

JOURNEY THROUGH  
THE BIBLE PART 8

**The Book of Ruth:  
Faithfulness**

**BIBLE READING: RUTH 1 - 4  
PAGE 187**

# The story of Ruth is a jewel set against the dark background of the Judges.

## The Downward Spiral of Judges

- ✦ 300 years From Joshua to Samuel the prophet.
- ✦ Rebellion
- ✦ Repression
- ✦ Repentance
- ✦ Restoration

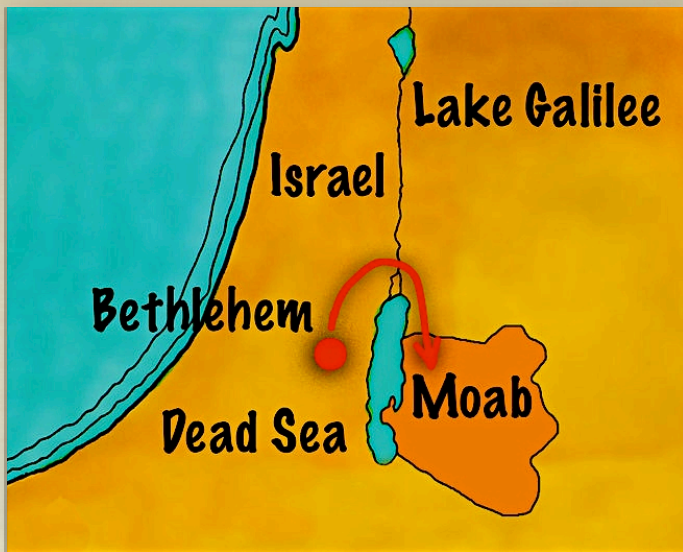


# RUTH 1-4

- Watch for the three turning points in the story which show how God was working behind the scenes.
- Watch to see how Naomi's emptiness and bitterness are transformed into fullness and sweetness.



- Elimelech took his family across the Jordan.
- Although surrounded by idolatry the family remained faithful to God.
- Mahlon and Kilion broke the law of Moses by marrying Moabite women.



## Bethlehem and the Land Of The Moabites



- But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me.” (Ruth 1:16–17, NIV84)



## Ruth's Commitment

■ “Don’t call me Naomi,” she told them. “Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The Lord has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me.”

(Ruth 1:20–21, NIV84)

- “the Almighty” = El Shaddai
- The name used of God when speaking of your weakness



# God at Work - the first turning point

- Naomi and Ruth arrive in Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest. Coincidence?
- Even at your lowest point God has not abandoned you. He is already at work to bring about your restoration.





# Boaz

## The Kinsman Redeemer

- Kinsman-redeemer = Hebrew “Goel”
- The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you are but aliens and my tenants. Throughout the country that you hold as a possession, you must provide for the redemption of the land. “ ‘If one of your countrymen becomes poor and sells some of his property, his nearest relative is to come and redeem what his countryman has sold.’ Leviticus 25:23-25





# Boaz

## The Kinsman Redeemer

- **“The Levite” Marriage Provision**
- “If brothers are living together and one of them dies without a son, his widow must not marry outside the family. Her husband’s brother shall take her and marry her and fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to her. The first son she bears shall carry on the name of the dead brother so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel.”  
(Deuteronomy 25:5–6, NIV84)



# Boaz

## The Kinsman Redeemer

- Because both brothers died Ruth had the right to approach the nearest relative of Elimelech to ask for redemption of the family land and a Levite marriage.
- The nearest relative was not obliged to fulfil either request under the Law.
- When Boaz negotiates with the nearest relative he points out the two fold duty: redeem the land and take Ruth to raise an heir.





## 2:3 Gleaning and Reaping



# Gleaning and Reaping

- When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the Lord your God. (Leviticus 19:9–10, NIV84)





## God at Work - the second turning point

- Ruth was a stranger in Bethlehem yet she found herself working in the fields belonging to Boaz, Elimelech's rich near relative.
- Coincidence or God at work?



