

## THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

### RUTH 1-4

The book of Ruth is the Hebrew “*Cinderella*.” Ruth is a young lady who escapes a life of reproach and poverty by meeting a wealthy prince. The man, Boaz, sweeps Ruth off her feet, and makes her his bride.

The difference of course between *Cinderella* and Ruth is that this book no fairytale - *no pumpkins turn into carriages*. This is a real-life story set amidst the hardships of a dark period in Israel’s history. And the miraculous events that unfold are orchestrated not by a *fairy godmother*, but by *God our heavenly Father*.

“[Ruth](#)” is one of two biblical books named after a woman. [Esther](#) is the other - the story of a [Hebrew woman living in a Gentile land](#). Whereas, [Ruth](#) is about a [Gentile woman living in the land of the Hebrews](#).

*And both stories are prophetic of the times in which we live...* For 2000 years Jews were displaced from their homeland, scattered among the Gentiles. Esther foreshadows God’s providential preservation of Israel over two millennium... Ruth on the other hand foreshadows God’s plan for the Gentiles. Though Ruth is an outsider she receives the blessings God intended for the Hebrews by marrying into a Hebrew family.

And every Christian has also married into God’s promises to Israel. We fell in love with and married a wealthy Hebrew prince named [Jesus](#). He has swept us off our feet and showered us with blessings. In Christ we too have gained an inheritance with God’s people!

Interestingly, Ruth is the eighth book of the Hebrew Bible. Let’s recount the first seven... [Genesis](#) is the book of beginnings. [Exodus](#) is about redemption. [Leviticus](#) is worship. [Numbers](#) is how to walk with God. [Deuteronomy](#) stresses remembrance and obedience. [Joshua](#) is about victory over our enemies. And [Judges](#) is what happens when we fail to follow God fully... The ninth book, [Samuel](#), is going to describe the establishment of a Kingdom over Israel...

But notice in between *Israel’s failure and the coming of the kings* is the story of a Gentile bride who marries into God’s family. ***This is our story!... the story of the Church.*** We’re the Gentile bride, who between ***the failure of Israel and the coming of King Jesus***, has been included into God’s family. *What a cool picture!*

This is why I believe God’s Spirit not only inspired which books we have in our Bible,

but also their arrangement and preservation. *The Bible* is a miracle.

Ruth is part of the Hebrew “*Meggilah*” - which is a collection of five books that are read at the different Hebrew feasts. The book of Ruth was always read at the feast of Pentecost. Later, Pentecost becomes the birthday of the Church. *How fitting!* In numerous ways the story of Ruth parallels our relationship with Jesus.

The story begins, “Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech, the name of his wife was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion - Ephrathites of Bethlehem, Judah.” The book of Ruth is a real story about real people - but it also has a deeper meaning. It’s allegorical. The Holy Spirit goes as far as to even arrange the names of the people to make His point...

“*Elimelech*” means “*my God is king.*” “*Naomi*” means “*pleasant.*” “*Bethlehem*” means “*house of bread.*” “*Judah*” means “*praise.*” “*Ephratha*” means “*fruitful.*”

Now check it out... The story begins, you’ve got a man named **God is king** with a **pleasant wife** living in prosperity, in **the house of bread**. He’s **praising** God and **bearing fruit**. *What more could that man want...*

But a famine puts Elimelech’s faith to the test, and rather than *stay put* He *bails out*. Rather than trust God’s promises he takes matters into his own hands.

“*And they went to the country of Moab and remained there.*” And look at the calamity that ensues because of Elimelech’s lack of faith... “*Then Elimelech, Naomi’s husband, died; and she was left, and her two sons. They took wives of the women of Moab: the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth. They dwelt there about ten years. Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband.*” “*Mahlon*” means “*sickness,*” “*Chilion*” - “*wasting.*” The boys had health problems, and the complications led to their early exits. They died and left behind a grieving mom and two young widows.

So far this story teaches us the safest place to be is the center of God’s will. I’d rather be in a airplane flying through howling winds and a lightning storm **in God’s will**, than in a bunker on the ground outside of it.

