

# THE BOOK OF RUTH

## INTRODUCTION:

At a crossroads, a young widow does not waver, for she has fallen in love with the God of Israel. She has learned He is a sure refuge, Almighty yet personal.

And so among the pages of the brief *Book of Ruth* is found an active God, mentioned twenty-five times in four chapters, who quietly and often unobtrusively works in the lives of common folk as they deal with grief, anxiety, and uncertain futures. This God eventually brings them to a place and season where joy is recaptured and a sense of purpose restored.

But most importantly, embedded within is a profound glimpse of God as our Redeemer. This book is a love story which mirrors the divine love of a Savior for you. God includes this small gem within the canon of Holy Scripture because it marks a profound development of the concept of redemption. God could only save through a Mediator, and yet only God could be that Mediator, a Person, a Kinsman-Redeemer. Boaz will act as Kinsman-Redeemer and in so doing provides a “typology of how God acts on our behalf in providing Jesus as the One to save us when we are unable to save ourselves. Face-to-face with such love, we, like Ruth, marvel: “What are we that You should care for us?” (Romans 8:5; Ruth 2:10).

### *God as Refuge and Redeemer: The Theme of The Book of Ruth*

Trusting God.

It's not always easy-but it's not complicated.

We either choose to do it or not.

We either avail ourselves of God's grace (to do that which we cannot do in our own power) or not. God's “grace is sufficient for you” (2 Corinthians 12:9).

**And who is this God in whom we are placing our trust? He is our Refuge.**

**A refuge when we are:**

- in major life transitions, uneasily looking at a future of unknowns;**
- grieving intensely, empty handed and depleted of tears;**
- hungry and homeless and in dire material need;**
- scared and vulnerable to real dangers surrounding us.**

Scripture is clear. God wants us to rely on Him as our Refuge. He repeatedly proves Himself a steady God for His unsteady children!

And in the process of trusting Him, we learn even more: He desires to be none other than our Redeemer-Savior-Beloved. And then we discover ourselves blessed beyond measure, a future anchored in hope and joy no matter how bleak the past.

We walk hand in hand with a God involved in the minute details of our lives, orchestrating ‘divine coincidences’ for our benefit. This is why those growing in faith begin to sing ever more confidently, loudly praising God—and why the fourth chapter of the *Book of Ruth* has a profoundly different tone than the first.

In your life, are you turning to God as your Refuge?

Following: **Scriptural reassurance that God is indeed your Refuge.**

*Nahum 1:7*- “The Lord is good, a refuge on the day of distress; he takes care of those who have recourse to Him.”

*Psalms 62*- “In God alone is my soul at rest; my help comes from him. He alone is my rock, my stronghold, my fortress: I stand firm... In God is my safety and glory, the rock of my strength. Take refuge in God, all you people. Trust him at all times. Pour out your hearts before him for God is our refuge.”

*Psalms 25*- “To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. I trust in you, let me not be disappointed... (Those who hope in the Lord)- you shall not be disappointed, but only those who wantonly break faith... The Lord is good.”

*Psalms 31*- “In you, O Lord, I take refuge... Be a rock of refuge for me, a mighty stronghold to save me, for you are my rock, my stronghold... As for me, I trust in you; Lord, I say, ‘You are my God. My life is in your hands, deliver me.’”

*Psalms 18:2-3, :31-32* “I love you, Lord, my strength, my rock, my fortress, my savior. My God is the rock where I take refuge; my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold... God indeed is the shield of all who make him their refuge. Truly, who is God except the Lord? Who but our God is the rock?”

*Psalms 32:7*- “You are my hiding place, O Lord; you save me from distress. You surround me with cries of deliverance.”

*Proverbs 30:5*- “God is a shield to those who take refuge in him.”

*Sirach 51:7-12*- “I turned every way, but there was no one to help me; I looked for one to sustain me, but could find no one. But then I remembered the mercies of the Lord, his kindness through ages past; for he saves those who take refuge in him, and rescues them from every evil. So I raised my voice from the very earth, from the gates of the nether world, my cry. I called out: O Lord, you are my father, you are my champion and my savior; do not abandon me in time of trouble, in the midst of storms and dangers. I will ever praise your name and be constant in my prayers to you. Thereupon the Lord heard my voice, he listened to my appeal; he saved me from evil of every kind and preserved me in time of trouble. For this reason I thank him and I praise him; I bless the name of the Lord.”

