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Simply teaching the Word simply

Verse for the weak

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ"

Titus 2:13



A dramatic sunset with vibrant orange, red, and yellow clouds over a dark horizon. In the foreground, an open Bible lies flat, its pages showing text from the Book of Ruth. The title text is overlaid on the image in a large, bold, yellow font with a black drop shadow.

Through The Bible Session 13 The Book of Ruth

From the miracle of our origin to the mystery of our destiny



The Book of Ruth

Introduction to Ruth

The book of Ruth is considered one of the most beautiful stories in the Bible. The events recorded took place during the time of the judges, which was a period of national spiritual chaos and darkness where *‘every man did that which was right in his own eyes’* (Judges 21:25) Against this background the book of Ruth stands out like a diamond on a black cloth, a beautiful day in the midst of a season of storms. However this book is far more than just a story of love and commitment. As we will discover, the key theme to the book is ‘redemption’. One dictionary definition of ‘redeem’ is: “to recover possession or ownership of by payment of a price or service; regain”

Introduction to Ruth

On the surface we see the account of Naomi and her loss and subsequent regaining (redemption) of that which was lost. We also see the redemption of the land that had been sold, and the redemption and purchasing of Ruth by a kinsman-redeemer named Boaz.

However, as we will see, the book also has another level. In Hosea 12:10 God says: *“I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets.”*. The word ‘similitudes’ means a ‘type’ or a ‘model’. A model is simply a representation of something for our insight and instruction.

Old Testament

Torah - 5

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Historical - 12

Joshua
Judges
Ruth

1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

Poetical Books - 5

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs

Major Prophets - 5

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

Minor Prophets - 12

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

The Book of Ruth

- “In the days the judges ruled...”

The Book of Ruth

- “In the days the judges ruled...”
- The Ultimate Love Story

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- “In the days the judges ruled...”
- The Ultimate Love Story
 - At the literary level

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 - At the prophetic, personal level

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 - At the literary level
 - At the prophetic, personal level
- One of the most significant books for the Church
 - The Role of the Kinsman-Redeemer
 - Essential Pre-requisite to Revelation

Introduction to Ruth

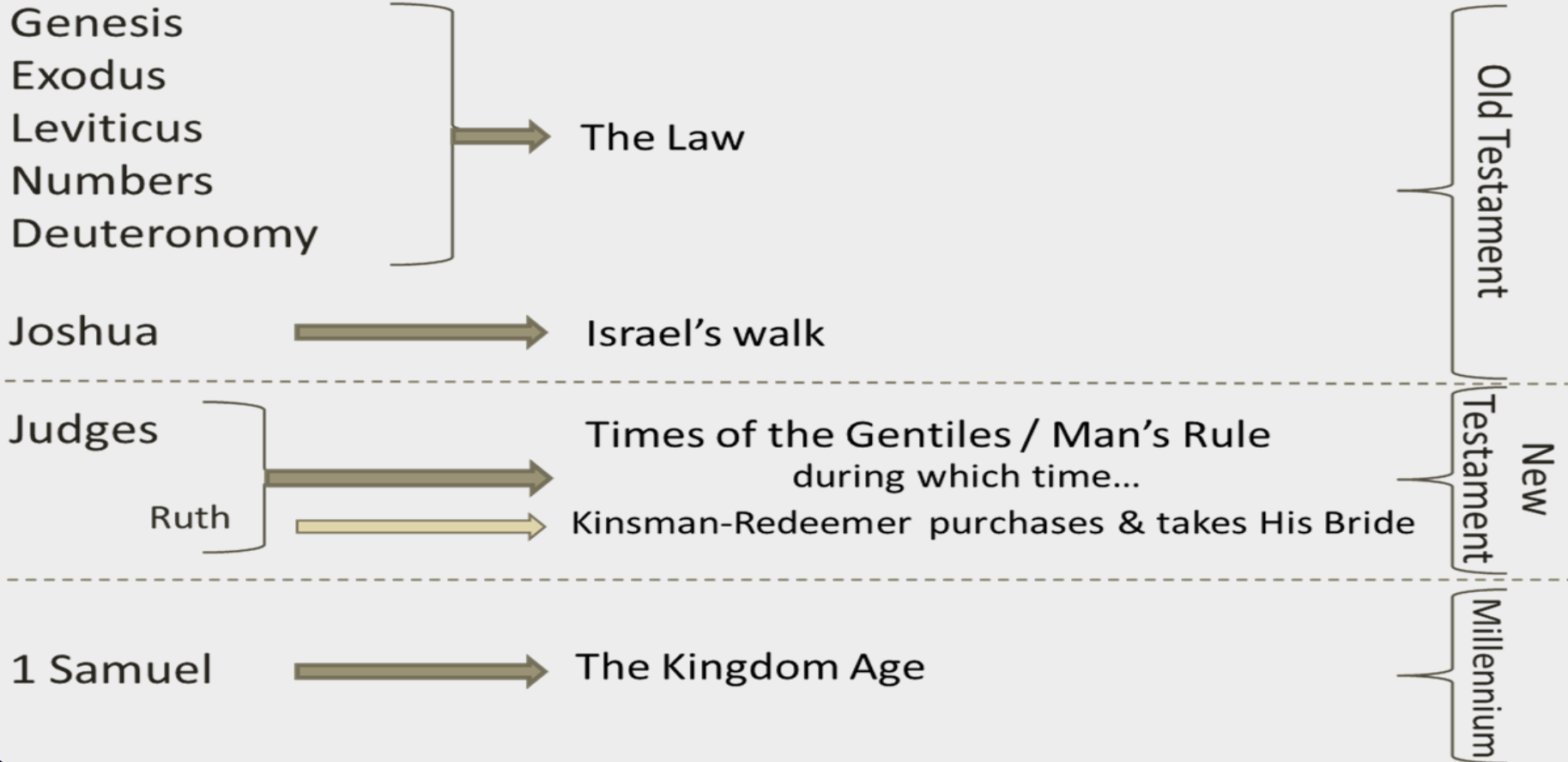
- A book of history
- A book of devotion
- A book of prophecy
 - Breath-taking typology (by design)
 - viz. C.S.Lewis' 'Narnia' – but from the other side of the time divide.
 - Lewis wrote of redemption after the event
 - Ruth does it c.1300 years before
- 85 verses
 - Redeem / Redeemer / Kinsman over 20x
- Author?
 - Presumed Samuel, in preparation for the kingdom