Relationships with mother-in-laws can be notoriously rocky. I’ve heard it said, “*Behind every successful man there are two people... a good wife, and a surprised mother-in-law.*” Hopefully, that’s not true in your family.

Once, a friend and I were talking about our mother-in-laws. I mentioned mine lived in Oregon. He said, “*Wow, I love my mother-in-law so much if she lived that far away I’d*

get her to move." I replied, "I've tried, but she won't go to Japan." I'm just kidding. I love Kathy's mom. And we have a great relationship. So did Naomi and her two daughter-in-laws, Ruth and Orpah.

In fact, their closeness becomes apparent when Naomi announces she's returning home. Verse 6, "Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had visited His people by giving them bread. Therefore she went out from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each to her mother's house. The LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The LORD grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband."

Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept." Both daughter-in-laws had become so fond of Naomi they cried over the thought of their separation. Neither Ruth or Orpah wanted her to leave.

"And they said to her, "Surely we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Are there still sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go - for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, if I should have a husband tonight and should also bear sons, would you wait for them till they were grown? Would you restrain yourselves from having husbands?" The girls have a far better opportunity to remarry if they stay in Moab.

"No, my daughters; for it grieves me very much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me!" Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her." Ruth is still holding onto her mother-in-law, when Naomi says verse 15, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." Naomi's statement shows just how far she had drifted from God. She cares more about a future husband for the girls than for their relationship with God. Naomi suggests that Ruth also return to her people, and thus to her idolatry.

But Ruth pleads, "Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me." Here's one of the most beautiful refrains of devotion ever uttered. Ruth locks her plight to Naomi and her God. "*I'll go wherever you go. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.*" These verses are often read at weddings, and it surprises folks to realize they originally described the devotion of friends - a woman and her

mother-in-law.

Verse 18, "When she saw that she was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her. Now the two of them went until they came to Bethlehem. And it happened, when they had come to Bethlehem, that all the city was excited because of them; and the women said, "Is this Naomi?" Evidently, Naomi's time in Moab had taken its toll. Naomi had aged. She was wrinkled and weathered. Her former friends barely recognized her. They squawked among each other, "*Is this Naomi?*"

We've all seen a 30 year old that looked 50? Life - particularly a rebellious, sinful life - takes a heavy toll. You've heard the expression, "Road hard and put up wet." It's been said, "Nature has a lot to do with forming a person's appearance. But after age 30 each person is responsible for his or her own face." In other words, we all wrinkle, but the life you live will position your wrinkles in either the form of a smile, or of a scowl.

In verse 20 Naomi tells her girlfriends, "Do not call me Naomi (or pleasant); call me Mara (which means bitter), for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went out full, and the LORD has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?" In retrospect, rather than *led* by God her and her husband had *fled in fear*. And actions born out of fear, not faith, always send us in the wrong direction.

*But Naomi is back and life is about to get better. "So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess her daughter-in-law with her..."* Verse 22, *Now they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.*" They returned in the month of April, which sets up "Act 2."

"There was a relative of Naomi's husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech. His name was Boaz." *Enter Prince Charming...* Did you hear of the young man who said to his sweetheart, "Darling, I'm not wealthy or handsome, and I don't have a mansion, and a Mercedes, and a yacht like Gerald Green, but I love you baby with all my heart." The girl replied, "Well, I love you too, but tell me more about this Gerald Green?" Hey, Boaz was a Gerald Green - a Hebrew heart throb - a barley baron and eligible bachelor. Many a girl would've loved to have Boaz as a beau!

And what makes this even more intriguing is Boaz was related to Ruth. He was a "goel" or "near kinsmen." In Hebrew culture it was the obligation of a relative to take a brother's widowed wife, and birth a child to preserve his lineage. It was called, *The Law of Levirate Marriage...* "Levir" is the Hebrew word for "*brother-in-law.*" We covered this in Deuteronomy 25.

