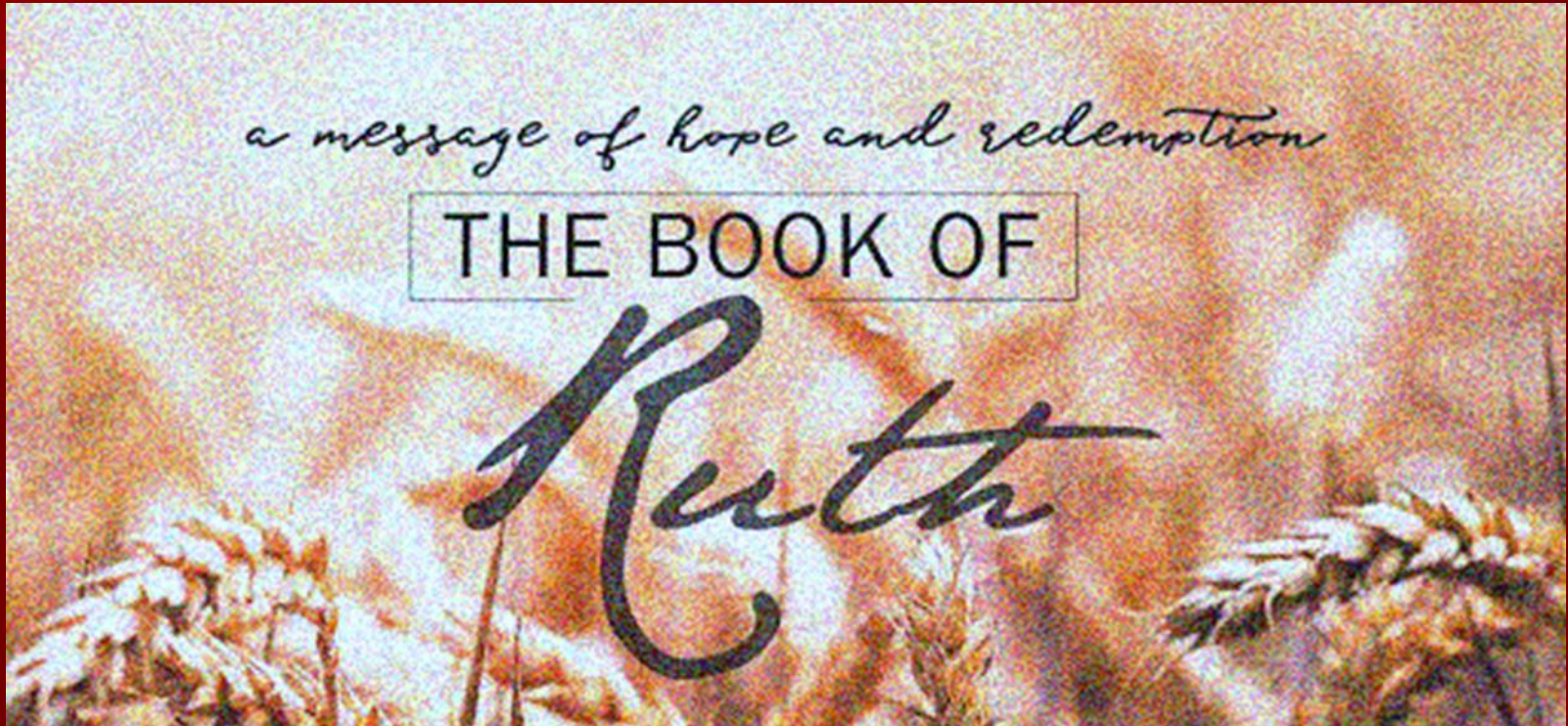


Message



Neal Parker

Significance – Book of Ruth

■ Background

- The story is set in the time of the judges, a time characterized in the book of Judges, as a period of religious and moral ups and downs, national disunity and often foreign oppression.
- The book of Ruth is set at in a time period of temporary peace between Israel and Moab.
- The book of Ruth gives a glimpse into the personal life an Israelite family and true faith, in times of personal difficulty.
- The book of Ruth may reference many Old Covenant manners, but it has many New Covenant messages.
- Ruth is the great grandmother of David and an ancestress of Jesus (Matthew 1:5-6).

Significance – Book of Ruth

■ Timing

- The main reason much of Judaism reads Ruth during the Pentecost season is because of the time setting of the story, being after the Wavesheaf Offering and the agriculture connection to Pentecost.
 - **Ruth 1:22** So Naomi returned, and with Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter-in-law, who returned from the land of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.
 - It is the barley harvest that begins right after the Wavesheaf Offering is made, the day after the weekly Sabbath connected to the Days of Unleavened Bread. Remember that they cut the wavesheaf and offered it before God, and then it was only after that that they could actually harvest the fields and eat the new grain.

