

Ruth 4:8 Therefore the close relative said to Boaz, “Buy it for yourself.” So he took off his sandal.

Ruth 4:9 And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, “You are witnesses this day that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, from the hand of Naomi.

Ruth 4:10 Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate. You are witnesses this day.”

Shoe = Open Door for Boaz

The Shoe, to the giver a symbol of shame, to Boaz, a marriage license. It opened the door for him to take a Gentile Bride. Boaz is now clear to be the kinsman redeemer. Remember back in Deuteronomy 25, the rejected widow had the right to not only take off his shoe, but spit in his face. So the key here, the nearer kinsman takes his shoe off and says, I can't, so now according to the Law of God, Boaz can buy the land and get the girl.

Deuteronomy 25:5–10 (NKJV) ⁵ If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be married to a stranger outside the family; her husband's brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her. ⁶ And it shall be that the firstborn son which she bears will succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel. ⁷ But if the man does not want to take his brother's wife, then let his brother's wife go up to the gate to the elders, and say,

*'My husband's brother refuses to raise up a name to his brother in Israel; he will not perform the duty of my husband's brother.'*⁸ Then the elders of his city shall call him and speak to him. But if he stands firm and says, 'I do not want to take her,'⁹ then his brother's wife shall come to him in the presence of the elders, remove his sandal from his foot, spit in his face, and answer and say, 'So shall it be done to the man who will not build up his brother's house.'¹⁰ And his name shall be called in Israel, 'The house of him who had his sandal removed.'

Prophetic Picture (Buy Land to Get the Treasure)

Now, catch this prophetic picture, and follow it through with me. Boaz is going to buy the land to get the treasure in the land..... Ruth. Does Boaz need more land, does Boaz care about the land, not at all. All Boaz cares about is getting the treasure that is in the field, and that is Ruth. Sound familiar?

Matthew 13:44 (NKJV)⁴⁴ *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."*

Prophetic Picture of Revelation 5

In the "Law of Redemption", In Jewish law there was a Redemption clause so the owner could buy it back. There were always 2 deeds when property was sold, 1 kept by seller and remained opened, and the 2nd was sealed and kept buried in a jar. So both brought in on the day of redemption. The open deed proved the seller (or kinsman) had the right to redeem the property. The sealed deed would be opened and the seller would have to fulfill the requirements specified in it to purchase it back. A relative could redeem the property if the kin was not capable either financially or through death.

When God created man, He gave Adam the title deed to the earth. Adam forfeited the earth to Satan in the garden, thus giving Satan the title deed. When Satan tempted Jesus he said the world is mine to give, and Jesus did not dispute that claim. Satan is the god of this world, when you accept Jesus you become an alien to this world. So don't blame God for all the terrible things in this world, blame the Devil.

Jesus came to redeem the earth, his death on the cross was the requirement to purchase the world back. The Jewish law said that if you could not purchase the property back at the time of redemption, you lost the property until the year of Jubilee (which was every 50 years. Most redemption periods were seven years, until the year of Jubilee (50th year). Jesus bought the earth before we had to go through 50,000 years of Satan rule

In Revelation chapter 5 there is a scroll, and it was rolled up a little and there was a seal, a little more another seal, and so on until the 7th seal. This scroll is the title deed to the earth, and only Jesus could buy it back, and He did, to get the treasure that was in the field (you and me). Amazing prophetic picture. However it is not until Revelation 5 that Jesus will take the final possession of the land, and kick Satan out into the bottomless pit. Why does Satan still get to hang around man today, because he gives man a choice who they will serve, and if God destroyed Satan today then man would be removed of choice of who they will serve, and thus that would be the end of the "Dispensation of Grace" that man can come to God by grace of his own free-will choosing, based on the Finished Work of Jesus on the cross. So when the world seems like hell, just remember that it is because Satan is the god of this world until times of Book of Revelation.

Genesis 1:28 (NKJV)²⁸ *Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

Genesis 3:17–19 (NKJV)¹⁷ *Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. ¹⁸ Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. ¹⁹ In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."*

Matthew 4:8–11 (NKJV)⁸ *Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.' " ¹¹ Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.*

2 Corinthians 4:3–4 (NKJV)³ *But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.*

John 12:31–33 (NKJV)³¹ *Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. ³² And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." ³³ This He said, signifying by what death He would die.*

Ephesians 6:11–13 (NKJV) ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Revelation 5:1–14 (NKJV) ¹ And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. ⁴ So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. ⁵ But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." ⁶ And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. ⁸ Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, ¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." ¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!" ¹³ And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!" ¹⁴ Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

Boaz Receives the Blessings of the Elders (4:11-12)

Ruth 4:11 And all the people who were at the gate, and the elders, said, "We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of Israel; and may you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem.