Remember when Ruth left Moab, she assumed she was forfeiting her best

opportunity for marriage to be loyal to Naomi, **but apparently that wasn't the case!** It's just like God to reward a person who puts *commitment above convenience*, and forgoes a *liberty* to remain *loyal*. It's interesting the name "**Boaz**" means "**Lord of the harvest.**" And guess who *Boaz represents in our allegory?* **Jesus...** is our Lord of the harvest!

Verse 2, "So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter." Then she left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers." Israeli welfare was more than passing out checks. When a field was harvested the landowner left a little behind for the poor to collect... It was their responsibility to enter the fields behind the workers and glean, or that is, gather up the leftovers. This is why Ruth goes to work in the field...

And notice verse 3, "**And she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech.**" Notice, she "*happened to come.*" *But nothing just randomly happens when you serve a sovereign God.* He superintends all events. The rabbis have a saying, "**Coincidence is not a kosher word.**"

Every role of the dice, or bounce of the football, is determined by God's providence. Proverbs 16:33 puts it best, "**The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.**" There's no such thing as chance or happenstance. God is at work behind the scenes orchestrating situations to accomplish His will.

Here the Holy Spirit is playing cupid. He's at work on behalf of Ruth... "**Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, "The LORD be with you!"** And they answered him, "**The LORD bless you!**" Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "**Whose young woman is this?**" When Boaz gets to his fields, *guess who catches his eye?* He approaches the foreman of the gleaners, and inquires about the new girl... "**who is this beautiful babe?**" Hey, God is now working on both ends of this situation.

"**So the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered and said, "It is the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. And she said, 'Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.'**" So she came and has continued from morning until now, though she rested a little in the house." "**Boaz, she's not only good-looking, but she's hard-working.**" I married a woman like that. Ruth was gorgeous even in her work clothes!

"**Then Boaz said to Ruth, "You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women."** Ruth is to glean only from Boaz' field. This was for her protection. Boaz knew of playboys

among the other landowners who might try to *harvest Ruth*.

Verse 9, “Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you?” Boaz had made it clear with *his* workers, this girl was off-limits!... And he adds, “When you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn.” He tells Ruth she can drink from his canteen any day! He’s offering her *protection and provision*. **He wants to impress a girl!**

“So she fell on her face, bowed down to the ground, and said to him, “Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?”... And in verse 12, Boaz indicates he knows Ruth’s story. He says, “The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge.” Then she said, “Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants.” *Grace is being shown to a Gentile!*

“Now Boaz said to her at mealtime...” Wow, he’s now taking her to dinner! Invites her up to the hacienda for a meal. Ruth is definitely getting special treatment. Boaz asks her, “Come here, and eat of the bread, and dip your piece of bread in the vinegar.” So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed parched grain to her; and she ate and was satisfied, and kept some back.” She had a little stash she was saving for Naomi.

Verse 15, “And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, “Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. Also let grain from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave it that she may glean, and do not rebuke her.”

*Love is in the air!* He tells his workers if Ruth gleans what’s not yet harvested, don’t stop her. In fact, toss a few bundles her way on purpose just to make it easier for her. **Give her more than she’s suppose to get!**

*And this is how our Boaz, the Lord Jesus, treats us! Ever thought, “Wow, I’ve sure gotten more than I was suppose to get!”* We caught His eye long before we followed Him. He chose us before the foundation of the world. Now He invites us to glean only from His fields. He wants us to bring all our needs to Him - make Him our sole source and sustenance. Jesus will satisfy our deepest longings. He offers us protection... a place at His table... He even tosses us little bundles of blessing for us to glean... **With grace...** is how Jesus treats us!

Verse 17, “So she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.” Or close to a bushel. “Then she took it

up and went into the city, and her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. So she brought out and gave to her what she had kept back after she had been satisfied. And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where have you gleaned today? And where did you work?"

*Girl, you've hit the jackpot!* "Blessed be the one who took notice of you." Naomi immediately deduced that Ruth had been the beneficiary of some special interest.

