

Lesson #11

PREPARATION FOR LESSON: read Ruth 1, 2, 3, 4

BACKGROUND

Author and Date:

Events were recorded by Levite **historians** before and during the time of judge Gideon, c. 1157-1146 BC
 Levite **scribes** compiled the contents from the historical records c. 1000 BC, in the days of King David

Theme: How Ruth, a woman who is not Jewish, enters into the heart of Jewish history

Purposes: To show....

- ... the family line of David and how the family line of Jesus developed
- ... a view of life among the Jewish Remnant - in contrast to Judges (from *Commentary of Ruth* by Dr. A. Fruchtenbaum)

Judges	immorality	purity	Ruth
	idolatry	worship of Yahweh God only	
	disloyalty	devotion	
	lust	love	
	war	peace	
	cruelty	kindness	
	disobedience with its consequences	obedience leading to blessings	
	spiritual darkness	spiritual light	

... the importance of a godly life even when others are not godly

Naomi decided to follow God even if she was the only one in her family or in the country; she would obey no matter how lonely her spiritual life would be or how empty her physical life became.

... Jesus as our Kinsman-Redeemer see application

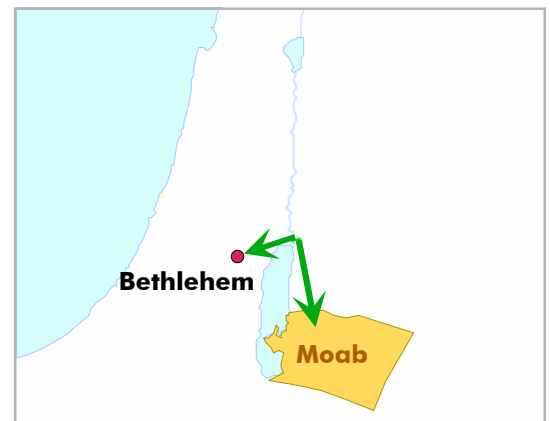
OUTLINE

Ruth's Decision	1
Ruth's Work	2
Ruth's Request	3
Ruth's Reward	4

EXPLANATIONS

The Jewish Remnant

In the midst of spiritual darkness, God always had people who followed Him. They were the Remnant, a minority of Jewish people scattered thruout the land. However, because of the evil around them, even they did not obey completely.



God's Laws for the Jews

- The Jews had a special relationship to God as a nation and people.
- Because He gave them a physical land with physical leaders, their blessings and consequences would be physical. If they obeyed His laws, they would have abundant crops, long life and large families. If they disobeyed, there would be famine, premature death and no children. This was only for the Jews in the Old Testament. This is not how God works with us today.
- In the Old Testament, even when the Jews were living like the Canaanites, when there was famine, all Jewish people knew it was a consequence of disobedience. They also knew if they repented, God would remove the famine.

God's Laws about land in the Old Testament (for those living in the Promised Land)

- Famine would only happen if they continually disobeyed God's laws Deut. 28:15, 38-40; 30:9-10
- Gleaning was available for immigrants, orphans and widows Deut. 24:19
- Families could lose their inheritance of land if they...
 - ... became poor and had to sell the land. The answer: **law of property redemption** Lev. 25:25
 - ... had no son to preserve the family name. The answer: **levirate law** Deut. 25:5-6
 If a wife's husband dies and she has no sons, then the man's brother or near relative (redeemer) is to marry her. The first son will be counted as the son of the dead husband, in order to preserve the family name and keep the family farm.



EXPLANATIONS continued

Chapter 1

Bethlehem means *house of bread*; but in the days of Naomi and her family, there is famine.

Elimelech means *God is King*; but he does not ask God what to do; he does not live up to his name.

The family's wrong choices: they leave the Promised Land; the sons marry pagan girls who worship pagan gods
Moab is 75 miles southeast of Bethlehem, going around the northern end of the Dead Sea.

The family's consequences: premature death of the men and no children after 10 years of marriage

Ruth's Decision:

She decides to identify with the land and people of Naomi.

She decides to take care of Naomi, even if she does not get to remarry.

She decides to worship and follow the God of Naomi.

Chapter 2

vs. 10 ...*Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me, the one who is unnoticed?*

vs. 12 ...*You have placed yourself under the **wings of Yahweh**, for His protection.*

A picture of mother hen and baby chicks

Compare 3:9 *Spread **your wings** over me...*

Placing a corner of a garment over a girl is the sign of engagement or promise of marriage.

vs. 17 An ephah of barley was sufficient to feed 2 people for 5 days.

vs. 20 *Kinsman-redeemer:* under God's laws for the Jews...

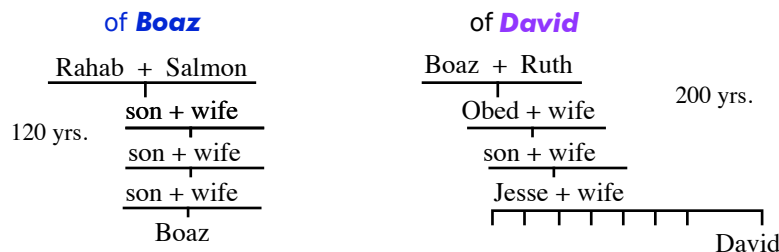
the nearest male relative is responsible for the protection/provision of needy family members

the person having the need must take the initiative and personally ask the one who can meet the need

Chapter 4:7-8

- To claim land, a person had to set their foot on it and walk on it.
- To renounce their claim, they removed their sandal and gave it to the person who was claiming the land.

GENEALOGIES



Matthew 1:5 says Rahab is *mother* of Boaz

- Because there are 120 years between Rahab and Ruth, there has to be 3 more generations.
- Jews often left out names in a genealogy in order to emphasize a link between two people.
- *Mother* can also mean *grandmother*, *great grandmother*, *etc.*

APPLICATION: Boaz is a picture of Jesus, our Redeemer

- ◆ Boaz had the **right** to redeem.
Jesus has the right because He became one of us in His humanity; a near relative
- ◆ Boaz had the **power** to redeem.
Jesus has the power because He was deity and could therefore pay the penalty for the whole world.
- ◆ Boaz had the **desire** to redeem.
Jesus had the desire; it is why He left Heaven's glory and came to make our payment on the cross.

Jesus is willing and ready to be our Redeemer, but He can do nothing until we personally tell Him,
I want You to be my Redeemer. I accept the payment You made for me.