*Psalms 141:8*- “My eyes are upon you, O God, my Lord; in you I take refuge.”

*Psalm 59-* “As for me, I will sing of your strength and each morning acclaim your love for you have been my stronghold, a refuge in the day of my distress. O my strength, it is you to whom I turn, for you, O God, are my stronghold, the God who shows me love.”

*Psalm 91-* You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, say to the Lord, ‘My refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust.’ Because he clings to me, I will deliver him, I will set him on high because he acknowledges my name. He will call on me and I will answer him; I will be with him in distress.”

*Psalm 71:1-3-* “In you, O Lord, I take refuge... Be a rock where I can take refuge, a mighty stronghold to save me; for you are my rock, my stronghold...It is you, O Lord, who are my hope.”

*Psalm 16-* “Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge; I say to the Lord, ‘My Lord are you.’ O Lord, my allotted portion and my cup, you it is who hold fast my lot. I bless the Lord who counsels me; even in the night my heart exhorts me. I set the Lord ever before me; with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.... You will show me the path to life, fullness of joys in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever.”

*Psalm 57:2-* “In the shadow of your wings I take refuge till the storms of destruction pass by.” (See Psalm 61:5). *Psalm 36:8-* “How precious is your love, O God! We take refuge in the shadow of your wings.”

*Isaiah 25:4-* “You are a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in distress; shelter from the rain, shade from the heat.”

## **God as our Redeemer:**

Within Scripture, **the concept of redemption implies deliverance from some evil by payment of a price; it entails much more than simple deliverance.** In particular, a Kinsman- Redeemer or guardian-redeemer was always a male and a blood relative (typically the patriarch) who was responsible for protecting members of his clan who found themselves in dire need. For example, the Kinsman- Redeemer would provide an heir for a deceased brother (Deuteronomy 25:5-10); redeem land that a poor relative had been forced by poverty to sell outside the family (Leviticus 25:25-28); redeem a relative who had been sold into slavery (Leviticus 25:47-49); and even avenge the killing of a relative (Numbers 35:19-21). In these ways the weaker relatives were protected.

“Although Ruth is only mentioned in the New Testament in Matthew’s genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1:5), **Christians have long seen in the *Book of Ruth* a foreshadowing of our redemption in Christ. As Ruth and Naomi were destitute, with no status and hope, we were in spiritual poverty and could not rescue ourselves. Like them, we were in need of a guardian-redeemer who would come to our aid. As Boaz in love intervened and took responsibility to save Ruth and Naomi, Christ in love has become our ultimate Redeemer who assumes the burden of our need and**

**gives us a place in his kingdom...Christ is the ultimate Guardian-Redeemer who loves us, intervenes to rescue us, assumes the burden of our need and gives us a place in his kingdom.”<sup>1</sup>**

*Isaiah 63:15-16*- “Look down from heaven and regard us from your holy and glorious palace! Where is your zealous care and your might, your surge of pity? O Lord, hold not back, for you are our father... You, Lord, are our father, our redeemer you are named forever.”

You are loved by this Redeemer God. St Anthony of Padua explains- “Christ who is your life is hanging before you, so that you may look at the cross as in a mirror. There you will be able to know how mortal were your wounds, that no medicine other than the Blood of God could heal... Nowhere other than looking at himself in the mirror of the cross can man better understand how much he is worth.”

## **RUTH, CHAPTER ONE**

### **Key points:**

- 1- We wander from God to our peril.
- 2-God is active even in our darkest seasons.

*Historical context:* (1:1)- “When the judges ruled” were the darkest days of Israel’s history, for “in those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what he thought best” (Judges 21:25). Israel was both spiritually and politically unstable and continually cycled through idolatry, judgment, crying out for help, and deliverance. This recurring pattern lasted approximately 300 years, from the initial invasion of Canaan to the anointing of their first king, Saul. However, the story of Ruth begins and concludes in Bethlehem (literally, “house of bread”) in Judah (which means “praise”), the future birthplace of Christ and places the spotlight on various individuals who remained faithful.

