Ruth

PRIMARY AGE STUDY
TEACHER MANUAL

CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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This study from the Book of Ruth is also available for the following suggested age groups:

Juniors: Suitable for 10 to 14 years

Primaries: Suitable for 7 to 9 years

Pre-schoolers: Suitable for 3 to 6 years

Infants: Suitable for 1 to 3 years

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The Book of Ruth

Lesson 1

Bethlehem to Moab and Back Again

Lesson Aim: Setting the scene & identifying the characters and what happened to them in Moab

Scriptures: Ruth 1:1-6

This is a true story from the Old Testament about a young lady called RUTH who lived in a foreign country called MOAB. There is a whole book about her entitled The Book of Ruth that we are going to study. It's a small book with only 4 chapters but it is filled with wonderful truths for us to learn and apply to our lives.

First, let's begin reading in the Book of Ruth about a family who traveled from Bethlehem, Judah to live in the country of MOAB.

Ruth 1:1 Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons.
2 The name of the man was Elimelech, the name of his wife was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion-Ephrathites of **Bethlehem, Judah**. And they went to the country of Moab and remained there.

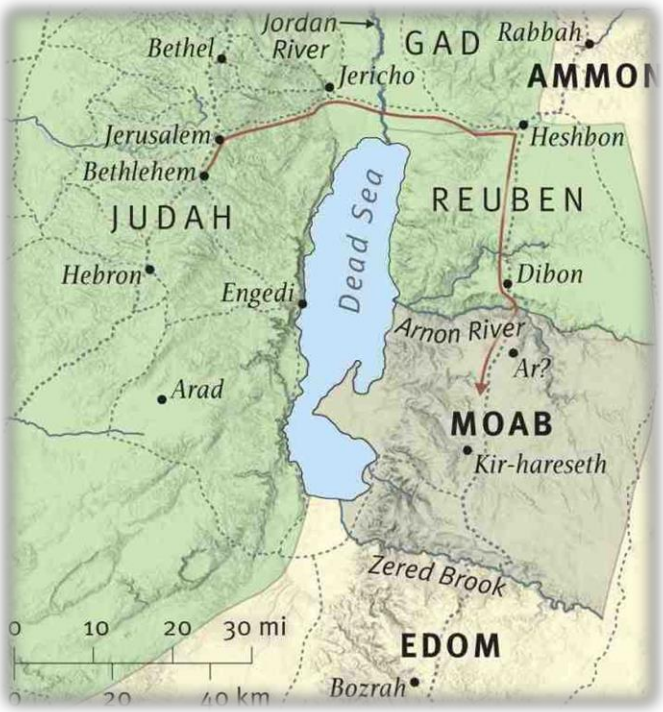
"Elimelech and Naomi journey to Moab with their two sons"

Elimelech and his family left their home country of Judah in Israel because there was a famine in the land. Do you know what a famine is?

It's when food is scarce and people are going hungry. What might cause a famine?

Climate & weather factors such as droughts, floods, fires. Insect infestations such as locusts etc. No seed to sow or people to work in the fields.

Look at the map below and trace the journey that Elimelech and his family made from BETHLEHEM to MOAB. You can see it marked on the map in red. Now underline Bethlehem and Moab on the map.



Bethlehem's name means 'The House of Bread'.

Do you know another reason why Bethlehem is famous in the Bible?
The birthplace of Jesus, and also King David.

