

The Book of Ruth – 2026

RUTH 2 – “THE ROMANCE OF REDEMPTION – LOVE’S RESPONSE”

UPDATE:

- **TODAY** we will continue 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...
 - 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!

Before we get into the text...

Review

- **This is a Fabulous Literary tale that occurred sometime between the death of Joshua and the ministry of Samuel the Prophet... during that *tumultuous era of the book of Judges...***
 - **It is an amazing** little book of strength, hope and redemption in a time of relative truth where everyone “**did what was right in their own eyes**” **21:25**
 - This is the Story of Ruth... **The Romance of Redemption!**
 - **It can easily be divided** into a 4-Scene Drama...

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 - the city council (gates) Reward**

- The Major Participants thus far...
 - **Naomi** (wife of Elimelech RIP)
 - **Ruth** (widow of Mahlon RIP - 4:10)

- Last time we studied **Ch. 1 = Scene 1 – set in Moab... Love's Resolve**
- **Elimelech and his family** left the House of Bread and Praise to go away from the presence of the LORD, to the land of Moab (utility sink)
 - After the men died, Ruth and Naomi discovered that **there was food again** in the house Bread (not praise yet)
 - So, Naomi decided to return... encouraging Ruth/Orpah to stay...
 - Ruth's resolve was steadfast, and she said, "**Where you go, I will go. Your people will be my people and your God will be my God.**"
 - So, Ruth and Naomi returned to Judah at the beginning of the Barley harvest, but Pleasant Naomi had become bitter Mara...
 - This was all because **God was orchestrating** something WAY bigger than Ruth and Naomi... He was preparing a great **Plan of Redemption**.

That brings us to Ch. 2 ...

SCENE 2: *set in the fields of Boaz in Bethlehem...*

Love's Response – 2:1-23

2:1-3

READ SLOWLY!

1 Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. **2** And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter." **3** So she set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech.

➤ **Keep an Eye out for Prophetic TYPES...**

- What is a **Prophetic Type**?
 - It's like a **model** or a **prototype**... (a concept car before the actual).
 - When it comes to prophecy, **we** typically have a Western Mindset where we see a prophecy followed by a fulfillment.
 - The ancient **Jewish Mindset** was that prophecy was more of a **pattern** of fulfillment with the ultimate fulfillment by the Messiah himself!
 - So, in this book, we will see that though the characters are real people who lived their lives centuries ago, they are also acting out **prophetic models**.
- Here are some **examples**:
 - **Ruth** is a model of **the Church** (as the gentile bride of Christ)
 - **Naomi** is a model of **Israel** (the one who introduced Ruth to God)
 - **BOAZ** introduced here in **ch. 2**, is a model of **Jesus as Our Redeemer**
 - Boaz means "**In him there is strength**"
 - **The temple had two Pillars** in Solomon's Portico – **1 Kings 7:21**
 - The Southern pillar was named "**Jachin**" which means "**He will establish**" and the Northern pillar was "**Boaz**" ("strength").
 - It's a model of the Lord Jesus who established the strength of our Redemption by his precious blood on the cross!

➤ **In Vs 2, Ruth said to Naomi, "**Let me go to the field and glean**"**

- Let's take a look at what that means as seen in other passages.
 - **Deuteronomy 24:19** says, "**19** **When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands...**" **Vs 19** [Also in **Leviticus 19:9-10**]

- God instructed them (through Moses) to provide for the poor during harvest time by leaving the corners/edges for them to come and GLEAN. No second sweeps.
- The poor were allowed to go out and gather it for themselves which was a great **form of welfare** because they received charity, but they had to WORK for it...

➤ **So, Ruth went out to glean in the fields of Bethlehem...**

- She "**happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz...**" (vs 3)... We know that nothing just happens... *coincidence isn't a Kosher word!*
 - This is the author using irony to draw the reader's attention to the Providential Purpose of God in this story.
 - God is at work... He had a **Divine Design** for these two to meet this day... and all of history rests upon their engaging one another!
- WHAT'S **YOUR** STORY?
 - How'd you meet your sweetheart? It was *no accident*. I'm sure you could tell me all about it... I know I could tell you how I came to know my Bride of more than 30 years, every detail! [PICS]
 - But this isn't so much about our HUMAN sweethearts as it is about the Great Bridegroom and his bride, the Church!
- **How'd you come to know the Lord Jesus?**
 - How'd you end up Gleaning in **HIS** field?
 - What brought you out of that DIRTY WASHBASIN (Moab) and into the fields of his Amazing Grace?
 - This IS YOUR **personal testimony**.
 - We all have them, and they're all great in their own way.

