

Trouble, Trust, and Triumph: Facing our troubles, trusting in God’s sovereignty, and rejoicing in our triumphs

Learning from Ruth

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Trouble, Trust, and Triumph: Facing our troubles, trusting in God's sovereignty, and rejoicing in our triumphs -- *Learning from Ruth*

Lesson 1 – Naomi and Ruth Experienced Troubles and Suffering

Opening Questions

1. Have you experienced a big trouble, pain, or suffering in your life?
2. What things may we experience when we live in a foreign country?

Introduction

The story of Ruth (c.1000 B.C) celebrates God's sovereignty in times of trouble. When we experience trouble, we often complain that God does not care about us. The story of Ruth shows us that God cares and loves his people. We live in this world that is broken because of humanity's sin and rebellion against God. This world is full of trouble. God never promises that his people will never suffer. However, he promises us that he will be with us in our suffering, guiding and strengthening us as we trust our lives in him. The story of Ruth ultimately points to Jesus Christ who will save his people from the consequence of their sins. Ruth was not a Jew but a Moabite, yet she became an ancestor of Jesus Christ.



To think about:

Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, bearing the punishment of our sins and dying for us as our substitute, shows us how much he loves us. Though we may never find the answer of why God allows us to experience troubles and suffering in our lives, we know that the answer is not because he does not love or care about us. God cares and loves us. Look at the cross of Jesus! He died for us.

From the Bible: Read Ruth 1:1-22



Discussion Questions

1. Who moved to Moab from Bethlehem because of famine (v.1-2)?
2. What happened when they were in Moab (v.3-5)?
3. What good news did Naomi hear about Israel from Moab, and what did she intend to do (v.6-7)?
4. What did Naomi ask her daughters-in-law to do (v.8-9)?
5. How did they respond to her (v.10-14)?
6. What did Ruth decide to do (v.15-18)? Why do you think she decided that?
7. Would Ruth have a better chance at life if she stayed and remarried in Moab than following Naomi, an old woman, to her country? What would you do if you were Ruth?
8. How did the people in the town of Bethlehem react when they arrived (v.19)?
9. What did Naomi say to the people? Why did she say so (v.20-21)?
10. What do you think about Naomi's complaint that God does not care about her? What answers do we have when we face troubles and suffering in our lives?
11. What harvest were people reaping or preparing to reap (v.22)?



Closing Points

1. Naomi experienced the death of her husband and sons. She became a widow in a foreign land. She thought that God did not care about her. She thought she had nothing. Little did she know that God had provided Ruth for her and her for Ruth, who also lost her husband and became a widow, for a special purpose. God provides us with brothers and sisters in Christ to help and comfort one another (see 2 Cor. 1:3-4).
2. We do not know our future and why we suffer. However, we can trust in God, who is almighty and knows all things. Nothing happens outside of his sovereign control. God also works through all things for the good of his people (see Romans 8:28).

Notes

Sovereign: having supreme power.
Sovereignty: supreme power or authority.
God is sovereign and in control over all things.

Sin: thought, word, or action that is dishonoring or disobedient to God. Sin is also a powerful evil force.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4
"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

Romans 8:28
"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

Ruth 1

Naomi Widowed

¹ In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. ² The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³ But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, ⁵ and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Ruth's Loyalty to Naomi

⁶ Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the LORD had visited his people and given them food. ⁷ So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. ⁸ But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹ The LORD grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!" Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.

¹⁰ And they said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." ¹¹ But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹² Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, ¹³ would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me." ¹⁴ Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵ And she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." ¹⁶ But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." ¹⁸ And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

Naomi and Ruth Return

¹⁹ So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women said, "Is this Naomi?" ²⁰ She said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. ²¹ I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the LORD has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?"

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

Notes

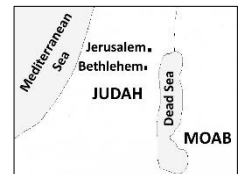
Famine: extreme lack of food; hunger.

Bethlehem: a small town where Jesus was born.