Ruth 4:12 May your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring which the LORD will give you from this young woman."

Spit in Face – Walk Home without Shoe / For the Joy Set before Him

The kin who is closer could say no and if he was and would say no, then the person would be spit in their face and their shoe taken. They would walk home without a shoe as a symbol of shame that they weren't man enough to step up and do what God would ask of him to do. But how amazing, Jesus said yes and yet He was still spit on. Jesus was more than taken from shoe-less. He was stripped down to nothing and yet, He would say, "for the joy that was set before me, I endured the cross." You can do a word play there. Jesus calls you "Joy" because you are the joy that set before Him.

Hebrews 12:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Law Could Not Redeem Us – Only Condemn Us

What is the picture that is being said here and painted for us regarding salvation? It is that the nearer kinsman, the one that came first, the Law, could not redeem us. The more we study the Law, the more we see how condemned we are by the Law, which was exactly the point of the Law, to show us our need for a Savior because the Law condemns us. These 10 witnesses (elders) all confirm, all agree, that Boaz has the right to redeem Ruth, that the Law (that nearer kinsman) did not have the ability, capability, to redeem her.

Galatians 3:24 (NKJV) ²⁴ Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Romans 3:19–20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. ²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

10 Commandments

Now we are told in James 2, that if you break one of the commandments, God considers you guilty of them all. What we get out of that is that God doesn't grade sin on a curve. Stealing is as offensive to God as murder is, because God is perfect, and any imperfection is an offense to Him (Habakkuk 1:13). Secondly, just one offense is enough to be guilty, no three strikes you are out, but one offense and you are guilty. So have you ever stolen

anything, regardless of the value, if so you are guilty before God, the Law can't save you it only condemns you, and you need a Savior. The Commandments say you shall not murder, have you ever murdered someone, if so you are guilty before God, the Law can't save you it only condemns you, and you need a Savior. But get this, everyone thinks the keeping of the Law is only outward, but Jesus showed us that it is not only outward but inward, as He said if you have hatred in your heart he considers that equal to murder, and there again you are guilty before God, the Law can't save you it only condemns you, and you need a Savior. Jesus said the Law said you shall not commit adultery, but if you look upon a woman/man with lust you are guilty, ever done that, if so you are guilty before God, the Law can't save you it only condemns you, and you need a Savior.

James 2:10–11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. ¹¹ For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

Habakkuk 1:13 (NKJV) ¹³ You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, And hold Your tongue when the wicked devours A person more righteous than he?

Matthew 5:21–22 (NKJV) ²¹ "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' ²² But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.

Matthew 5:27–30 (NKJV) ²⁷ "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' ²⁸ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

Exodus 20:1–17 (NKJV) ¹ And God spoke all these words, saying: ² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. ³ "You shall have no other gods before Me. ⁴ "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. ⁷ "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain. ⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it. ¹² "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you. ¹³ "You shall not murder. ¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵ "You shall not steal. ¹⁶ "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

Commands Only Condemn – Can't Save

If Ruth or Naomi had the money, then they could have paid off their own debt and bought back the land themselves, but their debt was beyond their ability to pay. If you can keep all ten of the commandments, perfectly, then you do not need a Boaz to rescue you, your works save you, for your works prove out you are perfect and therefore can boldly and with full assurance enter into the presence of the perfect God, because you are perfect. But, if we are honest, there are none that are perfect, and God says there are none perfect, we are guilty, the debt is greater than we can pay, and the wages of sin is death. We need a Savior. The nearer kinsman said, "I already have a family, he said, I cannot redeem." So too we think the law can save us through our good works, we realize in the end that it cannot redeem us. The more you read the Law, study the Law, and know the Law – the more you realize that the Law is not your redeemer, but it is our condemner. The law points out our weaknesses, failings, flaws. The law shows us we need someone to come along and save us.

Romans 3:10–11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Isaiah 59:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. ² But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

Boaz Takes his Bride Ruth (4:13)

Ruth 4:13 So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son.

All Ruth had to Do – Take Me

Boaz gets the girl, gets his bride. Picture of Jesus and you. And what did Ruth have to do in all this? All she had to say was take me under the shadow of your wing, and then Boaz did the rest.

Ruth 3:8–9 (NKJV) ⁸ Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet. ⁹ And he said, “Who are you?” So she answered, “I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative.”

