

Prophetic View of the Book of Ruth

Ruth takes place at the end of the time of Judges, before the time of Kings

Elimelech (husband of Naomi)

Naomi (Jewish woman, a key figure of story)

Mahlon (son)

Chilon (son)

Family leaves Bethlehem during drought and moves to Moab

Mahlon marries Ruth

Chilon marries Orpha

Elimelech, Mahlon and Chilon all die

Naomi was left as a widow with her two daughter-in-laws, Ruth and Orpah, also widows.

Naomi wants to return to Bethlehem and tries to persuade her daughter-in-law to stay in Moab

Orpah, decides to stay in Moab with her people and her 'gods'. (kisses Naomi and turns away)

Ruth decides to go with Naomi. (cling to)

When Naomi tries to dissuade Ruth from going with her, Ruth replies: "Your people will be my people and your God will be my God"!

Naomi and Ruth travel back to Bethlehem

Elimelech had sold their land before they had left, so Naomi returned to nothing.

Land given to tribes of Israel, during time of Joshua, cannot be sold permanently. If they are sold or leased, they can be redeemed by close relative.

It was the season of the barley harvest. This is the spring harvest at the time of Passover. 50 days later, the wheat will be harvested at Pentecost.

Leviticus 19:9-10 When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. And you shall not glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather every grape of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I am the LORD your God.

Ruth goes out to find food, and finds a field owned by a man named Boaz.

Ruth asks for permission to glean in the field.

Boaz notices Ruth and tells his unnamed servant to provide; companionship, protection and refreshment for her.

Boaz also asks the servant to report back to him about Ruth.

Ruth goes home and tells Naomi about Boaz.

Ruth continues to work thru the Barley and Wheat harvest.

Naomi encourages Ruth to pursue Boaz.

Naomi sees Boaz as her “Kinsman Redeemer” (Goel)

- 1) redeem her land

- 2) carry on the lineage of Elimelech

Goel: A Hebrew term for a "kinsman-redeemer" or "avenger of blood," referring to the nearest relative responsible for protecting family interests in ancient Hebrew society. They redeemed family property, bought back relatives from slavery, and avenged murders. The term is used in the Bible to describe God as Israel's redeemer.

Leviticus 25:25

If one of your brethren becomes poor, and has sold some of his possession, and if his redeeming relative comes to redeem it, then he may redeem what his brother sold.

Deuteronomy 25 5-6:

If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be married to a stranger outside the family; her husband's brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her.

And it shall be that the firstborn son which she bears will succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel.

Barley harvest and wheat harvest have ended.

Boaz will be winnowing barley at the threshing floor.

Naomi encourages Ruth to visit the threshing floor.

Ruth goes to the threshing floor and wait's for Boaz to fall asleep.

