

Judges Period: Kinsman Redeemer *Ruth 1:1-4:22*

The events recorded in Ruth are set in the period of the judges according to **1:1**. As we have stated previously this was the Dark Age of the nation of Israel. In contrast Ruth glitters like a brilliant diamond in the sea of iniquity and sin. We often hear Samson and Delilah presented as the greatest love story of the Bible. The love story of Ruth and Boaz however is not just a one-sided love story as Samson and Delilah's was but shows commitment by both.

Some feel the main purpose of the book of Ruth is to show how a Gentile woman came to be in the ancestors of Christ. Ruth presents an important link in the Messianic family from which He came some 1100 years later.

While this may be one purpose, I personally feel a higher purpose is to give us a picture of Christ as our Kinsman Redeemer.

Ruth is one of two Old Testament books that bear the name of a woman, the other being Esther. Ruth however is not the writer of the book. Many conservative scholars feel Samuel was its author.

We will follow the following outline for our study of Ruth.

I- Story of Ruth and Naomi: *Ruth 1:1-5*

II- Handfuls on Purpose- Gleaning in the Fields: *Ruth 2:1-23*

III- At the Feet of Boaz: *Ruth 3:1-18*

IV- The Redemption by the Kinsman Redeemer. *Ruth 4:1-17*

Characters:

Allow me to introduce the characters of this story before we

proceed. The major characters are Ruth a Moabite woman, Naomi her mother in law, and Boaz who will be here Kinsman Redeemer. The minor characters are Elimelech, the husband of Naomi. Orpha, Naomi's other daughter in law and thereby Ruth's sister in law. Mahlon and Chilion the sons of Naomi and Elimelech. One of these two men was Ruth's first husband though scripture do not say which son was married to Ruth.

**I-Story of Ruth and Naomi: *Ruth 1:1-5*
(A picture of Faith)**

a- Sojourn in Moab ***1:1-5***

The story begins with Naomi and Elimelech, her husband, leaving the town of Bethlehem, because of famine, and traveling southeast into the nation of Moab to live. Elimelech dies and leaves Naomi and her two sons in Moab. They marry two Moabite women, Ruth and Orpha. The two sons then die leaving all three women widowed.

b- Return to Bethlehem ***1:6-22***

After the death of her sons Naomi decides to return to her homeland of Israel when the famine was over. ***1:6*** She tries to convince Ruth and Orpha to return to their homes and their gods. Ruth however takes a step of faith in God by committing to return to Israel with Naomi. Notice the beautiful words that Ruth spoke to Naomi in ***1:16-17***

When they return Naomi attempts to change her name to Marah "*bitter one*" from Naomi "*pleasant one*." The time of their return was at the time of barley harvest. ***1:22***

II- Handfuls on Purpose- Gleaning in the Fields: *2:1-23* (A picture of Grace)

Boaz enters the picture in ***2:1*** where he is introduced as a man of

riches. We have a picture of grace here as Ruth gleanes in his fields. Gleaning was the poor, fatherless, widows, and strangers way of provision. They were allowed to go into a field and gather what was left after the harvesters finished. The law made provision for the poor this way in **Lev 19:9-10**. This was the welfare plan of God for Israel. The poor and others could not be too lazy to go out and glean however. Paul taught us also that if someone won't work neither should he eat. **II Thes 3:10**.

Ruth asks Boaz permission to glean in the fields of Boaz. Boaz was not ignorant of who Ruth was however. **2:11** states that Boaz knew about her and how she had treated Naomi. In **2:14** Boaz feeds her and in **2:16** he instructs his men to leave **"handfuls on purpose"** for her to pick up. This is a picture of grace beloved.

When Ruth goes home to Naomi she learns that Boaz is **"one of our next kinsmen,"** from Naomi. It is yet to be seen if he will be "the" Kinsman Redeemer. We have a picture of Grace when Boaz shows grace to Ruth by his provision for her needs.

III- At the Feet of Boaz: 3:1-18 (A picture of fellowship)

a- Instruction in the Custom.

Before we make the mistake of assuming that Ruth is being forward or is in any way making un-lady like advances, let's look at the scripture of the law of the Redeemer found in **Deut 25:5-12** and **Lev 25:25-28**. Naomi instructs Ruth in this custom. Ruth follows the instructions of her mother-in-law and goes to lay at the feet of Boaz. Ruth sought the place of rest at the feet of her Redeemer. What a picture of fellowship with Christ this is.

b- Laying at Boaz Feet.

Boaz in the middle of the night realizes she is at his feet and tells her that he will not rest until this matter is taken care of. There was a problem however. **3:12** states something that Boaz knew was in the way of him being able to redeem Ruth. There was a nearer Kinsman.

c- Waiting on Redemption.

Ruth rises early before light and is given a load of grain to take to Naomi by Boaz. She returns and tells Naomi all that has taken place. Naomi tells her to not worry but to set still and wait. Boaz she said would, **"Not rest until he have finished the thing this day."**

IV- The Redemption by the Kinsman Redeemer. 4:1-17 (A picture of Redemption)

a- Redemption Waiting at the Gate.

We have here a picture of redemption that illustrates wonderfully what Christ did for us. Boaz goes to the gate and waits for the nearer Kinsman to come by. Boaz tells him he can redeem the property before him. He is willing to do so until he realizes that this includes Ruth as a wife. He gives up the right of redemption then. This pictures the inability of the law to redeem us. The law could only keep Ruth out. Remember she is a Moabite. **Deut 23:3** states, **"an...Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the Lord; even to their tenth generation...forever."**

This also pictures for me what Satan wanted to be. In **Isaiah 14:14** he wanted the power without the responsibility. He wanted to be like the most high. This is the *El Elyon* "The strongest strong one" in Hebrew. He didn't want to be *El Shaddi* "the

