

Ruth, A Better Way

Bible Study

BETH DIAL



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Ruth, A Better Way

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RUTH, A BETTER WAY

LESSON 1

Ruth 1: The Lord of Losses and Gains



“All power is given unto Me in heaven and
on earth.”

Matthew 28:18

DAY ONE

1. Write out Matthew 28:18 and begin memorizing it for next week.
2. Read the Book of Ruth at one sitting, and write out your initial impressions below.
3. What kind of literature is this? Poetry? Prayer? Historical narrative? Doctrinal?
4. What repeated words or phrases do you see? Mark them on your text. List them below and count them. Why are they important?

5. Mark the time phrases with a simple clock around the words. Note any that might have special interest to the story.

6. Who wrote the book?

7. What is the time period during which the events take place? (1:1)
How does that give significance to the book? See the last verse in the Book of Judges.

8. What is the main purpose of the book?
 - a. In considering the main purpose of the book, read and discuss Matthew 1:1-17.

 - b. What are some of the secondary purposes of Ruth?

9. Can you choose a key verse?

DAY TWO

1. The Book of Ruth has been called “the perfect story,” “the loveliest complete work on a small scale,” and more. “No poet in the world has written a more beautiful short story.” How is the book more than these accolades?

2. Jewish people still read Ruth on the day of Pentecost. What New Testament event happened on Pentecost? (Acts 2). What common theme is in the two?
 - a. How should this affect our thinking and behavior?

 - b. Are there ways you should change in response to this idea?

3. From whom were the Moabites descended? (Genesis 19:30-38)

4. Briefly discuss how each of the three main characters realized their obligations to family. How would Ruth have learned those values?

5. Discuss the contrast of God’s ways to reach the lost in Jonah and Ruth. What does that tell you about Him?

Is there someone for whom you are praying who is seemingly unreachable? Pray for that person now.

6. It is the fall of the year as we study Ruth and appropriate, I think, to consider the role that crops had throughout the book. Discuss that thread through the book, and remember that Baal also claimed to own the ground and control its fertility.

7. Read through Ruth 1 again and mark any repetitions you may have missed and further observations.

8. Outline the chapter by assigning “scenes” to the happenings. For example,
Scene 1—What happened?

DAY THREE

1. What do the names Elimelech and Naomi mean? What do their names indicate of their heritage?

2. Some think that Elimelech should not have taken his family to Moab. What do you think?

3. Notice the progression of the verbs in v. 1, “sojourn”, v. 2, “remained”, and v. 4, “lived”. Connect them with a line in your text. Do you think they indicate a failure to be separate from pagans?

4. Do you think that the absence of children in the marriages has to do with Elimelech’s choice? Was it God’s judgment? Could there be other explanations?

5. In Chapter 1:4, we are told that both sons took Moabite women as wives. Read Deuteronomy 23:3 and discuss whether marriage to a Moabite woman was prohibited or highly restricted. The Moabites were not Canaanites, but reading Deuteronomy 7:3, 4 gives insight into the dangers.
 - a. What are the restrictions?

 - b. What is the reason according to 23:4?

6. What was the cause of death for the three men? Why do you think we are not told?

7. Women in biblical culture were vulnerable without the protection of husbands. These women are left without hope, with no plan until the news in 1:6 breaks the cloud of their bleak world. Discuss the news God brought to them. Was it in response to Naomi’s repentance? What does that tell you about God?

8. Naomi decides to return to Bethlehem. What is her argument? Scan Deuteronomy 25:5-10 for the background. This will become more significant later in Chapter 4.

9. Is Naomi's assessment in the last sentence true?

10. Was Naomi's advice in 1:15 good advice? Why or why not?

11. Pulling together the verses that record Naomi's dialogue, how would you describe her relationship with God?

12. List Ruth's declarations and their meanings from 1:16, 17.
 - a. What barriers did Ruth overcome to make these assertions?

 - b. What do they reveal about the work of God in her?

RUTH, A BETTER WAY

LESSON 2

Ruth 2 & 3: The Lord of Providence and Provision

Kari Pizzini



“Go therefore and make disciples of
All the nations, baptizing them in the
name of the Father and the Son and
the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 28:19

Day One

1. Begin your study time by reading through Ruth chapters 2 and 3. Now look at Ruth 2:1-3. Why do you think the information in verse one is given to us before the information in verses two and three? Why might the author tell us that Boaz is a man of great wealth?
2. Briefly scan the book of Ruth and list a few examples of the providence of God (God working through the normal course of events).

Day Three

1. Read Ruth 3:1-5. What does Naomi seek for Ruth and what is her plan of going about it? See also Ruth 1:9.
2. What is the scene Ruth will be entering? What is a threshing floor?
3. What is Ruth's response to Naomi's plan (vs. 5-7)?
4. Read Ruth 3:8-9a. Ruth has been carefully following Naomi's plan, but adds her own words here. How does she identify herself? What is left off?
5. What does she ask of Boaz? See both Ruth 3:9 and 2:12.

RUTH, A BETTER WAY

LESSON 3

Ruth 4: Lord of Redemption



“Teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:20

DAY ONE

1. Write out the Great Commission, Matthew 28:18-20 below, and be ready to repeat it from memory with this lesson.

2. At the back of your lesson you will find a map of the 12 tribes of Israel. Both Jonah and Ruth are impacted by geography. Some of the following are not on your map. However, see if you can trace the long journeys between the pertinent places.

Nineveh from Palestine.

Joppa

Tarshish

Bethlehem in Judah

Moab (They probably took the northern route above the Dead Sea).

