

**RUTH**

**THE LEGACY BIBLE OUTLINE SERIES**

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# THE LEGACY BIBLE OUTLINE SERIES

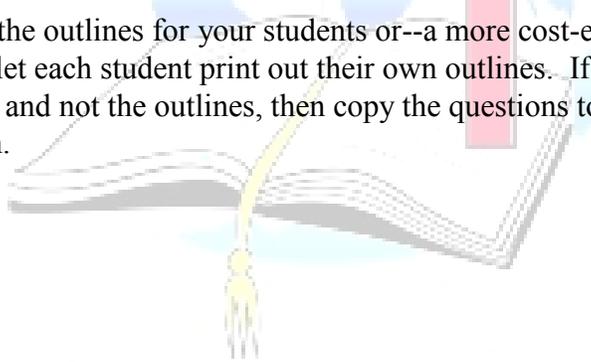
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We suggest you create a notebook for each book of the Bible. Insert the outlines in your notebooks and add your own study notes. Each time you study a book, you can easily append the outlines to continuously expand the materials.

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**For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line...**  
(Isaiah 28:10, KJV)

**...His word burns in my heart like a fire. It's like a fire in my bones!...**  
(Jeremiah 20:9, NLT)

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# INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF RUTH

**AUTHOR:** Unknown. The book is named for Ruth, the Moabite daughter-in-law of a Jewish woman named Naomi.

**TO WHOM:** Israel.

**PURPOSES:** The book is a typology of the redemption Jesus Christ provides for believers. Boaz is a type of our kinsman-redeemer. The book illustrates God's providence, sovereignty, and His invitation for salvation for all people. Ruth also provides a historical record that traces the genealogy of Christ.

**KEY VERSES:** *And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me. (Ruth 1:16-17)*

**LIFE AND MINISTRY PRINCIPLE:** God can take bitter experiences of life and transform them into beauty.

**MAIN CHARACTERS:** Naomi (Mara), Elimelech, Mahlon, Chilion, Orpha, Ruth, Boaz, an unnamed kinsman, and Obed.

## A BRIEF OUTLINE:

- I. Introduction: 1:1-2
- II. Moab: 1:3-5
- III. The return trip to Bethlehem: 1:6-18
- IV. Arrival in Bethlehem: 1:19-22
- V. Ruth in the fields of Boaz: 2:1-23
- VI. Naomi's plan and its fulfillment: 3:1-18
- VII. The redemption: 4:1-12
- VIII. The union of Ruth and Boaz: 4:13-17
- IX. The genealogy of David: 4:17-22

## QUESTIONS ON THE INTRODUCTION:

1. Who was the author of the book?
2. To whom was the book written?
3. State the purposes for the book.
4. Write the key verses.
5. State the life and ministry principle of the book.

6. Who are the main characters?
7. Give a brief outline of the book.

## 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 sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.

**2** And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehem Judah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there.

**3** And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons.

**4** And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years.

**5** And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband.

**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 how that the Lord had visited his people in giving them bread.

**7** Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her; and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah.

**8** And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the Lord deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me.

**9** The Lord grant you that ye may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept.

**10** And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people.

**11** And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?

**12** Turn again, my daughters, go your way; for I am too old to have an husband. If I should say, I have hope, if I should have an husband also to night, and should also bear sons;

**13** Would ye tarry for them till they were grown? would ye stay for them from having husbands? nay, my daughters; for it grieveth me much for your sakes that the hand of the Lord is gone out against me.

**14** And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her.

**15** And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law.

**16** And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:

**17** Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.

**18** When she saw that she was steadfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.

**19** So they two went until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi?

**20** And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me.

**21** I went out full, and the Lord hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the Lord hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me?

