

The Book of Ruth – 2026

RUTH 1 – “THE ROMANCE OF REDEMPTION – LOVE’S RESOLVE”

UPDATE: SUMMERBLAST - CHARLIE — 10TH HOUR Dinner Meet-n-Greet Sat, Lunch Sunday...

➤ **Having completed our vs-by-vs study of the Gospel of Matthew we are heading into the book of Acts... however, before we do, we are going to spend a few weeks studying through an Old Testament book that beautifully illustrates the Redemptive plan of God that we just witnessed in the gospel...**

- TODAY we will begin our study of **The Romance of Redemption.... The Book of Ruth**
 - A study of the **Book of Ruth** gives us great insight into the concepts of Harvest and REDEMPTION...
 - We will talk a lot about redemption (rescue, ransom) and what it meant not only for Naomi and Ruth, but for us as well!
 - This beautiful story is an OT foreshadowing of how Jesus came to deliver us from the predicament of our own sin as OUR Kinsman-Redeemer!
 - THIS BOOK is a model of the Redemptive Plan of God for humanity... *with many individual models as well...*

Before we get into the text...

Intro – 1:1-2

- **This is a Fabulous Literary tale...** *so fabulous in fact that even in this world of anti-Christian academics and intellectuals this story is still studied in universities worldwide as a superb example of ancient literature...*
- **It's a cross between** a romance novel & a modern epic but this one is REAL... *nonfiction*

- It's also a TRUE story that had a major impact on the history of the world (through King David and thus Israeli history)
- It also has major implications for future prophecy regarding the Redemption of the Lineage and the Land...

○ At the same time, it is a **charming & classic love story**

- *It's a love story about...* the love between mothers and daughters-in-law.
- *It's a love story about ...* the love between damsels and suitors.
- *It's a love story about ...* the love between Jesus and his bride.

○ **The Ladies** will enjoy it...

- It's a tale of heartbreak followed by romance and then love.
- It's a tale that is told from a woman's perspective (she's the protagonist).
- The world in this tale is a woman's world.
- The author emphasizes feminine values and feelings.
- It's perfect for today because it exalts the view of women while maintaining Biblical truth.

○ **Men will also** appreciate it:

- *It's a tale* of strength & masculine provision.
- *It's a tale* with strong theological & prophetic implications.
- *It's a tale* of Boaz the **KINSMAN-REDEEMER** (in him there is strength).
- *It's a tale* of a Man who is a striking figure who also embodies mercy and kindness (like Jesus).

➤ **This story occurred sometime between the death of Joshua and the ministry of Samuel the Prophet...during the tumultuous time of the Judges 1400-1050 bc**

- It was during that era of the **Judges** where the people of Israel were *more than a family* but not yet a nation.

- *It was a time* where Israel was a loose **confederation of 12 tribes** very similar to our own colonial time... (they even ended up in Civil War).
 - This amazing little book is a book of strength, hope and redemption in a time of relative truth.
 - It was a time where everyone “**did what was right in their own eyes**” as it states in **ch. 21:25**
 - I cannot help but notice the similarities of that time to today... like today, it was the best of times, and simultaneously the worst of times...
- **This tale can easily be divided** into a 4-Scene Drama called **The Romance of Redemption**... (like the interactive dinner theater that our Drama Team will hopefully perform soon!)

Scene 1 = Ch. 1 – *set in Moab* **Love’s Resolve**

Scene 2 = Ch. 2 – *fields of Boaz* **Response**

Scene 3 = Ch. 3 – *threshing floor* **Request**

Scene 4 = Ch. 4 - *set at the city gates* **Reward**

A tale of love... A tale of hope... The Story of Ruth...

Verses 1-2

1 In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. 2 The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there.

➤ **Intro Characters... Elimelech, Naomi, Mahlon, Chilion, Orpah, Ruth...**

➤ **This story takes place in a little place called Bethlehem**

- **You may have heard of it...** LOL>

- This is, of course, where **David's** family is from.
- And because *Jesus' human lineage* came through David, Joseph and Mary had to go to Bethlehem to be counted during the census.
- Thus, Jesus was born in Bethlehem which we talked about extensively in our study of the Gospel of Matthew.
- What you may not be aware of is that *this story* is the reason **WHY** Jesus was born in Bethlehem... this is where it all began!