In this book we are not allowed to forget the role of kinsman-redeemer. The relational connection between the living and the dead is peppered throughout, against the backdrop of helplessness and vulnerability. This is a beautiful picture of Jesus Christ, our Kinsman-Redeemer, who found us in our defenselessness as slaves to sin (“...everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.” John 8:34), and paid the price to free us. He “gave Himself to redeem us from all wickedness.” Titus 2:14. The kinsman-redeemer qualified by the following standards:

- ***Being a blood relative (Jesus Christ became man, shed His blood)***
- ***Ability to purchase (Jesus Christ was the only possible Redeemer)***
- ***Willingness to redeem (Jesus Christ left heaven and laid down His life)***

There is more good news. Our Kinsman-Redeemer is also a King. The book of Ruth connects the blood line of David the King to Jesus our Redeemer. We commented in our overview of the book of Ruth that its purpose may be summarized in the last word in the text, “David”. In order to understand the care with which Boaz carries out his proceedings in Chapter 4, we will begin by tracing the significance of Messiah’s connection to King David. God formed Boaz to be a keeper of His truth and records Boaz’s conscientious activity in minutia. What was in his background that called him to such action? Why did he give such thought to every procedural detail? What light does the Old Testament shed on his belief system?

3. First we must consider as background the blessing of Genesis 49:8, 10. Jacob is ready to die, and gathers his sons to him “...to tell you what shall befall you in the days to come.”
 - a. Who is addressed in these verses? (And where were Elimelech and Boaz from?)
 - b. What is predicted for the tribe of Judah?
 - c. What is the significance of this blessing?
4. Where did God send Elijah to find His replacement for Israel’s King Saul? I Samuel 16:1
5. Who is anointed king in 16:13?

6. He became a great king, blessed by God, who genuinely sought forgiveness for sinning against Him (Psalm 51). God made a covenant with King David as recorded in II Samuel 7:12, 16. What are the promises given to David?
7. Read God's reaffirmation of the Davidic Covenant from Jeremiah 33:14-21 and do the exercises below.

14 'Behold, days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will fulfill the good word which I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth. 16 In those days Judah shall be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell in safety; and this is the name by which she shall be called: the LORD is our righteousness.' 17 For thus says the LORD, 'David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel; 18 and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man before Me to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to prepare sacrifices continually.' 19 And the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah saying, 'Thus says the LORD, If you can break My covenant for the day, and My covenant for night, so that day and night will not be at their appointed time, 21 then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne, and with the Levitical priests, My ministers. 22 As the host of heaven cannot be counted, and the sand of the sea cannot be measured, so I will multiply the descendants of David My servant and the Levites who minister to Me.'

- a. Mark references to "David" with your color choice.
- b. What does each one mean?
- c. What is said about Judah and Jerusalem in v. 16? Has that been historically true? What conclusions can we make?
- d. Mark the word "covenant" with a prominent "C".
- e. How confident can we be, according to 33:20, 21 that the covenant with David will not be broken?
- f. During Jeremiah's day Israel was being warned against sin and judgment. There were few encouraging circumstances to the faithful remnant. When circumstances appear uncertain and grim to you, how can you be sure of God's promises to you?

DAY TWO

As we saw in Matthew's genealogy last week, the prominence of David's connection with Messiah is obvious in the New Testament as well. Note the following.

1. What does Luke 1:27 say about our Lord? Who says it? To whom? Where?
2. At the end of His life, what was Jesus Christ asked according to Mark 15:2?
3. Between these events there were random references to Jesus using the specific Messianic title. Here is a sampling.

PASSAGE	QUOTE	BY WHOM?
Matthew 9:27		
Matthew 12:22, 23		
Matthew 15:22		
Matthew 21:9		
Matthew 21:15		

4. NOW, with this pertinent background, we must look closely at the work of God through Boaz to secure the Messianic line. Read Ruth 4 and write out your initial impressions below.
5. When this chapter opens, the line of Elimelech hangs by two very fragile threads. Who are they and why are they both vulnerable?

6. What do you see of Boaz's character in this rehearsal of events?

7. What is the significance in 1:1 of Boaz's going to "the city gates"? What reference to the Proverbs 31 woman comes to mind? What importance does that give to her work?

8. Boaz knew the one man to whom he must speak. In what ways is he described in 4:1? Why do you think his name is not given?

9. Mark the references to sitting down in 4:1, 2. Why are they mentioned?

DAY THREE

1. Boaz knew the principles of Leviticus 25:23-28. What are they?

2. The work of redemption officially begins. Mark the word "redeem" in all its forms in 3:13 and 4:4, 6, 7, 14. Briefly describe the process and Boaz's method.

3. What does Boaz mean in 4:5 when he states the redemptive purpose as being, "to raise up the name of the deceased." ("Name" is repeated twice. Mark that).

4. What reasons could there be for the closest relative not to buy Elimelech's inheritance? He does not say he is unwilling. What does he repeat twice in 4:6?

5. Mark the word “witnesses” in vss. 9-11. What is their purpose?
6. Naomi used the word “witnessed” in 1:21. Discuss the two uses of the word and what they tell us about God.
7. The ten elders and the people in the court are not satisfied with just being witnesses. What do they do in v. 11, 12?
 - a. List the specifics of their wishes for Boaz and Ruth.
 - b. Name the people who are mentioned and see if you can find out why they are included.
8. Who is credited with giving Ruth a son?
9. What three things do the women pray for Naomi? In thinking of the blessings spoken upon Boaz, Ruth, and Naomi, remember 1:1. These are the times of the judges. Consider the huge impact these three people have had on their community. Pray for impact in yours.
10. Mark your text in vss. 18-22 that 640 years are covered (not all names given). Mark the repeated word, “born”. Thank Him for David’s “Greater Son”, thank Him that “Christ the Savior is born!

Map 4: LAND OF THE TWELVE TRIBES

