

BOOK OF RUTH
WHAT GOD CAN DO
RUTH 4:1-22

Introduction

Tonight, **LORD** willing, we wrap up **THE BOOK OF RUTH**.

This **BOOK** is a **LOVE** story, but it is also quite a **SUCCESS** story.

We saw in chapter one that **ELIMELECH**, his wife **NAOMI**, and their two sons **MAHLON** and **CHILION**, tried to run from **GOD’S JUDGMENT** in **BETHLEHEM–JUDAH** to try to make it without **HIM** in the land of **MOAB**. They were running from a famine in the land!

As a result **ELIMELECH** died in **MOAB**, his two sons married **MOABITE** women and they also died 10 years later having had no children leaving **NAOMI** and her two daughters-in-law to fend for themselves.

NAOMI swallowed her pride and decided to return to her homeland of **BETHLEHEM–JUDAH**. One of her **MOABITE** daughters-in-law, **RUTH**, joined her.

We have seen **GOD’S PROVIDENCE** and we will continue to see **GOD’S PROVIDENCE** in this **CHAPTER!** Let me summarize what we’ve seen:
Chapter 1—A poor, **MOABITE** woman married a man who was going to die and whose mother would take her to **BETHLEHEM** where **GOD** would continue working in her life.

Chapter 2—**RUTH** happened upon the field of **BOAZ** just to glean some grain so she and **NAOMI** could survive...**RUTH** and **BOAZ** fell in love.

Chapter 3—Of all the men that **RUTH** could have fallen in love with, she fell in love with a man who qualified as a **KINSMAN-REDEEMER**.

Now let me assure you that **NONE** of these happenings were a coincidence! **GOD** had worked out all of these events! **HE** did it not only because of **HIS** love and care for **RUTH, BOAZ, and NAOMI**, but also for a much larger demonstration of **HIS LOVE** that we’ll see in a minute!

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Now with all of the things that have gone right with **RUTH** and **BOAZ**, **there was still one problem that had to be addressed!** There was a **KINSMAN-REDEEMER** who was closer kin than **BOAZ** and he would have to be dealt with first! **So let’s read what happens:**

I. WE SEE BOAZ TOOK CARE OF THE BUSINESS THAT WAS ESSENTIAL TO MARRYING RUTH. (Ruth 4:1-12)

A. BOAZ went to the city gates, which is where it was customary for all the official business to be taken care of back in that day. (e.g. like the courthouse today)
BOAZ first had to find this “*closer relative*” and give him the first opportunity to redeem **ELIMELECH’S** land and **RUTH** as well.

The city gate was the place not only to take care of business, but it was apparently the most likely place to run in to someone.

B. BOAZ saw this relative and asked him to sit down with him in front of the ELDERS and he told him the story.

1. Of course, we weren’t there, but can’t you just imagine that **BOAZ’S** heart just sank when this nearer **KINSMAN** first agreed to **REDEEM** the land.
2. However, a quick thinking **BOAZ** reminded him that he couldn’t **REDEEM** the land without marrying **RUTH**, in order to carry on the name of the deceased.
3. After being told that tidbit of information, this other **KINSMAN’S** demeanor changed. If this man were to **REDEEM RUTH** and have a son by her, this son would get the piece of land that this **KINSMAN** was **REDEEMING**. But he would also have to give up some of the inheritance that had been saved up for the sons he already had.

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That's why he said in vs. 6, *"I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance. . ."*

- C. **We can just imagine that BOAZ'S heart filled with joy!**
Finally he would be able to marry the girl of his dreams!
- D. **Now there are some things here that we need to apply in our own lives.**
1. **Sometimes We Have To Just Deal With The Issues That GOD Puts In Front Of Us!**
GOD wants to do some great things in our life but in order for **HIM** to do those, we must deal with some things that we'd rather not have to deal with!
 2. **GOD Will Help Us Work Things Out If Those Things Are His Will For Our Life!**
GOD already knew that the nearer **KINSMAN** would not redeem **RUTH** so that **BOAZ** could!
GOD was in control! If we have to force something, we need to see that maybe its not **GOD'S WILL!**

GOD has a purpose and plan for each person!
That's true even if they are lost!
That's true even if they are backslidden!

WE SEE BOAZ TOOK CARE OF THE BUSINESS THAT WAS ESSENTIAL TO MARRYING RUTH.

- II. **WE SEE BOAZ CONSUMMATED THE MARRIAGE WITH RUTH! (Ruth 4:13)**
Once all of that business with the nearer KINSMAN was concluded, RUTH and BOAZ got MARRIED.
We're not given any details about the **WEDDING** itself, so anything other than *verse 13* is just speculation! But we can imagine!

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After getting **MARRIED**, we see that **RUTH** immediately conceived and bore a son and as we see in *Vs 17* he was called, **OBED** which means *"worshiper"* or *"a servant who worships."*

What a seemingly unlikely story this is! We might look at the situation and say, "How in the world could this turn out good?"

1. **RUTH** had been married to **NAOMI'S** son for 10 barren years, and then he died. It didn't appear that her future was getting any brighter.
2. She and her mother and law traveled back to **BETHLEHEM-JUDAH**
They had no possessions, and the only way that they could survive was for **RUTH** to glean wheat and barley in the fields of others she was at the mercy of.

The thought of that was certainly not very promising on the surface of it.
3. But then she happened upon **BOAZ'S** field by **GOD'S GOOD GRACE** and **PROVIDENCE!** **BOAZ** was a near **KINSMAN** who saw **RUTH**, cared for her, and desired to have a relationship with her.
4. And suddenly life became good for **NAOMI, RUTH, and BOAZ!** Even when there was the problem of the nearer **KINSMAN, GOD** worked things out for them all!
5. Listen, our **LORD JESUS CHRIST** saw us and was willing to pay any price and to do anything to have a relationship with us. (*Romans 5:8*)

The application for us is simple: TRUST GOD! TRUST HIM with your whole life. GOD'S hands are the safest place for us to be! It all goes back to *Ruth 1:16 and Ruth 2:12.*

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Psalm 46:10 says, “Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.”

Give **GOD** all that you have—material and immaterial! Rest in **HIS** faithful caring hands.

“Be not dismayed what'er betides, God will take care of you.”

“Beneath His wings of love abide, God will take care of you.”

III. IN THE END WE SEE WHAT THE LORD WAS DOING IN ALL THIS THAT WE'VE SEEN IN THIS BOOK!

(Ruth 4:15-22)

- A. **BOAZ was the great-grandfather of KING DAVID.**
That made him the great 24 grandfather of **JESUS CHRIST!**

- B. **GOD loved RUTH and BOAZ so HE caused them to be together.** But **HE** also brought them together because **HE** loves us and wants to teach us about **HIS AMAZING GRACE!**

- C. **Through this unlikely pair, GOD chose to accomplish HIS REDEMPTION for the world!**
 - 1. The women told **NAOMI** that **RUTH** loved her and was *“better to thee than seven sons.” (Vs 15)*

 - 2. They were right, because **GOD** would use the lineage of **RUTH** and **BOAZ** to bring the **REDEEMER** of all mankind into the world.

Conclusion

NAOMI had had a rough life. But now she was restored through the new life she held in her hands.

Look at *verse 16* again. **NAOMI**, who came back home bitter and empty, was holding the link to her **REDEMPTION** in her hands. And not only her **REDEMPTION**, but the **REDEMPTION** of the whole world! That's what only what **GOD** can do and **HE** did it!