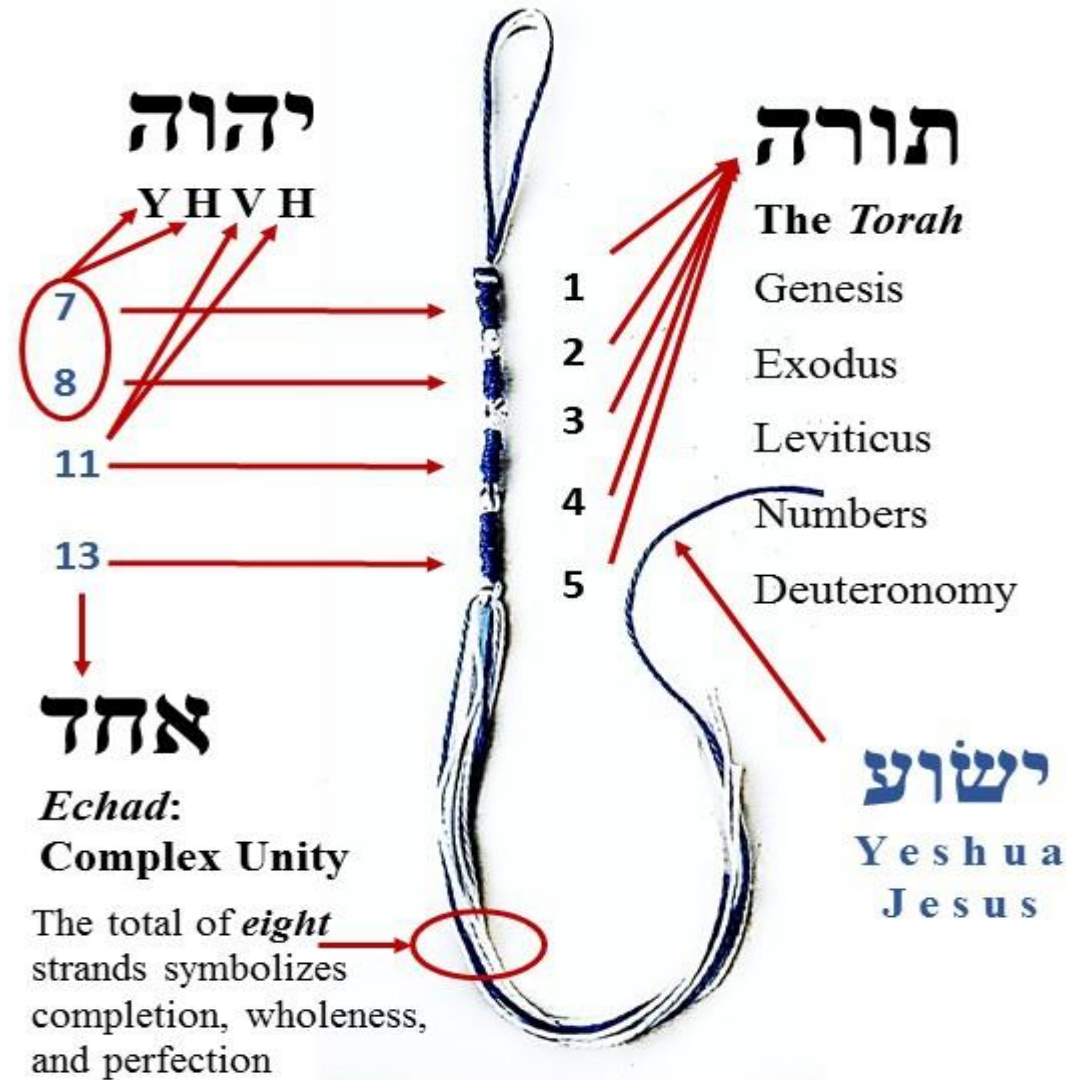
Boaz awakens around midnight to fine Ruth lying at his feet.

Ruth askes Boaz to “take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative”.

(or spread the corner of your garment over your maidservant)



Tzitzit



Boaz acknowledges his responsibility.

But, there is another closer Redeemer.

Boaz meets with the other Redeemer.

The other Redeemer refuses because of Ruth.

Boaz takes Ruth as his wife

They have a son and he is named Obed

Obed becomes the father of Jesse

Jesse becomes the father of David

Prophetic View

Elimelech: A representation of God

Naomi: A representation of the Jewish Nation

Ruth: A picture of the gentile nation (and Jews) that accepts Jesus as messiah.

Orpah: A picture of the gentile nation that rejects Jesus

Boaz: A picture of Jesus

Unnamed Servant: A picture of the Holy Spirit

Mahlon: A picture of the Law

Chilon: A picture of the Prophets

Mahlon marries Ruth

Chilon marries Orpah

According to the Midrash (the teaching of the Rabbis, not scripture) Ruth and Orpah are thought to be sisters, the daughter of King Eglon of Moab (a descendant of King Balak).

Elimelech, Mahlon and Chilon all die:

God had taken Israel as his wife but later gives her a certificate of divorce(Isaiah 54:5 and Hosea 2:19-20), and God also separates Himself from Judah (Jeremiah 3:8)

The Law (Mahlon) and the Prophets (Chilon) are fulfilled by Jesus (Matthew 5: 17-20)

Naomi had taught her two daughter-in-laws, Ruth and Orpah about the God of Israel.