**22** So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest.

### Outline 1:

- I. Introduction: The setting and characters. (1-2)
  - A. The story occurs in the time when the judges ruled.  
*(See Judges 17:6 for a summary of conditions at the time. This is why God sent famine as a judgment.)*
  - B. There was famine in Bethlehem Judah.  
*(Famine was used of God in the Old Testament for chastisement of His people-- 2 Kings 8:1; Jeremiah 16:3-13; Ezekiel 5:11-17.)*
  - C. Because of the famine, a man named Elimelech, his wife Naomi, and two sons Mahlon and Chilion (*Ephrathites*) went to Moab and continued there.  
*(Moab was about 50 miles from Bethlehem on the opposite side of the Dead Sea. The word "Bethlehem" means house of bread. The house of bread in time of famine is better than plenty in Moab which represents enemy territory.)*
- II. Life in Moab. (3-5)
  - A. The death of Elimelech.
  - B. The marriage of the sons to Moabite women, Orpha and Ruth.  
*(Marriage between Israelites and Moabites were forbidden: 2 Kings 8:1; Jeremiah 16:3-13; Ezekiel 5:11-17.)*
  - C. The death of the sons: After ten years of residency in Moab, Mahlon and Chilion died. *(Mahlon means sick and Chilion means pining. Perhaps these young men had health issues since birth.)*
- III. The return trip to Bethlehem. (6-18)
  - A. Naomi arose with her daughters-in-law, that she might return from Moab.
  - B. She decided to return because she had heard that the Lord had visited His people: in Judah giving them bread.
  - C. Naomi's appeal to her daughters-in-law to stay in Moab.
    1. Go, return each to your mother's house.
    2. The Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.
    3. The Lord grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband *(assuming they would remarry)*.

4. She kissed them and they lifted up their voices and wept.
- D. Their initial response to Naomi's appeal: Surely we will return with you unto your people.
- E. Naomi's argument.
1. Turn again, my daughters: Why will ye go with me?
  2. Are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?
  3. Turn again, my daughters, go your way; for I am too old to have an husband.
  4. If I should say, I have hope, if I should have an husband also tonight, and should also bear sons; Would you tarry for them till they were grown? Would you wait for them from having husbands?
  5. No, my daughters; for it grieves me much for your sakes that the hand of the Lord is gone out against me. *(In the natural, it was better for them to remain in Moab. Since Israelites hated Moabites, chances of them finding a husband were better in Moab. Financially it was more secure, as they would return to live with their parents. Sometimes there appears to be no future if we go God's way.)*
- F. Orpha's response. She weeps, kisses her mother-in-law, and returns to Moab. *(Sadly, Orpha was not only returning to her people, but also to their gods. Many are like her. They have affection for Christ, start out with Him, and yet come short of salvation because they cannot forsake all to follow Him. Orpha sheds tears, but not tears of true repentance. She went back to enemy territory and the land of idolatry and we never hear of her again.)*
- G. Ruth's response.
1. She does not want to leave Naomi. *(An example of cleaving to Christ.)*
  2. She will go where Naomi goes. *(An example of following Christ.)*
  3. She will live where Naomi lives. *(An example of dwelling perpetually with Him.)*
  4. Naomi's people shall be hers. *(An example of uniting with God's people.)*
  5. Naomi's God shall be her God. *(Christ's Father God is our Father God.)*
  6. She will remain faithful to death. *(We, also, must remain faithful until death.)*
- (Ruth goes through the same steps we must experience. She accepts the invitation, abandons the past, acknowledges the true God, and aligns herself with the people of God. This was a difficult decision, as the Israelites hated Moabites. She was leaving all she knew to go to a land and people she did not know. You must leave old things—and sometimes people--behind also, if you are to fully embrace God's plan for your life.)*
- H. Naomi's decision. When she saw that Ruth was steadfastly minded (*determined*) to

go with her, then she left speaking unto her (*stopped trying to persuade her*).

IV. Arrival in Bethlehem. (19-22)

A. Reception by the city

1. The whole city was moved.
2. They questioned if this was Naomi.

B. Naomi's response.

1. She told them to no longer call her Naomi, but rather Mara (*which means bitter*) because the Almighty had dealt bitterly with her.
2. She said she went out full and the Lord brought her home empty. (*Her use of the word Lord speaks of the sufficiency of God. She is saying, "I am in need, but God is sufficient"—for my loss, for my bitterness, etc. We will always return empty when we move away from the place of God's Presence—Bethlehem, the house of bread.*)
3. She declared that the Lord had testified against her and the Almighty had afflicted her. (*She perceived her problems as chastisement.*)

