

**The Book of Judges**  
**THE MARVELOUS ROMANCE OF RUTH AND BOAZ / PART TWO**  
**April 5, 2017**  
Session 11

1 Tonight we continue this charming and romantic story between a woman from Moab -  
2 Ruth - and a well-to-do Jewish farmer named Boaz. The saga takes place during the  
3 time of the judges: Ruth 1:1 **Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled,**  
4 **that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah went to**  
5 **sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.** Even in those  
6 chaotic years of violence, defeat and spiritual apostasy, there was a bright light. That  
7 bright light was Ruth.

8  
9 REVIEW: Years before she ever moved to Bethlehem and met Boaz, another family  
10 had left Bethlehem (because of a famine) and moved around the Dead Sea to the land of  
11 Moab. That was the family of Elimelech and his wife Naomi. They had two sons,  
12 Mahlon and Chilion. Once settled in Moab, the family did rather well in their foreign  
13 land. The two boys grew up and married two Moabite women, Orpah and Ruth. Then  
14 events turned bleak for the family. Elimelech, Mahlon and Chilion all died, leaving the  
15 three women widows. When news reached Naomi that the famine was over in  
16 Bethlehem, she decided to pack up and return. One of her daughters-in-law, Orpah,  
17 stayed behind, but Ruth followed her mother-in-law to Israel and Bethlehem. Truly one  
18 of the great statements in all Holy Writ came from the lips of Ruth: Ruth 1:16 **And**  
19 **Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for**  
20 ***whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be***  
21 ***my people, and thy God my God.***

22  
23 Returning to Bethlehem with Naomi, Ruth set up one of the great genealogies of all time  
24 as recorded by Matthew: Matthew 1:5-6 **And Salmon begat Booz (Boaz) of Rachab**  
25 **(Rahab); and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse; [6] And Jesse begat**  
26 **David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of**  
27 **Urias (Uriah);** This Moabite maiden Ruth became the ancestress of not only King  
28 David, but the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

29  
30 Back in Bethlehem, Naomi and Ruth had to subsist on something, and Ruth became a  
31 “gleaner” in the fields of Boaz (same place as the shepherds’ fields). What was a  
32 gleaner? Deut. 24:19 **When thou cuttest down thine harvest in thy field, and hast**  
33 **forgot a sheaf in the field, thou shalt not go again to fetch it: it shall be for the**  
34 **stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow: that the Lord thy God may bless thee**  
35 **in all the work of thine hands.** God provided a way for widows or poor folks to live

1 from the fields of well-off farmers or ranchers. Their harvesters would leave as much as  
2 a third of the crop unharvested. The poor were allowed to come into those fields after  
3 harvest and “glean” as much as they needed for food.

4  
5 Naomi had a relative named Boaz who had one of those fields just outside Bethlehem.  
6 Ruth 2:1-4 **And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth,**  
7 **of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz. [2] And Ruth the Moabitess said**  
8 **unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose**  
9 **sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter. [3] And she went,**  
10 **and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her hap was to light on a**  
11 **part of the field belonging unto Boaz, who was of the kindred of Elimelech. [4]**  
12 **And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said unto the reapers, The Lord be**  
13 **with you. And they answered him, The Lord bless thee.**

14  
15 That’s as far as we got last week; now we continue this great story from Ruth chapter 2.

16  
17 Ruth 2:5-12 **Then said Boaz unto his servant that was set over the reapers, Whose**  
18 **damsel is this? [6] And the servant that was set over the reapers answered and said,**  
19 **It is the Moabitish damsel that came back with Naomi out of the country of Moab:**  
20 **[7] And she said, I pray you, let me glean and gather after the reapers among the**  
21 **sheaves: so she came, and hath continued even from the morning until now, that she**  
22 **tarried a little in the house. [8] Then said Boaz unto Ruth, Hearst thou not, my**  
23 **daughter? Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here**  
24 **fast by my maidens: [9] Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou**  
25 **after them: have I not charged the young men that they shall not touch thee? and**  
26 **when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men**  
27 **have drawn. [10] Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and**  
28 **said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take**  
29 **knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger? [11] And Boaz answered and said unto**  
30 **her, It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law**  
31 **since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother,**  
32 **and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not**  
33 **heretofore. [12] The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of**  
34 **the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.**

