

Ruth, Naomi and the Kinsman-Redeemer

December 21

Judges is the book of “no king” (Judges 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25). First Samuel is the book of “man’s king,” when God gave Saul to Israel because they asked for him. (Things will get so bad in our world that the nations will one day cry out for a king to feed them and protect them. *That king will appear; and we call him the Antichrist.*) But 1 Samuel isn’t the end of the story. 2 Samuel is the book of *God’s king!* David did appear on the scene, and he did (and will) establish the kingdom in the name of the Lord. Likewise, when man’s king has done his worst, God’s King will appear, judge this evil world, put away ungodliness, and then establish His glorious kingdom.

Overview of the book of Ruth! Famine, moved, death, no hope, potential hope, hope realized!

I spoke to the prophets, gave them many visions and told parables through them. Hosea 12:10

The account of Ruth:

1) Fading Hope – Ruth 1

Death of both **Naomi** and **Ruth’s** husbands

They had no money and no food and heard things were better in Bethlehem, so off they went, husbandless and childless.

Orpah **leaves**, Ruth goes **willingly**

Ruth clings to Naomi in a sevenfold proposal, Ruth 1:16-17

Where you **go** I will go

Where you **stay** I will stay

Your **people** will be my people

Your **God** will be my God

Where you **die** I will die

Where are **buried** I will be buried

Lord deal with me if anything other than death separates us

Hope was fading for both Naomi and Ruth though Ruth had committed to Naomi and to her God.

*So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, “Can this be Naomi?”²⁰ “Don’t call me Naomi,” she told them. “Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter.²¹ 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 1:19-21***

Without **Jesus** our hope fades fast, without committing our self to God and His plan we have no **hope**.

God can and will use all circumstances and choices to accomplish His purposes.

2) A Glimmer of Hope- Ruth 2:1-18

Ruth began gleaning in a field – (Lev 19:9-10) pick up the left over’s (it has been called the welfare of the time). They now had food!

By “chance” she ended in Boaz field, a relative of Naomi- most likely Elimelech’s brother

Boaz name- “In him there is strength”

Coincidence- When God is working **undercover**

Notice that in chapter 2 Boaz is already showing Ruth favor and notice what he says in verse 12.

Boaz tells her not to:

Glean in another field

Boaz:

Offers her a **drink** of water

Feeds her

Protection

2:8- The invitation is extended- Boaz is seeking out Ruth

2:10- Grace recognized by Ruth

Preparing to come to the kinsman redeemer- When someone sold a property “to pay debts, or whatever “ the transaction was what we would view as a lease: there were provisions for the land to eventually return to the family. A title deed included the terms that a kinsman of the family could perform to redeem the property to the family. Making the appeal to the kinsman redeemer-There was also an unusual procedure to assure the continuation of a family in the event of the death of a husband without issue. If a widow had no son, she could request the next of kin to take her and raise children to continue the family bloodline.

Boaz is a type of **Jesus**, our kinsman redeemer

Ruth is a type of the **Church**

Naomi is a symbol of **Israel**

It is from this background that we understand Naomi’s opportunity in Ruth 3. Naomi realizes that Boaz is a kinsman; therefore, there was an opportunity to regain the family properties lost by her deceased husband 10 years earlier *and* also a chance for Ruth to have a new life. Naomi instructs Ruth on how to proceed.

With the Lord’s people there is always a glimmer of hope and more.

3) **Hope Anticipated-** Ruth 2:19-3:5

3:9 an invitation to marry----remember in chapter 2 Boaz had already shown interest and now the ball was in Ruth’s court, there had to be a move on her part. Ruth knows Boaz is their potential Kinsman redeemer.

No matter how much Boaz loved and care for Ruth he had to wait for **her** move.

Naomi is faced with 3 issues! 1) How could the name of Elimelech (her late husband) be maintained among the tribes of Israel since her sons were now dead? 2) What steps should be taken to protect her inheritance, which Elimelech had left in Naomi’s trust? 3) How could she provide rest and security for her faithful daughter in law? A marriage between Ruth and Boaz would solve all 3. Naomi would renounce her own claim to Boaz as the close relative, and give it to Ruth, the younger widow.

Ruth sees there is hope she comes to Boaz for marriage Ruth 3:1-14. Kinsman Redeemer- she returns the love and puts her hope in the only one that can bring hope, Boaz, her Kinsman Redeemer

Later I passed by, and when I looked at you and saw that you were old enough for love, I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your naked body. I gave you my solemn oath and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Sovereign LORD, and you became mine.

Ezekiel 16:8

4) **Hope Realized-** Ruth 4

Boaz confronts the other potential kinsman redeemer- another “potential” redeemer- the law (3:12)!

Marriage of Ruth and Boaz and Naomi redeemed

God’s beautiful plan. He waits for us. He has invited us; He has shown His love to us in Jesus, the baby in a manger that ended up on the cross for you and me. Come celebrate Jesus, our Kinsman Redeemer –
Ruth 4:13-22