C. The timing of their return: The beginning of barley harvest.

**Study questions on chapter 1:**

1. When does this story occur? (1)
2. Why did Elimelech and his family leave Bethlehem? (1)
3. To where did the family go? (1)
4. What tragedy is recorded in verse 3?
5. Who did Naomi's sons marry? (4)
6. What tragedy is recorded in verse 5?
7. Why did Naomi decide to return to Judah? (6)
8. Who originally left for Judah? (7)
9. What did Naomi try to persuade her daughters-in-law to do? (8)
10. What blessing did Naomi speak over her daughters-in-law in verses 8-9?
11. What was the initial decision of both daughters-in-law in verse 10?
12. What reasons did Naomi give to try to convince her daughters-in-law to return to Moab? (11-13)
13. How did Naomi describe her relationship with God in verse 13 and why did she feel this way?
14. What was Orpha's decision? (14)
15. What did Naomi say concerning Orpha's return and what did she entreat Ruth to do? (15)
16. Why did Ruth decide to stay with her mother-in-law, Naomi? (16)
17. How did Ruth reveal her commitment to Naomi's God? (16-17)
18. What made Naomi accept Ruth's decision? (18)
19. How did the people of Bethlehem react to Naomi's return? (19)
20. Why did Naomi refer to herself as Mara? (20-21)
21. How did Naomi describe her situation? (13,20-21)

22. In what season did Naomi and Ruth return to Judah? (22)  
23. What did you learn in this chapter to apply to your life and ministry?

## Ruth 2

**1 And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz.**

**2 And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter.**

**3 And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz, who was of the kindred of Elimelech.**

**4 And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said unto the reapers, The Lord be with you. And they answered him, The Lord bless thee.**

**5 Then said Boaz unto his servant that was set over the reapers, Whose damsel is this?**

**6 And the servant that was set over the reapers answered and said, It is the Moabitish damsel that came back with Naomi out of the country of Moab:**

**7 And she said, I pray you, let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves: so she came, and hath continued even from the morning until now, that she tarried a little in the house.**

**8 Then said Boaz unto Ruth, Hearest thou not, my daughter? Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens:**

**9 Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after them: have I not charged the young men that they shall not touch thee? and when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men have drawn.**

**10 Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldst take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?**

**11 And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore.**

**12 The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.**

**13 Then she said, Let me find favour in thy sight, my lord; for that thou hast comforted me, and for that thou hast spoken friendly unto thine handmaid, though I be not like unto one of thine handmaidens.**

**14 And Boaz said unto her, At mealtime come thou hither, and eat of the bread, and dip thy morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers: and he reached her parched corn, and she did eat, and was sufficed, and left.**

**15 And when she was risen up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not:**

**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.**

**17 So she gleaned in the field until even, and beat out that she had gleaned: and it was about an ephah of barley.**

**18 And she took it up, and went into the city: and her mother in law saw what she had gleaned: and she brought forth, and gave to her that she had reserved after she was sufficed.**

**19 And her mother in law said unto her, Where hast thou gleaned to day? and where wroughtest thou? blessed be he that did take knowledge of thee. And she shewed her mother in law with whom she had wrought, and said, The man's name with whom I wrought to day is Boaz.**

**20 And Naomi said unto her daughter in law, Blessed be he of the Lord, who hath not left off his kindness to the living and to the dead. And Naomi said unto her, The man is near of kin unto us, one of our next kinsmen.**

**21 And Ruth the Moabitess said, He said unto me also, Thou shalt keep fast by my young men, until they have ended all my harvest.**

**22 And Naomi said unto Ruth her daughter in law, It is good, my daughter, that thou go out with his maidens, that they meet thee not in any other field.**

**23 So she kept fast by the maidens of Boaz to glean unto the end of barley harvest and of wheat harvest; and dwelt with her mother in law.**

## **Outline 2:**

- I. Introduction of Boaz. (1,4-5)
  - A. He was a kinsman of Naomi's husband.
  - B. He was a mighty man of wealth, with servants.
  - C. He was of the family of Elimelech.
  - D. He lived in Bethlehem.
- II. Ruth's plan to glean in the fields. (1-3)
  - A. Ruth tells Naomi that she wants to glean the fields and Naomi approves.
  - B. Ruth "happens" onto the fields of Boaz.

