



Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

Ruth 1:22 [NIV-1984] [The following verse is repeated from the previous chapter to aid continuity]

²² So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning.

 **Barley harvest:** “God had restored plenty to His people, and [Naomi and Ruth] arrive to witness and receive their share of the blessing. The barley harvest was the earliest [grain to ripen] (Exodus 9:31-32), and [the harvest] would ordinarily [occur] about the end of April.” [©about 1880, Ellicott’s Commentary for English Readers, edited by Charles J. Ellicott. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/ruth/1-22.htm>]

¹ Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, from the clan of Elimelech [Ĕ-līm-ĕ-lĕck], a man of standing, whose name was Boaz [Bōw-ās].

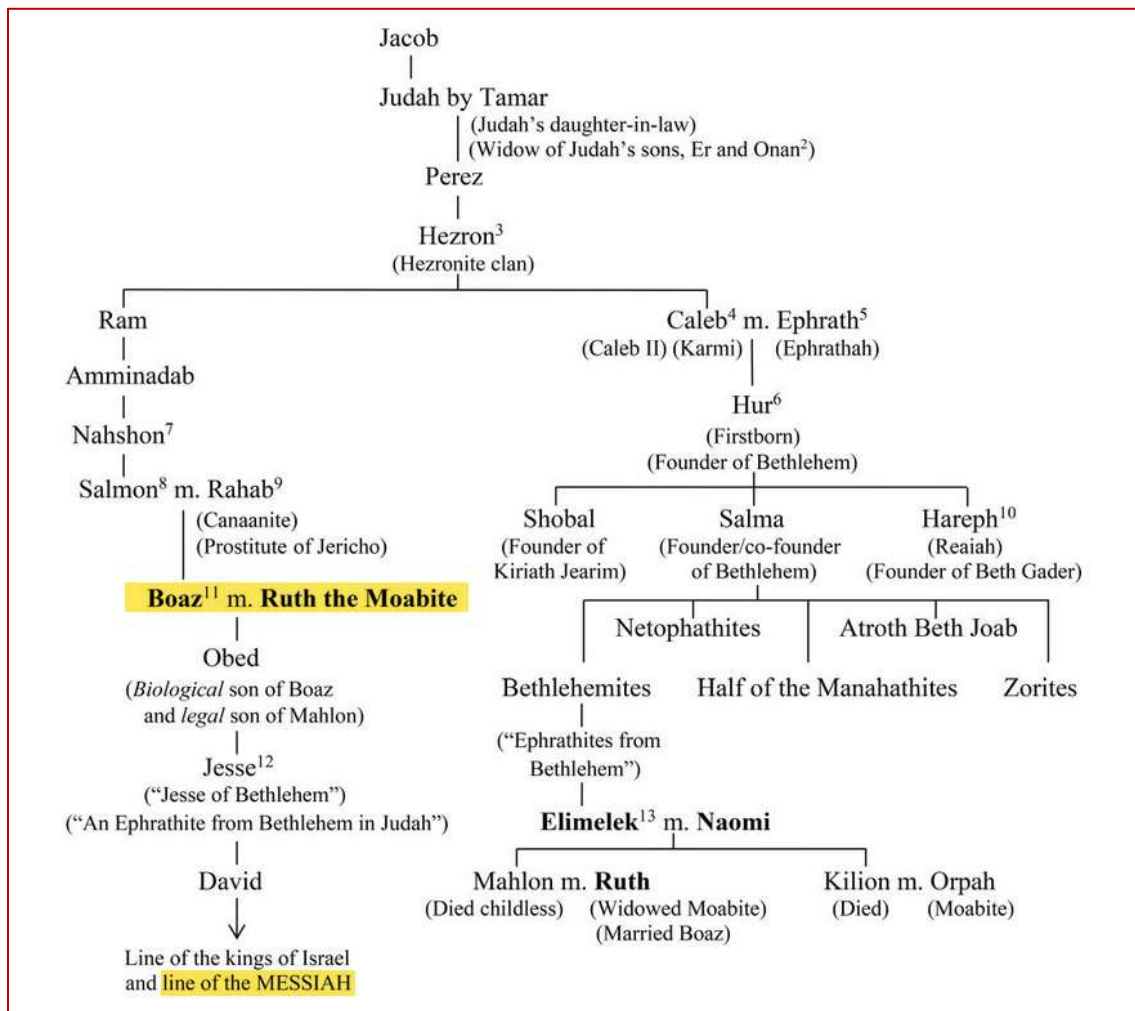




Chart showing family tree of Boaz and Ruth pulled from ‘All the Genealogies of the Bible’ available with Bible Gateway Plus. <https://www.biblegateway.com/blog/2024/04/how-all-the-genealogies-of-the-bible-helps-bring-clarity-on-gods-love-for-us/>