35  
36 Verse 5 amuses me. Boaz got to the fields later the first day Ruth was gleaning there  
37 and he saw this young widow and asked, “Whose damsel is this?” Listen....that’s King  
38 James for, “Whoa....where did this gal come from?” It almost appears to me that Boaz  
39 fell for Ruth at first sight.  
40

1 I don't know how old Boaz and Ruth were. But apparently some romantic sparks flew  
2 here and in due time they were married.

### The Importance Of This Little Book

Without this little book of Ruth, it would be hard to connect the house of David with the tribe of Judah. It is an important link in the chain of Scripture that begins with Genesis and goes right down to that stable in Bethlehem and to the cross, to the crown, and to the throne of David on which our Lord will someday be seated.

5  
6 I am drawn to verse 9: Ruth 2:9 **“... have I not charged the young men that they  
7 shall not touch thee? and when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of  
8 that which the young men have drawn.”**

9  
10 Boaz is a gentleman. He knows how to treat a lady! He not only provides food for  
11 Ruth, but PROTECTION.

12  
13 Just a personal note here: There is one area in which I am very guilty of discrimination.  
14 I cannot abide men who treat women badly! Who do not provide (dead-beat husbands  
15 and fathers) for their family. I was asked sometime ago, “Pastor, what do you think of  
16 Christian men who hit their wives?” I replied, “There is no such persons as a Christian  
17 man who hits a woman! They are pagans, going to Hell!” A man who would strike a  
18 woman is a sissy. A coward. A brute.

19  
20 There was once a day when men treated women kindly. With manners. Who spoke  
21 softly to their wives. Who opened doors for them. Who seated them at the table. Who  
22 said, “Thank you.” Who showed affection (not just sexual attraction, but true love for  
23 their mates.) Note what Boaz told Ruth: **“I have given orders to my staff that you  
24 are welcome to glean in my field. But not only that....I have ordered that you will not  
25 be harassed, insulted, hurt or harmed in any manner whatsoever!”** Boaz wrapped  
26 Ruth in a cloak of protection! That's what any decent Christian man would do.

27  
28 Look at Ruth's response: Ruth 2:10 **Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to  
29 the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou  
30 shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?** Wow....she was  
31 overwhelmed by this gentleman! Want to impress your wife? Your girl friend? Be a  
32 gentleman. Act like you knew something about manners....about appreciation....about  
33 true affection.

1 There is another factor here that should be noted: Ruth was a foreigner, of a different  
2 race and background. That was never an issue to Boaz. Nor should it be to any  
3 follower of Christ. Galatians 3:28 **There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither**  
4 **bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.**

5  
6 I am very thankful that I never heard a discriminating word from my father or mother -  
7 ever. My brother and I were taught that we are all human beings, created in the image of  
8 God. Racial discrimination is a sin against our Creator. To set aside someone simply  
9 on the basis of color or nationality is an affront to Scripture and to God.

10  
11 Ruth was overwhelmed at this man Boaz. Ruth 2:10 **Then she fell on her face, and**  
12 **bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine**  
13 **eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?**

14  
15 The late and truly great songwriter Rusty Goodman wrote in 1969:

16  
17 *When I think of how He came so far from Glory/  
18 Came to dwell among the lowly, such as I/  
19 To suffer shame and such disgrace/  
20 On Mount Calvary take my place/  
21 Then I ask myself this question, Who am I?*

22  
23 *Who am I that a King should bleed and die for/  
24 Who am I that He would pray, "Not my will - thine" for?  
25 The answer I may never know  
26 Why He ever loved me so/  
27 But to that old rugged cross He'd go  
28 For who am I?*

29  
30 As Ruth, we ask the Lord, "Why have we found grace in thine eyes...that thou should take  
31 knowledge of me?" In our case.... "seeing I am a sinner...." Romans 5:8 **But God**  
32 **commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for**  
33 **us.** Ruth was a stranger, an outcast. Boaz received her with love and compassion.  
34 That is what Jesus has done for us. We are sinners, in rebellion against God. But  
35 despite that, God loves us.