Introduction to Ruth

- Timing of the book?
 - “when the judges ruled”
- Position of the book:
 - 8th book in the Bible
 - “new beginnings”
 - A prophetic model?

Introduction to Ruth

The Panorama of History



1 Samuel → The Kingdom Age



The Book of Ruth

Chapter 1

¹ Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land.

Ruth 1:1a

- Famines always bring us to a point of decision (cf the prodigal Son. Luke 15:11-32).
- Whether it be a famine of food or another type of ‘famine’ in our lives.
- *“We can’t conceive of a holy god wanting anything less than His very best for his children, and the very best He can give us is a holy character” – CM*
- This is why God will allow ‘famines’ in our lives, in order that (as with the prodigal son) we might turn around and seek our Father.

Famine in the Land

- We are living in the days of another famine right now, and it is forcing many to the point of decision:
- *“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:” Amos 8:11*
- This is a judgment from God!
- He is taking away the bread of life from all but those who diligently seek Him

I 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

- Why Moab?

Timing of the Book of Ruth

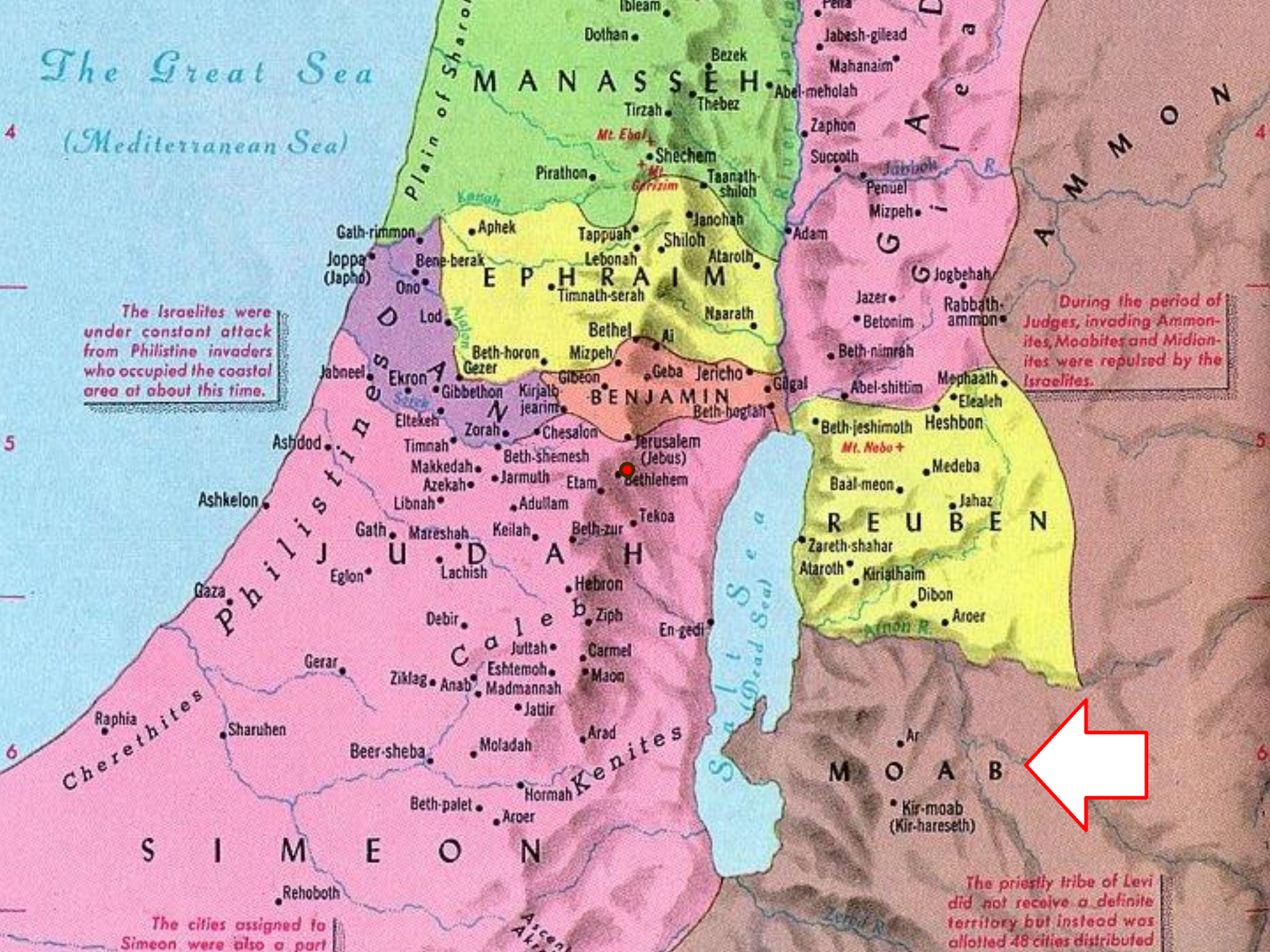
- Boaz' (the hero of the book) mother was Rahab
 - Rescued from Jericho by Joshua
- This places the events around Judges 3-4
- Israel were being oppressed by Moab
- Ehud killed the king of Moab
- ...then rallies an army from Israel to subdue Moab
- Israel then had peace with Moab for 80 yrs
- The book of Ruth sits in this period

The Great Sea
(Mediterranean Sea)

The Israelites were under constant attack from Philistine invaders who occupied the coastal area at about this time.

During the period of Judges, invading Ammonites, Moabites and Midianites were repulsed by the Israelites.

The priestly tribe of Levi did not receive a definite territory but instead was allotted 48 cities distributed



Lesson #1

Don't let the blessings become a curse!

- Elimelech experienced a great victory
- Moab therefore becomes a picture of success and prosperity to him
- ...hence it becomes the place he chooses to go to at this time.
- The blessing that God had given became the very thing that drove him and his family away from their God.

Additional Notes

- How often have we enjoyed blessings from God's hand, only to let them become that thing that drives a wedge between us and God? Maybe you have prayed that God will give you a new job, but when you get it you find that now you are too busy to read the Bible or pray anymore, or attend church meetings; maybe you have prayed for a child, only to find that when God answers your prayer, unlike Hannah in 1 Samuel, you don't always go to church because you want to spend time with your family. The list goes on so fill in the blanks. Blessings that are not given back to God but kept for ourselves are like the manna that was taken and 'hid under the tent', they turn to rotteness. (See Exodus 16:14-20)

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² And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehemjudah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there.

Ruth 1:2

What's in a name?