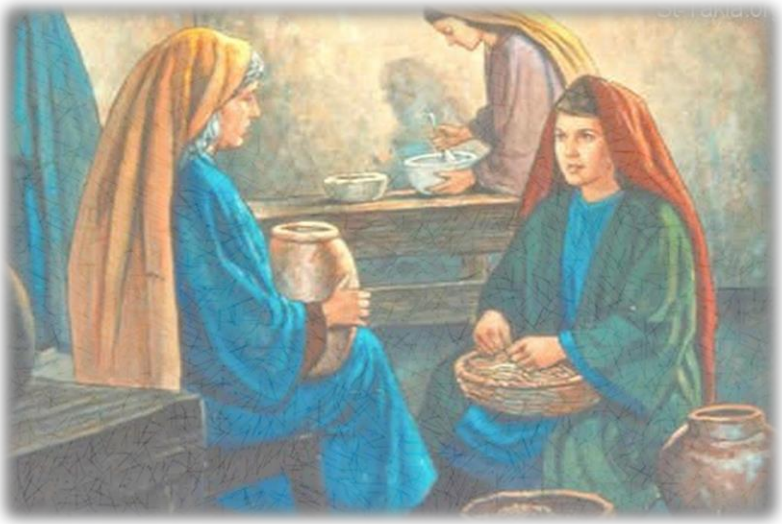
Whilst the family was living in Moab, the father Elimelech died (v.3). After this, Naomi's two sons married women of the country of Moab

(v.4). Chilion's wife was called ORPAH, and Mahlon's wife was RUTH, the young lady we are going to learn about.

Ruth 1:3 Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left, and her two sons.
4 Now they took wives of the women of Moab: the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth. And they dwelt there about ten years.

They had been living in Moab for about 10 years (v.4) when the two sons Mahlon and Chilion also died. This left just Naomi, and her two daughters-in-law Ruth and Orpah (v.5).

Ruth 1:5 Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband.



After the death of her husband and sons, Naomi heard some good news from her own country, Judah, and her hometown of Bethlehem. The famine had ended and the Lord GOD had chosen to bless the land and the people once again by providing grain with which to make bread (v.6).

Ruth 1:6 Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had visited His people by giving them bread.

So Naomi left Moab to begin the return journey to her homeland and her two daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth, set off with her. (v.6)

Read these scriptures and then discuss the following questions:

Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Ruth 1:1 Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land.

Do you have any ideas as to why the Lord GOD might have caused a famine to take place in the land of Israel? And why He would then relent after 10 years to provide a harvest and bread once again for the people?
Give the children opportunity to discuss whilst guiding them towards how Israel was in a rebellious state in that everyone was doing what was right in their own eyes rather than God's eyes.

Now let's read another Old Testament Scripture:
Amos 8:11 "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord GOD, "That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of hearing the words of the LORD.

What might cause a spiritual famine? *A failure on the leaders, especially the religious leaders, to teach the people the word of God.*

All of those verses make it very clear that the spiritual condition of the nation of Israel at the time of the Judges was not good. We know that because we read that everyone was doing 'what was right in his own eyes'. As a result, God allowed a famine to sweep the land and the people had no bread. The Word of God is also referred to as 'bread'. The people of Israel were experiencing a physical famine and perhaps also a spiritual famine because of their disobedience. When anyone is doing what is right in their own eyes then they are not doing what is right in God's eyes – what He says in His Word.