"So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz." *And Naomi jumps for joy!* The old gal probably flirted with a coronary. "Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "Blessed be he of the LORD, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!" And Naomi said to her, "This man is a relation of ours, one of our close relatives." She's hearing wedding bells! She knows the Law of the Levirite... But Boaz is the Lord of the harvest, and the barley still needs to be reaped. Naomi realizes nuptials can't begin until the barley harvest is completed.

We too are in the midst of a reaping - *a harvest of souls*. At the moment there's work to be done, but one day when all the barley is in the barn Jesus will come for His bride and a wedding will begin. In the meantime be patient, and help the Lord finish the harvest.

Verse 21, "Ruth the Moabitess said, "He also said to me, 'You shall stay close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.' " And Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, "It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, and that people do not meet you in any other field." Ruth has a big fish on the hook, and she needs to play it smart to reel him in.

*"So she stayed close by the young women of Boaz, to glean until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest; and she dwelt with her mother-in-law."*

In Chapter 3, Ruth and Naomi get tired of *barley*, it's time to harvest *Boaz*. Naomi senses Ruth needs to make a bold move. Sometimes men can drag their feet and they need a nudge - *that was the case with Boaz*.

It's the end of the harvest, and Boaz has just a few days to process his grain, so he'll be sleeping at the threshing floor. Naomi tells Ruth, "My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you? Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor." The threshing floor was a large outdoor platform where the oxen would beat down the grain and grind the wheat. The men slept on site in order to protect the crop from thieves and wild animals.

Naomi tells Ruth, "Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best

garment and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do." It's time for Ruth to employ some feminine wiles. The *arm of God* and *charm of a female* are about to link arms... Here's Naomi's plan: *Ruth, take a bubble bath, dab on some Chanel #5, slip into that new outfit you got from TJ Max - doll yourself up. Then go down to the threshing floor, and after dinner, when Boaz relaxes, slip up quietly, uncover his toes, and lie at his feet until he wakes up... Exposing his toes to the cool night air will insure that eventually his cold toes will wake him up, and he'll notice Ruth.*

And I like this strategy because it's how you and I need to approach our relationship with Jesus.

**First**, make sure you're **washed**. Your spirit is clean by the blood of His sacrifice, but you wash your mind and thoughts with God's Word... **Second**, make sure you're **anointed**. Dab on the oil of the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to fill you, and make you aware of God's presence and love... **Third**, make sure you **dress** appropriately. *Put on Christ.* Form a new identity. See yourself as God sees you: *holy, righteous, blameless, a joint-heir with Jesus, a child of God, a new creation in Christ*

And **fourth**, **lie down at Jesus' feet**. Humble yourself before the Master. Spend time in the presence of Jesus. *And then do whatever He tells you to do!*

Verse 5, "And (Ruth) said to (Naomi), "All that you say to me I will do." So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her. And after Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was cheerful, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay down. Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet." This was a bold move! Women at the time were usually not this forward. Ruth was obviously a liberated woman. She follows Naomi's instructions, *and the cold toes work...*

Boaz wakes up and sees a woman at his feet. He asks in verse 9, "**Who are you?**" So she answered, "**I am Ruth, your maidservant.**" And she gets right to the point, "**Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative.**" The phrase, "**under your wing**" or more figuratively, "**your cloak**" is a marriage proposal. This **is** bold! Ruth is popping the question to Boaz!

Verse 10, "**Then he said, "Blessed are you of the LORD, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich. And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you**

all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman." Why is it some girls think they have to compromise their morals and lower their standards in order to get a guy? *What a lack of faith!*

**A woman with faith won't be a flirt.** God has a Boaz for you! But you've got to trust Him, and be a virtuous woman. Hey, a virtuous guy isn't looking for a floosey gal. He's looking for a woman with virtue and a good reputation. This is what attracted Boaz to Ruth.