36  
37 Boaz replied to Ruth's question by reciting her faithfulness to Naomi and her family.  
38 She had become the subject of a lot of conversation around that little town of Bethlehem -  
39 all of it good, apparently. The townspeople were amazed by her. But there is yet  
40 another line from Boaz that spotlights this amazing woman from Moab:

1 According to verse 12, Ruth had come to be a follower of God. Ruth 2:12 **The Lord**  
2 **recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel,**  
3 **under whose wings thou art come to trust.**  
4

5 Ruth had turned from the idolatry she knew in Moab to trust God. The first  
6 commandment turns us to worship of God alone and there is a reward for that – a reward  
7 in so many ways. Now note Ruth’s response: Ruth 2:13 **Then she said, Let me find**  
8 **favour in thy sight, my lord; for that thou hast comforted me, and for that thou hast**  
9 **spoken friendly unto thine handmaid, though I be not like unto one of thine**  
10 **handmaidens.**  
11

12 I love that last line: “though I be not like unto one of thine handmaidens...” Ruth was  
13 not a prisoner of “peer pressure.” She did not object to being “different.” She said she  
14 was not like the other women and that apparently was just fine with her. There is a  
15 multitude of people today going to Hell because they are afraid to step out of the “herd  
16 instinct,” so called by sociologists.  
17

#### 18 THE HERD INSTINCT

19  
20 Minor in sociology at Missouri State University ages ago I heard so much about this  
21 phenomenon known as “the herd instinct.” What is it? It is a mentality characterized  
22 by a lack of individual decision-making or thoughtfulness, causing people to think and act  
23 in the same way as the majority of those around them. It relates to instances in which  
24 individuals gravitate to the same or similar ideas as others. Humans naturally want to  
25 belong to a community, a group of people with shared cultured and socio-economic or  
26 moral ideas. You know the line, “Well....others are doing it....”  
27

28 Even in high school I could never buy into this instinct. Why not? I had enough sense  
29 to know my peers in school *were never going to pay my rent, buy my gasoline, get my*  
30 *food, etc.* So I honestly didn’t care a whole lot about what they were doing or thinking.  
31 I must say I did not feel weird or “left out” because of this. So I did not smoke (tried  
32 one once and almost got physically sick) because I understood the habit could destroy my  
33 body. I never drank because I thought the stuff stank to high heaven. Never gambled  
34 because I worked too hard for my pay to lose it on the pull of a card or the throw of dice.  
35 So what if others did it.  
36

37 I feel sorry for those who are pulled by this herd instinct. Unless you are following  
38 Christ and He is your role model, the herd mentality is certainly limiting and harmful, let  
39 alone often fatal. **RUTH WAS NOT RULED BY THE HERD INSTINCT.**  
40

1 Ruth 2:17 **So she gleaned in the field until even, and beat out that she had gleaned:**  
2 **and it was about an ephah of barley.**

3  
4 An “ephah” was about a bushel. That doesn’t sound like much, but back in Ruth’s day it  
5 was a pretty fair day’s income. Barley is a member of the grass family and is used for  
6 soups, stews, various beverages, etc. Currently about 150 million tons of it are grown  
7 annually.

8  
9 **THE LAW OF THE “KINSMAN REDEEMER”**

10  
11 Ruth 2:18-20 **And she took it up, and went into the city (Bethlehem): and her**  
12 **mother in law saw what she had gleaned: and she brought forth, and gave to her**  
13 **that she had reserved after she was sufficed. [19] And her mother in law said unto**  
14 **her, Where hast thou gleaned to day? and where wroughtest thou? blessed be he**  
15 **that did take knowledge of thee. And she shewed her mother in law with whom she**  
16 **had wrought, and said, The man's name with whom I wrought to day is Boaz. [20]**  
17 **And Naomi said unto her daughter in law, Blessed be he of the Lord, who hath not**  
18 **left off his kindness to the living and to the dead. And Naomi said unto her, The man**  
19 **is near of kin unto us, one of our next kinsmen.**

20  
21 Very early in Jewish history, God had ordained certain civil laws meant for the welfare  
22 and betterment of poor people and/or widows. Leviticus 25 teaches us about these laws.