1. Would you want to live in the “house of bread and praise”? Why did Elimelech, whose name translates as “My God is King,” leave the land of blessing to travel fifty miles beyond that realm of blessing? \_\_\_\_\_

Compare to Luke 15:13-14. When have you done so as well? \_\_\_\_\_

How does Elimelech’s lack of trust in the provision of God make his name ironical? \_\_\_\_\_

Will famine be able to separate us from God’s love, according to Romans 8:35-37? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What was God’s assessment of Moab in Psalm 108:9; Nehemiah 13:1-2? (A “washpot” is a garbage can!) \_\_\_\_\_

*Note:*

<sup>1</sup> Larsen, Dale. *Ruth: Rescued by the Redeemer*. © 2015 by IVP Connect, Downers Grove, IL, pp. 6-7, 59.

-The Moabites were descendants of Lot from his incestuous union with his firstborn daughter (Genesis 19:30-38).

-During the era of Moses, Moabite women seduced Jewish men and ultimately 25,000 died (Numbers 25).

-There was a long history of animosity between Israel and her neighbor Moab (Deuteronomy 23:3-6; Numbers 22-25) dating as far back as when the Jews attempted to enter the Promised Land under Joshua's leadership.

-During the time of Judges, Moab had invaded Israel and brutally subjected the Jews for 18 years (Judges 3:12-14).

3. Were Jewish men permitted to marry Gentile women? (Deuteronomy 7:1-11?) \_\_\_\_\_  
What might be one reason Naomi discouraged her daughters-in-law from returning to Israel with her, beyond believing their re-marriage prospects were better in Moab?

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*Cultural note:* In levirate marriage, a brother-in-law would marry the wife of his deceased brother with subsequent children bearing the name of the deceased (Deuteronomy 25:5-10).

4. In what areas of your life are you called upon to be loyal? (1:18) What are the risks and costs of loyalty for you? Like Ruth, when have you placed another person's welfare before your own? \_\_\_\_\_

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*Note:* In the Old Testament, the "Hebrew word for 'kindness' referred to a loyal love that manifested itself not in emotions but in actions. Originally this loving kindness was an integral part of covenant relations. When two persons entered into a covenant, the 'loyal kindness' they showed to each other was expected as part of the covenant agreement."<sup>2</sup>

Ruth 1:16-17 is one of the most beautiful vows of commitment found in all of Scripture! In what ways might God be calling you to exercise faith and make a change in your life? What are your fears about making a change? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. By blaming God for her misery (Ruth 1:13), did Naomi present God in a favorable way to her daughters-in-law? \_\_\_\_\_

In contrast, how did Moses invite his pagan father-in-law to leave his false gods in Numbers 10:29? \_\_\_\_\_

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How are you currently positively (or negatively) influencing your closest family members to move towards or away from God by your remarks and attitudes? \_\_\_\_\_

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Remember: God still cared for Naomi even when she was bitter toward Him.

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<sup>2</sup> *Shepherd's Notes: Ruth & Esther.* © 1998 by B & H Publishing Group, Nashville, TN, p. 13.

“God doesn’t need us to praise Him, but he needs us to praise. What else keeps us from bitterness?...Words praising Christ or wrangling to be praised ourselves. This seeping of bitterness or straight spires of blessings.. I’m not sure how my life stands. How my inner and outer walls stand, how I make a home. Unless we make it a habit to give thanks, we habitually give our family grief. Unless we consistently speak praise, we consistently speak poison. Unless we are intentional about giving God glory throughout the day, our days unintentionally give way to grumbling. It’s in praising a Savior in all things that we are saved from discouragement in all things...Father God, make me speak praise today, not poison; make me intentionally give you glory throughout the day, that my day doesn’t unintentionally crumble in grumbling In thanking you in all things, I am saved from discouragement in all things, and this today is my earnest prayer: Make me a doxology, not destruction” (Ann Voscamp).<sup>3</sup>

6. In the ancient world, including Hebrew culture, a person’s name was very significant and expressed the essence of the individual. To change one’s name implied a change in one’s character or destiny. How had Naomi, whose name translates as “pleasant” or “cheerful,” changed in ten years? (1:19-20) \_\_\_\_\_