*(There are no accidents in God's plan. The fact that she "happened" on those fields meant she didn't plan it herself. You can't just sit and wait for God to work in your life. You must do what needs to be done. Even the details of life are profitable when done for the glory of God: 1 Corinthians 10:31. God moves in the midst of the routines of your everyday life as He did in the lives of Moses, Gideon, and Elisha. You must remain in the right field—the right place—doing your duty faithfully.)*
- III. In the fields of Boaz. (4-17)
  - A. Boaz arrives and exchanges greetings with the reapers.
  - B. Boaz inquires regarding Ruth.
  - C. The servants respond:
    - 1. Ruth is a Moabite woman.
    - 2. She came back with Naomi, her mother-in-law, from Moab.
    - 3. She had requested permission to glean after the reapers.
  - D. Boaz charges Ruth:

1. Do not glean in another field. (*To reach your destiny, stay faithful reaping the field in which you are placed.*)
  2. Abide here fast by my maidens.
  3. Let your eyes be on the fields they reap and go after them.
  4. I have charged the young men not to touch you.
  5. When you are thirsty, drink the water drawn by the young men.
  6. When you are hungry, come and eat with the other workers.
- E. Ruth's response:
1. She fell on her face.
  2. She bowed herself to the ground.
  3. She said to him, "Why have I found grace in your eyes and why should you take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?"
- F. Boaz's answer: It has been fully shown to me all you have done.
1. What you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband.
  2. How you left your father, mother, and your birthplace.
  3. How you came to a people which you did not know before.
  4. May the Lord recompense your work and a full reward be given you of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to trust.  
(*We must leave the past, even ungodly families and former residences, if necessary, to abide with our spiritual mother, the Church.*)
- G. Ruth's response to Boaz: Let me find favour in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me and spoken friendly to me even though I am not like one of your handmaidens.
- H. Boaz commands the workers to let Ruth glean even among the sheaves and to let handfuls fall on purpose for her.
- IV. The return home to Naomi. (17-22)
- A. Ruth returns to Naomi with an ephah (*about half a bushel*) of barley.
- B. Naomi questions Ruth:
1. Where have you gleaned today?
  2. Where did you work?
  3. Blessed is he that took knowledge of you.
- C. Ruth's answer:
1. She worked in the fields of Boaz.
  2. He told her to remain until the end of the harvest.
- D. Naomi's response:
1. Blessed be he of the Lord who has not left off his kindness to the living and dead.
  2. The man is our near kinsman.
  3. Continue to go with his maidens and do not work in any other field.
- V. Ruth continues her labors. (23)
- A. She stays close to the maidens of Boaz.
- B. She gleans through the end of the barley and wheat harvests.

C. She remains with her mother-in-law.

### Study questions on chapter 2:

1. What do you learn about Boaz in verses 1 and 4-5?
2. How did Ruth provide for herself and her mother-in-law? (2-3)
3. What did Boaz question upon his arrival in the fields? (4-5)
4. How did Boaz's foreman describe Ruth? (6-7)
5. What instructions did Boaz give to Ruth and how did she respond (8-10,14)
6. What danger did Ruth face in gleaning the fields and how did Boaz protect her? (9)
7. What had Boaz heard regarding the sacrifices Ruth made to remain with her mother-in-law? (11)
8. What blessing did Boaz speak over Ruth? (12)
9. What was Ruth's response in verse 13?
10. What instructions did Boaz give regarding Ruth? (15-16)
11. What were the results of Ruth's work? (17-18)
12. What questions did Naomi ask in verse 19 and what was Ruth's response?
13. What advice did Naomi give to Ruth? (20-23)
14. How did Ruth respond to Naomi's advice? (23)
15. What did you learn in this chapter to apply to your life and ministry?

### Ruth 3

**1 Then Naomi her mother in law said unto her, My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee?**

**2 And now is not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley to night in the threshingfloor.**

**3 Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor: but make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking.**

**4 And it shall be, when he lieth down, that thou shalt mark the place where he shall lie, and thou shalt go in, and uncover his feet, and lay thee down; and he will tell thee what thou shalt do.**

**5 And she said unto her, All that thou sayest unto me I will do.**

**6 And she went down unto the floor, and did according to all that her mother in law bade her.**

**7 And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of corn: and she came softly, and uncovered his feet, and laid her down.**

**8 And it came to pass at midnight, that the man was afraid, and turned himself: and, behold, a woman lay at his feet.**

**9 And he said, Who art thou? And she answered, I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman.**

**10 And he said, Blessed be thou of the Lord, my daughter: for thou hast shewed more**

kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich.