 **Naomi had a relative on her husband's side:** “That was her kinsman by her husband's side, who now lived at Bethlehem; and yet it does not appear that Naomi made any application to him for assistance in her circumstances, though

Lesson 2: Ruth 2:1-23

well known to her, as the word used signifies; which might arise from her modesty, and being loath to be troublesome to him, especially as he was a relation, not of her own family, but of her husband's; but, what is more strange, that this kinsman had taken no notice of her, nor sent to her, who yet was a very generous and liberal man, and had knowledge of her coming, for he had heard of the character of Ruth, Ruth 2:11 but perhaps he was not acquainted with their indigent circumstances." [©about 1760, *Exposition of the Entire Bible* by John Gill. Text Courtesy of Internet Sacred Texts Archive. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/ruth/2-1.htm>]

 **Naomi had a relative:** Some commentators interpret these passages in Ruth to infer that Boaz was Elimelech's nephew – the son of Elimelech's brother . . . or possibly Elimelech's younger brother. The unnamed kinsman-redeemer, to whom Boaz deferred, may have been their eldest brother. Scripture is silent on the precise relationships; therefore, we can only speculate.

² And Ruth the Moabitess [Mōw-ă-by-těss] said to Naomi [Nāy-ō-mī], "Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor."

Naomi said to her, "Go ahead, my daughter."

Q1. What were the economic circumstances of Naomi and Ruth?

Q2. Why would Naomi and Ruth have to "go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain"?



Ripened Barley ready for harvesting
Copyright: Food For Life. <https://www.foodforlife.com/grain-and-seed/barley>

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Q3. Why did Ruth qualify her “pick-up the leftover grain” statement by adding “behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor”? Is she searching for a husband? (Hint: how might a righteous Jew treat a woman? Particularly, a woman from Moab?)

Q4. What does Naomi’s comment, “Go ahead, my daughter,” tell us about their relationship?

³ So she went out and began to glean in the fields behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she found herself working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelech.

Q5. Presumably, many crews were out in the fields harvesting barley grain. How did Ruth ever select a crew of harvesters that belonged to one of Elimelech’s relatives?

Q6. Is gleaning easy work?




glean (glēn)

[Source: © 2003-2024 Farlex, Inc. <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/glean>]

- 1.a. To gather (grain or other produce) left behind after harvest.
- 1.b. To gather grain or other produce left behind in (a field).
2. To collect bit by bit.

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Day 2

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⁴ Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, "The Lord be with you!"

"The Lord bless you!" they called back.

Q7. What do the shared greetings tell us about the man Boaz and his relationship to his workers, and to the Lord?

Q8. Would you like to work for a manager like Boaz?

1 John 4:7-12 [International Children's Bible (ICB)]

⁷ Dear friends, we should love each other, because love comes from God. The person who loves has become God's child and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love to us: He sent his only Son into the world to give us life through him. ¹⁰ True love is God's love for us, not our love for God. God sent his Son to die in our place to take away our sins.

¹¹ That is how much God loved us, dear friends! So, we also must love each other. ¹² No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us. If we love each other, God's love has reached its goal. It is made perfect in us.



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Lesson 2: Ruth 2:1-23

⁵Boaz asked the foreman of his harvesters, "Whose young woman is that?"

⁶The foreman replied, "She is the Moabitess who came back from Moab with Naomi. ⁷She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the harvesters.' She went into the field and has worked steadily from morning till now, except for a short rest in the shelter."

Q9. I find it strange that out of all the — presumably — many people in his fields, Boaz recognized a stranger. Perhaps, you do, too. What might this emphasize as part of Boaz's personal core values?

Deuteronomy 24:19-22 [The Message (MSG); a paraphrase]

[God's command to the Israelites:]

¹⁹⁻²² When you harvest your grain and forget a sheaf back in the field, don't go back and get it; leave it for the foreigner, the orphan, and the widow so that God, your God, will bless you in all your work. When you shake the olives off your trees, don't go back over the branches and strip them bare — what's left is for the foreigner, the orphan, and the widow. And when you cut the grapes in your vineyard, don't take every last grape — leave a few for the foreigner, the orphan, and the widow. Don't ever forget that you were a slave in Egypt. I [the Lord] command you: Do what I'm telling you.

