

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 39 – The Book Of Ruth

1. What is the condition of Israel as the book of Ruth begins?
 - “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 Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons” (**Ruth 1:1**).
2. How does Ruth come into the life of Naomi?
 - She married Naomi’s son becoming her daughter in-law (**Ruth 1:4**).
3. Why does Naomi choose to leave Moab?
 - Her husband was dead (**Ruth 1:3**).
 - Her sons had died (**Ruth 1:5**).
 - She heard that the Lord ended the famine in Israel (**Ruth 1:6**).
4. Why did Naomi allow Ruth to come with her?
 - Naomi tried to get Ruth to leave with Orpah back to their mother’s house (**Ruth 1:8**). However, Ruth was of a different mind: “And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her. 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. 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. When she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her” (**Ruth 1:14-18**).
5. Why did Naomi want to be called Mara?
 - “And she said unto them, **Call me not Naomi, call me Mara**: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me. 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” (**Ruth 1:20-21**)?
 - She will not get her desire. The name Mara only appears here in her request throughout all sixty-six books making up the “Bible”.
6. What are some things we find out about Boaz as we begin chapter two of the Book of Ruth?
 - He was a kinsman of Naomi’s husband (**Ruth 2:1**; cf. **1:2**).
 - He was mighty and wealthy (**Ruth 2:1**).
 - He was mindful of the Lord (**Ruth 2:4**).
 - He was observant, noticing Ruth in his field (**Ruth 2:5**).
7. Did Ruth look for handouts since she was a stranger in the land?
 - No, she wanted to work to gain favor (**Ruth 2:2-3; 7**).

8. Why did Ruth find grace in the eyes of Boaz?

- *“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 shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger? 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. 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” (Ruth 2:10-12).*

9. How did Naomi respond to Ruth’s report about her working for Boaz?

- *“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. 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” (Ruth 2:19-20).*

10. Using Ruth 1:8-9, explain what Naomi’s goal is as we begin Ruth chapter three?

- To find a husband for Ruth (**Ruth 3:1**). Finding rest in the house of her husband (**Ruth 1:8-9**) defines this here in chapter three.

**** To have a better understanding of chapter three, read through the remainder of the book. Notice especially Ruth 4:10. Consider also the implication’s made and how they fit into what we studied in Deuteronomy 25:5. Now back to our questions...*

11. Was Ruth instructed by Naomi to “pretty up” a bit when presenting herself to Boaz as a potential bride?

- Yes: *“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” (Ruth 3:3).*

12. Did Boaz react badly to Ruth’s surprising him at his feet?

- At first he was scared (**Ruth 3:8**), but then he praised her moral conduct (**Ruth 3:10-11**).

13. Was there someone closer in relation to Ruth than Boaz who could have taken her to be his wife?

- Yes, (**Ruth 3:12**).

14. Did Boaz issue any promises to Ruth?

- Yes, he promised if she were not taken by another near in kin that he would take on the duty (**Ruth 3:13**).

15. When did Naomi believe Boaz would act upon his words?

- That same day that Ruth returned to Naomi (**Ruth 3:18**).

16. Did Boaz deal openly to gain Ruth as his wife seeing that there was one nearer to her that could have rights to her?

- Yes: *“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. And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, Sit ye down here. And they sat down. 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: 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. 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. 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” (Ruth 4:1-6).*

17. What custom was there in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning changing?

- *“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” (Ruth 4:7).*

18. What was said about Ruth being Boaz's wife among the people and the elders?

- *“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: 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” (Ruth 4:11-12).*

19. How significant will the child of Boaz and Ruth be?

- *“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. 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. 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. And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it. 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. Now these are the generations of Pharez: Pharez begat Hezron, And Hezron begat Ram, and Ram begat Amminadab, And Amminadab begat Nahshon, and Nahshon begat Salmon, And Salmon begat Boaz, and Boaz begat Obed, And Obed begat Jesse, and Jesse begat David” (Ruth 4:13-22).*
- *“The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham... And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse” (Matthew 1:1; 5).*

20. Does the account of the life of Ruth prove that conversion to the Lord is more significant than one's genealogy?

- To be clear, the seed was passed on through Boaz.
- Still, the conversion of Ruth to the Lord shows what means more to our God (**Ruth 1:16**, **Psalms 51:13**, and **Isaiah 1:27**).

21. To see Ruth (a Moabite woman) be willing to follow the Lord, what kind of example was Naomi to her?

- She was, by implication, a marvelous example (**I Peter 3:1-6**).
- Furthermore, she would have led Ruth to be a woman far above other women of the Moabites who drove the children of Israel to sin (**I Kings 11:1-4** and **Nehemiah 13:23-27**).