

## Ruth – Part 15

Ruth 4:12-22

Last time in the book of Ruth, we looked at verse 11 of Chapter 4, and we've been reading about the redeemer. And the redeemer, of course, in this book of Ruth is none other than Boaz. Boaz was a man who we could see fell in love at first sight. He saw Ruth and from that point on he wasn't the same. And maybe that's happened to you in this life. I don't know. But Boaz actually fell in love with Ruth and he became her kinsman redeemer.

That reminds me about Jesus Christ and God the Father. It says in the beginning in Genesis Chapter 1, God created and He was in love with man from the beginning. Then later on, we know that man messed up and sin came into the world, according to the Bible, and Jesus didn't give up on us. God didn't give up on us, because John 3:16 says that *God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.* That word "world" there means you and I. That word "world" means people. And He loves us so much we could say it was love at first sight. God loves us so much that He sent His only begotten Son to give us life. He sent Him to be our Redeemer just as Boaz became the redeemer of Ruth.

Last time, I mentioned the fact of Micah 5:2. This book is so beautiful, because it talks about where our Redeemer would come from. We know that Boaz was Ruth's redeemer, but what about our Redeemer? In Micah 5:2, it says, *But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*

We keep reading and studying the Word of God and we see that Bethlehem where the Messiah

was born is in the south near Jerusalem in the territory of Judah. There are two Bethlehems, by the way. The other Bethlehem is in the north near Nazareth in the territory of Zebulun. The most famous Bethlehem is located in the hill country approximately 2500 feet above sea level, and this is in Judah, of course. It's situated on the main highway so it was known variously as Ephratah. Genesis 35:16 talks about that, and Bethlehem Ephratah and Bethlehem Judah, the city of David, according to Luke 2:4.

Bethlehem of Zebulun is now a ruin. This is not the Bethlehem of Ephratah. The Bethlehem of Zebulun is now a ruin and it was located about six miles northwest of Nazareth. It's mentioned specifically only once in the Bible among the listing of cities within the tribal allotment of Zebulun during the time of Joshua. You can read about this in Joshua 19:10 and 15. You ask why that is important. Well, it's rightly dividing the Word of Truth. We need to know these things. We need to understand there is nothing accidental of God. He tells us everything if we just want to look for it and read it. He gives us everything that we need to know in the Scriptures.

In Ruth 4:12, the Bible goes on to say, *And let thy house be like the house of Pharez.* Remember now, a blessing had been pronounced upon Boaz and Ruth, a blessing that would be born now. Notice it says that, and we read that last time about the blessing and there was a blessing that Boaz would be honored in Ephratah. He would have kids and they would be honored like Rachel and Leah. Ruth would have children like Rachel and Leah and continue on with the bloodline of Israel. This is so important that we need to realize that. And the pronounced blessing here is

continued in verse 12 as we've read here. Let's read it now. *And let thy house be like the house of Pharez, whom Tamar bare unto Judah, of the seed which the LORD shall give thee of this young woman.* A blessing's being pronounced here, and it's continued on in verse 12 from verse 11, and the Lord's seed would come from this young woman. Once again, Micah 5:2 talks about that.

As we look in verse 13, it says, *So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son.* The blessing is starting to come about here because she had a son now and the birth took place. A son is born. God's command is honored here. He told us back in the book of Genesis 1:28, 9:1 and 7, and Genesis 35:11, *Be fruitful and multiply.* And Ruth and Boaz are listening to God. They're listening to what God has said for them to do. Thank the Lord Boaz and Ruth observed the command of God to be fruitful because Ruth 4:13 says, *She bare a son.*

In verse 14 it says, *And the women said unto Naomi...* This is the mother-in-law, now, remember. *And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed be the LORD, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel.* Boaz is carrying on the bloodline now. God has allowed Ruth to bear a son at this point and Naomi here is blessed. The women of Bethlehem pronounce a blessing upon Naomi. Not only did they pronounce a blessing upon Ruth and Boaz, but they pronounced a blessing upon Naomi. These women seemed to be saying to Naomi, "God did not leave you but has blessed you with a kinsman, and the name of Boaz will be famous in Israel."