So Ruth has popped the question. Boaz responds to her in verse 12, "Now it is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I. Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be that if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you - good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, **as the LORD lives!**" Hallelujah! Yes I will. "Lie down until morning." Boaz' says "Yes, but..." A complication exists. As I always say, "No wedding ever goes off without a hitch." Boaz will happily marry Ruth, but...

Though Boaz is a *near kinsman*, he's not *nearest*. There is a closer relative with first dibs on redeeming Elimelech's land, thus marrying his daughter-in-law.

And here's proof Boaz was a principled man. Recall this story takes place in the days of the Judges when "**everyone did what was right in his own eyes.**" Everyone that is, except Boaz and Ruth. In an age of moral and spiritual compromise it's refreshing to find two people willing to do things God's way, *by the book*.

Yet this was risky. Bo and Ruthie are in love. Marriage is the goal. What if this nearer kinsmen exercises his right? *Boaz though trusts God.* He believes God is in control, and if God wants he and Ruth to marry He'll get them to the altar. Boaz knows the worst move he can make is to take a **short-cut**.

Hey, when we try to manipulate the situation we can mess it up. Remember, **God's will, done God's way, will have God's blessing...** When will we learn our short-cuts usually produce long detours? Hey, the shortest distance between two points in life is the will of God.

Remember the last five chapters in Judges - nasty, brutal, barbaric acts occur in Israel. Yet in contrast, here are two people who choose to do life and marriage God's way... and God will bless them indeed.

Here's a good formula for life: **trust God and do the right thing.** It worked for Boaz and Ruth. Had Boaz not been a man of principle and conviction, he would have ended up like the rest of the nation... **ruth-less.**

Now at the end of Chapter 3, in light of his impending marriage, Boaz makes several

smart moves. First verse 14, "So she lay at his feet until morning, and she arose before one could recognize another. Then he said, "Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor." Boaz protected Ruth's reputation from the rumor mill. He didn't want to give the town gossips anything to chew on. And ladies, please realize a man who really loves you will do everything he can to protect **your** reputation, *not put it in jeopardy*.

He makes another smart move in verse 15, "Also he said, "Bring the shawl that is on you and hold it." And when she held it, he measured six ephahs of barley, and laid it on her. Then she went into the city." Boaz sends Ruth home to Naomi with six bushels of barley - an enormous amount. And I hope you see what he's up to? *He's getting in good with mom - making points with his future mother-in-law*. This Boaz is a brilliant guy.

"So when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "Is that you, my daughter?" Then she told her all that the man had done for her. And she said, "These six ephahs of barley he gave me; for he said to me, 'Do not go empty-handed to your mother-in-law.'" Boaz won the girl, but you seal the deal by winning over her family. Girls, make sure your guy respects your family!

And in the last verse of Chapter 3, Naomi gives Ruth a near impossible command, "Then she said, "Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day." Her future - the love of her life - is in limbo, and she's expected to sit still? **But sitting still is the acid test of faith!** After we've done all we can do are we willing to sit still and trust God to do His work? In Psalm 46:10 the Lord tells us, "Be still and know that I am God." We need to learn to wait on God!

In Chapter 4 Boaz and ten city elders meet with the nearer relative, and ask if he's willing to redeem Elimelech's land? At the end of verse 4 he says, "I will redeem it." And with those words Boaz' heart probably skipped a beat... *Yet he still doesn't know about Ruth.*

Verse 5, "Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy it from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance." To get the land you take the lady. It's a package deal! Which is a reminder to always read the fine print before you sign... For verse 6 says upon hearing that, "The close relative said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance." In short, "**what will my wife think?**"

Imagine, this guy going home and announcing, "**Honey, guess who I brought home for dinner? I finally got you some help with the housework. Remember when you**

*complained about having the job of two people..."* I mean, *how do you tell your wife she's got company?* When he hears of Ruth it's a deal breaker.

He tells Boaz, **"You redeem my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot redeem it."** And that was exactly what Boaz had longed to hear all along!

**"Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging, to confirm anything: one man took off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was a confirmation in Israel."** The ancient way of passing on property rites was to hand the shoe that would walk that property to the new owner. **"Therefore the close relative said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself."** So he took off his sandal." The passing of the sandal signed the contract. It made it all official.