11 And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.

12 And now it is true that I am thy near kinsman: howbeit there is a kinsman nearer than I.

13 Tarry this night, and it shall be in the morning, that if he will perform unto thee the part of a kinsman, well; let him do the kinsman's part: but if he will not do the part of a kinsman to thee, then will I do the part of a kinsman to thee, as the Lord liveth: lie down until the morning.

14 And she lay at his feet until the morning: and she rose up before one could know another. And he said, Let it not be known that a woman came into the floor.

15 Also he said, Bring the veil that thou hast upon thee, and hold it. And when she held it, he measured six measures of barley, and laid it on her: and she went into the city.

16 And when she came to her mother in law, she said, Who art thou, my daughter? And she told her all that the man had done to her.

17 And she said, These six measures of barley gave he me; for he said to me, Go not empty unto thy mother in law.

18 Then said she, Sit still, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall: for the man will not be in rest, until he have finished the thing this day.

### Outline 3:

I. Naomi's plan. (1-4)

A. Her desire: Rest for her daughter-in-law, that it might be well with her.

B. Her plan:

1. Go to Boaz, our kinsman, where he is winnowing barley on the threshing floor.

*(The threshing floor was constructed in the fields in the open air to get full benefit of the wind. It was a level, circular area, 25 to 40 feet in diameter with a border of stone to keep grain in the area. Donkeys or other animals were tied abreast and driven around the floor to trample the grain. Winnowing consisted of taking the grain after it was trampled and pitching it into the wind so the chaff blew away. The threshing floor was an open place, so all the events of Ruth 3 took place in public. It was the custom for workers and their families to sleep there until the harvest was safely reaped.)*

2. Wash, anoint yourself, change your clothes, go to the threshing floor.

*(Symbols of coming to Christ:*

*-Washing: Regeneration.*

*-Anointing: Anointing of the Spirit.*

*-Change of raiment: Receive the robe of righteousness Romans 3:22.*

*-Going down to the threshing floor: Let Him know you want him to*

- claim you. He has the right, but you must initiate the process. )*
3. When Boaz lies down, uncover his feet, lay down there, and he will tell you what to do.
- II. Ruth's response. (5-6)
- A. All you say to me, I will do.
  - B. She went down to the floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law had said.
- III. On the threshing floor. (7-15)
- A. When Boaz had eaten, drank, and his heart was merry, he laid down at the end of the heap of corn.
  - B. After Boaz was asleep, Ruth came, uncovered his feet, and laid down.
  - C. Sometime after midnight, Boaz startled awake and found Ruth there.
  - D. He inquired who she was, and Ruth responded that she was his handmaiden and that he was a near kinsman.
  - E. Boaz's blessing:
    1. You are blessed, my daughter.
    2. You have shown more kindness in the latter end than the beginning, in that you did not follow after young men, whether poor or rich.
    3. It is true I am your kinsman, but there is one nearer than I (*a problem that must be resolved*).
    4. Tarry tonight and in the morning if he will assume his responsibility fine; if not, I will do the part of a kinsman to you.
    5. Ruth lay at his feet until morning, departing early before one could know another.
    6. Boaz said, Let it not be known that a woman came into the floor.
    7. Boaz gave Ruth six measures of barley to take home with her.
- IV. The return to Naomi. (16-18)
- A. When Ruth came to her mother in law, Naomi asked, Who are you, my daughter? (*When she asks, "Who are you," she is asking how Ruth has fared, what has transpired.*)
  - B. Ruth tells Naomi all that has occurred.
  - C. Ruth shows the six measures of barley Boaz gave her so she would not go empty handed back to Naomi.
  - D. Naomi's response:
    1. Sit still until you know how the matter will be resolved.
    2. The man will not rest until he has finished the thing this day. (*Like Boaz, Jesus Christ would not rest until our redemption was finished.*)

**Study questions on chapter 3:**

1. What instructions did Naomi give to Ruth in verses 1-4?
2. What was Ruth's response? (5-6)
3. How did Ruth respond to Boaz when he discovered her at his feet? (7-9)

4. Why was Boaz willing to fulfill his obligation? (10-12)
5. What reputation did Ruth have in the town? (11)
6. What one problem did Boaz foresee? (12)
7. What did Boaz tell Ruth to do? Why? (13-14)
8. Why did Ruth depart early the next morning? (14)
9. In what way did Boaz show kindness to Ruth's mother-in-law? (15-17)
10. What advice did Naomi give Ruth in verse 18?
11. What did you learn in this chapter to apply to your life and ministry?