- Elimelech - God is my king
- Naomi – Pleasure / Pleasant
- Mahlon – Unhealthy
- Chilion - Puney / Pining
- Bethlehem – House of bread
- Judah – Praise
 - “house of bread & praise”
 - This should be our dwelling

Additional Notes

- This is a picture of all of us. When we experience drought in our lives because we are not where God would have us, we run to ‘Moab’ in search of food, and as we will see with Elimelech, he died in Moab. The same will happen to us. *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”*
(Galatians 6:7-8)

The Search for Bread

- Bethlehem is ‘the house of bread’ yet there was no bread, and everyone did what seemed right in their own eyes, so Elimelech takes his family to Moab – God’s wash pot.
 - *“Moab is my washpot; over Edom will I cast out my shoe; over Philistia will I triumph.”*
(Psalm 60:8 / Psalm 108:9)

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- See *Galatians 6:7-8*

3 And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons.

4 And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years.

5 And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband.

Ruth 1:3-5

Elimelech

*“In that one name the whole doctrine of man may be comprehended. This book begins with God, just as the Bible begins with God -- **"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."** (Gen. 1:1) The Bible never argues the existence of God. The God of the Bible is the God who is, the God who exists. From beginning to end you will never find any apologetic dissertations on whether or not God exists. The Bible starts with the fact of God. The existence of God is a matter that rests wholly upon the innate revelation given to the human heart”*

Elimelech

*“Man either admits that God exists or he denies that God exists -- one or the other. He is built to recognize the existence of God. There is no hope for him if he doesn't, because as Hebrews 11 tells us, **“For whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists.”** (Heb. 11:6) God is. And it isn't difficult to believe that God is. Light from God is streaming to us from all around. It is more difficult to believe that God isn't. Only those who are educated beyond their intelligence finally talk themselves into believing that there is no God. The whole story of man begins with that great fact that God is”* - **Ray Steadman**

Elimilech

- God is my King
- God is my King
- In the beginning the man that God had created had a personal relationship with the God who made him, and that is what God intended for all of Adam's descendants. This will one day be achieved for all who accept the gift of salvation thorough Christ:
 - *“And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.” (Rev 21:3)*

Elimilech

- As a result of this personal relationship (God is MY king), man had dominion over all that God had made (*Psalm 8:6*). However this was only the case so long as God is my KING .
- *“Man was given dominion over all the universe that God had made, but only as he himself was subject to the dominion of the God who made him”* - *Ray Steadman*

Elimilech

- So it was with Adam. When he came out from under the authority of God, God ceased being his King and Adam forfeited his right to dominion over the earth.
- As a result the 'title' of the earth passed to Satan (See 2 Cor 4:4 / Luke 4: 5-6).

⁶ Then she arose with her daughters in law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the LORD had visited his people in giving them bread.

Ruth 1:6

7 Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her; and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah.

8 And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the LORD deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me.

9 The LORD grant you that ye may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept.

Ruth 1:7-9

10 And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people.

11 And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?

12 Turn again, my daughters, go your way; for I am too old to have an husband. If I should say, I have hope, if I should have an husband also to night, and should also bear sons;

Ruth 1:10-12

13 Would ye tarry for them till they were grown? would ye stay for them from having husbands? nay, my daughters; for it grieveth me much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD is gone out against me.

14 And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her.

15 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.

16 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:

17 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.

18 When she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.

Ruth 1:16-18

The Basis of Faith

“The Israelite believed that someday he would be raised from the dead to live in that land. That was the hope of Abraham. He never believed that he was going to heaven. He believed he would be raised from the dead right down here, and that’s the reason he bought the cave of Machpelah and buried Sarah there, and he himself was buried there. Isaac had that same hope, and even old Jacob, who died down in the land of Egypt, said he wanted to be buried back up there where his fathers were buried. This was because they had a hope of the resurrection of the dead”

The Basis of Faith

“They were seeking “a city ... whose builder and maker is God” (Heb. 11:10), which will be a reality on this earth someday. That’s the Old Testament hope. When the Lord Jesus said to His disciples in the upper room in John 14:2, “... I go to prepare a place for you” away from this earth, that was brand new, you see. God’s promise to Abraham was to give him an eternal home on this earth. And Ruth said not only that where Naomi died she would die, but also, “And there will I be buried.” You see, her hope is in that land—just as the hope of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had been” – J Vernon McGee

The Basis of Faith

- Ruth's faith was rooted in the hope of the resurrection from the dead
- This is the only real basis for faith!

19 So they two went until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi?

20 And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me.

21 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?

22 So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest.

Ruth 1:22



The Book of Ruth

Chapter 2

I And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz.

Ruth 2:1

- We must not underestimate the magnitude of this verse!
- There is a way!
- Of the family of 'God is my king'
- Mighty man of wealth
 - Rom 11:33 / Eph 1:18 / 2:7 / 3:8 / 3:16 / Phil 4:19
- His name was **STRENGTH**

² And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter.