Orpah rejects “God” and decides to stay in Moab with her people and her ‘gods’.

Ruth gladly accepts “God” and goes with Naomi.

Ruth 1:14 and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung (dabaq) to her.

Naomi and Ruth get to Jerusalem, Ruth knows the laws and teachings of God.

The Old Testament (from the Jews) gives gentile believers the knowledge of God.

Gentile believers has been taught about a coming messiah by the teachings of the Jews.

Ruth finds Boaz as believers find Jesus.

Believers, because of the teachings of the Jews, recognize Jesus as the messiah and work in His 'harvest'.

Boaz (Jesus) sees the believers, and sends his un-named servant (holy spirit) to 'watch over' them and report back to him.

The holy spirit provides companionship, protection and nourishment.

Ruth finds Boaz and tells Naomi about him.

The Christians are the one who recognize the messiah, and tell World about Him.

Naomi encourages Ruth to pursue Boaz

The teachings of the Old Testament encourage us to pursue 'relationship' with the messiah Jesus.

Naomi points to Boaz as the 'Redeemer'

The Old Testament point to Jesus as the 'Redeemer'

Boaz will be winnowing barley at the threshing floor.

Tossing barley into the air so that the wind will blow away the chaff.

Ruth asks Boaz to “take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative”

Ezekiel 16:8

“When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine,” says the Lord GOD.

The case of the ‘closer’ relative

The Law

The law is a closer redeemer in terms of legal priority but flawed because it only focuses on the land.

Jesus

Jesus is the better, ultimate Redeemer who fulfils the law's requirements through love rather than mere legal obligation.

Boaz redeems Elimelech and Naomi's land by purchasing back the title deed.

Jeremiah 32: 9-10 So I bought the field from Hanamel, the son of my uncle who was in Anathoth, and weighed out to him the money—seventeen shekels of silver.

And I signed the deed and sealed it, took witnesses, and weighed the money on the scales.

Title deed to the earth:

Genesis 1:26-30, Adam given dominion over the earth, holding the title deed to the earth.

Luke 4:6, Our planet was given over to Satan's ownership in the garden of Eden because of man's sin.

Revelation 5:1 And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

In revelation, the 'scroll' (title deed to the earth) is handed to Jesus.

Jesus breaks the seven seals of the scroll, completing the actions to redeem the earth back to His ownership.

Boaz takes Ruth as his wife.

Jesus takes the believers as his bride.

The marriage supper in Heaven

Revelation 19: 6-9: Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'"

Ruth 1:13, So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife, and when he went in to her, the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son.

Ruth 4:16-17, Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him. Also the neighbor women gave him 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.

Where is Ruth?

Where is Boaz?

The baby is given to Naomi

What was living inside Ruth (the knowledge that Jesus is the messiah) has now been given to the non believing Jews who will come to faith in Jesus Christ during the tribulation.

The rest of the story.....

Paul Harvey

sibling rivalry

Cain and Abel

Jacob and Esau

Joseph and his brothers

Rachel and Leah

Miriam and Aaron against Moses

The Prodigal Son

Isaac and Ishmael

David and Goliath?

Ruth and Orpah ?

Hebrew religious texts:

Written: Torah
Tanakh

Oral:

Talmud (teaching and traditions of the Rabbis)

Midrash (acts as a commentary on scripture)

The Midrash identifies Orpah mentioned in the Book of Ruth with the Raphah (or Harafah), the mother of the four warriors of Gath who appear in 2 Samuel 21, and the Goliath from Gath (Harafah's son), with the Goliath who fought David in 1 Samuel 17. According to this identification, both Goliath and the other warriors are therefore Orpah's children. These men with their special powers were the recompense for the manner in which Orpah parted from Naomi.

Orpah kissed her mother and turned her back.

Ruth clung to her mother and followed her.

Ruth 1:11

*Entreat me not to leave you,
or to turn back from following after you;
For wherever you go, I will go;
And wherever you lodge, I will lodge;
Your people shall be my people,
And your God, my God*

“May the sons of the one who kissed come and fall by the hand of the sons of the one who clung”

Talmud Sotah 42b