## Ruth 4

**1 Then went Boaz up to the gate, and sat him down there: and, behold, the kinsman of whom Boaz spake came by; unto whom he said, Ho, such a one! turn aside, sit down here. And he turned aside, and sat down.**

**2 And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, Sit ye down here. And they sat down.**

**3 And he said unto the kinsman, Naomi, that is come again out of the country of Moab, selleth a parcel of land, which was our brother Elimelech's:**

**4 And I thought to advertise thee, saying, Buy it before the inhabitants, and before the elders of my people. If thou wilt redeem it, redeem it: but if thou wilt not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know: for there is none to redeem it beside thee; and I am after thee. And he said, I will redeem it.**

**5 Then said Boaz, What day thou buyest the field of the hand of Naomi, thou must buy it also of Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance.**

**6 And the kinsman said, I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance: redeem thou my right to thyself; for I cannot redeem it.**

**7 Now this was the manner in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning changing, for to confirm all things; a man plucked off his shoe, and gave it to his neighbour: and this was a testimony in Israel.**

**8 Therefore the kinsman said unto Boaz, Buy it for thee. So he drew off his shoe.**

**9 And Boaz said unto the elders, and unto all the people, Ye are witnesses this day, that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, of the hand of Naomi.**

**10 Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place: ye are witnesses this day.**

**11 And all the people that were in the gate, and the elders, said, We are witnesses. The Lord make the woman that is come into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel: and do thou worthily in Ephratah, and be famous in Bethlehem:**

**12 And let thy house be like the house of Pharez, whom Tamar bare unto Judah, of the seed which the Lord shall give thee of this young woman.**

**13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the Lord gave her conception, and she bare a son.**

**14 And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed be the Lord, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel.**

**15 And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for thy daughter in law, which loveth thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him.**

**16 And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it.**

**17 And the women her neighbours gave it 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.**

**18 Now these are the generations of Pharez: Pharez begat Hezron,**

**19 And Hezron begat Ram, and Ram begat Amminadab,**

**20 And Amminadab begat Nahshon, and Nahshon begat Salmon,**

**21 And Salmon begat Boaz, and Boaz begat Obed,**

**22 And Obed begat Jesse, and Jesse begat David.**

#### **Outline 4:**

- I. The place of redemption. (1-2)
  - A. Boaz went to the city gate and met the near kinsman.
  - B. The elders were called as witnesses. (*The gates of the city were similar to our court houses where business and legal matters were transacted.*)
- II. The redemption. (3-6)
  - A. Boaz's first approach. He told the kinsman:
    1. Naomi, that is come again out of the country of Moab, is selling a parcel of land, which was our brother Elimelech's.
    2. I thought I should let you know, saying, Buy it before the inhabitants and before the elders of my people.
    3. If you will redeem it, redeem it: but if you will not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know: for there is none to redeem it beside you; and I am after you.
  - B. The kinsman's initial response: I will redeem it.
  - C. Boaz's second approach. He told the kinsman: What day you buy the field of the hand of Naomi, you must buy it also of Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance.
  - D. The kinsman's second response: I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I mar my own inheritance: You redeem my right, for I cannot redeem it. (*The other kinsman refused, because if he married Ruth and had a son, a portion of his property would go to Elimelech's house.*)
- III. The confirmation of the redemption. (7-12)
  - A. It was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and changing, that to confirm all things a man plucked off his shoe and gave it to his neighbor. This was a testimony in Israel. (*This would be like shaking hands on a deal in modern times.*)

