

## Ruth - Chapter 2

### **Theme:** Ruth's Submission and Service

**General:** This chapter is the most important chapter in the Bible to teach the believer to get to work in God's field (field represents the world) as a #1 priority. Win souls!!

v. 1 - Boaz introduced, Naomi's kinsman, who represents the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Boaz is of the family and kindred (v. 3b) of Elimelech, Naomi's husband.
- Boaz means "swift/quick," and "strength." Several things match Jesus Christ:
- Boaz is a mighty man (strength). The believer's strength - Ps. 19:14; 28:7-8
- Represents the Lord as having ALL POWER! - Matt. 9:4-8, 28:18; John 3:31, 17:2; Acts 26:8; Col. 1:15-19; Eph. 1:19-23; Psalms 62:11, 145:10-11, 147:5
- Boaz is a man of wealth (rich like Christ) - Ps. 24:1, 50:10-12; Ex. 19:5; Deut. 10:14; Job 41:11; 2 Cor. 8:9; Eph. 2:4-7; Phil. 4:19
- Contrast Boaz with Elimelech: Even though Boaz and Elimelech were in the same family, when the famine came, Elimelech bolted from the house of bread and praising God to live with God's enemies. Elimelech lost everything, including his own life. But Boaz trusted God and rode out the famine in the house of bread and praising God, and as a result God made him a mighty man of wealth (rich).
- Lesson: When famine (trouble) comes, stay in the place of blessing! - Gen. 26:1-3
- Just like Abraham & Lot. Abraham gave Lot 1<sup>st</sup> choice and chose the green pastures of the well-watered plains of Sodom to raise cattle (Gen. 13) and ended up losing everything (except his salvation), while Abraham took the land Lot didn't want and ended up being called the "Friend of God". - James 2:23
- Similarly, Ruth gave up everything in Moab to come live in poverty in Bethlehem. She worships the true God, marries a rich and mighty man, and ends up in the line of Jesus Christ. - Luke 9:24, 17:33
- A wise man once said, "A man is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep in order to gain what he cannot lose!" - Matt. 6:19-21
- Boaz is from the tribe of Judah (like Christ) from Bethlehem. - Rev. 5:1-5
- Boaz is the name of the left brazen pillar erected in the porch of Solomon's temple. - 1 Kings 7:21 (Coincidence? 1<sup>st</sup> of all Kings, perfect #7, verse 7x3!) So the application is: "The Lord's house is established in strength." - Matt. 16:13-18
- Boaz ends up as the "kinsman redeemer" for Elimelech.

v. 2 - Ruth speaks to Naomi and asks permission to go and glean "ears of corn".

- Notice Ruth has her heart set on gleaning ears of corn, but ends up gleaning an ephah (~ a bushel) of barley the first day. (God had something better! - v.17)
- The word "corn" can mean a kernel of any grain. - John 12:24
- 3 parts of a harvest: 1) first fruits, 2) harvest, 3) gleanings
- Gleanings are the leftovers, less quantity and often poorer quality.

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- Now we are in the Laodicean (gleanings) period of the Church Age. - Rev. 3:14-20
- Notice Ruth **takes the initiative** to determine what needs to be done and volunteers to do the work. We need people who willingly volunteer to work.
- Notice also that Ruth desires to remain in **submission** to Naomi and to do right.
- The Jewish welfare program was to **WORK!**
- No Jew under the Law would starve to death, unless he was lazy. - Prov. 6:1-11, 13:4, 18:9, 19:15, 20:4,13, 21:25, 22:13, 24:30-34, 26:14-16; Eccl. 10:18; Matt. 25:26; Rom. 12:11; Heb. 6:12; 2 Thess. 3:10
- Under OT Law, the gleanings were to be left for the poor. - Lev. 19:9-10, 23:22
- Under OT Law, the forgotten sheaves were to be left for the poor. - Deut. 24:19
- Ruth does not go out seeking the richest man nor to seek a husband, she simply wants to do right by Naomi by helping provide for their daily need for food.
- Ruth knows she is completely undeserving as an outsider and a stranger, and that she needs grace, i.e. unmerited favor. This represents the grace from God that all people need today in order to get saved. - Eph. 2:8-9, 12
- The problem is that today many people view themselves as “deserving of God’s favor” (which is one of the greatest satanic deceptions ever put forth!).
- Notice how the term “daughter” in the scriptures sometimes means “daughter in law”. - v. 22 (Same goes with son & son in law) - 1 Sam. 24:16 cf. 1 Sam. 18:20-21