When caught in the tidal wave of difficult circumstances, do you expect to find God’s blessings or punishment? \_\_\_\_\_

How have difficult circumstances changed you? \_\_\_\_\_

God asks us to do what in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 and Philippians 4:8? \_\_\_\_\_

How might this act as an antidote to bitterness? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Naomi initially was isolated in grief and pain. What could she have been thankful for?  
-She was apparently surrounded by former friends who still cared for her.  
-She had a loyal, kind daughter-in-law at her side.  
-Unlike her husband and sons, she was still alive, and so she had the opportunity to start again.

List what life circumstance could embitter you today. \_\_\_\_\_

Next, list for what you are nevertheless thankful for in the midst of that specific circumstance. \_\_\_\_\_

What difference does it make that God is at your side? Psalm 16:8-11 \_\_\_\_\_

8. Naomi twice refers to God as “the Almighty,” or Hebrew name “El Shaddai,” literally “the All-powerful One” (1:20-21). It is one thing to *know* God’s name and quite another

<sup>3</sup> *Magnificat*, July 2016, p. 166.

to trust that Name and permit Him to fully work in and through the difficult situations of your life. Today, would you say you both know and trust God? Did Naomi? \_\_\_\_\_  
Would you trust God in Naomi's circumstances? \_\_\_\_\_  
Naomi decided to return home (right decision) but for the wrong motive (simply to return home for food, not to return to the Lord with a contrite heart).

## RUTH CHAPTER TWO

### Key points:

1-“When we commit our lives to the Lord, what happens to us happens by way of appointment and not by accident. God's providential working in our daily lives is both a delight and mystery. God is constantly working *with* us (Mark 16:20), *in* us (Philippians 2:12-13), and *for* us (Romans 8:28) and accomplishing His gracious purposes. God orders events and guides his willing children.”<sup>4</sup>

“God always work for the best. He always works for the good of the universe as a whole. But can I be sure that he is always working for *MY OWN* personal good? Am I sure that this sickness, this temptation, this sudden injury, this failure, this pain, this fatal illness, is permitted by God for my good?

God is always a faithful God. I may go away from him. But he will never go away from me. As long as I love God and prove my love by obedience, then I must firmly believe whatever happens to me will be for my good... So I must be generous to do and to suffer everything I believe God wants me to do or to suffer. The more generous I am about this, the better I will see and accept God's guidance and care in my life. When I come to the end of my life, I shall see very clearly that just as I drew near to God in my obedience, he drew near to me in love. If I have been truly faithful, I shall see how God guided me all through my life and how he directed every event in my life. I shall see how his hand touched me. And I shall see how he lovingly and wisely arranged each happening, each encounter with others, each situation—everything my whole life long!

At last I shall understand how every event, every person, and every situation in my life was a necessary part of God's work in me” – Father Moynihan, O.P.<sup>5</sup>

9. Ruth had learned that the God of Israel whom she now served took care of the alien (Deuteronomy 10:17-18) and so she stepped out in faith and went to glean in the fields. How had God instructed His people to care for the poor in Leviticus 19:9-10? How do you care for the poor you encounter? \_\_\_\_\_

10. It is implied that Who leads Ruth specifically to Boaz' field while he happened to also be there? (2:3-4) \_\_\_\_\_

God is often active behind the scenes of our daily choices!

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<sup>4</sup> Wiersbe, Warren. *Be Committed: Old Testament Commentary: Ruth/ Esther*. © 1993 by Kingsway Communications, East Sussex, England, pp. 35, 45.

<sup>5</sup> *Magnificat*, July 2016, p. 95.

Boaz, a wealthy man and honored in the local community, interrupts his conversation with his foreman to speak to Ruth, a poor alien who would be at the bottom of the social ladder. Ruth's name literally means "beauty" or "personality;" thus, she was equally glamorous and a person of noble character. Was it love at first sight? Also, Ruth's good reputation preceded her (2:11-12).