Ruth 2:2

- Ruth understood the Law of gleaning
 - Lev 19:9-10 / Deut 24:19-22

3 And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz, who was of the kindred of Elimelech.

Ruth 2:3

- *“Coincidence is when God chooses to work anonymously.”*

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.” (Psalm 37:23)

Additional Notes

- *Remember Eliazer – Gen 24 ? He happened to stumble on the correct well, in the right town, and meet the right girl!*
- *An important lesson can be learnt from this situation: So often we strive to know what God's will is for us. We look for the miraculous but seldom find the answer there. It comes in the ordinary everyday situations.*
- *Elijah sought the Lord and there came a great and strong wind, then an earthquake and then a fire; but God was in none of these. Then there came avoice. Just a voice. God could have thundered from the heavens, but he just spoke to him.*

Faith with Works

- James 2:14-25
- Boaz' mum demonstrated her faith by her works, and so does Ruth.
- Seeing Ruth acting on her faith no doubt caused Boaz to think about his mum, who was also a gentile who had chosen to serve the God of Israel.
- (cf Ruth 2:11)

Faith with Works

- God has a corner in every field where He has made provision for you right now, no matter how difficult things are, God has made provision.
- Through understanding God's word Ruth knew what she must do. The same is true for us.

4 And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said unto the reapers, The LORD be with you. And they answered him, The LORD bless thee.

Ruth 2:4

- “YHWH be with you”
- *“The covenant keeping God be with you”*

5 Then said Boaz unto his servant that was set over the reapers, Whose damsel is this?

6 And the servant that was set over the reapers answered and said, It is the Moabitish damsel that came back with Naomi out of the country of Moab:

Ruth 2:5-6

- Love at first sight?
- “It is THE Moabitish girl...”
- Boaz sees Ruth before she knows who he is.
- “You have not chosen me but I have chosen you”

(John 15:16)

7 And she said, I pray you, let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves: so she came, and hath continued even from the morning until now, that she tarried a little in the house.

Ruth 2:7

8 Then said Boaz unto Ruth, Hearst thou not, my daughter? Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens:

9 Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after them: have I not charged the young men that they shall not touch thee? and when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men have drawn.

Ruth 2:8-9

10 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 shouldst take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?

Ruth 2:10

The Why Question

- Why? ‘What is the reason that you have done this for me?’
 - Because it pleased him. (cf Psalm 8:4)
- Have I?
 - ‘Because you have become the object of My affection’.
- Found Grace?
 - Because I have in abundance what you need and it pleases Me to give it to you.

The Why Question

- In Your eyes?
 - Ruth acknowledges just who this man is – which makes the above even more overwhelming!
- Just like Ruth, we were strangers, and not only has God brought us into His field and protected and provided for us, He has poured His grace upon us and made us part of His family!

II 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.

Ruth 2:11

- *“Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?”* (John 4:29).
- When we come to Jesus he already knows everything, so He can't be disappointed by finding out what we are really like. Nothing we do will be a surprise to God – it may shock us at times!
- – but God know all things, *“bears all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.”* (1 Cor 13:7) – and the amazing thing is that love never fails, God doesn't give up on us because He sees us how we can be in Christ.

12 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.

13 Then she said, Let me find favour in thy sight, my lord; for that thou hast comforted me, and for that thou hast spoken friendly unto thine handmaid, though I be not like unto one of thine handmaidens.

Ruth 2:12-13

14 And Boaz said unto her, At mealtime come thou hither, and eat of the bread, and dip thy morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers: and he reached her parched corn, and she did eat, and was sufficed, and left.

Ruth 2:14-16

- She is invited to his banqueting table to eat bread & wine!

¹⁵ And when she was risen up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not:

¹⁶ And let fall also some of the **handfuls of purpose** for her, and leave them, that she may glean them, and rebuke her not.

Ruth 2:15-16

- There are handfuls of purpose all around us too – the *'just so happens'* that God sees are left for us. God loves us so much that He does this for us all the time; the little things, the 'coincidences' at the right time and right place.

17 So she gleaned in the field until even, and beat out that she had gleaned: and it was about an ephah of barley.

18 And she took it up, and went into the city: and her mother in law saw what she had gleaned: and she brought forth, and gave to her that she had reserved after she was sufficed.

Ruth 2:17-18

19 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.

20 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.