### v. 3 - Ruth finds a field from which to glean barley.

- The field she just “happened” to land on was Boaz’ field...God’s perfect will!
- Now, Ruth had no idea Boaz was related to Elimelech, her dead father in law, or that he was available as a husband or that he was mighty and rich.
- Our “hap” (circumstances, situation) is in God’s hands. - Prov. 16:9, 20:24; 21:29
- Here God is providentially guiding Ruth and her circumstances to bring about His divine purposes; and at the same time benefitting Boaz, Ruth, and Naomi.
- God’s divine purpose is to get glory for Himself. - Rev. 4:11

### v. 4 - Boaz comes out to the field from Bethlehem.

- Boaz is from Bethlehem, just like Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem.
- Boaz exchanges greetings based on both having mutual respect for the LORD.
- This represents the type of relationship believers should have with the Lord.
- Jesus Christ is the very best boss ever, the greatest employer, and His retirement program is out of this world! Contrast those who work for the devil. - 2 John 1:7
- This nation in its origins was immersed in God and the scriptures even to the point of requiring the scriptures to read and taught in the school system.
- Amendment I of the Constitution: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging

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the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

- Because of a perversion of the establishment clause of the US Constitution, a new term (not found in the Constitution) has been made up “separation of church and state.” This term is now interpreted to mean that we must get rid of anything that is godly or Christian. The danger is this can lead to nationwide atheism with the State dictating to churches what they can and cannot preach, exactly like Communist countries do.
- As a result, the nation has largely kicked God out of the country and He has reluctantly abandoned the USA, and in His place wickedness has poured in on our nation like a flood from a broken dam.
- The church has lost most of its influence in society today because it also has largely kicked both God and His book (the AV-1611 KJB) out of the church.
- It’s only by God’s grace and blessing that we still enjoy our present freedoms.

v. 5 - Boaz inquires of his servant set over the reapers as to who the woman is.

- This verse teaches us that those in charge are supposed to be the best servants.
- Jesus Christ is our example of a faithful servant. - Mark 10:42-45
- A full reward is available to faithful servants even in Laodicea. Matt. 20:1-16
- God is the one in charge of promotions. - Ps. 75:6-7
- God requires faithfulness in little things FIRST! - Luke 16:10
- Continued faithfulness takes initiative, zeal, effort, perseverance, etc.
- God is looking for availability, not ability!

vv. 6-7 - The answer from Boaz’ servant set over the reapers shows us three different characteristics about Ruth (apply these to the church!):

1. v. 6 - Ruth’s loyalty to her mother in law Naomi. She left everything behind in her home country of Moab and made the decision to do right and serve God the rest of her life. A full surrender that all believers need to do!
2. v. 7 - Ruth was polite; asking permission to glean FIRST! Ruth is willing to humble herself and be content starting out at the bottom with simply gleaning, not expecting anybody to give her anything!
3. v. 7 - Ruth is a hard worker, self-motivated, and did not even need a boss!

v. 8 - Boaz decides to take care of Ruth.

- The term “my daughter” doesn’t mean Ruth is his daughter, but that Boaz wants to treat her as a daughter so as to protect and care of her.
- In the OT, a leader would often refer to his follower as a son or daughter, and the follower would refer to his leader as a father. - 2 Kings 5:13

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- In the NT however, Christ strictly forbids calling any religious leader “father” and especially “holy father” which is a common sin within the RCC. - Matt. 23:9
- Similarly, it is equally **wrong** to refer to any minister as “reverend,” or “holy father,” as those titles belong only to the Lord. - Ps. 111:9
- Boaz tells Ruth not to go from field to field to glean, but to stay in Boaz’s field and work alongside his young women and he would care and provide for her.
- Field is the world. - Matt. 13:38
- Believers are supposed to be busy harvesting that field! - Luke 10:2; Mark 16:15
- This represents the church (Ruth) abiding in Christ (Boaz) and working in the Lord’s particular field as He may direct.
- “fast” means to stay “firmly affixed” or “attached” (like fastened or a fastener).

### v. 9 - More kindness and care from Boaz. (Perspective, Protection, Provision)

- Reap in the same field and follow the example of the experienced reapers.
- Lam. 3:27 - It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.
- Boaz instructs the young men not to hinder or touch Ruth.
- Boaz makes provision for Ruth’s thirst and her need for a drink of water.
- This represents Christ providing what is needed for the church to serve Him.
- God takes care of His servants, especially soul winners! - Eph. 3:13-21
- Jesus Christ is the greatest boss ever!!