○ There were two **Bethlehem's** in Israel in different areas. [map]

- **Ephrathah** was an area like a county within Judah (more like a province)
- It is **Ephrathah** that distinguishes THIS Bethlehem from the other one...
- It would be like distinguishing the London in Ontario from the British one or the Paris in Texas from the French one.
- This family was from Bethlehem (the one in Ephrathah). Thus, they were "**ephrathites**" (vs 2). 😊

○ The name **Bethlehem** means "**House of Bread**" and **Judah** means "**Praise**"

- So, there was a Famine in the House of Bread (the irony) and No Praise in the House of Praise!
- When you consider what **Moses** predicted in **Deut 28:20**, Divine Judgement is the likely reason for the famine.
- He'd said, "**The LORD will send on you curses, confusion, and frustration in all that you undertake to do, until you are destroyed and perish quickly on account of the evil of your deeds...**"
- Plus, later in **1:13, 21** Naomi says that it was the LORD whose hand was against her.

➤ **Since there was famine in Judah, they decided to head off to Moab...** [map]

- **Any Jewish person** reading this would instantly cringe, knowing that Moab was not a well-respected place in the Jewish Mindset...
 - IT would be the equivalent of going to “the boondocks” or “Siberia” or “the middle of nowhere”
 - God himself called it a “washbasin,” a “utility sink” the place where the junk gets washed off... [Psalm 60 & 108]
 - Worse, it was a place whose inhabitants were hated by Jews... which makes it more like leaving the US and going to the Middle East or Eastern Europe.
- **Why did they not like Moabites?** *Let's take a look at its history...*
 - The story of Moab began in a cave... ended up in the grave!
 - Way back in **Genesis 19:30-38** we read about Lot and his daughters who were living in a CAVE after the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah...
 - The girls decided that they were the only girls left on earth and daddy, was the only boy left...
 - So what did they do? That's right. They took turns getting Paps drunk and then getting pregnant. OOO... Gross!
 - The children who were born were Moab and Ammon
 - **Moab** means “from father”
 - **Ammon** means “son of my parent”
 - Making matters worse, when the children of Israel were on their way to the Promised Land from Egypt, **Balak** (King of Moab) hired **Balaam** to curse the Israelites - **Numbers 22-24**

- Because of those actions, God through Moses declared that “**No Ammonite or Moabite may enter the assembly of the LORD... even to the 10th generation...**” **Deuteronomy 23:3**
- That was pretty serious in the Jewish mindset.
- **Needless to say**, heading off to Moab was NOT a great idea for a Jew...
 - When they got to Moab, everything just went from bad to worse which is what OFTEN happens when we try to Run from our problems... they follow us!
 - When famine comes and there is no Food in the House of Food (Bethlehem) and no Praise in the House of Praise (Judah)... this is NOT the way deal with it.
 - Don't run off to MOAB... *taking matters into your own fleshly hands Like Lott's daughters did... Don't resort to FLESHLY wisdom or ideas...*
 - Instead, “... **put on the Lord Jesus and make no provision for the flesh and to gratify its desires...**” **Romans 13:14**
 - Instead, walk in the Spirit and trust in the Lord to provide as He does!
- **Learn from the mistakes of this precious family...**
 - Don't run to the world when things go wrong!
 - **Paul** said that the troubles of this life are “**light and momentary afflictions**” which are “**achieving for us an eternal weight of glory that is beyond all comparison...**” **2 Cor 4:17**
 - Don't run, but instead, **DIG IN**... Dig into the Lord and his promises!
 - Turn to God. Trust him. “**Delight yourself in the LORD and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and He will act.**” **Psalms 37:4-5**
 - **Delight** in Him no matter what (“**though he slay me**” **JOB 13:15**).
 - **Commit** your way to Him (like rolling a boulder downhill).

- **He will act.** Believe it. There WILL be FOOD in the House of Praise once again... Just wait for it!
- Abide in Christ as you wait! "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me." **John 15:4**
- Nourish the ROOTS and the fruits will FLOURISH. (Isa 37:30-32)

➤ **Even in this situation of famine, God was working out a major plan of Redemption for them all!**

- Not just for Ruth, but for all Israel through David and ultimately for the **WHOLE WORLD** through the Lord Jesus Christ!
- He truly makes ALL THINGS work together for GOOD for those who love him and are CALLED according to HIS purpose! (ROM 8:28)
- IF only **Elimelech** could've seen this...

That takes us to...