21 And Ruth the Moabite said, He said unto me also, Thou shalt keep fast by my young men, until they have ended all my harvest.

22 And Naomi said unto Ruth her daughter in law, It is good, my daughter, that thou go out with his maidens, that they meet thee not in any other field.

23 So she kept fast by the maidens of Boaz to glean unto the end of barley harvest and of wheat harvest; and dwelt with her mother in law.

Ruth 2:21-23



The Book of Ruth

Chapter 3

^I Then Naomi her mother in law said unto her, My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee?

Ruth 3:1

- ‘Seek rest’ – an idiom of marriage
- *“A married state is, or should be, a state of rest. Wandering affections are then fixed, and the heart must be at rest”*
 - Matthew Henry

² And now is not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley to night in the threshingfloor.

Ruth 3:2



3 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

- Why do we feel more confident when 'made up'?
- We are intended to be clothed!
- Not just physical apparel, but with the glory of God

4 And it shall be, when he lieth down, that thou shalt mark the place where he shall lie, and thou shalt go in, and uncover his feet, and lay thee down; and he will tell thee what thou shalt do.

5 And she said unto her, All that thou sayest unto me I will do.

Ruth 3:4-5

- It would also be normal to sleep at the threshing floor for the night to protect the crop from thieves.
- Naomi was confident that Boaz knows all about the law of Levirate marriage: ‘Boaz will know what to do’.
– Deuteronomy 25:5-10

⁶ And she went down unto the floor, and did according to all that her mother in law bade her.

Ruth 3:4-6

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 corn: and she came softly, and uncovered his feet, and laid her down.

8 And it came to pass at midnight, that the man was afraid, and turned himself: and, behold, a woman lay at his feet.

9 And he said, Who art thou? And she answered, I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman.

Ruth 3:7-9

Hems & Skirts

- Throughout scripture the idea of the skirt or hem of a garment is used to symbolise authority.
 - 1 Samuel 24
 - Also Matt 9:20 / Matt 14:36
- Ruth is asking Boaz is to come under his authority.
 - See Ezekiel 16:8:

10 And he said, Blessed be thou of the LORD, my daughter: for thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich.

11 And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.

12 And now it is true that I am thy near kinsman: howbeit there is a kinsman nearer than I.

Ruth 3:10-12

13 Tarry this night, and it shall be in the morning, that if he will perform unto thee the part of a kinsman, well; let him do the kinsman's part: but if he will not do the part of a kinsman to thee, then will I do the part of a kinsman to thee, as the LORD liveth: lie down until the morning.

Ruth 3:13

14 And she lay at his feet until the morning: and she rose up before one could know another. And he said, Let it not be known that a woman came into the floor.

15 Also he said, Bring the vail that thou hast upon thee, and hold it. And when she held it, he measured six measures of barley, and laid it on her: and she went into the city.

Ruth 3:14-15

16 And when she came to her mother in law, she said, Who art thou, my daughter? And she told her all that the man had done to her.

17 And she said, These six measures of barley gave he me; for he said to me, Go not empty unto thy mother in law.

Ruth 3:16-17

18 Then said she, Sit still, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall: for the man will not be in rest, until he have finished the thing this day.

Ruth 3:18

- Naomi cracks the code – six is not complete!
- Naomi tells Ruth that she can now do nothing. She has asked Boaz to be her kinsman-redeemer, now it's all up to him.
- She is powerless – Once we have asked Jesus to be our Kinsman-Redeemer, we too are powerless, it's all in His hands!



The Book of Ruth

Chapter 4

1 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.

2 And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, Sit ye down here. And they sat down.

Ruth 4:1-2

- Deut 25:7 / Job 29:7 Psalm 69:12
- Matt 16:18
- Judges 16:3

Additional Notes

- In ancient cultures the city gate was like the town hall, the council office, where decisions were made; it was a place of council, debate and discussion. It would appear that Boaz was no stranger here and was known to all, which should come as no surprise as back in chapter 2 we were introduced to Boaz as a 'mighty man of wealth' (2:1); Boaz was one of the leaders in the community.
- Although the relative is not identified by name, Boaz obviously knew him, hence his greeting and the willingness of the kinsman to sit down at Boaz' request.

Additional Notes

- As an aside, Jesus said that the gates of hell would not prevail against the Church (Matt 16:18).
- By this is meant 'the councils', the schemes etc. of hell will not prevail against the Church.
- Just as with Samson, who took the gates (i.e. the wisdom, authority and power) of the Philistines to the top of the hill and thus demonstrated his superiority over them, so our Samson (Jesus) carried the 'councils of hell' to the top of another hill in a public demonstration of His power and victory.