- In one sense, they're all the same because we are ALL sinners in need of salvation! In another sense, they're all different with each story of HOW we came to surrender to JESUS!
- God is good! He saved a wretch like me!
- And we all have a very similar FUTURE... spending eternity in the presence of our Lord Jesus because of his GRACE. Wow.
- It all started way back before the foundations of the world but the **Book of Ruth** is a major part of the tale of REDEMPTION...

2:4-7

4 And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, "The LORD be with you!" And they answered, "The LORD bless you." 5 Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?" 6 And the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, "She is the young Moabite woman, who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. 7 She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers.' So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest."

- **Boaz arrived** in the fields from the city to check in on his harvest...
 - **Notice the way Boaz** interacted with his workers...
 - They all blessed one another in the name of the LORD
 - The way that he related to them just shows a meekness of character
 - **Jesus** said, "42... 'You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those in high positions act as tyrants over them. 43 But it is not so among you. On the contrary, whoever wants to become great among you will be your servant, 44 and whoever wants to be first among you will be a slave to all. 45 For

even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." **Mark 10:42-45**

- I see Boaz setting THIS example... I strive to follow this example. Jesus said if I want to be a leader then I need to serve. This is the OPPOSITE of the way the world works but it's HIS model. He is the Greatest and he is also the greatest servant.
- What about you? When you lead, do you use the world's metrics or do you follow the model (and commandment!) of Jesus???
- **He also noticed Ruth** immediately...
 - He was like, "**Whose young woman is this?**" (vs 5)
 - Bethlehem was a small town (still is). The suitors for a man who was a bit old to STILL be single (especially in this culture) were few and far between.
 - He took an immediate and significant interest in this newcomer from Moab rather than looking down on her as a despicable Moabitess...
 - That is the DEFINITION of Grace... "underserved, unmerited favor" and it's what God has given us as well.
- Isn't that what **OUR Boaz** did for us?
 - Even though we were lost in sin, without God, without hope, enemies of the Lord... (**EPH 1**) he displayed his everlasting love for us.
 - "**God demonstrated his own love toward us in this, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**" **Romans 5:8**
 - **Paul** also said, "**God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.**"NLT **Eph 1:4-5**

- IT feels good to be loved in spite of ourselves, doesn't it? For those who don't feel loved by a parent or child or friend or, God-forbid, a spouse... **GOD LOVES YOU** with an everlasting love (**JER 31:3**).

2:8-9

READ SLOWLY!

8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. 9 Let your eyes be on the field that they are reaping, and go after them. Have I not charged the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn."

- **Boaz had seen LOVE'S RESOLVE in Ruth... Now he gave LOVE'S RESPONSE**
 - **He instantly commanded** that she be shown Grace, that she be provided for and protected in her gleaning.
 - He encouraged her to stay with his "young women."
 - These were his female field workers who would tie the cut grain stalks together to be picked up.
 - He wanted her to stick close to them and glean in their field.
 - **He knew that God was blessing** her because He had guided her to HIS field for gleaning... *He knew that "coincidence is NOT a kosher word..."*
 - Boaz knew that if Ruth stayed in his fields, she would be blessed, because he was going to make certain of it!
 - HE also knew that she would find companionship, protection and even refreshment when thirsty, because he would provide it!
 - That's EXACTLY what He does for us! He always has OUR best at heart and when we stay in HIS field, He watches over us, but its our choice!

Let's see her response...

2:10-13

10 Then she fell on her face, bowing to the ground, and said to him, “Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?”
11 But Boaz answered her, “All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. 12 The LORD repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!” 13 Then she said, “I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, though I am not one of your servants.”

➤ Notice the **Humble attitude of RUTH**

- **While Naomi** was more inclined to say, “Why has all this happened to me?” as in, “I’m better than this!”... Ruth asked, “Why have I found favor?” as in, **I’m unworthy of this!**
 - She knew that foreigners in general were not treated that well
 - She recognized that she was receiving “unmerited favor”
- **This is God’s Grace**
 - We normally speak of Grace in the Greek because of the NT (Charis).
 - This is *khane* (Hannah), the Hebrew form of Charis.
 - **Underserved, unmerited favor**. God is good!
- **Why would Boaz** favor Ruth?
 - The text does not clue us in to her beauty (or lack thereof) like Sarah and Rebecca
 - You can imagine she was pretty ragged from working in the fields, sweating, dirty, disheveled...
 - AND she was a foreigner... a MOABITE... *even a Moabites?*

- This was unheard of, as most Jews simply despised all Moabites. Yet, like the **Love Song of Solomon**, all Boaz saw was beauty!
- **Illustration** – In **2 Samuel 9** the narrative tells how David treated Saul's grandson through Jonathan with Grace. **Mephibosheth** was a lame man dwelling in the land of nothing, but David said, "Don't be afraid... since I intend to show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all your grandfather Saul's fields, and you will always eat meals at my table." [vs 7] To which Mephibosheth replied, "What is your servant that you take an interest in a dead dog like me?"
 - As the old hymn goes... **"Grace, Grace, God's Grace... Grace that is greater than all our sin."**
 - Let's sing that chorus...