Significance – Book of Ruth

■ Timing

- The main reason much of Judaism reads Ruth during the Pentecost season is because of the time setting of the story, being after the Wavesheaf Offering and the agriculture connection to Pentecost.
 - Ruth 2:23 So she stayed close by the maids of Boaz in order to glean until the end of the barley harvest and the wheat harvest. And she lived with her mother-in-law.
 - The wheat harvest usually ended just before or with the Feast of Pentecost. So then, it was during this fifty-day period that they harvested both the barley and then the wheat. They went through the fields pulling the weeds, then cutting the grain, threshing the grain from the heads, and then winnowing and cleaning the grain, as we see Boaz doing later.

Outline – Book of Ruth

- I. Introduction: Naomi Emptied (1:1-5)
- II. Naomi Returns from Moab (1:6-22)
 - A. Ruth Clings to Naomi (1:6-18)
 - B. Ruth and Naomi Return to Bethlehem (1:19-22)
- III. Ruth and Boaz Meet in the Harvest Fields (ch. 2)
 - A. Ruth Begins Work (2:1-7)
 - B. Boaz Shows Kindness to Ruth (2:8-16)
 - C. Ruth Returns to Naomi (2:17-23)
- IV. Naomi Sends Ruth to Boaz's Threshing Floor (ch. 3)
 - A. Naomi Instructs Ruth (3:1-5)
 - B. Boaz Pledges to Secure Redemption (3:6-15)
 - C. Ruth Returns to Naomi (3:16-18)
- V. Boaz Arranges to Fulfill His Pledge (4:1-12)
 - A. Boaz Confronts the Unnamed Kinsman (4:1-8)
 - B. Boaz Buys Naomi's Property and Announces His Marriage to Ruth (4:9-12)
- VI. Conclusion: Naomi Filled (4:13-17)
- VII. Epilogue: Genealogy of David (4:18-22)

Responsibilities Under The Covenant

■ Old Covenant Manners

- A redeemer is one who delivers or rescues someone by paying a price. To redeem is, literally, to “buy out.” A kinsman-redeemer, under the Mosaic Law, was a male relative who had the responsibility to act on behalf of a relative who was in trouble, danger, or need. The law of the kinsman-redeemer is given in Leviticus 25:25: “If one of your fellow Israelites becomes poor and sells some of their property, their nearest relative is to come and redeem what they have sold.” This law is key to how events in the book of Ruth take shape.



Responsibilities Under The Covenant

■ Old Covenant Manners

- If a man dies without offspring, his closest male kin would marry his widow to bear a son to inherit property of the deceased man.
- If someone went into debt, and they were needed to sell their lands, their nearest relative could buy that property and give it back to the person who had owned it at the Jubilee.
- Blessings and curses, where they seemed to be blessed for some things and cursed for other things (Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28).
- Elders sitting in the gates of the city, judging matters that come up before them. The concept of Witnesses / “Transparency” in matters, as well as testimony of matter.

God's Work on Our Behalf

- **God's Watchful Care, Kindness and Sovereignty**
- **Ruth 1:1-6**
 - **Famine in the land**
 - **God allowed the famine in the land to bring them back to Him**
 - **God is responsible for the famine / God is sovereign.**
 - **God was working out a plan from which would come the union to produce King David and Jesus Christ, the King of Kings.**

God Works on Our Behalf

■ Ruth 2:1-23

- Elimelech means “God is King”
- Boaz means “In Him is strength”
- Verse 3 - Literal Translation – “...her chance chanced upon the portion of the field belonging to Boaz...”
 - Commentaries suggest by the word structure, that this was God’s working for His divine providence. Placing Ruth in the family field of “God is King”
- The birthplace of Jesus was Bethlehem (House of Bread; House of War)
- Verse 4 – “...The Lord be with you...”
 - Matthew 1:23 and Isaiah 7:14 – Immanuel means “God with us”

God Works on Our Behalf

■ Ruth 2:1-23

- Verse 6 – Ruth is not an Israelite; she is a Moabite
- Verse 7 – “...Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves...”
 - Suggestion of Ruth’s humility
- Verses 8-10 Boaz’s kindness to Ruth / Ruth’s continued humility
 - “...you should not take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?”
 - Similar to Jesus with the woman of Samaria
 - John 7:37-39
- Verses 13- 18 – Abundant Blessing given to Ruth from Boaz