3 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:

4 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.

Ruth 4:3-4

- **Leviticus 25:25**

The Right of Redemption

- *According to the law (Lev 25:25-28), if any Israelite, through poverty, would sell his possession, the next of kin (the go'eel) had a right to redeem it by paying the value of the number of years remaining until the jubilee. This right Boaz advertises the [go'eel] of, so as to give him the option which the law secured to him of redeeming "our brother Elimelech's" land, i.e. our kinsman's, according to the common use of the term brother, for near relation. - Barns*

5 Then said Boaz, What day thou buyest the field of the hand of Naomi, thou must buy it also of Ruth the Moabite, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance.

6 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 4:5-6

The Duty of The Goel

- *Observe the action of the Levirate law. If there had been no one interested but Naomi, she would have sold the land unclogged by any condition, the law of Levirate having no existence in her case. But there was a young widow upon whom the possession of the land would devolve at Naomi's death, and who already had a right of partnership in it, and the law of Levirate did apply in her case. It was, therefore, the duty of the go'eel to marry her and raise up seed to his brother, i.e. his kinsman. And he could not exercise his right of redeeming the land, unless he was willing at the same time to fulfill his obligations to the deceased by marrying the widow. This he was unwilling to do.*

- *Barns*

I cannot...

“This makes many shy of the great redemption: they are not willing to espouse religion. They have heard well of it, and have nothing to say against it; they will give it their good word, but at the same time they will give their good word with it; they are willing to part with it, and cannot be bound to it, for fear of marring their own inheritance in this world. Heaven they could be glad of, but holiness they can dispense with; it will not agree with the lusts they have already espoused, and therefore, let who will purchase heaven at that rate, they cannot.” – Matthew Henry

7 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

8 Therefore the kinsman said unto Boaz, Buy it for thee. So he drew off his shoe.

Ruth 4:8

- Just as the putting on of shoes denotes preparation for a journey...
- so the taking off of the shoes symbolically speaks of not being prepared to take the journey
- As believers, we are to have our shoes on in readiness for the journey that lay before us:
- Mark 6:8-9 / Eph 6:14-15 / Songs 7:1

Additional Notes

- It is also interesting to note that John the Baptist publicly declared he was not worthy to ‘bear’ the shoes of Christ, which has the subtle suggestion of his not being worthy of the journey Christ was to make.
- “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire” (Matt 3:11)

Additional Notes

- The only time in scripture the putting off of shoes is seen as a good thing is when we enter into the presence of the LORD, for then we are to rest from the service (the mission, the work, the journey) of the King in order to worship the King himself (Exodus 3:5 / Acts 7:33). The King is greater than the errands He sends His servants on.

9 And Boaz said unto the elders, and unto all the people, Ye are witnesses this day, that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, of the hand of Naomi.

Ruth 4:9

IO Moreover Ruth the Moabite, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place: ye are witnesses this day.

II 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 Ephrath, and be famous in Bethlehem:

His Treasure

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field

Matthew 13:24

- Jesus bought the field in order to get the Bride.
- Satan evidently doesn't get this. He tried to tempt Jesus by offering Him the world, but Jesus didn't come to gain the world.

His Treasure

- Jesus said:

For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Matthew 16:26

“What Jesus is saying is that one human soul is more valuable than the entire cosmos and created universe” – Joe Focht

I2 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.

- Genesis 38
- Deuteronomy 23:2

1. Perez
2. Hezron
3. Ram
4. Amminadab
5. Nahshon
6. Salmon
7. **Boaz**
8. Obed
9. Jesse
10. **David** Gen 38

Additional Notes

- This is a strange statement on the surface; Pharez was the illegitimate offspring of Judah and Tamar (see Genesis 38). According to the Law, an illegitimate son could not be considered part of the congregation of Israel until the 10th generation. “A bastard shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to his tenth generation shall he not enter into the congregation of the LORD.” (Deut 23:2) As we will see in verses 18-22 the 10th generation from Pharez was none other than king David!

The Tenth Man

Adam	Shem	Isaac	Perez
Seth	Arphaxad	Jacob	Hezron
Enosh	Salah	Judah	Ram
Kenan	Eber	Perez	Amminadab
Mahalalel	Peleg	Hezron	Nahshon
Jared	Reu	Ram	Salmon
Enoch	Serug	Amminadab	Boaz
Methuselah	Nahor	Nahshon	Obed
Lamech	Terah	Salman	Jesse
Noah	Abraham	Boaz	David

13 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.

