

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY NOTES

Grace and Peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;... 2 Peter 1:2

A Revelation of the Book of Ruth

The Love of God in Action

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Ruth 1:1-5 Now it came about in the days when the judges governed, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the land of Moab with 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, Ephrathites of Bethlehem in Judah. Now they entered the land of Moab and remained there.

3 Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left with her two sons. **4** They took for themselves Moabite women [as] wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. And they lived there about ten years.

5 Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died, and the woman was bereft of her two children and her husband.

- **The Book of Ruth is all about the revealing of the hidden things of God**
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- **And it opens up with this very revealing line:**
- **Now came about in the days when the judges governed...**
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- **The Book of Judges ends with this famous scripture**

Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

- **Very similar as the days we are living in today**
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- **Naomi and the characters the Lord used in this book represent the remnant**
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- **Even in ungodly times there remains a godly remnant**
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- **This book is all about how the eyes and heart of the Lord are always concerned about the welfare of His remnant**

Ruth 1:8 And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. ...

Ruth 1:12 "Return, my daughters! Go, for I am too old to have a husband. If I said I have hope, if I should even have a husband tonight and also bear sons,

Ruth 1:13 would you therefore wait until they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? ***No, my daughters; for it is harder for me than for you, for the hand of the LORD has gone forth against me.***"

- **Here we see the revealing of the brokenness of Naomi**

- She unfortunately was under the impression that all these terrible things happened to her because the Lord was angry with her and that His hand was against her
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- There are many who are going through difficult times in their lives, that believe it or not, are tempted to feel the way Naomi did...

Ruth 1:14-15 And they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. **15** Then she said, "Behold, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and her gods; return after your sister-in-law."

Ruth 1:16-17 But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you [or] turn back 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 I will be buried. Thus may the LORD do to me, and worse, if [anything but] death parts you and me."

The name Ruth- means friend:

- Ruth knew there was no way Naomi would survive this journey on her own
- She knew Naomi needed a friend, one that would stick closer than a brother
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- I know some brethren that are going through horrific things,
- Things which make no sense at all and things for which they are not in the least responsible for
- Bad things can happen to the best of people
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- Difficult times and challenging circumstances can come, and at times do, to the Godliest of people
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- There is of course no shortage of whisperers
- Those who are quick to lay the blame at the feet of the suffering
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- If they had faith like me... etc., etc.

This book focusses on Ruth's lovingkindness towards Naomi and How God responds to Ruth's Lovingkindness:

- Ruth had the heart of the Father and she acted on it...

This book is all about how God wants us to behave toward one another and how in turn He will respond to your behavior

- May this serve as an example to all of us

There is a New Testament Verse for this very thing:

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies *and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction* so that *we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*

2 Corinthians 1:5 For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.

Comfort: Para-klay-sis

- Interesting, how the Greek word for comfort is almost Identical to the Greek word for the ministry of the Holy Spirit

- **Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as a Para-Kletos -Helper, one Who stands beside**
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- **While comfort, Para-Klay-sis, is the word used for the comfort, strength, encouragement and help that comes from the one who stands beside you**
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- **We need more para-kletos in our lives**
- **We need more of the kind of People who stand beside us in our difficult times**
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- **Not that throw fiery darts at us when we need them the most is the word used**

Ruth 2:1-2 Now Naomi had a kinsman of her husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. **2** And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after one in whose sight I may find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."

Ruth 2:3 So she departed and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers; and she happened to come to the portion of the field belonging to Boaz,...

Here is here the Book of Ruth Reveals how the eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous:

Ruth 2:4-5 Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem... **5** Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?"

- **Boaz represents the Kinsman Redeemer, The Lord Jesus Himself**

Ruth 2:6 The servant in charge of the reapers replied, "She is the young Moabite woman who returned with Naomi from the land of Moab."

Ruth 2:8-9 Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Listen carefully, my daughter. Do not go to glean in another field; furthermore, do not go on from this one, but stay here with my maids. **9** "Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Indeed, I have commanded the servants not to touch you. When you are thirsty, go to the water jars and drink from what the servants draw."

Ruth 2:10 Then she fell on her face, bowing to the ground and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your sight that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?"

Listen to this:

Ruth 2:11-12 Boaz replied to her, "All that you have done for your mother-in-law after the death of your husband has been fully reported to me, and how you left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and came to a people that you did not previously know. **12** "May the LORD reward your work, and your wages be full from the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to seek refuge."

- **Here it is**
- **The Lord see's everything, every sacrifice, every labor of love that we show to His Godly ones**

Ruth continues to Para-klaysis. comfort. Naomi just like 2 Corinthians instructs us to do:

Ruth 2:17-18 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** She took [it] up and went into the city... She also took [it] out and gave Naomi what she had left (of her meal) after she was satisfied.

- **Ruths loving-kindness begins to bring a positive transformation into the life of Naomi**
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- **Just as it always will when we show the lovingkindness of God towards those who need a Parakletos, one to stand beside them, in their life**

Ruth 2:19-20 Her mother-in-law then said to her, "Where did you glean today and where did you work?... she said, "The name of the man with whom I worked today is Boaz." **20** Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "May he be blessed of the LORD who has not withdrawn his kindness to the living and to the dead." Again Naomi said to her, "The man is our relative, he is one of our closest relatives."

- **Naomi is beginning to see that the Lord has not forsaken her**
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 - **Naomi begins to realize that Lord is comforting her and revealing His loving-kindness to her through Ruth**
- And now Naomi, who was the one needing comfort and help, begins to now become a helper to Ruth:**

Ruth 3:1 Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you?"

Ruth 3:2 "Now is not Boaz our kinsman, with whose maids you were? Behold, he winnows barley at the threshing floor tonight. ... **4** "It shall be when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies, and you shall go and uncover his feet and lie down; then he will tell you what you shall do."

Ruth 3:8-9 It happened in the middle of the night that the man was startled and bent forward; and behold, a woman was lying at his feet. **9** He said, "Who are you?" And she answered, "I am Ruth your maid. So spread your covering over your maid, for you are a close relative."

- **Right here, in the very center of this story, is a type of one giving their whole heart to the Lord**

Listen carefully to what Boaz say's, remembering he is a type of Christ:

Ruth 3:10 Then he said, "May you be blessed of the LORD, my daughter. You have shown your last kindness to be better than the first by not going after young men, whether poor or rich.

- **At a time when everyone was doing what was right in their own eyes, serving God according to their view**
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- **Ruth continues to show her Godliness in following the ways of the Lord rather than the lust of her heart...**

Boaz goes on to say:

11 "Now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you whatever you ask, for all my people in the city know that you are a woman of excellence.

- **Though there is nothing we can do to earn salvation**
- **There remains plenty we can do to show ourselves people of excellence in eyes of the Lord**

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- Boaz said that my people know you are a woman of excellence...
- I have said this many times, when we live a life of excellence even the angels take notice, and a realm of favor surrounds us in the realm of the spirit

In conclusion:

Ruth 4:13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife, and he went in to her. And the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. ... **14** Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed is the LORD who has not left you without a redeemer ...**15** "May he also be to you a restorer of life and a sustainer of your old age; *for your daughter-in-law, who loves you and is better to you than seven sons*, has given birth to him."

Look at what change of events can happen in a person's life if we just choose to become a comforter to them:

Ruth 4:16 Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her lap and became his nurse.