SCENE 1: "Set in Moab" Love's Resolve – 1:3-22

3 But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. 4 These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, 5 and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

➤ **When they were in Moab, bad things began to happen...**

- The first was that **Elimelech died**, leaving his family stranded in a terrible place...
 - You don't want to do as Elimelech did.

- **Proverbs 22:3** says, "The wise man sees danger approaching and takes precautions, but the fool goes on blindly and suffers the consequences."
- Elimelech took his family away from Israel and then left them alone. Of course, he didn't INTEND this, but his actions LED to their isolation.
- After getting stranded in No-man's land, **Mahlon and Chilion** took Moabite Wives...
 - What did you expect them to do there?
 - They would've known the DIRECT command from God through Moses NOT to take Moabite women [**DEUT 23:3**], but did it anyway.
 - Had their father kept them in JUDAH, this would not likely be the case.
 - **Mahlon** means "Sickly, unhealthy" and **Chilion** means "to wither or waste away" This means they were already tending toward sickness and injury but put in this bad situation, they truly "wasted away."
- Moms/ Dads... our journey and choices radically affect our children
 - **Dads** – This is YOUR responsibility... get 'em into the WORD, get the Word into them, whatever it takes! Whatever you do, don't resort to worldliness. It NEVER pays off.
 - **Moms and Dads...** Provide Spiritual M.E.A.L.S. as well as physical.
 - If you don't, the most likely result is SPIRITUAL DEATH!

And so the men had left the ladies in the dessert...

No husbands, no sons... in a VERY patriarchal world...

6 Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the LORD had visited his people and given them food.

➤ **She heard about God's provision and decided to return... Good for her!**

- Moms, when the Dads don't do their Spiritual Job (this happens often), you gotta step in !
- Ten years have gone by... .. but now there's food in the House of Bread... though there isn't Praise just yet!

7 So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. 8 But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. 9 The LORD grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!" Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. 10 And they said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people."

➤ **These ladies had experienced the Fellowship of Suffering...**

- **Those who suffer** together... *become true kindred spirits as well.*
 - Ever talk to an elderly man who fought in WWII? Or brothers who fought in Vietnam? There's a camaraderie unknown among other men. Theirs is a friendship forged in the fires of war that doesn't break easily.
 - When we suffer with other people, it knits our hearts and souls together, especially when we do so while trusting the Lord.
- **Suffering** brings people together.
 - That's why Paul said that "we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings" 2 COR 1:5
 - And that he might "... share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death" Phil 3:10

- This forges us together with JESUS and also as brothers/sisters in Christ.

Naomi and her daughters in law were drawn to stay together...

Vs 11-14

11 But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? 12 Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, 13 would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me.” 14 Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

➤ **Though these pagan Moabites were willing to go with her back to the Land of Praise, Naomi gave them some terrible advice**

- **She told them** to go to their pagan homes!

- With a prime opportunity to instill faith in the Living God, She wavered because of earthly circumstances and urged them to go.
- This meant that they were very UNLIKELY to worship the LORD, but would continue in the Pagan ways of their fathers (see below)

- **This is hard to believe** but Later in the chapter we will see that Naomi (which means “Pleasant”) had become very bitter...

- Rather than admit her own failure, she said that God’s hand was against her (this may or may not be true)
- Either way, her response was incorrect as her faith waned greatly and she encouraged Orpah and Ruth to go away
- While Orpah heeded her advice and went home, Ruth refused

- **Are there any “Moabites”** in my life that are desiring to come to God, but I am missing it? Am I sending them away because of my bitterness and lack of a Biblical Perspective?
 - We need to have a witness that draws people toward God instead of pushing them away.
 - We also need to develop a love for the lost (Evangelism Training)
 - In **Luke 15**, Jesus told 3 **parables about the lost** (sheep, coin, son) where He contrasted his view of the lost to the religious, self-righteous which is often repeated by the church today.
 - We need to love the lost as he loves us. He loves you and works ALL THINGS for good for you (even when we take our lives into our own hands and run off to places like Moab). When they do, we need to love them back JUST as Jesus loves us back.

God was working in Naomi’s life, she just couldn’t SEE IT.

Vs 15-18

15 And she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” 16 But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. 17 Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.” 18 And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

- **Naomi was STILL God’s light to the Gentile woman** (even in disobedience)
 - **This was ALWAYS** God’s plan for the Jews...