God Works on Our Behalf

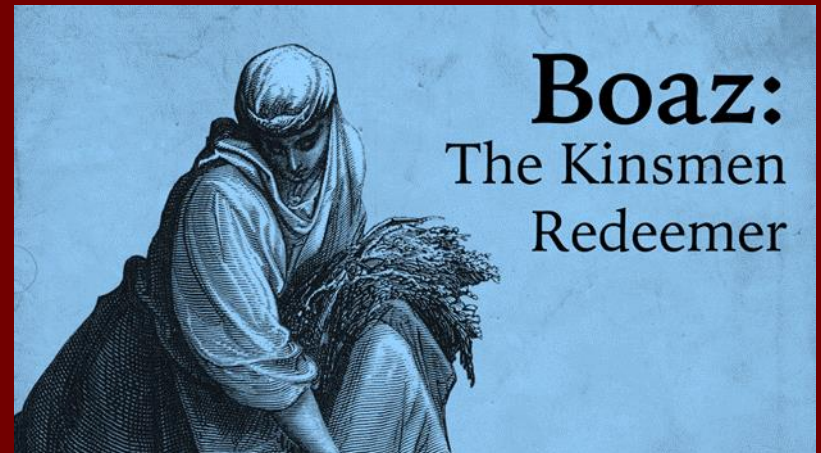
■ Ruth 2:1-23

- Verses 20-23 – “..Stay in my field, glean among my reapers,” but also, “Stay here for the entire harvest. Not just one day or a week, but the entire harvest.”
 - Extra Blessing –
 - Luke 6:38 - Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure -pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”
 - Ephesians 3:14-21 – “For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name the He would grant you according to the riches of His glory...Now to Him is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think...”

God Works on Our Behalf

■ Ruth 3:1-18

- Verse 18 – “..Wait, my daughter, until you know how the matter turns out, for the man will not rest until he has settled (finished the matter) it today.”
 - Christ Jesus will finish the matter for us –
 - Philippians 1:3-6– “I thank God in all remembrance of you...For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”



Gentiles / Israelites and the Covenant

■ Ruth 2:2, 6, 10, 11, 13, 21

- Ruth was a foreigner.
- She was a Moabite
- She was an alien
- She was a stranger

■ Ephesians 2:4-7, 11-15

■ Galatians 6:16

- “For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation...those who will walk (follow) by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.”

Essential Lessons – Book of Ruth

■ Application To Our Life

- Ruth is an example of how God can change a life and take it in a direction He has foreordained.
- We see Him working out His perfect plan in Ruth's life, just as He does with all His children (**Romans 8:28**). Although Ruth came from a pagan background in Moab, once she met the God of Israel, she became a living testimonial to Him by faith.
- Even though she lived in humble circumstances before marrying Boaz, she believed that God was faithful to care for His people. Also, Ruth is an example to us of hard work and faithfulness. We know that God rewards faithfulness: "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him" (**Hebrews 11:6**).

Essential Lessons – Book of Ruth

■ Application To Our Life

- By leaving her homeland and going with Naomi, Ruth renounced her citizenship in Moab. With the words, “Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live,” Ruth separated herself from her country of origin.
- She abandoned one kingdom to be joined to another.
- Similarly, when we choose to follow Christ, we are brought into His kingdom. Jesus Christ died to rescue believers from the kingdom of darkness and transfer them into His kingdom of light (Matthew 5:3; 13:43; Colossians 1:13; James 2:5; 2 Timothy 4:18; 1 Thessalonians 2:12).

Essential Lessons – Book of Ruth

■ Application To Our Life

- Ruth renounced her people and claimed Naomi's people—the people of God—as her own. Living as a pagan in Moab, Ruth would have worshipped many gods. But by the young woman's confession, the older woman's God—the God of Israel—became Ruth's God.
- Now Ruth worshipped the One True God. The apostle Peter asserts that Christians are "a chosen people . . . royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession." Believers "show others the goodness of God" who calls us "out of the darkness into his wonderful light." Before salvation, we "had no identity as a people." But now we "are God's people" (1 Peter 2:9–10).

Essential Lessons – Book of Ruth

■ Application To Our Life

- To become a Christian means to be united with Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:23). By grace through faith, we cling to Him (Ephesians 2:8; 1 John 2:28).
- We leave our old citizenship and identity behind and become new creations in Jesus Christ (Colossians 3:10; Ephesians 4:24).
- We leave the darkness of sin and live in the light of His kingdom (Ephesians 5:8–14).
- The Sovereign Lord becomes our God, and His people become our people (Ephesians 2:19–22). We give up our old way of living for ourselves; we take up our cross and follow Him (Mark 8:34).