Book of Ruth

4 Chapters - 85 Verses - 2578 Words

Ruth is the 8th book - 8 is the number of new beginnings

Ruth is one of five women mentioned in the Messianic Line

Tamar - Gen. 38:6, 13-26

Rahab - Josh. 2:1-24

Ruth - Book of Ruth

Bath-sheba - II Sam. 11:1-4

Mary - Luke 1:28

A conclusion: Greater is where you are going than where you came from.

Our life like Ruth's can be an example of tragedy turned to Victory through God's redemptive love.

A. The Setting - I - "in the days when judges ruled"

1) The Time - from 1375 B.C. to 1050 B.C; Between settlement of Israel in Canaan and establishment of monarchy - Government by judges - Judges 2:16-19

2) The Conditions - Judges 2:11-15; 17:1-13; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25

Israel in state of anarchy = Absense of government; state of lawlessness due to lack of authority; society of complete freedom

3) The Reasons - Prov. 14:12; Prov. 21:2; Jer. 10:23; Eph. 1:11

Israel should have known: Gen. 6:4-7; Deut. 12:5-8; 29:10-28

B. The Problem - "there was a famine in the land"

Why? Rebellion - Everyone doing their own thing. Famine due directly to no rain, disease, insects, enemies..

Lev. 26; Deut. 28:1-14, 15-68; Ezek. 14:12-23

Elimelech and family were living in Canaan Land in the town of Bethlehem of Judah starving.

C. Elimelech's Decision - "went to sojourn"

1) Elimelech left

2) To sojourn - means to dwell temporarily; to reside for a time as a stranger; to not remain permanent

*Application today - Isa. 30:1-3; 31:1-3; Jer. 17:5,6

D. The Place of Decision - "in the country of Moab"

1) Leaving the best for something less

2) Moab about 50 miles from Bethlehem

3) Origin of Moab - Gen. 19:30-37 (Jer. 48)

4) God's Word concerning Moab - Deut. 23:3,4,6

NOTETwo mistakes elimelech made:
a) Turned his back on his inheritance because of temporary circumstances.

b) Failed to repent

E. The meaning of names (v 2)

1) Elimelech - "my God is King"

2) Naomi - "pleasant"

3) Mahlon - "sick"

4) Chilion - "pine"; consumption

5) Orpah - "mane; the back of the neck"

6) Ruth - "friendship

7) Boaz -"fleetness, in him is strength"

NOTENames reflect two facts:
a) Names describe the condition and state of their attitude and heart.

b) Instead of names suggesting God's goodness, mercy, love, they gave names reflecting the present temporary conditions.

F. Elimelech continued in Moab - V2,3
Continued = To remain; to be; to remain in existence

G. Mahlon and Chilion marry v4

1) Took them wives

2) Commanded not to marry-
Deut. 7:1-4; 23:3; Josh. 23:11-13; I King 11:1-4, 6,7

H. Mahlon and Chilion also die v5
Deut. 4:25,26- - -Deut. 5:29, 6:2

A. The Return To Bethlehem

1) Naomi's decision (v6,7)
   a) Faith

   b) Repentance

2) Orpah and Ruth's decision (v8-15)
   *Counted the cost
   a) Emotions

   b) Facts

   c) Orpah's decision

   d) Ruth's decision

3) Ruth's commitment (v 16, 17)
   a) Entreat me not to leave thee

   b) Entreat me not to return from following after thee

   c) Whither thou goest, I will go

   d) Where thou lodgest, I will lodge

   e) Thy people shall be my people

   f) Thy God, my God

   g) Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried

   h) The Lord do so to me, and more also, if aught but death part thee and me

4) Naomi and Ruth return to Bethlehem (v 19-22)
   a) The city was moved

   b) Call me Mara

   c) The Almighty has afflicted me

   d) The beginning of Barley Harvest

CHAPTER 2

A. THE INTRODUCTION OF BOAZ (v1)
   1) A kinsman

   2) Mighty man of wealth

   3) Key to victory

B. OBLIGATION FOLLOWS COMMITMENT (v 2,3)
   1) Ruth asks permission
      a) Did not go without permission

      b) Did not wait until asked to go

      c) Aware of need for action

      d) She went in faith

   2) Ruth gleans in the fields
      gleaning-Lev. 19:9,10; Deut. 24:19-22

   3) Faith's responsibility
      a) Started where she was

      b) Humbled herself

      c) Obedient and diligent

   4) Faith's purpose
      a) God used faith to bless man - What are you doing? Josh. 1:8-15

      b) Source or need

   5) Divine guidance
      "her hap" was...
      a) Heart must be right

      b) Revealed to those fulfilling what they know to do

C. The Salvations (v 4)
1) The Lord be with you

2) The Lord bless thee

D. Boaz Inquires About Ruth (v5-7)
1) Whose damsel is this

2) Ruth asks to glean

3) Ruth's diligence
Luke 16:10, Col. 3:23, 24)

E. Ruth Restricted (v 8, 9)
For Ruth to enjoy the provisions, the protection and the fellowship, she must restrict herself to the field of Boaz

F. Grace- (v 10-12)
1) Why take knowledge of me- Eph. 2:12

2) Kindness toward God's people -Mt. 10:42, 25:40, Mk 9:41

3) Commitment-Mk 10:29, 30

4) Full reward- Lk 12:32, Rom. 8:32, II Pet. 1:3

G. Ruth Finds Favor (v 13-19)
1) Eats with the reapers

2) Gleans among the sheaves

3) Handfuls on purpose -Eph.3:20

4) An ephah of barley

H. Realization of The Kinsman (v 20-23)
1) Kinsman (2:1)

2) Kinsman (2:20)