Judah: a region in the south of Israel, where Jerusalem (the capital city) was.

Sojourn: to temporary stay.

Moab: a neighboring country of Israel. Moabites worshipped many false gods.



The LORD: English translation for God's name in Hebrew "YHWH." It is read "Yahweh" or "Jehovah" or "Yehowah." Ancient Hebrew did not use vowels in its written form.

Visit: here means to bless.

Naomi: means pleasant.

Mara: means bitter.

The Almighty: refers to God. God is all-powerful.

Calamity: tragedy.

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Lesson 2 – God Provides Boaz for Naomi and Ruth

Opening Questions

1. Have you ever worked hard in an open area that was sunny and hot?
2. What was a big kindness that: (a) you have received and (b) you have given?

Introduction

Living in a foreign country can be challenging. You need to learn the language, culture, and customs. Taking care of elderly parents can also be challenging. Ruth had moved from her country, Moab, with Naomi, her elderly mother-in-law, to Israel. She did not know anyone and had to take care of Naomi. Ruth was not a person who easily complained about difficult situations but was one who worked hard and was wise and gentle in manner.



To think about:

God's people are never alone. When facing difficult situations, we need to remember that God is always with us. God says to each of his people, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). God guides us and gives us strength. He helps us with our needs. He walks with us in our struggles.

From the Bible: Read Ruth 2:1-23



Discussion Questions

1. What do we know about Boaz, a new person introduced in chapter 2 (v.1)?
2. What did Ruth try to do to get food for Naomi and herself (v.2)?
3. How did Boaz see Ruth for the first time (v.3-5)?
4. What did Boaz's servant tell him about Ruth (v.6-7)?
5. How did Boaz show kindness to Ruth (v.8-9)?
6. How did Ruth respond to this kindness (v.10)? What did Boaz tell her (v.11-13)?
7. How did Boaz show more kindness to Ruth (v.14-16)?
8. What did Ruth bring home to Naomi? How did this show Ruth's love and kindness to her aging mother-in-law (v.17-18)?
9. What was Naomi's reaction? What did she ask Ruth (v.19)?
10. What did Naomi tell Ruth about Boaz (v.20)?
11. What did Ruth tell Naomi about Boaz's kindness (v.21-23)?
12. How does the story so far reveal God's sovereignty and care for Naomi and Ruth?



Closing Points

1. As Ruth was collecting barley, she "happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz." This did not accidentally happen but was an evidence of God's sovereign grace for Ruth. Ruth's dedication to taking care of Naomi was apparently noticed by some people in the community. Boaz's servant told him about this. Boaz showed kindness to Ruth, a foreigner, and provided food and drink for her and Naomi.
2. God shows his loving kindness to his people. God provided Boaz for Ruth and Naomi. God also wants us to extend his loving kindness to others around us. Boaz did this. Boaz also acknowledged God's sovereignty and grace for his people (v.12). In extending God's grace to others who are in need, we become his *lights* and *grace* to them.
3. This world is full of trouble because of our sins. God loves his people, and he sent his Son to redeem us. Jesus Christ is our Redeemer. He came from heaven and was born in this broken world to save us. He redeems us by sacrificing himself to die on the cross for the punishment of all our sins against God as our substitute. In him, we are saved.

Notes

Sovereign: having supreme power.
Sovereignty: supreme power or authority.
God is sovereign and in control over all things.

Forsake: to abandon.

Grace: an act of mercy, kindness, or blessing from God to us with no consideration of our good quality or worth.

Redeem: to regain in exchange for a payment; to buy back.

Redeemer: someone who redeems.

Ruth 2

Ruth Meets Boaz

¹ Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. ² And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter." ³ So she set out 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 clan of Elimelech. ⁴ And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, "The Lord be with you!" And they answered, "The LORD bless you." ⁵ Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?" ⁶ And the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, "She is the young Moabite woman, who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab." ⁷ She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers.' So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest."

⁸ Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. ⁹ Let your eyes be on the field that they are reaping, and go after them. Have I not charged the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn."