Look at All Boaz did in this Chapter

Look at all we covered in this chapter, and we see Boaz never rested, we see Boaz doing all the work, and Ruth doing nothing but resting in that Boaz would not rest.

- Boaz *Waits* at Gate for the Closer Relative (4:1)
- Boaz *Gathers* 10 Elders of the City (4:2)
- Boaz *Informs* Naomi and Ruth’s need to be Redeemed (4:3-6)
- Boaz *Redeems* the Land and the Bride (4:7-10)
- Boaz *Receives* the Blessings of the Elders (4:11-12)
- Boaz *Takes* his Bride Ruth (4:13)
- Boaz *Begets* (fathers) the Lineage of the King (4:14-22)

What About the Curse?

Boaz does all the work, and Ruth simple says “take me”. By the way, what about that curse that was put upon the people of Moab, where they wey were not allowed to enter the assembly of the Lord? If you recall way back when we began the study we reviewed how Moab was cursed by God for their treatment of God’s people when they were in their wilderness wandering after the exodus from Egypt. Moab was cursed by God because in the wilderness wandering they came out against Israel and would not allow them to travel through the land, nor did they provide food and water to them. And then, Moab we know the story they hired Balaam to curse them, and then seduced Israel with sexual wickedness. We had read that they were not permitted to enter the assembly of God (the Tabernacle, then the Temple, and all the Feasts). And, we read in verse 2 of that chapter 23 in Deuteronomy, that anyone of illegitimate birth (mixed marriage between Jewish and Non-Jewish, or child out of wedlock) could not enter the assembly of the Lord. So based on that there are those who say we are seeing God’s grace in that He is overlooking the Law, he is making exception to the Law, and thus why this story is even more amazing on how great the grace of God is.

Deuteronomy 23:1–6 (NKJV) ¹ “He who is emasculated by crushing or mutilation shall not enter the assembly of the LORD. ² “One of illegitimate birth shall not enter the assembly of the LORD; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the assembly of the LORD. ³ “An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter the assembly of the LORD; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the assembly of the LORD forever, ⁴ because they did not meet you with bread and water on the road when you came out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you. ⁵ Nevertheless the LORD your God would not listen to Balaam, but the LORD your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God loves you. ⁶ You shall not seek their peace nor their prosperity all your days forever.

Revelation 2:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.

There are No Exceptions to the Law

To which I say, not so. There are no exceptions to God’s Laws, they must be and will be upheld. When we look at Boaz we see him obeying the law, he doesn’t touch her when she come to the threshing floor that night (no intimacy outside bounds of marriage), he follows the law of kinsman redeemer to the absolute letter of law, and the elders all are in agreement with the legal process. Now Boaz breaking God’s law to marry her would seem out of character or the whole story. The elders (all 10) going along with a marriage that was outside God’s law seems out of order for the story also. No God’s law has to be obeyed fully, and it was. So how do we reconcile Deuteronomy 23 and Ruth 4, by applying Ruth 1, “your God shall be my God”, for Ruth left her pagan god (Chesmosh) and began to follow the true and living God of Israel (Yahweh). The heart of the Lord regarding the

foreigners can be found in Isaiah 56, and we can see that God turns no one away who come to Him, and turns from their pagan gods. No law can condemn you “if” you give your life to Jesus Christ.

Ruth 1:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ But Ruth said: “Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. ¹⁷ Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me.”

Isaiah 56:1–8 (NKJV) ¹ Thus says the LORD: “Keep justice, and do righteousness, For My salvation is about to come, And My righteousness to be revealed. ² Blessed is the man who does this, And the son of man who lays hold on it; Who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And keeps his hand from doing any evil.” ³ Do not let the son of the foreigner Who has joined himself to the LORD Speak, saying, “The LORD has utterly separated me from His people”; Nor let the eunuch say, “Here I am, a dry tree.” ⁴ For thus says the LORD: “To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths, And choose what pleases Me, And hold fast My covenant, ⁵ Even to them I will give in My house And within My walls a place and a name Better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name That shall not be cut off. ⁶ “Also the sons of the foreigner Who join themselves to the LORD, to serve Him, And to love the name of the LORD, to be His servants— Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And holds fast My covenant— ⁷ Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices Will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.” ⁸ The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, says, “Yet I will gather to him Others besides those who are gathered to him.”

God will Turn No One Away

Anyone who is willing, anyone who wants to come to the Lord, regardless of where they have been and what they have done, God will by no means turn away!