In verse 15 it says, *And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for thy daughter in law, which loveth*

*thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him.* They're speaking, of course, of the son who was born here. And we see here life. In essence, the kinsman Boaz had given Naomi new hope, a new outlook on life. The new hope and outlook was the son. The son born had given her a new reason to enjoy her old age.

As we keep reading here, we see that the Gentile Ruth was used to bear the son, and as we study about Ruth we see that God blessed her so much. In Ruth 1:4, it says, *And they took them wives of the women of Moab.* Once again, this is where Ruth came from, but in spite of where she was born, God used her. God blessed her. And in spite of where we're born, we're born into sin, but God can bless us if we'll let Him. And Ruth let God bless her because she chose to go the right way.

In Ruth 4:16, it tells us what Naomi did with the child. It says, *And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it.* Naomi's life was looking up. She was a grandma now.

And verse 17 says, *And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David.* The women of Bethlehem gave the child a name and the child's name was Obed, the grandfather of David. The meaning of Obed is servant of God, a worshiper, a follower, so it's scriptural the name that they gave the child.

And we see here the family now. In verse 18 goes on to say: *Now these are the generations of Pharez: Pharez begat Hezron.* Let me remind you that sometimes we kind of fall asleep when we're reading about these genealogies but they're very important, because as we read this, we see that it leads up to the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and looking

back and forward we see this. Pharez is the father of Hezron and Pharez is the great, great, great, great, great, great grandfather of David. Genesis 38:29 and I Chronicles 2:4 talks about that.

Verse 19: *And Hezron begat Ram, and Ram begat Amminadab.* This is lineage. Hezron is the father of Ram. Hezron is the great, great, great, great, great grandfather of David, I Chronicles 2:9 and 5:3.

Then we keep reading that Ram is the father is Amminadab. Ram is the great, great, great, great, great grandfather of David, I Chronicles 2:10.

And verse 20: *And Amminadab begat Nahshon, and Nahshon begat Salmon.* There's the lineage again. Amminadab is the father of Nahshon. Amminadab is the great, great, great, great grandfather of David, I Chronicles 2:10.

And I'm not finished yet. Nahshon is the father of Salmon. Nahshon is the great, great, great grandfather of David, I Chronicles 2:11.

And now we're down to Ruth 4:21: *And Salmon begat Boaz, and Boaz begat Obed.* There's the lineage. Salmon is the father of Boaz. Salmon is the great, great grandfather of David, and Boaz is the father of Obed. And Boaz is the great grandfather of David.

And now, listen to this, Ruth 4:22: *And Obed begat Jesse, and Jesse begat David.* Here's the lineage. Obed is the father of Jesse. Obed is the grandfather of David and Jesse is the father of David. The Bible says about David, he was a man after God's own heart, Acts Chapter 13.

I've listed these names to show that nothing is left to chance where God is concerned. God has a plan and His plan has been from the beginning, Genesis 3:15, *And I will put enmity*

*between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; and it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

Revelation 4:11: *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

You see how this leads up to the birth of Christ? Jesus Christ from the seed of David. Jesus Christ came into this world. *But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth...* Who would come forth? The Messiah, Jesus Christ.

God's Word is so good. God's Word is so full of promises to us as human beings. And might I say to you that God leaves nothing to chance. He wants you to know Him as Savior and especially as we think about the near kinsman that we've been reading about in the book of Ruth. Jesus Christ is the One who can redeem. He wants to redeem you and He can redeem you, because He is the One who came to seek and to save those who were lost and to save people.

He's your Redeemer and He's keeping you saved. You don't keep yourself saved. He is the One who saves us and keeps us saved. He's the One who gives us eternal life. He is our Redeemer. We don't redeem ourselves. He is the One who redeemed us and we need to fall on our faces and thank God daily and say, "Lord, thank You for saving me. Thank You for allowing me to be the person You would have me to be and one day I'm day I'm going to see You personally. Thank You, Lord, for saving my soul."

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