⁸So Boaz said to Ruth, "My daughter, listen to me. Don't go and glean in another field and don't go away from here. Stay here with my servant girls. ⁹Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the girls. I have told the men not to touch you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled."

Q10. What one word comes to mind when reading Boaz's invitation to Ruth?

K ___ D [Ephesians 4:32 (ESV, NIV, Phillips, ICB); Psalm 72:13 (ICB); Psalm 145:17 (ESV)]

Q11. What were the conditions in which Ruth worked? (Circle the relevant words: Clean? Dusty? Hot? Cold? Smooth soil? Clumpy, uneven soil? Easy work? Hard work? Stimulating work? Tedious work? Safe? Dangerous? Others?)

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Q12. Why did Boaz tell Ruth not to worry about his harvesters: “I have told the men not to touch you”? Was she at-risk of physical or sexual violence?

Yes? } Why?
No? }

Q13. If Boaz had not specifically invited Ruth to drink from his harvesters’ water jars, what may have been their reaction toward Ruth if she had taken a drink?

Q14. Why did Boaz instruct Ruth to stay with his servant girls?

Day 3

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¹⁰ At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She exclaimed, "Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me — a foreigner?"


Q15. Why was Ruth surprised at Boaz’s kindness — to “a foreigner”?


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¹¹ Boaz replied, "I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband — how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. ¹² May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge."

Q16. Was Boaz a sensitive and empathetic individual? What evidence are you able to glean from these passages to support your yes, or no?

Yes? } Evidence?
No? }

 sen·si·tive (sĕn'sī-tĭv) [Source: © 2003-2024 Farlex, Inc. <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/sensitive>]
1. Capable of perceiving with a sense or senses. . . .
5.a. Aware of or careful about the attitudes, feelings, or circumstances of others

 em·pa·thy (ĕm'pə-thē) [Source: © 2003-2024 Farlex, Inc. <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/empathy>]
1. The ability to identify with or understand the perspective, experiences, or motivations of another individual and to comprehend and share another individual's emotional state. . . .

Q17. Are sensitivity, empathy, and mercy good traits for a follower of Christ Jesus to exhibit/demonstrate? Why?

Yes? } Why?
No? }

Q18. While Boaz did not apparently visit Naomi upon her return to Bethlehem, he had heard about Naomi's and Ruth's circumstances. Did Boaz have a good grasp of the current plight that Ruth and Naomi were experiencing?

Yes? } Thoughts?
No? }

Q19. Did Boaz understand the sacrifices that Ruth had made to remain with Naomi?

Yes? } Why?
No? }

Lesson 2: Ruth 2:1-23

Q20. Verse 12: Could this verse could be considered an intercessory prayer? Why?

Yes? }
No? } Why?



in·ter·cede (in'tər-sēd')

1. To plead on another's behalf.
2. To act as mediator in a dispute.

[Source: © 2003-2024 Farlex, Inc. <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/intercedes>]

Q21. [Personal] In your day-to-day activities, how often do you make intercessory prayers on behalf of others? Why?

Day 4



Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

¹³ "May I continue to find favor in your eyes, my lord," she said. "You have given me comfort and have spoken kindly to your servant — though I do not have the standing of one of your servant girls."

Q22. Why did Ruth believe that she did "not have the standing of one of your servant girls"?

Q23. What standing do we have before Christ Jesus?

Ephesians 2:4-9 [NIV-1984]

⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming


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ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.
⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast.

¹⁴At mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar."

When she sat down with the harvesters, he offered her some roasted grain. She ate all she wanted and had some left over.

Q24. Ruth "ate all she wanted and had some left over". Why did Ruth have some left-over grain?


 **Wine vinegar:** "a sour beverage composed of vinegar (wine vinegar or sour wine) mixed with oil; a very refreshing drink, which is still a favourite beverage in the East." [©1857-78; *Biblical Commentary on the Old Testament*, by Carl Friedrich Keil and Franz Delitzsch. Text: Internet Sacred Texts Archive. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/ruth/2-14.htm>]

 Some Bible translations have interpreted the ancient texts – this verse 14 – with a slight variation. The ESV, NASB, and the KJV states: "she sat beside the reapers"; whereas the NIV and ICB says: "sat down with the harvesters [or workers]"; and the MSG similarly declares: "So she joined the harvesters".