¹⁰ Then she fell on her face, bowing 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?"

¹¹ But Boaz answered her, "All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. ¹² The LORD repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!" ¹³ Then she said, "I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, though I am not one of your servants."

¹⁴ And at mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come here and eat some bread and dip your morsel in the wine." So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed to her roasted grain. And she ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over. ¹⁵ When she rose to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. ¹⁶ And also pull out some from the bundles for her and leave it for her to glean, and do not rebuke her."

¹⁷ So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. ¹⁸ And she took it up and went into the city. Her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. She also brought out and gave her what food she had left over after being satisfied. ¹⁹ And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man 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." ²⁰ And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "May he be blessed by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!" Naomi also said to her, "The man is a close relative of ours, one of our redeemers."

²¹ And Ruth the Moabite said, "Besides, he said to me, 'You shall keep close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.'" ²² And Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, "It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, lest in another field you be assaulted." ²³ So she kept close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

Notes

Worthy: good; having qualities that deserve recognition.

Clan: a family.

Glean: to collect little by little.

Ears of grain:



Sheaves of grain:



Reapers: people who reap or harvest a crop.

Vessel: container.

My daughter: a fatherly expression. Boaz, a much older man, showed kindness to Ruth, who was a stranger and a foreigner.

Whose wings you have come to take refuge: Boaz describes God like an eagle whose wings protect the children.

Morsel: a small piece.

Reproach: express disapproval.

Rebuke: express strong disapproval.

Ephah: an ancient measurement equal to 35 liters.

Redeemer: a person (usually a near relative) who can redeem or buy back the property of another.

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Lesson 3 – God's Perfect Plan for Ruth and Boaz

Opening Questions

1. What characteristics do people look for in a potential spouse?
2. What are some examples of using things that God has given us to help others?

Introduction

In ancient Jewish time, when a man died childless, his nearest relative or kin would marry the widow to continue his family's name. This person was called a kinsman-redeemer. In chapter 2, we have learned that Boaz was a relative of Naomi's deceased husband and one of her kinsman-redeemers. By God's sovereign grace, God guided Ruth to collect barley at Boaz's field so Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi, could have some food to eat.



To think about:

Are you afraid of a future that is uncertain and unknown? The Bible teaches us, "Trust in him [God] at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us" (Psalm 62:8). We cannot know the future, but God, our heavenly Father, is sovereign and good to all his children.

From the Bible: Read Ruth 3:1-18



Discussion Questions

1. Ruth had been working very hard to get food for Naomi and herself. What did Naomi want Ruth to have, and what was Naomi's suggestion (v.1-2)?
2. What did Naomi ask Ruth to do, and what was her respond (v.3-5)?
3. In that time, owners of crops used to sleep on the threshing floor with their feet covered. To take the feet covering is to slowly wake him up. Ruth lay down by Boaz's feet to show a humble request. To lie down by his side would be immodest and disrespectful. Did Ruth do exactly as Naomi had instructed her (v.6-7)?
4. What did Ruth say to Boaz when he awoke (v.8-9)?
5. How did Boaz respond to this request? Why (v.10-11)?
6. What did Boaz explain to Ruth and promise her (v.12-13)?
7. What did Boaz give to Ruth before she went home (v.14-17)?
8. What did Naomi say to Ruth about the matter (v.18)?
9. How does the story so far reveal God's sovereign care for Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz?



Closing Points

1. A person with righteous character is hard to find. Naomi was confident in Boaz's righteous character, and Boaz had learned Ruth's righteous character and *worthy* reputation—a woman who sacrificed herself for her aging mother-in-law, Naomi. Boaz gave barley as a gift to Ruth and Naomi out of his kindness. Boaz had begun to provide for them. The barley gift was also Boaz's proof that he would do as they requested. Thus, he asked them to wait confidently and patiently for what he was about to do.
2. In facing trouble and uncertainty, God was asking Naomi and Ruth to wait confidently and patiently for his guidance. God never left them alone during their trouble. God walked with them, held their hands, and guided them by his sovereign love and grace. Similarly, when we face trouble, we must trust God and wait confidently and patiently. We may not be able to see the works of his hands, but we can trust his heart and love for us. Our heavenly Father never abandons us. He has sent Jesus Christ to save us from our sins. If we are his children, he is always with us and is faithful to us.