- All throughout the OT prophets, they were to be a light to the dark, Gentile world. A light for those walking in darkness...
 - "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone." ISA 9:2
 - This was the Redemptive Plan of God. The Jewish People were "chosen" to display the light of God's love (with the truth) to a lost world.
 - We are called to do the same! **PRAY<INVITE>SERVE.**
- **Rather than doing this, the Jewish People often turned** to a self-righteous racism and care for themselves and disregard (even hatred) for Gentiles.
- Moses himself wrote that the Jews were chosen because of pride, arrogance, stiff-necks **Deut 7,9**
 - He said basically that they are **special because they were CHOSEN... not chosen because they are SPECIAL** (they had it backwards)
 - They were to be the bearers of God's light & His glory to the lost world, but most of them missed it (though not all).
- **Yet RUTH still clung** to Naomi...
- Why? **Love's Resolve** [ROLL CREDITS]
 - **The WORST that God has to offer...**
Is far better than the BEST the world has to offer!
 - Ruth was DRAWN by **the love of God...**
 - The Holy Spirit had DRAWN her to Naomi (**John 6:44**) and nothing short of Heaven could stop it.
 - And she said... "**... where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God**" (**vs 16**)

- Those immortal words repeated so often throughout history. What a great picture of FAITH and TRUST Ruth had in Naomi.
 - God was orchestrating something WAY bigger than both Ruth and Naomi... and all of us in this time of difficulty! Praise God.
- **This is a picture (a type, a model) of what Israel has done for us. Even in their unbelief and disobedience, God has worked through them as his Chosen People to bring about his beautiful Redemptive Plan...**
- Don't ever forget that **Israel and The Church** are very DIFFERENT
 - **We have different origins, different missions, different destinies...** We as a church do NOT replace Israel, but are "**grafted in**" as a wild olive branch to the natural olive tree as **Paul** wrote in **Romans 11**.
 - During this age of the church, we don't REPLACE but we carry on the torch of bringing God's light to a dark and dying world.
 - **John 8:12** – "**I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life**"
 - And when we **SHINE that light** (through compassion, prayer, ministry, evangelism, etc), those who once were pagans may come to say...
 - "**... where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God**" as in Vs 16.
 - So... **PRAY<INVITE>SERVE**.

Vs 19-22 (end)

19 So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women said, "Is this Naomi?" 20 She said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the LORD has testified against

me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?” 22 So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

➤ So Naomi and Ruth came back to the House of Bread and Praise... Bethlehem of Judah...

- They arrived “at the beginning of barley harvest” (vs 22)
 - You may recall that there are Special Feasts of the Lord that can be observed annually by Believers which point us to Christ’s Redeeming Mission...
 - 3 Spring Feasts (Passover, UB, Firstfruits) that were fulfilled by Christ in his 1st Advent... *we just celebrated those*.
 - 1 Summer Feast (Pentecost) that was fulfilled in the church (Acts 2).
 - 3 Fall Feasts (Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Tabernacles) that will be fulfilled by Jesus in his 2nd Advent.
- In this story, they returned at the beginning of the harvest of the barley which happened early during the 3 Spring Feasts (U.B., Passover, Firstfruits).
 - You can imagine how great a celebration Passover was for them that spring because it had been more than a decade of famine in the land.
 - As the priest waved that bundle of the Firstfruits of the harvest, symbolizing the consecration of the entire harvest to God, it must’ve brought such joy to their hearts! (Jesus rose on this day, the “Firstfruits” to rise from the dead!).
 - As we continue in the story, we will see Ruth gleaning in the fields as the laborers gather in the harvest from the Barley Harvest in the spring all the way to the Wheat Harvest which occurred later in the summer.

- **When the priest** waved that first bundle of Barley (an "Omer") before the LORD on Firstfruits in the Spring, it also began a 50-day countdown.
 - The 50th day was celebrated as the Levitical Feast of **Pentecost** in the early days of Summer.
 - It comes the day after 7 sabbaths after Passover. Always on Sunday.
 - We are studying this little book about the harvest WHILE we are in that time period of the counting of the Barley bundles awaiting Pentecost!
 - We will complete this book, begin our study of ACTS and be in ch. 2 which is about the fulfillment of PENTECOST... on **Pentecost 5/24!!!**
 - Praise the Lord.
- **Back to our story...** When they arrived, there was no small commotion...
 - People were talking. The scuttlebutt was rampant
 - Had Naomi and Elimelech returned? Would they reclaim their property after so long?
- **The first thing Naomi** did (like a good strong-willed Jew) was set the record straight...
 - *"Let's get this right from the start*
 - *... stop calling me **Naomi** (that means Pleasant)*
 - *... I've gotta new name... it's **Mara** (that means Bitter)*
 - *... I'm a bitter, middle-aged woman...*
 - *... I Went away Full, and have returned EMPTY*
 - *... cuz the LORD is against me."* WOW!
- Talk about **a backwards perspective...**
 - *THEY were the ones* who had taken their lives into their own hands...
 - *THEY were the ones* who had SOLD their stake in the CHOSEN people of God and his Promised Land...

