

The Life and Times Ruth

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Chapter Headings

**Chapter 1. Ruth deciding; Chapter 2. Ruth serving;
Chapter 3. Ruth resting; Chapter 4. Ruth rewarded.**

1. Ruth lived around B.C.1320 (Ussher). She was a Moabitess, a descendent of Lot and his eldest daughter (Gen.19:30-38).
2. The setting is in the early part of Judges.
3. An old tradition says she was the daughter of Eglon, king of Moab, who was slain by Ehud (Judges 3:12-30).
4. The Moabites were descendents of Lot and his eldest daughter (Gen.19:37).
5. They were never to enter the congregation of the Lord (Numbers Ch.25; Deut.23:3-4).
6. Yet Ruth, along with Tamar, Rahab and Bathsheba, are the named female ancestress' of our Lord.

This magnifies the grace of God

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Shadows of Christ & the Church

1. Ruth the Moabite married Boaz. He is a figure of Christ, she of the Church, the gentile bride of Christ.
2. Boaz was from Bethlehem, a kinsman, and a mighty man of wealth (Ruth 2:1). He was the son of Salmon, a prince of Judah, who married Rahab of Jericho.
3. The son of Ruth and Boaz was Obed; he was the father of Jesse, the father of King David.

This magnifies the grace of God

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Chapter 1 Ruth Deciding

Ruth 1:1-5. It was in the days when the judges ruled, when *"everyone did what was right in his own eyes"* (Judges 21:25).

Famines brought testings of faith (as in the days of Abraham - Genesis 12:10), and sometimes chastening; this should have led to faith and heart-searching.

Famine in the Land

God's promises to Israel:

"Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed" (Psalm 37:3 KJV)

"They shall not be ashamed in the evil time, and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied" (Psalm 37:19).

The Land speaks of the broad expanses of God's gift and promises

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The way out with Elimelech Down to Moab

Elimelech, with Naomi and their two sons Mahlon and Chilion, went to 'sojourn' (a brief time) but 'remained' and 'dwelt' (to settle down) in Moab.

Moab proved to be a grave for Elimelech and his two sons.

Naomi was bereft and left with her daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth, both Moabites.

We also will experience times of testing, and need to know and do God's will

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The way back with Naomi To His Land and promises

Ruth 1:6-15. Naomi heard that *"the Lord had visited His people in giving them bread"* (V.6).

Moab to Israel - the Jordan must be crossed, where issues are settled - the LORD God of Israel or the gods of Moab?

It speaks of death to our self-life - Jacob at Penuel (Gen.32:10;22-32).

Orpah kissed her mother-in-law and returned *"to her people and to her gods"* v.6; but Ruth clung to her.

Ruth 1:16-18. Ruth's decision shows Naomi's good testimony under her adverse circumstances.

Ruth's faith seen in her devotion Naomi and to the LORD God of Israel.

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Back to Bethlehem - House of bread

Ruth 1:19-22. Naomi (Pleasant); Mara (Bitter).

The Almighty (Shaddai). 'El Shaddai' is the 'All Sufficient One' who sustains and nourishes - this name is often connected with **discipline** (in Job 31 times) and this produces **fruitfulness** (Gen.17:1,8).

1. Bethlehem has been called 'The city of Motherhood in relation to death'.

2. Here Rachel died when Benjamin was born (Gen.35:19). This pictures the sorrow of Israel's mothers down through the centuries (Jer.31:15; Mat.2:18).

3. Bethlehem, the birthplace of Christ (Micah 5:2).

A sword pierced Mary's soul (Luke 2:35).

The way 'home' is through sorrow and chastening. But to those who are exercised it produces the peaceable fruit of righteousness (Gal.5:22-23; Heb.12:11)

"Now they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest"

This would be just in time for the Passover and the 'festival' of unleavened bread.

Christ from Bethlehem, the true bread from heaven, gave His life for the world, so that we might have peace and rest in this scene of sorrow

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Chapter 2 Ruth serving

Ruth 2:1. Boaz (in Him is strength) is introduced. He came from Bethlehem (v.4) like our Saviour (Luke 2:1-7).

1. He was a near 'kinsman-redeemer' (2:20) as was Christ (Gal.4:4-5; Heb.2:14-17). Redemption by a kinsman was of property (Lev.25:25) and persons (Lev.25:47-49).

2. He was of great wealth, so able to redeem, as was our Lord (great wealth Col.2:3; and at great cost 1Pet.1:18-19). Boaz was both able and willing to redeem Ruth.