Notes on the Kinsman-Redeemer

A. Three Requirements of Kinsman
1) Must be a near kinsman

Boaz-Ruth 2:20; 3:9

Jesus-Hebrews 2:11-18

2) Must be willing to redeem

Boaz-Ruth 3:11, 13

Jesus-Matthew 20:28; Titus 2:13, 14

3) Must be able to redeem

Boaz-Ruth 2:1

Jesus-Hebrews 7:22-26; 9:12

B. Four Areas Obligated To Redeem
1) Personal bondage-Person sold themselves to another because of incurred debt.

II Kings 4:1, 7 Lev. 25:47-55 Matt. 18:25

Prov. 5:22 John 8:34 Rom. 6:6,12, 16-18 Heb. 2:15 Gal. 4:3-7

2) Property or possessions - possessions sold in order to pay debts

Neh. 5:1-5 Lev. 25:23-24 Matt. 18:25

John 10:10 Gal. 3:13,14

3) Name or inheritance

Deut. 25:5, 6 Matt. 22:24-28

Eph. 2:12 Heb. 9:15

4) Life - Law demanded blood vengence

Gen. 9:4-6 Num. 35:16-28

Rom. 7:22-25; 8:6-9 I John 3:8

C. Scriptures

Isa. 44:6 Jer. 32:6-8 Jer. 50:34 Job 19:13-15, 23-27

A. Naomi's Plan For Ruth (v 1,2)
   1) Seek rest
      a) Winnoweth barley
         Matt 3:12

      b) Threshing floor

B. Ruth's Instructions (v 3-7) "Preparation for full redemption"
   1) Wash - "wash thyself" -same word used in preparation of sacrifice for offering

      Rom 12:1 I Jn 1:9

   2) Anoint - "anoint thee" - Fullness comes with the Holy Spirit anointing

   3) Clothe - "put thy raiment upon thee" - Clothed in righteousness and armor
      II Cor. 5:21; Eph 6:11-18 Eph 4:22-24 and Col 3:5-14

   4) Humble - "get thee down to the floor" - Submission to Jesus

   5) Wait - "lay thee down" - Waiting on the Lord (not sleeping) waiting is preparation before separation

      * *NOTE* * (v 5,6)

      Ruth was completely obedient -is there a gap between what you know to do and what you are doing.

C. Ruth's Appeal (v 9)
   1) States her position before her petition
      Acts 17:28

   2) Reminds Boaz of the law
      Isa 43:26

   3) Spread thy skirt - means-take me into the protection and intimacy of the marriage relationship
      "skirt" also translated "wings" Ruth 2:12, Ps 91:4

      * *NOTE* *
      Her appeal was "I want you more than the gifts"

D. Boaz's Reply (v 10-14)
   1) Kindness - Word characteristic of God Himself Ruth 1:8; 2:20

   2) Virtuous - Pr 31

   3) Nearer kinsman (v 12)

   4) Let it not be known - II Cor 8:21- I Thess 5:22

E. Boaz's Pledge (v 15-18)
   1) Six measures of barley - Eph 1:13, 14

   2) Will not be in rest -

Chapter 4

A. The Meeting At The Gate (v 1,2)
The gate was a place set aside for judicial decisions and legal transactions
Deut. 16:18; 21:18

1) The nearer kinsman - "Ho, such a one"
Boaz doesn't call his close relative by a personal name - speaks of the lack of personality, unfriendliness, facelessness, coldness of the nearer kinsman

2) The ten elders
Number of men necessary for legal decision

B. The Nearer Kinsman - (v 3-6)

1) His attitude - Take the property, refuse Ruth the unnamed-faceless-cold kinsman would have paid the price for the property Naomi was selling, but as soon as he heard that Ruth the Moabitess was involved

2) His name-

3) His discription-
Gen. 2:16,17 Rom. 2:12 Rom. 3:20
Rom. 7:7,12 Gal. 3:21-26

C. The Transfer of Redemption (v 6-10)
"Redeem thou my right to thyself; for I cannot redeem it"

1) Gave his shoe -Variation of Deut 25:7-9
The manner concerning redeeming, changling, to confirm

2) Shoe was a testimony
a) Sole of this shoe has legal right to walk on property
b) Sole of this shoe has legal right to walk with Ruth

3) Boaz redeems all (v 9, 10)
Bondage-possessions-inheritance-life

D. The Blessing Upon Boaz and Ruth

1) House like Rachel and Leah Gen. 29, 30)
They brought forth the Twelve Tribes of Israel

2) House like Pharez Gen 38
Continued the family line of Judah

E. The Restoration and Genealogy (v 13,22)

1) The kinsman
a) A restorer- I Cor. 5:18,20
b) A nourisher- Abide, bear, guide, make provision, sustain

2) Genealogy
Boaz - Strength
Obed - Servant
Jesse -Wealthy
David -Beloved

3) Tragedy turned to victory

Test - Due 5/17

1. What caused elimelech to travel to Moab? Discuss briefly.

2. Name two mistakes Elimelech made by leaving.

3. Write one (1) scripture for each part of Ruth's commitment.

4. Briefly discuss Naomi's remarks upon her return to Behtlehem.

5. Briefly discuss why Boaz restricted Ruth and how this applies to you.

6. What four (4) areas did the kinsman redeem?

7. List and define the five instructions Ruth received before meeting Boaz at the trhreshing floor.