The commentator John Gill made this observation: "and [Ruth] sat beside the reapers; [specifically] the women reapers; [however,] she did not sit along with them, or in [the] midst of them, in the row with them, as ranking with them, but on one side of them, which was an instance of her great modesty [and in keeping with her belief expressed in verse 13^b: "I do not have the standing of one of your servant girls"]". [©about 1760, *Exposition of the Entire Bible* by John Gill. Text Courtesy of Internet Sacred Texts Archive. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/ruth/2-14.htm>]

Lesson 2: Ruth 2:1-23

Day 5

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¹⁵ As she got up to glean, Boaz gave orders to his men, "Even if she gathers among the sheaves, don't embarrass her. ¹⁶ Rather, pull out some stalks for her from the bundles and leave them for her to pick up, and don't rebuke her."

Q25. [Please speculate] The Boss's instructions to the harvesters were . . . unusual. Why was Boaz so kind to Ruth?



In verse 5, Boaz has asked his foreman, "Whose young woman is that?"

The foreman explains that she is Ruth and then repeats her request: (verse 7) "Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the harvesters."

In verses 15-16, Boaz grants her request and, in fact, gives her a bit more when he said to his workers, "Let her gather even around the bundles of grain. Don't tell her to go away. Drop some full heads of grain for her. Let her gather that grain, and don't tell her to stop. [ICB]"



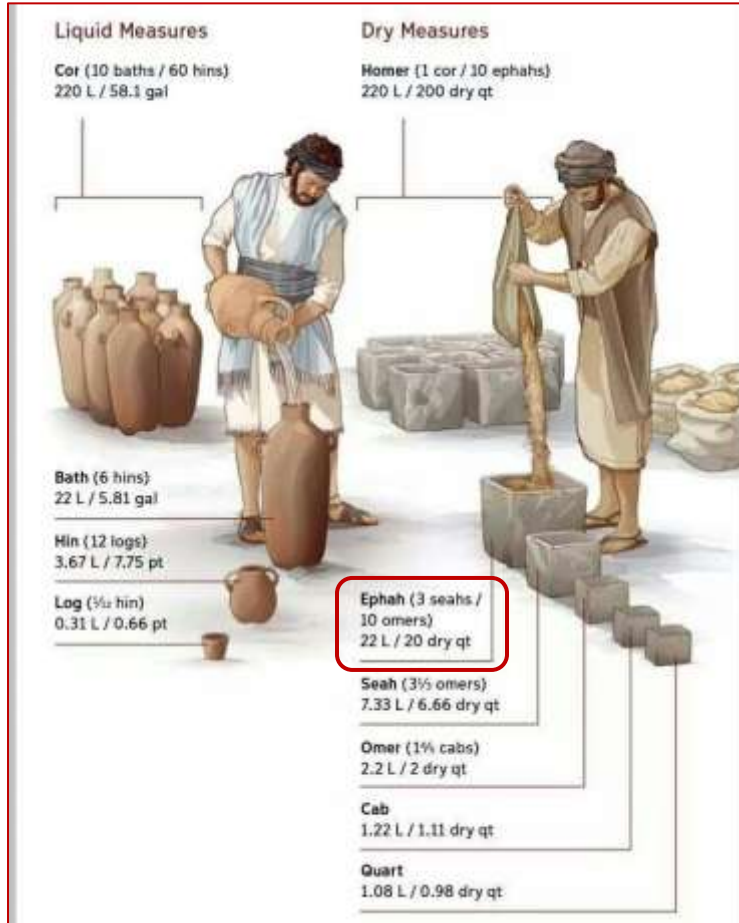
As Keil and Delitzsch observed, "These directions of Boaz went far beyond the bounds of generosity and compassion for the poor; and show that he felt a peculiar interest in Ruth, with whose circumstances he was well acquainted, and who had won his heart by her humility, her faithful attachment to her mother-in-law, and her love to the God of Israel - a fact important to notice in connection with the further course of the history." [©1857-78; *Biblical Commentary on the Old Testament*, by Carl Friedrich Keil and Franz Delitzsch. Text: Internet Sacred Texts Archive. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/ruth/2-15.htm>]

¹⁷ So Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. Then she threshed the barley she had gathered, and it amounted to about an ephah [ěff-äh]. ¹⁸ She carried it back to town, and her mother-in-law saw how much she had gathered. Ruth also brought out and gave her what she had left over after she had eaten enough.

