

## A Beautiful Story in a Dark Time

The period of judges was a dark time for the people of Israel (Judges 21:25). And yet, during this period a bright spot appears. There was actually a beautiful story that transpired during the time of the judges. This story was that of Ruth, Naomi and Boaz.

### I. The Story

#### A. Chapter 1:

1. These events of Ruth occur during the time of a famine (vs 1).
3. Elimelech takes his family to Moab (vs 2).
4. Elimelech dies in Moab. His sons (Mahlon and Chilion) take women from Moab to be their wives (vss 3-4).
5. Like their father, Mahlon and Chilion also die in Moab (vs 5).
6. After 10 years, Naomi decides to return home (vss 6-10). She advises her two daughter-in-laws to remain in Moab (vss 11-13).
7. Orpah stays in Moab, but Ruth does the opposite (vss 14-22).

#### B. Chapter 2:

1. Once arriving in Israel, Ruth gathers grain for her and Naomi (vss 1-2). Provisions were made in the Law for the poor to be able to glean in the fields of the wealthy after the reapers were finished (Leviticus 19:9-10; Deuteronomy 24:19).
2. Ruth gathers grain in the field of Boaz (vs 3).
3. Boaz is impressed with Ruth and makes provision for her (vss 4-7).
4. Boaz tells Ruth not to glean in anyone else's field (vss 8-17).
5. Once Naomi hears about Ruth's encounter with Boaz, she decides to play the match maker (vss 20-23).

#### C. Chapter 3:

1. Naomi gives Ruth advice on how to get Boaz's attention (vss 1-5).
2. Boaz is ecstatic that Ruth is interested in him (vss 6-10).
3. He tells her that he wants to redeem her since he was a close relative.
4. But there was a relative closer in kin than he was (vss 11-12).
5. Boaz told Ruth to go back to Naomi and the next morning he would try to redeem her (vs 13)

#### D. Chapter 4:

1. Boaz told the next of kin about some land that he had the right to redeem...
2. ...but if he redeemed it, he also would have to take Ruth (vss 1-5).
3. The man then relinquished his right of redemption (vss 6-9).
4. This then freed up Boaz to marry Ruth (vs 10).
5. They married and had a son named Obed (vs 13).
6. Through this union Naomi was blessed with another son to raise (vss 14-15).

### II. The Application

- A. Good friendships are a blessing! Ruth was a loyal and dedicated friend to Naomi.
- B. When suffering, better days will come! (See Ruth 1:12; 4:13-14)
- C. God loves everyone (John 3:16)!
- D. God can use anybody to accomplish His will! (See Ruth 4:20-21)

**Conclusion:** God used Ruth to help bring the Messiah into the world. Have you given your life to Him?