John 6:37 (NKJV) ³⁷ All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

Boaz Begets (fathers) the Lineage of the King (4:14-22)

Ruth 4:14 Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel!

Ruth 4:15 And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him.”

Ruth 4:16 Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him.

Ruth 4:17 Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, “There is a son born to Naomi.” And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Ruth 4:18 Now this is the genealogy of Perez: Perez begot Hezron;

Ruth 4:19 Hezron begot Ram, and Ram begot Amminadab;

Ruth 4:20 Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon;

Ruth 4:21 Salmon begot Boaz, and Boaz begot Obed;

Ruth 4:22 Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David.

Beautiful Picture Naomi Nursing

What a beautiful picture we see of Naomi coming back to Bethlehem “so-called” empty, but here she is nursing a child who will be in the lineage of the King of Israel whose throne would never end (King David), and the King of the Hearts (the Seed of the Messiah - Jesus).

Links Jesus to Bethlehem & David /

Without this book by the way, Jesus couldn’t be linked to Bethlehem. When Herod calls his counselors and say where is the so-called messiah to be born, and they dig into the Word and say Micah 5:2 (Matthew links this passage in Micah.). This verse predicts where Jesus was to be born, and Ruth links the lineage that puts Him there in Bethlehem.

Micah 5:2 (NKJV) ² “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.”

Matthew 1 Genealogy

And of course as we look at this genealogy here in Ruth, we see it again in Matthew’s Gospel that gives the whole string from Abraham to Jesus.

Matthew 1:1–17 (NKJV) ¹ The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: ² Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. ³ Judah begot Perez and Zerah by **Tamar**, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. ⁴ Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. ⁵ Salmon begot Boaz **by Rahab**, Boaz begot Obed **by Ruth**, Obed begot Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon **by her who had been the wife of Uriah**. ⁷ Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. ⁸ Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. ⁹

Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah.¹⁰ Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah.¹¹ Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon.¹² And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel.¹³ Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor.¹⁴ Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud.¹⁵ Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob.¹⁶ And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David *are* fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon *are* fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ *are* fourteen generations.

4 Woman Tell a Story

I want you to see that there are four woman listed in the genealogy of Matthew, and they are all gentile woman. Tamar, well there is a story for you, in that her husband died and nobody in the family would perform the role as kinsman redeemer, so she dressed up as a harlot and went outside the gate and her father-in-law comes by, and well Perez is born. That is a strange story. Rahab, we know her from Jericho and she was a card-carrying prostitute and guess who she married, Boaz's daddy. Ruth, she use to follow the pagan god Chemosh, and now she is converted. And we all know the story of Bathsheba and David, and their adulterous affair. Here is what God says to you today about these woman, all who get the honor of being included not just in God's kingdom, but God's lineage.

1. Tamar: Dispels Your Families Past
2. Rahab: Dispels Your Past Reputation
3. Ruth: Dispels Your Religious Background
4. Bathsheba Dispels Your Past Sins

Nothing You Have Done will Keep You From God

Nothing you have done, will keep you from God, all you need to do is say to Him, take me under the shadow of Your wings, you be my God, and I will be your Bride.

By the Way – Jesus knew All He was Getting with Us

By the way, in Matthew 13:44 Jesus bought the field – Jesus bought everything, that comes with us, all of our faults and shortcomings. He knew exactly what he was getting, and for the Joy set before Him, nothing would keep Him from buying us back. Doesn't matter how far you have gone, what you past has been, even what your week has been, God would buy the whole world, just to get you, to have you, to make you His own.

Matthew 13:44 (NKJV) ⁴⁴ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

What is it That you "Can't" Ask Him For

What can you ask for Him that you, better said, what can't you ask Him for? He gave His only begotten Son for you, what could you ever ask for that could surpass that? So ask Him, seek Him, cry out to Him, for in Him is a new beginning, and I don't know a one of us that don't need some type of new beginning today, this year, and we can have a great new beginning this day, by coming before Him at his throne of grace.

Come to Throne of Grace

So now come to the throne of grace and spend time with the Lord, ask Him take this word and work it into your life.

**Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)* ¹⁶ "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Prayer Guide

- Reverence – What do we see about our Great God?
- Response – How do I respond to all that He is?
- Requests – What can I boldly request from Him based on this?
- Readiness – What do I need to be on-guard against when I leave here today?
- Reverence – How great is Our God?

End of Study

THE TRIBAL ALLOTMENTS OF ISRAEL
 JOSH 13:8-19:49

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ▲ Mountain peak





End of Study of the Book of Ruth