23  
24 Boaz was related to Naomi’s late husband Elimelech. It is probable that Elimelech’s  
25 father and Boaz’s father were brothers, which would make Boaz a cousin to Ruth’s first  
26 husband, Mahlon who died in Moab. So Naomi informed Ruth that this wonderful man  
27 Boaz was a relative, a kinsman.

28  
29 In those days, land was not bought and sold the way we would do it today. Leviticus  
30 25:23-24 **The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land is mine; for ye are**  
31 **strangers and sojourners with me. [24] And in all the land of your possession ye**  
32 **shall grant a redemption for the land.** The Living Bible helps us here: Leviticus  
33 25:23-24 **And remember, the land is mine, so you may not sell it permanently. You**  
34 **are merely my tenants and sharecroppers! [24] "In every contract of sale there**  
35 **must be a stipulation that the land can be redeemed at any time by the seller.**

36  
37 Note carefully the phrase in verse 23: God said, **THE LAND IS MINE!** It still is, by  
38 the way. The land of Israel belongs to God and Him alone.

39  
40 When God put the people of Abraham and Jacob into the land of Israel, He did it

1 according to tribes. On the following page, you will find a map of Israel, showing those  
2 tribal land designations. Each family within the tribe had dedicated plots. By and  
3 large, they were lifetime designations. If the head of the family became impoverished  
4 for some reason, such as several years running of crop failure, he could “sell it” to  
5 someone on a 50 year mortgage. During the “Year of Jubilee” all contracts were  
6 cancelled and the property reverted to the former owner. Probably the original owner  
7 had died; but the property would revert to his “next of kin”, whether son or whomever.  
8 But suppose - since a 50 year contract is a long, long time - the impoverished farmer had  
9 a rich cousin who wanted to help him. That rich cousin could come right in and pay off  
10 the mortgage and return the property to the “poor” owner.

11  
12 This law of “kinsman redeemer” applied not only to property but to persons as well.  
13 Again from the Living Bible: Leviticus 25:47-48 **"If a foreigner living among you**  
14 **becomes rich, and an Israelite becomes poor and sells himself to the foreigner or to**  
15 **the foreigner's family, [48] he may be redeemed by one of his brothers...."**

