

## **Ruth 1.**

Read the chapter. There are only two books in the Bible in which women are the principal characters. This is one of them. Esther is the other. Both women were instrumental in bring forth the Messiah. Ruth, a Gentile who married a Jew, the great, great grandmother of David, the lineage of Jesus, the Messiah; and Esther, a Jew who married a Gentile, saved the Jewish people from annihilation by an enemy, Haman, and preserved her people also through whom Jesus, the Messiah came.

Finding such a compassionate and merciful God through 14 **Judges**, every time the children of Israel would bow down to idols, and then after 14 years, or 20 years or 8 years in bondage to the Philistines, or the Moabites, or to the Ammonites, or other gentile nations, the children of Israel would cry out to God and He mercifully would deliver them by actually having Judges that would favour the Israelites and then release them from their enemies.

During that time and during great famine, a man Elimelech, from Bethlehem-Judah went into Moab country. He died there and his wife Naomi was left with two sons who took wives to themselves and lived there for ten years. Then her two sons died. She was left with two daughters-in-law: Orpah and Ruth. Naomi heard that in her husband's land, Judah, the Lord was giving them bread. (**Jesus said I am the bread and His lineage was from the tribe of Judah.**) She and her daughters-in-law decided to go to Judah and on the way Naomi tried to excuse the women to go back to their mothers' house. After much weeping, Orpah left but Ruth refused to go saying to Naomi *Intreat me not to leave you, or to return from following after you: for whether you go, I will go; and where you lodge, I will lodge: your people shall be my people, and your God, my God: where you die, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, but death part you and me.* (**Here is the Body of Jesus: when you are born-again you will not leave Him no matter where He wants you to go, where you live, His people become your people, His God, your God even unto death.**)

Naomi was not recognized by the people of Bethlehem. *Call me Mara: for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I know it is hard to believe that God's purposes and plans and destiny is His. In order to have a lineage of David, He chose who would bring this child into existence before the foundation of the world. Naomi had to go to Moab in order to get Lot's progeny, Ruth, to bring forth the Christ, the Messiah. Some circumstances are hard to bear but they are the plans and purposes of God and only God...seeing the Lord has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?* Naomi could not SEE what God was doing because she came back EMPTY. You too have to be **empty** in order to bring forth the **Christ in you**, the hope of glory; everyone of us has to go through the same thing. Empty, you must be empty, for God to do marvellous things through you.

## **Ruth 2.**

Read the chapter. Here is the turn-around of her emptiness! Her husband's family, by the name of Boaz, was very wealthy. Because Ruth and Naomi came to Bethlehem during barley harvest, Ruth went to work in the field gleaning after the reapers. Boaz noticed her *Whose damsel is this?* His servant told him it was Ruth, the Moabitish who came back with Naomi. It would seem that this compassion and mercy from the Almighty God continued from the 14 **Judges** to one little Moabitish girl, Ruth through Boaz. Boaz instructed her to be with his maidens and to reap after them, have their protection and drink their water. Ruth asked *Why have I found grace in your eyes, that you should take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger.* Boaz told her that her kindness toward Naomi and how she left her father and mother, coming to a people she did not know. Boaz blessed her. Then they ate together as he gave instructions to his reapers that Ruth should glean also among the sheaves and not to reproach her but to even drop handfuls on purpose for her. The blessings of the Lord were now multiplying. She had no idea just what this Almighty God had destined for her but it was coming!

The first day!

Naomi was in awe at Ruth's day of reaping, also Boaz had told her that she could stay until the end of the barley harvest and the wheat harvest and she lived with Naomi.

### **Ruth 3.**

Read the chapter. On Naomi's instructions Ruth slept at Boaz's feet. Boaz, pretty frightened woke up in the night and wanted to know who was there at his feet. Ruth answered and asked by tradition of kinsmen that he cover her. Boaz was impressed and told her he would do what is she requested because the whole city knew that she was a virtuous woman. However, he had to confront a kinsman that was nearer to Naomi to claim this woman. She slept at his feet until morning and then he gave her six measures of barley and she went into the city. Something else that is interesting about this city: **This is the city Bethlehem of the birth of the Messiah, Jesus!** Again, Naomi was in awe.

### **Ruth 4.**

Read the chapter. Boaz confronts the kinsman and he took ten men of the elders of the city, and they sat down. He told the kinsman that Naomi has a parcel of land that belonged to Elimelech that she is selling. Boaz wanted to know whether he would redeem it. He said he would. Boaz went on: *What day you buy the field of the hand of Naomi, you must buy also of Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance.* That was the tradition. The kinsman could not because he did not want to lose his own inheritance. *Redeem my right to yourself; for I cannot redeem it.* The custom was to take a shoe off his foot and give it to his neighbour. *Buy it for yourself!* So he drew off his shoe.

The plan of the Lord was progressing for the lineage of David and the Messiah. *And Boaz said unto the elders, and unto all the people, You 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. Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, 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 this place: you are witnesses this day.*

The elders then blessed her *The Lord make the woman that is come into your house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel: and you do worthily in Ephratah, and be famous in Bethlehem. And let your house be like the house of Pharez, whom Tamar bare unto Judah, of the seed which the Lord shall give you of this young woman.* **What were they saying? They were saying that the same seed that was preserved through Jacob (Israel) and going to come from the tribe of Judah, was now going to be in Ruth, for the coming of the Messiah. Hallelujah!**

She blessed Naomi and Naomi became the nurse to the child born to Ruth and Boaz; Obed, he is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Praise the Lord!