Grace grace God's grace; Grace that will pardon and cleanse within
Grace grace God's grace; Grace that is greater than all my sin
- **Of course**, Boaz still had heard of **Ruth's Resolve**...
 - She had made the decision to abandon her people, her culture, her paganism... and come to serve the Lord God of Naomi
 - Remember, as I said last time, Ruth realized that the worst in the kingdom of God is better than the Best the world has to offer!
- So, he told her about it...
 - He said, "**The LORD repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!**" (vs 12)
 - "The imagery is probably that of a tiny bird snuggling under the wings of a foster-mother. It gives a picture of trust and security."
 - Compare the following verses:

- **Psalm 17:8** "... hide me in the shadow of your wings ..."
 - **36:7** "... People take refuge in the shadow of your wings. ..."
 - **63:7-8** "... you are my helper; I will rejoice in the shadow of your wings. I follow close to you; ... "
- She was a new believer in the Lord! A Gentile convert who had come to take refuge in the LORD, God of Israel!
- **Boaz recognized this...** *And treated her like a new believer should be treated... with grace and respect, regardless as to her ethnicity or origin.*
 - Boaz showed her the kindness and encouragement a young believer in the LORD needs.
 - And this was the exact kind of girl he, as an older single man, was looking for, not a girly of the world, but one who loved the LORD
 - As **DC Talk** once sang (or rapped)...

Well I'm lookin' for a girl who virtuous
Cause God laid it on my heart to search for this
So I open up the Word to the book of Proverbs
The 31st chapter tells me all about her
Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain
A woman who fears the Lord, she ain't playin'
Hear what I'm sayin', cause I'm sayin' it clearly
She's the kinda girl I gots to have near me

2:14-16

14 And at mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come here and eat some bread and dip your morsel in the wine." So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed to her roasted grain. And she ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over. 15 When she rose to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among

the sheaves, and do not reproach her. 16 And also pull out some from the bundles for her and leave it for her to glean, and do not rebuke her.”

➤ **Boaz had already extended great kindness and favor to Ruth**

- It would have been enough to simply invite her to join them
 - He took it a step further, though, by inviting her to share fully in the meal, even the privilege of dipping, which was unusual.
 - This was, in a way, their **First DATE**
- Notice what they were having for Supper... **Bread & Wine** [pic]
 - **Your translation may sour “vinegar”**... This was **chometz** which was a wine that was made from SOUR grapes (not sweet ones).
 - They offered this to Jesus on the Cross, not regular wine.
- It is a **Picture of Communion**
 - Jesus associated the bread with his sinless body.
 - He associated the wine with his spilled blood on the cross.
 - This obviously furthers the prophetic picture of Christ in Boaz.

➤ **Boaz went Above & Beyond in his provision for Ruth**

- **He told his men to: “Let her glean even among the sheaves... pull out some from the bundles for her... and do not rebuke her.” Vs 15-16**
 - This was above & beyond what the law required in **Deut** & **Lev**...
 - **Romans 8:3** says, “**For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do...**”
 - It’s as if he were saying to put ‘em right in front of her... so that she’ll walk right into them... rather than having to gather them herself

- This reminds me of what Paul said about the church, "**We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which he prepared in advance for us to walk in.**" **Ephesians 2:10**
- **He does the work, we just walk in it...**
- **These are the kinds of things** we need to do for new believers...
 - Let's set them up for Spiritual Success, not put them down for mistakes of the flesh!
 - **Charles Spurgeon** told his congregation, "**I want you to make a point of looking out for the young converts, and speaking to them goodly words, and comforting words, whereby they may be cheered and strengthened.**"
 - New believers are coming to CALVARY through Evangelism! Let's build them up and encourage them! Learn from their excitement. Send them out to share.
 - Pray about joining our **Evangelism Training / Visitation Team!**

2:17-19

17 So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. 18 And she took it up and went into the city. Her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. She also brought out and gave her what food she had left over after being satisfied. 19 And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you." So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz."

➤ **Ruth completed her work and went home to her mother-in-law...**

- She had gathered **about an ephah** which equated to about a **5-gallon bucket full of grain...**

- This was at least a two-week supply for two women!
- It was quite a haul, especially for the first day!
- **Naomi was shocked...** “Hoy vey, what a big haul! Look at all this!”
 - Remember... she had been very bitter.
 - So bitter in fact, that she changed her name from “**Naomi**” (which means “*Pleasant*”) to “**Mara**” (which means “*bitter*”)
 - She clearly didn’t expect Ruth to come home with so much
 - She probably was grumbling about it all day long!
 - She said... ““**Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you.**” Vs 19
 - She recognized that their fortunes were changing and she took notice
- Christians used this as a greeting at one time, “**Where have you been gleaning today?**”
 - The reference was to where they had been reading **God’s Word** and what he was speaking to them about
 - We ought to REVIVE this, especially today!
 - **Tony Clark** – When I first began attending Calvary Chapel in Vista, CA there was a youth pastor there named Tony Clark. He would always ask me, “Whatcha been reading, bro?” I began to avoid him because I didn’t want to answer that question until one day I was greatly convicted and began to read my Bible and then seek him out instead!