Notes

Kinsman: a man who is one of a person's blood relations.

Redeemer: a person (usually a near relative) who can redeem or buy back the property of another.

Sovereign: having supreme power.

Sovereignty: supreme power or authority. God is sovereign and in control over all things.

Grace: an act of mercy, kindness, or blessing from God to us with no consideration of our good quality or worth.

Refuge: a shelter; a safe place.

Ruth 3

Ruth and Boaz at the Threshing Floor

¹ Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, should I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you?" ² Is not Boaz our relative, with whose young women you were? See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. ³ Wash therefore and anoint yourself, and put on your cloak and go down to the threshing floor, but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴ But when he lies down, observe the place where he lies. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down, and he will tell you what to do." ⁵ And she replied, "All that you say I will do."

⁶ So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had commanded 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 grain. Then she came softly and uncovered his feet and lay down. ⁸ At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet! ⁹ He said, "Who are you?" And she answered, "I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer." ¹⁰ And he said, "May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich. ¹¹ And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you ask, for all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman. ¹² And now it is true that I am a redeemer. Yet there is a redeemer nearer than I. ¹³ Remain tonight, and in the morning, if he will redeem you, good; let him do it. But if he is not willing to redeem you, then, as the LORD lives, I will redeem you. Lie down until the morning."

¹⁴ So she lay at his feet until the morning, but arose before one could recognize another. And he said, "Let it not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor." ¹⁵ And he said, "Bring the garment you are wearing and hold it out." So she held it, and he measured out six measures of barley and put it on her. Then she went into the city. ¹⁶ And when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "How did you fare, my daughter?" Then she told her all that the man had done for her, ¹⁷ saying, "These six measures of barley he gave to me, for he said to me, 'You must not go back empty-handed to your mother-in-law.'" ¹⁸ She replied, "Wait, my daughter, until you learn how the matter turns out, for the man will not rest but will settle the matter today."

Notes

Winnow: to remove chaff (the casing of seeds) from grain.

Threshing: the process of loosening the edible part of grain from the straw to which it is attached.

Anoint: to put perfume or oil.

Cloak: coat; outer garment (clothing)

Merry: cheerful.

Redeemer: a person (usually a near relative) who can redeem the property of another

Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer: Ruth requests Boaz's generosity to provide protection and security through marriage.

Worthy: good; having qualities that deserve recognition.

Garment: an item of clothing.

How did you fare: how did it go; what happened.

Trouble, Trust, and Triumph: Facing our troubles, trusting in God's sovereignty, and rejoicing in our triumphs -- *Learning from Ruth*
Lesson 4 – The Lord is My Redeemer

Opening Questions

1. Have you ever played a gift-exchange game?
2. Has there ever been a famous person in your family?

Introduction

In chapter 3, we learn that Boaz promised to provide security and protection for Naomi and Ruth by redeeming them and marrying Ruth, Naomi's daughter-in-law, a Moabite. Boaz was willing to be their kinsman-redeemer. However, there was a closer relative, or kin, to Naomi that had the right to redeem them. Boaz was second in line.



To think about:

The central teaching of the Bible is that Jesus Christ is *our* Redeemer. How does Jesus redeem us? He redeems and saves us with the cost of his own life. The Bible says, "He [God] has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son" (Colossians 1:13).

From the Bible: Read Ruth 4:1-22



Discussion Questions

1. What did Boaz do as he met with the closer kinsman-redeemer of Naomi (v.1-2)?
2. What did Boaz tell and ask of him (v.3-4)?
3. What else did Boaz tell him, and how did he respond (v.5-6)?
4. What was the custom at that time about redeeming and exchanging (v.7-8)?
5. What did Boaz say to all the witnesses (v.9-10)?
6. How did the elders of the city and other witnesses bless Boaz (v.11-12)?
7. How did the women in the neighborhood react when Boaz and Ruth had a son? What did they say about him? What name did they advise them to give him (v.13-17)?
8. How does the identity of Ruth's son surprise the readers [us] at the end (v.18-22)?
9. What do we learn about God's sovereign grace and love for his people in this story?



