

Topical Study

Topic: RUTH (Faithfulness Rewarded)

Introduction:

Ruth is a cameo story of love, devotion, and redemption set in the black context of the days of the judges. It is the story of a Moabite woman who forsakes her pagan heritage in order to cling to the people of Israel and to the God of Israel. Because of her faithfulness in a time of national faithlessness, God rewards her by giving her a new husband (Boaz), a son (Obed), and a privileged position in the lineage of David and Christ. (She is the great-grandmother of David).

Ruth is the Hebrew title of this book. This name may be a Moabite modification of the Hebrew word *reut*, meaning friendship or association.

Chapter 1.

Elimelech's Family goes to Moab.

Read vs 1 to 5

There was national faithlessness at this time. The children of Israel had turned from serving God to serving Baal. **Judges 2 vs 11, 16 to 18.** God was not happy with them and there was famine in the land. There has been famine in the past in Gen. 12 vs 10 Abram went down to Egypt. In Gen. 26 vs 1 to 3. Isaac was instructed by God not to go down to Egypt. In **2 Kings 8 vs 1 Elisha** told the Shunammite woman to relocate because there would be a famine for 7 years and she did and in vs 6 when she returned, everything she had and more was restored to her. **Who is instructing you?**

Lesson Number 1.

Always ask God first. (Ps. 37 vs 5, 1 Sam. 23 vs 2, 4, 30 vs 8, 2 Sam. 5 vs 19, 22 to 25).

There was no record that Elimelech sought God's face before moving, however, they moved. The story was not too pleasant as in the space of 10 years Elimelech died, and his sons also died after they got married.

The choices we make in life will either make or mar us. We will always face the consequences of our decisions or enjoy the benefits of our decisions. May God grant us grace to make the right choices at ALL times IJN.

Lesson Number 2

What is your name?

I was drawn to the names in this book and the meanings.

Elimelech means God is King

Naomi means Pleasant

Chilion means Failing

Mahlon means Sickly

Orpah means gazelle, back of the neck or fawn (figuratively refers to the action of turning back)

Ruth means Friendship

Mara means Bitter

Boaz means Swift strength

Obed means One who serves.

I could not help but observe the negativity in Chilion and Mahlon's names?

Names are of great importance; I don't understand how a man called God is King with a pleasant wife end up with failing and sickly children. If you have been given a name that does not speak as God has spoken

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concerning you, please change the name, call on God like Jabez did (1 chron. 4 vs 9 to 10) or change the name like Jacob did in (Gen. 35 vs 18 from son of my sorrow to son of my right hand) but never allow a negative name stick on you IJN. **God also desires to give us a new name (Isaiah 62 vs 2 to 4) Vs 6 to 22**

Talks about how Naomi returns to Bethlehem. We know the story of how the three ladies set out: Naomi, Orpah and Ruth set out but Orpah said her good byes while Ruth decided to go all the way with her mother-in-law. I was glad though to see that this family was able to "sell" their God to Ruth. She must have learnt a thing or two from her association in marriage with the family and she chooses their God rather than the gods of her own people.

We see in vs 14 how the two sisters in law live up to their names: Orpah turns back while Ruth clings to Naomi Prov. 17 vs 17

Lesson 3 - Choose God

Read vs 16 & 18.

Vs 16. "And your God, my God" Ruth ignited something in the spirit! (they that come unto me I will in no wise cast out) Jn 6 vs 37. Draw near unto me and I will draw near unto you. James 4 vs 8. This is faith. This is what moves God! At this point God is set to show Himself strong and mighty on her behalf. A Moabites, from an ineptual relation, cursed before now, but identifying with the Almighty God! She chose God.

The Moabites.

They were born to Lot when his first daughter slept with him while his second daughter called her son Ben Ammi who is the father of the Ammonites. Gen. 19 vs 36 to 38.

From cursed to blessed

Deut. 23 vs 3 to 6. The Moabites and the Ammonites shall not enter the assembly of the Lord,

Chapter 2.

Read vs 1 to 3.

Lesson 4 - She is diligent.

Vs 2. She takes a step of faith to work trusting God for favour as she goes. (Prov. 26 vs 13 to 14) 2 Thess. 3 vs 10.

God will not bless our nothing. It's only a lazy man that says there is a lion on the roads and refuses to work. She gets up in the morning hopeful, with a mindset that God was on her side, and He showed Himself strong. No pity party, just arise with faith and hope!

Lesson 5 - Vs 3 God orders her steps: Ps 37 vs 23

And she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz.

Lesson 6

She finds favour upon favour, upon favour. (Vs 5 to

What do you speak into your day? In vs 2 she said "in whose sight I may find favour"

She finds favour with God and with men. Prov. 3 vs 3 to 4.

Don't go into your day feeling defeated, rather speak something positive into your life and trust God for the rest. Isaiah 55 vs 12, Isaiah 40 vs 4.

Tell your neighbour, I am blessed and highly favoured, this land responds to me positively, mountains crumble before me, valleys are exalted before me, every crooked way is made straight before me. The tree of the field claps their hands for me. I am blessed in my going out and in my coming in. It is well with my spirit, my soul and my body IJN Favour 1: God ordered her steps to Boaz field vs 3

Favour 2: The servant in charge of those gleaning did not send her away. vs 6

Favour 3: Boaz noticed her & asked her to continue coming vs 8 to 11

Favour 4: Boaz prays for her. Vs 12

Favour 5: Boaz offers her food vs 14

Favour 6: Boaz instructs his men to let her glean among the sheaves vs 15

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Favour 7: Also let grain from bundles fall purposely for her. Vs 16

Favour 8: Do not reproach her, do not rebuke her. Vs 15 & 16.

Favour 9: Stay close to my young men until harvest is finished. Vs 21

Lesson 7

Ruth had a kind and caring heart. Vs 14, 18

Lesson 8

She was accountable. 2 Vs 18 to 20

3 vs 17

Chapter 3. Vs 1 to 5.

Ruth's redemption assured.

She is teachable. She receives instructions not saying that is old school.

Close relative / redeemer in Hebrew goalenu.

She was a virtuous woman 3: 11

Note he did not have sex with her before marriage.

More favour

2:17 one ephah of barley from a hard day's job

3: 15 six ephahs of barley without labour. Reward of obedience

Reminds me of (Esther 2:8 & 9) Esther receives favour from the custodian of women Hegai.

Chapter 4

Boaz redeems Ruth.

The duty of a close relative vs 4 to 7 is called the levirate marriage as seen in Deut. 25 vs 5 to 10

Read vs 1 to 7

Read 13 to 22.

God gave her conception.

Obed was born. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Conclusion.

Ruth was rewarded for her faithfulness in a time of national faithlessness.

Would you and I choose today to be faithful when others are faithless, Selfless when others are selfish

Love when others hate

Give when others withhold more than is needful

Speak hope when others speak hopelessness

Will you and I choose to be contrarian? Stand out in this perverse and crooked generation? If yes, then God's blessings surely await us!!!