- ... Ran off to MOAB (the forbidden washbasin in the eyes of God)...
- ... whose husbands had all died...
- And they were full? I don't think so... but they will be! (just wait!)

➤ **Perhaps you identify with her though...**

- "I've served God... but what has it gotten me?"
 - It's gotten me persecution? suffering? dryness? hunger?
 - I've lost my job and more!
- **Hey, I get it...** we moved from here in 2008 because we were trying to become missionaries in the beautiful land of **BRAZIL**...
 - We sold almost everything... prepped for the mission field but could not get the visas approved... ended up working for a temp agency for pennies in CA and then suffered the darkest year of my adult life!
 - **I wanted to give up. I wanted to throw in the towel. I thought God was done with me in the ministry.** I felt like we went to MOAB!!!
 - WOW! What a WRONG perspective!!!
- **Then the Lord spoke Psalm 66:10-12** to me...
 - **66** – "For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried. 11 You brought us into the net... we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance."
 - We've since received plenty of Abundance... in Everett and being HERE in this beautiful place!
 - Hallelujah! We've come back to the house of Bread and Praise!
 - Praise the Lord!

➤ **Even so... God was STILL working on the behalf of embittered Naomi!**

- God is working by his GRACE as he ALWAYS does...

- We don't deserve it, we don't earn it. GRACE.
 - If God was judging... WE'd ALL be dead
 - God was NOT afflicting her but rather using HER bad decisions for her own ultimate good.
 - She was suffering the consequences of her own actions, but God was working behind the scenes to **REDEEM** her mistakes and bring her back to the House of Bread and Praise
 - Because HIS LOVE is even Greater and has More Resolve, than our SIN
- **He was about** to take her EMPTINESS and fill her up...

If you want to see what he does, you'll have to come back next week (or read ahead)...

Conclusion

➤ **Conclusion**

- **Love's Resolve**... Set in Mob... Ch. 1
- God's love for us... God loving others THROUGH us...

➤ **This story of Redemption is a model of OUR story of Redemption....** *Paying the purchase price*

- Just as we will see **Boaz** provide redemption for this despised Moabitess, **Jesus Christ** provided spiritual redemption for us...
- This is Good News... Jesus Christ gave his life to provide redemption... He paid the ransom... giving his own life...
- In so doing, he has supplied eternal to all who would receive it as a **FREE GIFT**... it's not something you can **earn or deserve**. **ROM 6:23**

➤ Perhaps YOU have never made the important decision to surrender your life to JESUS as Lord and Savior... You can do that today and I'll tell you how in just 4 amazing words!

- **People** have *a problem...* we are all sinful and sin separates us from God, creating an impassable rift between us and Him... [ROM 3:23 / ISA 59:2]
- That put's **God** in *a difficult situation...* God is a Loving Father and doesn't want to punish us, but he is also a Righteous Judge who must punish all sin... that's a serious dilemma... [JER 31:3 / 1 JN 4:7-8 / EXO 34:7]
- **JESUS** is *the solution...* God sent JESUS to die on the cross to close that rift between us by paying the penalty for our sin (sacrifice) [JN 3:16]
God also raised JESUS from the grave providing victory over sin and death, giving us Eternal Life [ROM 1:3-4] CELL PHONE ILL.
- **Faith** is *the response...* we can respond by placing our faith in what Jesus has accomplished on our behalf and receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life. It's like lifting empty hands to receive the **free gift**. [ACTS 16:31 / ROM 6:23]
- The Bible says that if you "**confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**" ROM 10:9
- Would YOU like to receive this gift, the FORGIVENESS of sins and eternal life from Jesus Christ right now?
 - **Admit... Believe... Choose, Confess, Commit.**
 - "**Prayer of Faith**" and **John 6:47**

Please talk with us or even contact us at info@calvarycreekside.com because we would LOVE to help you grow in the faith!