Closing Points

1. Naomi and Ruth (two widows) were rescued from poverty and hunger by Boaz. Boaz chose to sacrifice his possessions, redeem and take care of them, and preserve the name of Mahlon and Elimelech. God blessed Boaz and made him the great-grandfather of King David and a direct ancestor of Jesus, who is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Boaz's redemption of Naomi and Ruth points to Jesus' redemption of us. Jesus has redeemed us by sacrificing himself to die for the punishment of all our sins on the cross as our substitute. In Jesus, we are redeemed and have a new life with him.
2. The women celebrated the birth of Naomi's grandson by referring to him as Naomi's *redeemer*. The son would take care of Naomi and Ruth too. They gave thanks to God for his blessings to Naomi. God was not against Naomi as she had thought in the beginning of the story. God says, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways ... For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9).
3. In difficult times, we may not see God's sovereign grace and loving kindness, but we can trust his heart and love for us. God, as our heavenly Father, is always with us. The Bible says, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Notes

Kinsman: a man who is one of a person's blood relations.

Redeemer: a person (usually a near relative) who can **redeem** (buy back) the property of another.

Moabite: a person from Moab, a neighboring country of Israel.

The Son of God: Jesus' spiritual title to emphasize his divinity. He is fully and truly God. Followers of Jesus are also called sons or children of God.

Sovereign: having supreme power.
Sovereignty: supreme power or authority. God is sovereign and in control over all things.

Grace: an act of mercy, kindness, or blessing from God to us with no consideration of our good quality or worth.

Ruth 4

Boaz Redeems Ruth

¹ Now Boaz had gone up to the gate and sat down there. And behold, the redeemer, of whom Boaz had spoken, came by. So Boaz said, “Turn aside, friend; 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 down here.” So they sat down. ³ Then he said to the redeemer, “Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. ⁴ So I thought I would tell you of it and say, ‘Buy it in the presence of those sitting here and in the presence of the elders of my people.’ If you will redeem it, redeem it. But if you will not, tell me, that I may know, for there is no one besides you to redeem it, and I come after you.” And he said, “I will redeem it.”

⁵ Then Boaz said, “The day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the widow of the dead, in order to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance.” ⁶ Then the redeemer said, “I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it.”

⁷ Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a transaction, the one drew off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was the manner of attesting in Israel. ⁸ So when the redeemer said to Boaz, “Buy it for yourself,” he drew off his sandal. ⁹ Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, “You are witnesses this day that I have bought from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and to Mahlon. ¹⁰ Also Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought to be my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his native place. You are witnesses this day.”

¹¹ Then all the people who were at the gate and the elders said, “We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman, who is coming into your house, like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you act worthily in Ephrathah and be renowned in Bethlehem, ¹² and may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring that the LORD will give you by this young woman.”

Ruth and Boaz Marry

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

The Genealogy of David

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

Notes

Gate: the city gate that functions as a place of gathering.

Ten men of the elders: they act as witnesses for an important legal case—redemption of a property.

Elimelech: Naomi’s dead husband.

Perpetuate: to preserve/continue.

Impair: endanger. If the redeemer were to have a son by Ruth, the child would take the name and estate of Elimelech.

Chilion, Mahlon: sons of Elimelech and Naomi who died in Moab. Mahlon was Ruth’s dead husband.

Rachel, Leah: wives of Jacob (Israel). Jacob’s sons became the tribes of Israel.

Ephrathah: another name of Bethlehem—a city in the region of **Judah**. Judah is one of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Perez: the son of Judah and **Tamar**.

David: the greatest king of Israel and an ancestor of Jesus Christ.

Resources

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