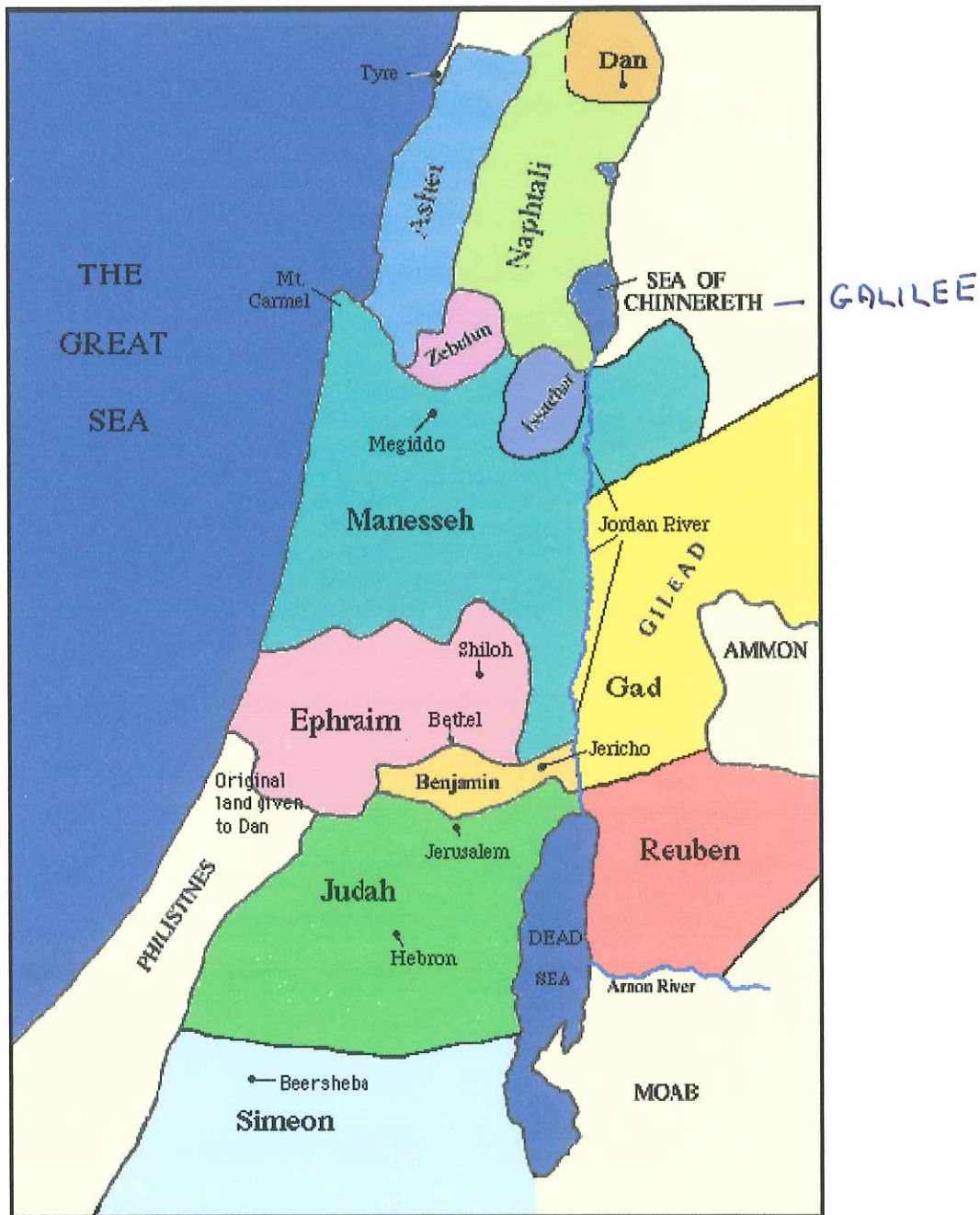
16  
17 Suppose some poor fellow in old Israel had a string of bad luck and needed money  
18 desperately. He could sell himself into slavery. But again....the Year of Jubilee would  
19 be years away when he would be free again. Hence he would probably die as a slave.  
20 But suppose he had a rich relative who approached the slave owner and paid off the  
21 contract. He would be “redeemed” and free.

22  
23 Isn't that what Jesus did for us? We say, “Jesus is our REDEEMER.” We use the  
24 word REDEMPTION. But in order for us to be “redeemed,” someone had to pay the  
25 price for it. Jesus did that on the cross.

26  
27 As we will see, there was a closer relative to Naomi than Boaz. This person had the  
28 opportunity to take action in Ruth's case, but he turned it down. He did not love Ruth.  
29 Boaz did. God did not HAVE to redeem us; He did it out of eternal love. Our  
30 salvation is really a great love story. How this all resolves will unravel in the next  
31 chapter and study.

32  
33 **Ruth 2:21-23 And Ruth the Moabite said, He said unto me also, Thou shalt keep**  
34 **fast by my young men, until they have ended all my harvest. [22] And Naomi said**  
35 **unto Ruth her daughter in law, It is good, my daughter, that thou go out with his**  
36 **maidens, that they meet thee not in any other field. [23] So she kept fast by the**  
37 **maidens of Boaz to glean unto the end of barley harvest and of wheat harvest; and**  
38 **dwelt with her mother in law.**

39  
40 The plot “thickens” next week



**THE 12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL**

- |           |            |            |            |            |
|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| ■ Reuben  | ■ Judah    | ■ Naphtali | ■ Issachar | ■ Zebulun  |
| ■ Simeon  | ■ Dan      | ■ Gad      | ■ Asher    | ■ Benjamin |
| ■ Ephraim | ■ Manesseh |            |            |            |