### v. 10 - Ruth questions Boaz to find out why Boaz is treating her so graciously.

- It is **NOT** that Boaz is trying to flirt or seduce Ruth into a relationship!
- It is that Boaz respects Ruth (a Gentile) for how she treated her mother-in-law Naomi (a Jew) (see v. 11).
- In the OT, Jews judged Gentiles based on how they treated other Jews. - Gen 12:3
- At the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent (during Christ’s judgment of the nations in Matt. 25:32), Jesus Christ will judge the nations based on how they (the Gentiles) treated the Jews during the Tribulation when persecuted by the Antichrist. - Matt. 25:31-46
- The Gentiles of Matt. 25 either 1) enter into the Kingdom (25:34) or 2) receive eternal damnation in hell (25:41, 46) based on how they treated Jews in the Trib.
- America has historically blessed and stood by Israel. For example:
  1. The Lord used American troops to liberate the Jews from Hitler’s concentration camps in WWII
  2. The Lord used an American President (H. S. Truman) to help with the resolution to create the State of Israel through the U.N.
- But the efforts of more recent American Presidents to give the land of Israel to the Arabs (Moslems) and create a so-called “Palestinian State” have likely sealed the doom of America with the curse of God. God is going to curse any nation

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(including America) for cursing His people the Jews, just as much as He has historically blessed America when it blessed them. - Gen. 12:3

- This verse also pictures the unexplainable love and grace of God toward lost sinners (see cross-reference to “strangers” - Eph. 2:11-19)
- Amazing Grace how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
- Ruth’s blessing came from a Jew. “salvation is of the Jews” - John 4:22

v. 11 - Boaz gives three reasons for his gracious treatment of Ruth:

- 1) Her personal and special care of Naomi
- 2) Her willingness to forsake her gods, her family, and her homeland
- 3) Her willingness to join up with an unknown people, the Jews

v. 12 - The Lord rewards people for doing the right thing.

- OT Rewards - 2 Sam. 22:21-25; Ps. 18:20-24; Ps. 19:7-11; Prov. 11:31; 12:14
- NT Rewards (most are given on the “other side”). - Luke 6:23; 14:14; 18:28-30; 1 Cor. 3:8; Col. 3:23-24; 2 John 1:8
- The Lord will not be a debtor to any man. - Rom. 11:35; Heb. 6:10
- A believer can lose rewards by:
  1. Wrong motive for service. - 1 Cor. 3:13-15
  2. Lack of temperance (self-control). - 1 Cor. 9:24-27
  3. Failing to judge ourselves. 1 Cor. 11:31
  4. Bad works. - 2 Cor. 5:10
  5. Failure to be a good testimony and witness. - Phil. 2:14-16
- “wings” - The Lord likens himself to two kinds of birds: 1) Eagle - Ex. 19:4 - which represents God leading, strengthening, upholding, hovering and overseeing the believer (see Deut. 32:11), and 2) Chicken Hen - Matt. 23:37 which represents God’s protection, care, and holding everything together in unity and one accord.
- We must come to trust the Lord in ALL THINGS! - Prov. 3:5-6

v. 13 - Ruth acknowledges the comfort and friendliness she has received from Boaz.

- After having found grace with Boaz in v. 10, Ruth now requests favour in the sight of Boaz, even while reminding him that she is not a Jewess.
- It’s OK to magnify your weaknesses. - 2 Cor. 11:30, 12:5-10; Prov. 27:2
- The Comforter today is the Holy Spirit. - John 14:16, 26; 16:7
- “friendly” - Prov. 18:24
- Believers fellowship (friendship) with the Lord is conditioned on obedience!!

v. 14 - Boaz actively agrees to the favour that Ruth requested in v. 13

- Ruth is allowed to eat the food he had provided to the other workers.

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- Blessings come from taking care of those in need. - Prov. 11:25; Isa. 58:10-11
- PA: God shall supply the needs of all believers who will serve Him. - Phil. 4:19
- “left” either means she departed after she got full, OR else she had leftovers after she “was sufficed” at lunch and took them to Naomi for supper (cf. v. 18).

v. 15 - Now Boaz shows even more favour to Ruth by giving the young men who worked for him two clear commands:

1. Let Ruth glean even among the sheaves (not just around the edge of the field).
2. Don't reproach (hinder or bother) Ruth.