And realize this story strikes a lot closer to home than you might first think. This wicked world - the land we tread - once belonged to God. When the Creator made mankind, He gave humans dominion over the earth. But we sinned and forfeited that control to Satan. In John 16:7, Jesus calls Satan **"the ruler of this world."**

Yet according to God's law when a parcel is lost there's always the possibility of **redemption**. All land can be **"redeemed"** or bought back. And what Boaz did for Elimilech is what Jesus did for the human race.

This book teaches that redemption can be purchased by a blood relative, ***a near kinsmen***. Thus, Jesus joined humanity in Bethlehem, being born to a maid named Mary. He's now our kinsmen. And as our relative He can redeem a world that was lost to sin and Satan. On the cross Jesus paid for our redemption!

The question though is why? Jesus is not only a citizen of Earth, He's Lord of the universe. Jesus owns billions of planets just like our own. I'm sure if the only thing Jesus had to gain by going to the cross was just another planet He would've spared Himself the trouble.

But Jesus, like Boaz, wasn't as interested in *the parcel* as He was *the princess*. **The ground and girl go together.** Jesus redeemed the Earth to marry the bride. And *we're that lady, His bride*. Jesus purchased the whole Earth because He loved and wanted you. **The book of Ruth is about the romance of redemption.**

In verse 9 Boaz calls on the elders as witnesses to this deal. They respond, verse 11, **"We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of Israel; and may you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. May your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring which the LORD will give you from this young woman."** In marrying Boaz, Ruth will join the preeminent tribe, Judah.

The name “Jews” come from *Judah*. Messiah is to come from the lineage of *Judah*.

The rest of Chapter 4 explains another reason why this book was so significant to the Hebrews. It cast a light on the origins of the most important family in their history. In fact, the most strategic family in all the earth. And we’re not talking the Windsors of England, or Kennedys of Massachusetts, or Bushes of Texas - we are talking about the family of King David of Jerusalem.

Later God will promise David a son who will sit on the throne of Israel forever. David’s heir will reign over all the earth - an eternal king over an eternal kingdom.

Boaz and Ruth have a baby boy named “*Obed*,” who has a son named “*Jesse*,” who has a son named “*David*.” And years later, way down the branches of this family tree a son of David is born, named “*Jesus*.”

But I’m ahead of the story. Verse 13, “So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son. Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel! And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him.”

When Naomi gets back into God’s will, God chooses to bless her! Recall what she said to the ladies when she first returned from Moab? “Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara (or bitter) for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me.” But in the end, *ole bitter gets blessed*.

“Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him. Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, “There is a son born to Naomi.” And they called his name *Obed*...” which means “serving.” He is the father of *Jesse*, the father of *David*.” It’s no accident that the offspring of Boaz and Ruth is boy named *serving*. Whenever a person has a relationship with Jesus the result is a heart to serve.

Verse 18 wraps it up, “Now this is the genealogy of Perez: Perez begot Hezron; Hezron begot Ram, and Ram begot Amminadab; Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon; Salmon begot Boaz, and Boaz begot *Obed* (by Ruth); *Obed* begot *Jesse*, and *Jesse* begot *David*.” Thus, Ruth became part of God’s first family - the great-grandmother of King David. Study the genealogy of King Jesus in Matthew 1, and in verse 5 you’ll find, “Boaz begat *Obed* by Ruth...”

*If you’re a single sister*, may the Lord bless you with a Boaz... *If you’re a single brother*, may He send you a Ruth... *And if you’re married*, may He bless you with both **loyal** daughters and daughter-in-laws like Ruth, and **principled** sons and sons-in-laws

like Boaz...

*And if you're a person who just feels lost and alone... there is a Boaz with his eyes on you! He loves you and will purposely toss out bundles of blessing across your path. He's already paid for your redemption, and wants you to be His bride. **His name is Jesus.** Lie down at His feet, and do what He says!*