11. What clues do you have that Ruth was diligent and not wasteful? (2:7;17-18). \_\_\_\_\_

For what other virtue does Boaz praise her? 2:11-12 \_\_\_\_\_

How might her life turned out differently if she had exerted just minimal effort? What seemingly insignificant task is before you today, towards which you could expend maximum effort? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Ruth was committed to God. She had moved to Bethlehem in spite of the assumption that no one would ever marry a Moabite woman in Israel and that she would share poverty with her mother-in-law forever. She trusted that God would provide for them, even when Naomi, lost in bitterness, did not. How did God provide for Ruth through Boaz in this chapter? \_\_\_\_\_

*Note:* A half bushel would be enough food to feed two for a week.

How did Naomi respond to Ruth's account of the day (2:19-22)? \_\_\_\_\_

13. Ruth's great-grandson will later reflect her own words (2:10) in Psalms 116:12-13 "How can I repay the Lord for his goodness to me?" Have you ever asked this question? How has the Lord recently blessed you beyond measure? \_\_\_\_\_

14. Naomi moved from blaming God to blessing Him! Ruth embodied hope (Romans 15:13), the stubborn confidence that God's promises are trustworthy as we face an uncertain future, and in the process, she resuscitates Naomi's own faith. Who has God used to come alongside you when you were struggling to reignite your confidence in God? How might you be like Ruth for a family member or friend now? \_\_\_\_\_

15. List all the ways that Boaz' kindness exceeded the demands of the law (Exodus 22:22). \_\_\_\_\_

Do you typically do only what is expected, or do you go the second mile to help one in need? \_\_\_\_\_

16. When have you sought safety and security 'under the wings of God' (Ruth 2:12)? \_\_\_\_\_

“The imagery of an eagle spreading its protective wings over its young is used symbolically of God (Deuteronomy 32:11). In the same way the Lord protects His people. They find protection ‘under His wings’ as the young eagles do under their mother’s wings. The psalmists often spoke of the refuge and shelter to be found in the ‘shadow’ of God’s wings (Psalms 36:7; 57:1; 61:4). By choosing Naomi’s God as her own God, Ruth indicated her desire to seek safety and security under God’s wings, thus forsaking the Moabite deities (Ruth 2:12).”<sup>6</sup>

17. What was an important turning point in your life? How do you now see God’s hand in it? What reasons do you have to be hopeful in the face of change? \_\_\_\_\_

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18. Ruth gratefully accepts Boaz’ offer (2:21) to continue to glean barley and wheat in his fields for two to three months. How will you pursue the new possibilities the Lord is opening up for you as He brings new people and circumstances into your life? \_\_\_\_\_

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## **RUTH CHAPTER THREE**

**Key point:** Christians view *Ruth* as a foreshadowing of our redemption through Christ.

*Agricultural note:* “Harvesting and threshing were cooperative enterprises. The men of a village would take turns using the threshing floor, which was usually a raised platform outside the village and often on a hill where it could catch the evening breeze. The men would deposit the sheaves on the floor and then separate the grain from the stalks by having oxen walk on it (Deuteronomy 25:4) or by beating the stalks (2:17). Once the grain was separated, the workers would throw the grain into the air, and the breeze would carry the chaff away while the grain fell to the floor. The grain would then be heaped up to be carried away for marketing or storage. The men often worked in the evening when the breeze was up, and they slept at the threshing floor to protect the harvest.”<sup>7</sup>

19. Ruth is described as a ‘woman of worth’ (3:11). How does Scripture use this phrase to denote a woman of strong, noble character (the entire chapter of Proverbs 31, particularly verse 10)? \_\_\_\_\_

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20. How did Boaz’ bountiful supply of grain further demonstrate Boaz’ commitment to Ruth? How did Boaz take steps to protect Ruth? \_\_\_\_\_

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*Note:* It was such a large amount that it required Boaz to help position it on her head!

Why didn’t Ruth wait for Boaz to propose to her? Perhaps he thought Ruth would not be interested in him because of his comparative advanced age (3:10). However, Boaz

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<sup>6</sup> *Shepherd’s Notes*, p. 23.