- B. Therefore the kinsman said unto Boaz, Buy it for thee. So he drew off his shoe.
- C. And Boaz said unto the elders, and unto all the people:
1. You are witnesses this day, that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, of the hand of Naomi.
  2. Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place: you are witnesses this day. *(The obligations of the near kinsman relationship are outlined in Deuteronomy 25:5-10. The property laws with which the unnamed kinsman was concerned are given in Leviticus 25:23. The kinsman who was able to redeem had to meet certain requirements:*
    - He must be a near kinsman: Leviticus 25:25; Galatians 4:4-5.
    - He must be willing to redeem: Leviticus 25:48-49; Hebrews 2:11.
    - He must have the ability to redeem: John 10:11-18.
    - He must have the price of redemption: John 10:11-18*Boaz met all of these requirements for Ruth. Jesus met all these requirements as the redeemer of sinful humanity.)*
- D. All the people and the elders that were at the gate said, We are witnesses.
- E. The blessing by the witnesses:
1. The Lord make the woman that is come into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel.
  2. Do thou worthily in Ephratah, and be famous in Bethlehem.
  3. Let your house be like the house of Pharez, whom Tamar bare unto Judah, of the seed which the Lord shall give you of this young woman.
- IV. The union of Ruth and Boaz. (13)
- A. Boaz took Ruth as his wife.
  - B. The Lord gave her conception and she bare a son.
- V. Blessing of the village women. (14-15)
- A. Blessed be the Lord, which has not left you without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel.
  - B. He shall be a restorer of your life and a nourisher of your old age.
  - C. Your daughter-in-law, who loves you, is better to you than seven sons.
- VI. Naomi nurses the child. (16)
- VII. The generations of Pharez. (17-22)
- A. Pharez.
  - B. Hezron.
  - C. Ram.
  - D. Amminadab.
  - E. Nahshon.
  - F. Salmon.
  - G. Boaz.

- H. Obed.
- I. Jesse.
- J. David

*(This section is important, as it confirms the genealogy of Jesus Christ who was to come from the lineage of David and the house of Judah.)*

**Study questions on chapter 4:**

1. Summarize the events described in verses 1-12.
2. How did Boaz adhere to Jewish tradition in dealing with the kinsman-redeemer? (1-12)
3. What strategy did Boaz use with the kinsman-redeemer and what effect did it have? (3-6)
4. Why did the kinsman-redeemer decline to buy the land? (6)
5. What significance was there in the kinsman removing his sandal? (7-8)
6. Why was it important for this transaction to take place at the town gate? (9-10)
7. What blessing was pronounced by the elders on Boaz and Ruth's marriage?(11-12)
8. How did God bless the union of Ruth and Boaz? (13)
9. Why did the women of Bethlehem say Ruth was better than seven sons to Naomi? (15)
10. What role did Naomi play in Obed's life? (16)
11. Explain the importance of verses 18-20 in regards to the lineage of Jesus Christ.
12. What did you learn in this chapter to apply to your life and ministry?



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## SUPPLEMENTAL STUDIES

1. For further background on the period during which the events of the book of Ruth occurred, refer to the book of Judges.
2. Ruth was one of four women mentioned in the genealogy of Christ in Matthew 1. The others are Tamar (Matthew 1:3); Rahab (1:5); and Bathsheba (1:6).
3. Study the character of Ruth. She was:
  - Loving, committed: 1:16-17
  - Steadfast: 1:18
  - Humble: 2:2
  - Temperate: 2:14
  - Accountable: 2:18-19
  - Faithful: 2:23
  - Obedient: 3:5
  - Submissive: 3:10
  - Focused on eternal values: 3:10
  - Concerned about the appearance of evil: 3:14
  - Patient: 3:18
4. Seven marriages in the Bible depict the relationship between Christ and the Church:
  - Adam and Eve
  - Isaac and Rebekah
  - Joseph and Asenath
  - Moses and Zipporah
  - Ruth and Boaz: Book of Ruth
  - David and Abigail
  - Solomon and the shepherdess: Song of Solomon
5. Ruth was a Moabite descended from Moab, a son of Lot by incestuous union with his eldest daughter (Genesis 19:37). The Moabites practiced prostitution and child sacrifice. They worshiped the false god, Chemosh, and had hostile relations with Israel. Moab blocked Israel's way to the promised land (Exodus 15:15); they were unfriendly (Judges 11:17); enslaved Israel (Judges 3:12-14); and were denounced as an enemy of God (Isaiah 15). This is why Ruth's commitment to remain with Naomi and move to Bethlehem was so significant. She was risking rejection, poverty, and the possibility she would never have the opportunity to remarry.