3. If a man died and had no son, his nearest relative was to marry the widow and their son would have the inheritance (Deut.25:5-10).

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The way in with Ruth

To the fields and heart of Boaz.

Ruth 2:3. Ruth would glean “*after him in whose sight I may find favour (grace)*”

She ‘happened’ to come to the field of Boaz.

Little is much when God is in it!

“I being in the way, the Lord led me” Gen.24:27
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**Boaz came from Bethlehem
Christ, the Lord of the harvest**

Ruth 2:4-5. – His greeting and interest in his labourers and in Ruth!

v.6-7. The servant reported her humility and diligent service. Our labour of love is not forgotten (1 Cor.15:58; Heb.6:10).

v.8-9. His concern and guidance for her - and for godliness – “*stay close by my young women*”.

He would not have his fields disgraced.

Preserve us from sin in service!

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Favour and Grace in His fields

v.10. Her humility in finding his ‘favour’ - a Moabitess!

v.11-12. His knowledge and report of her and Naomi.

Grace would abound towards her, a full reward for her faith, faithfulness and service from the LORD God of Israel under whose wings she had taken refuge.

v.13-14. He passed her grain – a mark of favour. Christ likewise sustains us in our service.

v.15-17. Handfuls of purpose, the grace of Boaz. Our Lord also knows us and gives grace and encouragement in our service.

In submission God’s will and way is revealed

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In the home of Naomi – ‘my daughter’

Ruth 2:18-19. The wisdom and interest of a godly woman (Titus 2:3-5). “*Where have you gleaned today?*”

v.20. Naomi blessed the Lord for His leading - “*The man is a relative of ours, one of our near kinsman*”. She was aware of the Law’s provision.

v.21-24. Ruth said: “*He said... ‘stay close by my young men’!*” But Naomi said: “*go out with his young women*”, and remain in his field. Ruth obeyed.

Ruth gleaned in the fields of Boaz, and was sustained with Naomi, till the end of barley and wheat harvest.

The Lord of the harvest will sustain in service until He comes at harvest’s end

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**Chapter 3
Ruth Resting**

Ruth Ch. 3:1-5. Naomi’s prayerful concern for ‘rest’ or ‘security’ for Ruth:

For her inheritance and future welfare;

The requirements of: the Law (Godward) and the culture (manward).

v. 6-11. Midnight at his feet:

The threshing floor – Calvary

Conviction of sin, repentance, faith.

Relationship, union, communion and rest.

**To Calvary Lord in spirit now our weary souls repair,
To dwell upon Thy dying love and taste its sweetness there.**

Boaz would not rest - Until “It is finished”

Ruth 3:12-14. But there was a nearer kinsman. Boaz would settle the matter. Rest at His feet until the morning dawns, then all issues will be settled.

v.15-18. Naomi’s advice: To sit still until the matter was resolved. Nature would hasten where faith would wait. Our best is His second-best!

Boaz would not rest until the matter was concluded.

“being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Phil 1:6)
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**Chapter 4
Ruth Rewarded**

The compulsion of love - Ruth 4:1.

From the fields of Boaz into his heart and home!

From the threshing floor to the gate!

From Calvary to the Throne!

From the beginning of barley harvest; Passover to Firstfruits (Lev.23:5-11)

From Death to Resurrection

Christ the first fruits of them that slept (1 Cor.15:20-23)

From the beginning of wheat harvest to its end - Wave loaves and Gleanings - (Lev.23:15-22)

From Pentecost to the Rapture!

Barley, food of the poor - Wheat, food of the rich.

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich” (2 Cor 8:9)

And now we await His coming for His Bride

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Shadows of the Great Redeemer

Ruth 4:2-4. Boaz was able and willing to redeem, but trusted God with the outcome.

Ruth 4:5-8. The nearest kinsman wanted the property – “*I will redeem it*” v.4.

But was unwilling to redeem Ruth – his only interest was self-interest – “*for myself*”!

Like Abraham, we are called to inherit a blessing, and also to be a blessing! (Gen.12:1-3)

In Christ, all families on earth shall be blest

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The Reward of the Redeemed

Ruth 4:8-12. So Boaz purchased the inheritance and redeemed Ruth to be his wife.

Ruth 4:13-22. He took Ruth as his wife and they had a son, Obed, the forebear of David, through whom came our Lord Jesus Christ.

The faithfulness of Naomi was rewarded – she obtained rest for Ruth and nursed Obed. Their names are written in eternal Scripture!

**Our Redeemer Bridegroom calls us to walk by faith till
He takes us to His heavenly home. His rest will be
glorious.**