<sup>7</sup> Wiersbe, p. 52.

also knew that he was not the nearest kinsman to have the first option of Ruth and the family property, and he would be waiting for him to act. Ruth forced the issue by her actions. Naomi's matchmaking strategy was daring, but "assertive plans, when they fit within God's will for holy living and are not harmful to others, can become springboards for changing our lives and the lives of others for the better."<sup>8</sup>

21. How is the character of Ruth and Boaz demonstrated in their encounter at the threshing floor? How might this situation have been viewed as a potential scandal? \_\_\_\_\_

If you are surrounded by temptation now, how can you behave in a manner that honors God? \_\_\_\_\_

*Historical note:* To spread one's mantle over another meant to claim that person for yourself, particularly in marriage (Ezekiel 16:8; 1 Kings 19:19). The word 'mantle' also translates as 'wing.' Ruth had first come under the protective wing of God (2:12) and now she would be under the wings of Boaz!

22. Naomi instructed Ruth to "sit still" (3:18) and wait for Boaz to work. Do you have trouble waiting for God to work? How do you control your impatience (or do you?!)

What are you waiting on God to work out on your behalf at the moment? \_\_\_\_\_

How well do you handle uncertainty? Pray about the uncertainties you are now experiencing, asking for help to trust the Lord more and live free of worry. Psalm 31:16

23. What legal obstacle to the marriage of Boaz and Ruth set the stage for Chapter Four? \_\_\_\_\_

## RUTH CHAPTER FOUR

### Key points:

1-We are not to be afraid of the future. Rather, we are to face uncertainty with confidence that the Lord is working out His will for our good and His glory.

2- Ruth's story started with three funerals but ends with a wedding and the birth of a baby boy (King David's grandfather). For the Christian, God always writes the last chapter.

3- God's salvation is for people of all nationalities.

4-We must always be expecting to experience God's benevolent hand in life's changing circumstances.

We are enveloped into God's family through sheer grace alone. Five unlikely women are found in the Messiah's lineage in the genealogy found in the first chapter of Matthew:

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<sup>8</sup> *Shepherd's Notes*, p. 27.

- Tamar intentionally committed incest with her father-in-law (Genesis 38);
- Rahab was a Gentile harlot (Joshua 2:1);
- Ruth was an outcast Gentile from the enemy territory of Moab (Ruth 1:4-5);
- Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah, was an adulteress (2 Samuel 11:2-4);
- Mary the mother of God was a poor Hebrew teen from a small town in Judah, dominated by the Roman Empire.

24. What does this tell you about how God uses ordinary people, even sinners, for His purposes? \_\_\_\_\_

“Matthew 1:5 reveals that Boaz was a son of Rahab—yes, *that* Rahab, the Canaanite prostitute who hid the Israelite spies in Jericho. How might this fact have affected the attitude of Boaz, and the attitudes of people in his hometown of Bethlehem, toward Gentile foreigners and their fitness to be joined with God’s people, the Jews?”<sup>9</sup>

How is Rahab remembered in Hebrews 11:31 and James 2:25? \_\_\_\_\_

Can you see God at work in your own family tree, with all its complexities? \_\_\_\_\_

25. How do you see yourself as an unlikely candidate to be part of God’s kingdom? \_\_\_\_\_

Ruth was a nobody who came to a strange country with nothing; yet she played a significant role in God’s redemption of the world. Where do you see your place in God’s plan of redemption? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you appreciate your own mother and mother-in-law? If you are linked to them by faith and love, you are blessed indeed!

26. *Cultural note:* The town gate of a Palestinian town was a vibrant place where community and judicial activities occurred, and so it was here that Boaz went to settle this marriage transaction. What does the fact that Boaz could sit with the elders in Bethlehem’s town gate tell you about his status and character? (Proverbs 31:23) \_\_\_\_\_

27. How does Boaz contrast with the next-of-kin, who is motivated by self-interest? (4:6)

28. What does redemption mean? \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>9</sup> Larsen, p. 43.

29. How is Boaz, the kinsman-redeemer, a picture of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

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Explore a sampling of New Testament passages of Jesus as Redeemer/Ransomer:

-Matthew 20:26-28; Mark 10:43-45

-Romans 3:22-24; 8:22-23

-1 Corinthians 1:30

-Ephesians 1:7-8; 4:30

-1 Timothy 2:5-6

-Titus 2:11-14

-Hebrews 9:11-12, 15

-1 Peter 1:18-19

30. How does the Book of Ruth illustrate God's work of salvation? (Recall that the story opens with Ruth as an outsider, a stranger; but it concludes with Ruth as a treasured member of the covenant community, because she had married Boaz, her kinsman-redeemer. He paid a price for her to be redeemed). See Ephesians 2:4-10, 13-19. \_\_\_\_\_

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31. The Hebrews believed God is the cause of every child conceived. Why would the author underscore God's involvement in the conception of this particular child (4:13), when His interventions throughout the rest of the book were typically implied and not so overtly acknowledged? \_\_\_\_\_

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Who is Obed's ancestor one hundred years later? Ruth 4:18-22; Matthew 1:2-6 \_\_\_\_\_

32. How is Ruth praised, keeping in mind the high value placed on sons in this patriarchal society? (4:15) \_\_\_\_\_

33. Afflicted and lost in deep emotional pain at the beginning of this short saga, Naomi had felt that God had "made her empty." Life circumstances can cause us to feel this way as well. However, God has many ways to "fill us up again." How have you experienced this? (4:16) \_\_\_\_\_

### **Conclusion:**

"Closing the book (with the genealogy) makes the story of Ruth part of the larger story of salvation history. It shows that the Lord blessed the lives of Ruth, Boaz, and Naomi in order to continue the messianic line of Judah. 'It is appropriate that the Lord, who came to call the Gentiles into the Church, became flesh in a family line that included Gentiles' (St Ambrose)."<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Hahn, Scott. *The Ignatius Catholic Study Bible: Judges and Ruth*. © 2015 by Ignatius Press, San Francisco, CA, p. 65.

## Genealogy

1 Chronicles 2:15	Israel (=Jacob), father of Judah	2:1
	Judah, father of Perez through Tamar	2:1
	Perez, distant ancestor of Salmon	2:4
	Salmon, father of Boaz	2:11
	Boaz, father of Obed	2:12
	Obed, grandfather of David	2:12
	Jesse, father of David	2:13, 15
	David	2:15
Ruth 4:18-22	Perez, distant ancestor of Salmon	4:18
	Salmon	4:21
	Boaz	4:21
	Obed	4:22
	Jesse	4:22
	David	4:22
Matthew 1:2-6	Abraham, father of Isaac	1:2
	Isaac, father of Jacob	1:2
	Jacob, father of Judah	1:2
	Judah, father of Perez through Tamar	1:3
	Perez, distant relative of Salmon	1:3
	Salmon, father of Boaz	1:5
	Boaz, great-grandfather of David through Ruth	1:5
	Obed	1:5
	Jesse	1:6
David	1:6	

*“Come to Me”* by Father Thomas Rover, O.P

Come over to me, all you who are restless, and I will teach you how to be quiet,  
how to leave yourself alone.

Come over to me, all you who are anxious;  
even if I don't take your anxiety away,  
I will change it into fresh currency, as you turn your cares into greater belief in  
my caring.

Come over to me, all you who are lonely;  
I was lonely too, and could find no place to lay my head.

Come over to me, all you who worry what others really think about you.  
It doesn't matter. They misunderstood me, no matter what I did.

Come over to me, all you who are always  
talking and pleading and explaining yourselves to others.  
I know you inside out. I know the worst.  
So you can come to me without any explanations.

Come over to me, all you whose great plans for yourself have failed.  
You don't know how lucky you are. And others too.

Come over to me, all you who can't stand yourselves.  
I touched lepers,  
And once called a man out of a tomb who had been stinking there for four days.  
So come over to me—  
I can stand just about anything.

Come over to me, all you who can't stand other people  
I know what is behind their misery.  
I know the worst in them as I know it in you.  
And I embrace you both.

Come over to me, all you who fret about the past.  
I was there, I was part of your past,  
And I have forgotten about it.  
So be like me and forget about it too.

Come over to me, all you who can't live peacefully in the present.  
Come to me now, without reserve.  
That is the way to peacefully live in the present.

**Come over to me, all you who fear the future.  
Do not fear. I am your future.**