Q26. Was Naomi surprised by the amount (an ephah) of barley grain Ruth brought home?

Yes? } Why?
No? }

Lesson 2: Ruth 2:1-23




Ephah pictured. An ephah is about one bushel.

Source: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/174655291789071786/>

Q27. Ruth “gleaned in the field until evening.” How would you define “gleaning”? (‘Glean’ was previously defined)

Q28. Ruth “Then . . . threshed the barley she had gathered.” How would you define “threshing”?

 thresh (thrēsh)

[Source: © 2003-2024 Farlex, Inc. <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/thresh>]

1.a. To beat the stems and husks of (grain or cereal plants) with a machine or flail to separate the grains or seeds from the straw.

b. To separate (grains or seeds) in this manner.

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Depiction of Ruth hand-threshing barley: separating the grain from the stalks.

Ruth managed to collect about a bushel of barley grain!

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/jehovah-god-lovely-scriptures--308355905729508157/>

Day 6

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

^{19a} Her mother-in-law asked her, "Where did you glean today? Where did you work? Blessed be the man who took notice of you!"

^{19b} Then Ruth told her mother-in-law about the one at whose place she had been working. "The name of the man I worked with today is Boaz," she said.

²⁰ "The Lord bless him!" Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. "He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead." She added, "That man is our close relative; he is one of our kinsman-redeemers."


Q29. In verse 19^a Naomi is excited. Why? Is she excited because Ruth is blushing? Because Ruth returned with an ephah of grain? Because Ruth shared with Naomi her "roasted grain" left over from lunch? Thoughts?

Lesson 2: Ruth 2:1-23

Q30. What does Naomi think of Boaz's character?


Q31. [Personal] What might a relative say of your character?

Q32. How would you describe the role of kinsman-redeemer?

 Commentator Albert Barnes suggests: “[Boaz’s] kindness to the dead consisted in raising up (as Naomi hoped) an heir to perpetuate the name; and, in general, in His care for their widows.

One of our kinsman-redeemers: The word here is גֹּאֵל *gā'al* [in Hebrew], the redeemer, who had the right: (1) of redeeming the inheritance of the person; (2) of marrying the widow; [and] (3) of avenging the death. (See Leviticus 25:25-31; Leviticus 25:47-55; Deuteronomy 25:5-10; Deuteronomy 19:1-13.)

“Since these rights belonged to the next of kin, [the Hebrew phrase] גֹּאֵל *gā'al* came to mean the nearest kinsman [or kinsman-redeemer].” [©1834, *Notes on the Bible* by Albert Barnes. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/ruth/2-20.htm>]

 In a footnote to Ruth 2:20, the NIV-2011 version of the Bible provides this explanation: “The Hebrew word for guardian-redeemer [or kinsman-redeemer] is a legal term for one who has the obligation to redeem a relative in serious difficulty (see Leviticus 25:25-55)” [<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ruth+2%3A20&version=ESV:NIV:MSG:PHILLIPS:ICB>]. The cited Leviticus 25:25-55 passage contains a number of different scenarios in which a relative could protect the honor and integrity of a family member who had fallen on hard times.

Additionally, Deuteronomy 25:5-10 lays out the requirement in which a surviving brother must marry and impregnate his deceased brother's wife “so that [the deceased brother's] name will not be blotted out from Israel” [Deuteronomy 25:6]. This also serves to economically protect the widow as she ages – she will have children to support her in her ‘golden years’.

Continued (↓)

Lesson 2: Ruth 2:1-23

²¹ Then Ruth the Moabitess said, "He even said to me, 'Stay with my workers until they finish harvesting all my grain.' "

²² Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, "It will be good for you, my daughter, to go with his girls, because in someone else's field you might be harmed."

²³ So Ruth stayed close to the servant girls of Boaz to glean until the barley and wheat harvests were finished. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

Q33. Was Naomi's and Ruth's lives easy or hard during the barley and wheat harvests? Safe or dangerous?

	Easy? Or hard? Thoughts?	Safe? Or dangerous? Thoughts?
Naomi?		
Ruth?		

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