14 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.

15 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.

Ruth 4:13-15

16 And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it.

17 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.

Ruth 4:16-17

*18 Now these are the generations of Pharez: Pharez
begat Hezron,*

*19 And Hezron begat Ram, and Ram begat
Amminadab,*

*20 And Amminadab begat Nahshon, and Nahshon
begat Salmon,*

21 And Salmon begat Boaz, and Boaz begat Obed,

22 And Obed begat Jesse, and Jesse begat David.

Ruth 4:18-22



The Book of Ruth

Types & Shadows

The Book of Ruth

When *Elimelech* married *Naomi*, they brought forth *Mahlon* and *Chilion* and were forced to leave *Bethlehem-Judah*. *Elimelech* died and *Naomi* became *Mara*. Later, both *Ruth* and *Orpah* (gentiles) had the chance to return to the God of Israel. *Orpah* turned back and sought false gods. *Ruth* returned to the God of Israel. *Ruth* found grace in the eyes of her kinsman redeemer who then purchased her and she was joined to *Boaz*. (What the *near kinsman* could not do her *Boaz* did). *Ruth* married her *Boaz* and brought forth *Obed*.

The Book of Ruth

<u>Names</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Elimelech	= God is my king
Naomi	= Pleasure
Bethlehem-Judah	= The house of bread and praise
Mara	= Bitterness
Mahlon	= Sickness
Chilion	= Pining
Ruth	= Beauty
Orpah	= Double minded
Boaz	= Strength
Near kinsman	= The Law
Obed	= Worship

The Book of Ruth

When *God is my king* married *pleasure*, they brought forth *sickness* and *pining* and were forced to leave *the house of bread & praise*. *God is my king* died and *pleasure* became *bitterness*. Later, both *beauty* and *double-minded* (gentiles) had the chance to return to the God of Israel. *Double-minded* turned back and sought false gods. *Beauty* returned to the God of Israel. *Beauty* found grace in the eyes of her kinsman redeemer who then purchased her and she was joined to *strength*. (What the *Law* could not do her *strength* did). *Beauty* married her *strength* and brought forth *worship*.

Typological Analysis

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- Naomi = Israel
- Ruth = Gentile Bride

The Nation of Israel

Naomi as a type of Israel - Summary:

- Abandoned the God of Israel
 - Jeremiah 3:20-23
- Driven to the Gentiles & suffer great loss
 - Deuteronomy 28
- Re-gathered in unbelief
 - Ezekiel 37
- Re-introduced to Kinsman-Redeemer
 - Hos 6:1-3/Zech 12:10
- Land and blessings restored
 - Amos 9:11-15

The Church

- Gentiles married to 'sickness' Ephesians 2:1
- Converted to the God of Israel through Jewish witness Rom 3:2
- 'Happen' on the field of the Kinsman John 15:16
- Introduced to the Kinsman by an un-named servant Jn16:13
- The Kinsman leaves 'handfuls of purpose' Romans 8:28
- She recognises her poverty before Him Romans 3:23-24
- Why have I found Grace in Your sight? Ephesians 2:8
- She is to wash and cleanse herself before meeting her Kinsman Ephesians 5:25-26
- She finds Him at the threshing floor Ps119:67/Luk21:36
- She seeks to be under His authority 1 Cor 6:20
- She simply rests, knowing that He will complete everything Phil 1:6/Col1:13-14

The Kinsman-Redeemer

The Kinsman-Redeemer

- He knew all about her
 - Revelation 17:8
- He gave up His reputation
 - Philippians 2:7-8
- He overcomes the ‘obstacle’
 - Galatians 3:13
- He gave Himself for His bride
 - Ephesians 5:25-27
- He buys the field to get His bride
 - Matthew 13:44
- He purchases the bride publicly
 - Luke 23:35
- He provides out of His abundance
 - Philippians 4:19

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- Ruth learns of Boaz's ways thru Naomi
- Naomi meets Boaz thru Ruth
- No matter how much Boaz loved Ruth, he had to wait for *her* move.
- Boaz, not Ruth, confronts the Nearer Kinsman.

Ruth: Final Remarks

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- You can't really understand Revelation 5 without understanding the Book of Ruth.
- *You and I are also beneficiaries of a love story, that was written in blood, on a wooden cross, erected in Judea almost 2,000 years ago.*



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