Vs 20

20 And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “May he be blessed by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!” Naomi also said to her, “The man is a close relative of ours, one of our redeemers.”

- **Let's talk about the background & historical context of REDEMPTION**
- **Redemption** is not NEW to us
 - Let's talk about **WHAT IT IS NOT**
 - It's NOT when a player misses a wide-open TD catch in the 1st quarter and then gets another chance for "*redemption*" in the 4th quarter
 - That's **RECOVERY**, not redemption...
 - Biblical definition – to RANSOM someone (or something) at a price
 - In the book of Ruth, the reader is assumed to fully understand the Hebrew culture of Redemption & Levirate Marriage...
 - **Moses had written**, "**If your brother becomes poor and sells part of his property, then his nearest redeemer shall come and redeem what his brother has sold..."** **Leviticus 25:25**
 - The book of Jeremiah has a detailed example of the redemption process - **Jeremiah 32:6-15**
 - **Moses also gave them** the closely related law of **Levirate Marriage** regarding any widows who were left without children (heirs to property)...
 - "5 "If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the dead man shall not be married outside the family to a stranger. Her husband's brother shall go in to her and take her as his wife and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her. 6 And the first son whom she bears shall succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel"
Deuteronomy 25:5-6
 - With these two laws, the man who was the nearest kinsman was called the **GOEL**, or **Kinsman Redeemer**

- He was the only one qualified to redeem both the bride of the lost brother as well as his forfeited property (land and lineage)
- A scroll was written and sealed with the *information* on the inside and the *qualifications* on the outside...
- **Boaz WAS a kinsman** who could redeem!

➤ **With all this coming together in Divine Providence, Naomi's Perspective was CHANGING dramatically!**

- **Her hard heart** was getting softer by the minute!
 - She was starting to understand what God was doing...
 - The ax was beginning to swing at that **root of bitterness.**
 - **"Make sure that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no root of bitterness springs up, causing trouble and defiling many ..."**
Heb 12:15
- **Remember how they had left** the House of Bread and Praise because there was no food and no praise?
 - And how they'd heard that there was FOOD again in the House of Food, but not quite PRAISE yet?
 - Naomi's **bitter root was being chopped** by the Grace of God
 - She ALMOST praised the LORD here, not quite
- But that **praise is coming!**
 - This isn't the same woman, she's being transformed by God's grace!
 - She is starting to see that all things REALLY DO work together for good for those who love God and are called according to HIS purpose... *Even through tragedy, mistakes... and bitterness!*
 - If you are in a state of bitterness, just TURN from it now... God WILL work it out! Let it go!

21 And Ruth the Moabite said, “Besides, he said to me, ‘You shall keep close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.’” 22 And Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, “It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, lest in another field you be assaulted.” 23 So she kept close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

➤ **One last thing...**

- 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)
 - **1 Summer Feast** (Pentecost)
 - **3 Fall Feasts** (Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Tabernacles)
- This story took place **DURING the Spring and Summer Feasts**
 - The **Barley Harvest** occurred during the Spring Feasts = **Firstfruits**
 - The **Wheat Harvest** during the Summer Feast = **Pentecost**
 - **The Book of Ruth** is read at Pentecost which is fulfilled by *THE CHURCH of which RUTH is a type (model)*
 - We are currently in that time between Firstfruits and Pentecost.

*If you want to see what happens, you’ll have to come back next week
(or GLEAN ahead)... In conclusion...*

Conclusion

➤ **So far we’ve seen...**

- **Scene 1** – *Moab...* Love's Resolve – **Ch. 1**
 - **Scene 2** – *the fields of Boaz...* Love's Response – **Ch. 2**
- **This story of Redemption is a model of OUR story of Redemption....** *Paying the purchase price on our behalf...*
- OUR **Kinsman Redeemer, Jesus Christ**, provided redemption for us who are like despised Moabites, and will return to provide physical redemption... *He paid the price with his BLOOD!*
 - 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**
- **The Bible says that you can KNOW that you have eternal life, not based on anything that YOU have done, but based FULLY on what Jesus Christ accomplished on the cross of Calvary!**
- **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 Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."
- Would YOU like to receive this gift, the FORGIVENESS of sins and eternal life from Jesus Christ right now?
 - **A**dmit... **B**elieve... **C**hoose, 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!