- Notice Boaz doesn't promote Ruth to become a reaper; Ruth is content to glean.
- Believers ought also to be content. - Luke 3:14; Phil. 4:11; 1 Tim. 6:6-10; Heb. 13:5
- Believers ought not be content with our spiritual growth. - 2 Pet. 3:18

v. 16 - Boaz goes even further in showing favour to Ruth. - Ps. 112:5; Prov. 14:9, 35

- Boaz further instructs his workers to let fall some handfuls of purpose and leave them for Ruth, and also told them not to rebuke (check, restrain, reprimand) Ruth.
- While believers are called to a life of faith, God also encourages us along the way with some visible blessings and results, e.g. answered prayers, souls saved, baptisms, changed lives, protection, direction, new friendships, financial gains.
- God does this to motivate us to greater faith, service, and surrender while encouraging us to never give up. - Gal. 6:9; 2 Cor. 4:1, 16

v. 17 - Ruth gleans about an ephah of barley (~ a bushel) in order to make bread.

- Ruth gleans all day “until even” which shows a good work ethic & perseverance.
- She “beat out” the chaff and got rid of it.
- There are things that need to be “beat out” of believers and cast aside: sin, laziness, selfishness, carnality, greed, pride, covetousness, envy, etc.

v. 18 - Ruth leaves the field and goes back into the city (Bethlehem) and Naomi sees how much Ruth had gleaned in just one day.

- It looks like Ruth feeds Naomi supper from Ruth's lunch leftovers. - cf. v. 14
- Again, Ruth is looking out for the best interests of others. - 1 Cor. 10:24, 33
- The Bible principle here is that the younger able-bodied relative is to take care of the elderly family members. - 1 Tim. 5:1-4, 8-9 (“requite” (v. 4) means to repay, recompense, pay back, to give in return)

v. 19 - Naomi questions Ruth as to where Ruth was able to glean so much grain.

- Naomi wants to know the person was that was so kind to Ruth, identified as Boaz.
- “wrought” means worked, produced, or performed by labor” e.g. wrought iron.

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- Believers are to be working for the Lord on a regular basis! Are you?
  - God works through people (believers). - Isa. 26:12; Acts 15:12; Phil 2:12-13
  - “shewed” (used 405X in KJB) means “showed”. - Gen. 12:1 - FM
- v. 20 - Naomi gives Ruth her view of Boaz and some information about him.
- Naomi wants the Lord’s blessing to be upon Boaz for his kindness to both the living (Ruth & Naomi?) and the dead (Elimelech, Mahlon, Chilion?).
  - Naomi informs Ruth that Boaz is a near kin to Naomi’s husband Elimelech. - 2:1
  - Law of “kinsman redeemer” (covered in Ruth 1:11-13 and found in Deut. 25:5-9)  
**REVIEW:** In order to keep the land inheritance in the same family to whom God gave it in the book of Joshua, if a man died without any children, his brother was to marry the widow in order to raise up children in the name of his brother. The children of such a union would get the dead man’s inheritance so the land would remain in the family.
  - A kinsman or next of kin could also buy out or redeem close family members.
  - Jesus Christ is our kinsman redeemer. - Isa. 47:4, 48:17, 54:5; 1 Tim.3:16; Heb. 2:14-18
- v. 21 - Ruth gives Naomi more information on what Boaz had directly told her.
- The Lord wants to talk directly to his children and give them specific instructions.
  - Boaz instructs Ruth to glean with his workers until the end of “**all my harvest.**”
  - Believers need to focus on the Lord’s harvest. - 2 Tim. 2:4
  - The Lord has a harvest of souls that need to be brought to salvation!
  - Believers are to serve until the Rapture or until death, i.e. no retirement on earth!
  - The Lord will speak to us through prayer, the scriptures, circumstances, and by closing and opening doors. - 1 Cor. 15:58; Gal. 5:1
  - “fast” - already covered in 2:8, cf. 2:23
  - Be a “**nobody**” telling “**everybody**” about “**Somebody**” who can save their soul!
- v. 22 - Naomi’s reply
- Naomi’s wants Ruth to show loyalty and gratefulness to Boaz who had first showed her great kindness. - Prov. 27:10; 1 John 4:19
  - “It is good...” to serve the Lord in the specific field he puts you in.
  - The grass is not greener somewhere else...bloom where you are planted!
  - Charles H. Spurgeon quote: *“No life can surpass that of a man who quietly continues to serve God in the place where providence has placed him.”*
- v. 23 - Ruth’s again displays humility, obedience, and submission
- Notice there are two harvests, barley and wheat.
  - Two harvests represent: 1) winning the lost, 2) discipleship of the saints.