## God at Work - Naomi's restoration begins

- “The Lord bless him!” Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. “He has not stopped showing His kindness to the living and the dead.” She added, “That man is our close relative; he is one of our kinsman-redeemers.” (Ruth 2:20, NIV84)



## God at Work

- Interplay between human kindness and faithfulness shown by Ruth and Boaz and God's provision.
- Ruth's faithfulness and virtue opens up the opportunity to be led by God to work in Boaz' field.
- Boaz' kindness enables the Lord to make even more good things happen.





# Visit to the Threshing Floor





## Visit to the Threshing Floor Chapter 3

- ““Who are you?” he asked. “I am your servant Ruth,” she said. “Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman-redeemer.””  
(Ruth 3:9, NIV84)



# Visit to the Threshing Floor Chapter 3

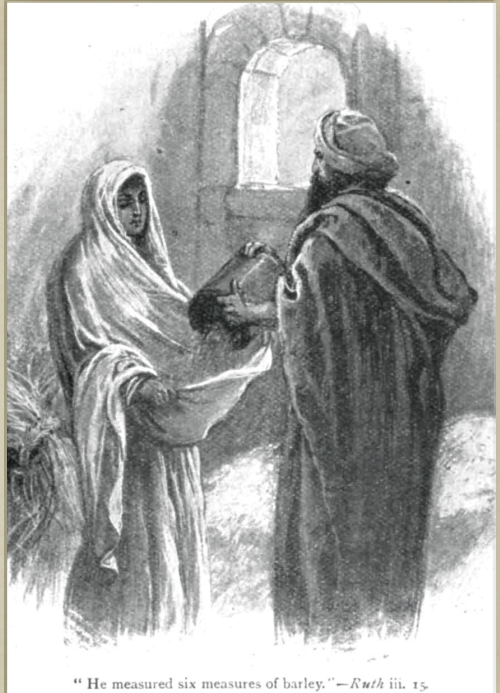


■ “corner of your garment” = “hem” of his garment.

- The woven pattern of the hem was unique to each person.
- Asking to be covered by the man’s hem was symbolic of asking to come under his protection and care.
- Boaz understood immediately Ruth was asking him to be her kinsman redeemer.

## Visit to the Threshing Floor Chapter 3

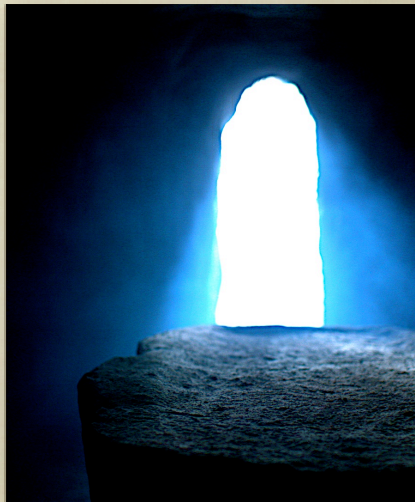
- Six measures of barley was a symbolic amount.
- In six days God made the earth and rested.
- Naomi understands the message: Boaz will not rest until he fulfils his word that day.



"He measured six measures of barley."—*Ruth* iii. 15.

Boaz as kinsman redeemer is a type of Christ. Jesus is our Kinsman Redeemer because He is our Brother and paid the price to redeem our inheritance.

- “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”  
(1 Peter 1:3–5, ESV)





# How did Boaz become Ruth's kinsman redeemer?

- Ruth committed her life to God: "Your God shall be my God." (1:16)
- Ruth faithfully carried out Naomi's instructions "I will do whatever you say." (3:5)
- Jesus becomes our Kinsman Redeemer when we commit our lives to Him and obey His commands.



The book of Ruth is both family history and salvation history.

- The genealogy of Jesus includes three women - very unusual in ancient genealogies.
- All three should not have become part of the family but God planned it this way to show His amazing grace.
- The story of Ruth points directly to the stable in Bethlehem.