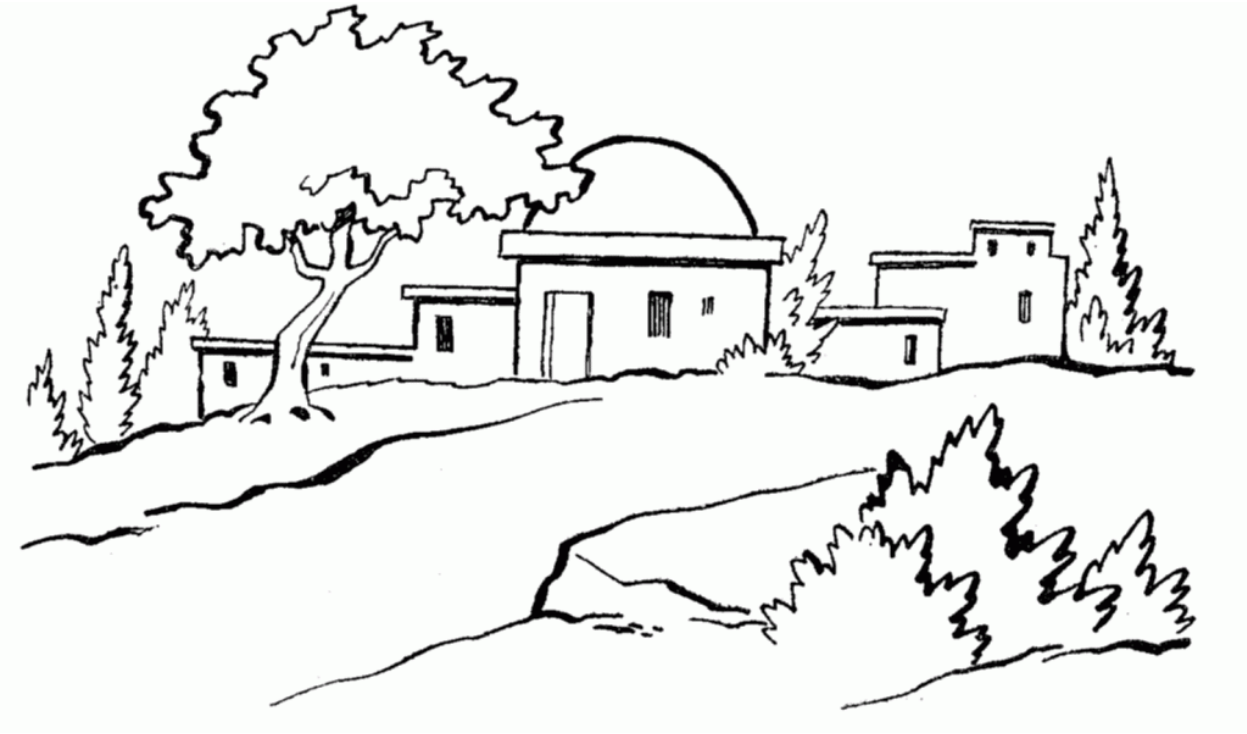
The Book of Ruth does not tell us why the famine came to an end, but the Book of Judges shows that when the people repented of their disobedience, then God gave them provisions and deliverance from their enemies.

In The Lord's Prayer it says:
Luke 11:3 Give us day by day our daily bread.

Every day, we need to be feeding on the Word of God so that we might be able to obey God's Word rather than doing 'what is right in our own eyes'.

Now turn to **Luke 11:2-4** or **Matthew 6:9-13** in your Bibles and read the whole of The Lord's Prayer to finish.

In the next lesson we will learn about the Journey to Bethlehem.



BETHLEHEM = House of Bread

The Book of Ruth

Lesson 2

The Journey to Bethlehem

Lesson Aim: To show how we are also called to go on a journey to 'The House of Bread'.
Scriptures: Ruth 1:6-14

In our last lesson from the Book of Ruth, we heard about a Jewish family that traveled to a foreign country called Moab because there was a famine in their own country. Do you remember what a famine is? What might it also point to?

A famine is when there is very little food to eat. This could be food in the natural, or it could be spiritual food. We know this because The Word of God is also frequently referred to as 'bread', and so is Jesus in John chapter 6.

Whilst in Moab the father, Elimelech, died. What was his wife's name?
Naomi
After Elimelech's death, his 2 sons Mahlon and Chilion married 2 women of Moab. Then, sadly, the 2 sons also died and their mother Naomi was left alone with her 2 daughters-in-law Ruth and Orpah.

How long did Naomi dwell in Moab? *About 10 years*

After dwelling in Moab for all those years, Naomi heard that the famine was over and that the Lord GOD had provided food once again in her homeland of Bethlehem in Judah. So she arose with Ruth and Orpah to return there (v.7). As the 3 women began the journey, Naomi encouraged her 2 daughters-in-law to return to their own mother's house:

Ruth 1:8 And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each to her mother's house. The LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.

Why do you think Naomi would tell them that? And what was her desire for them?

Read about it in v.9:
Ruth 1:9 "The LORD grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband." Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.

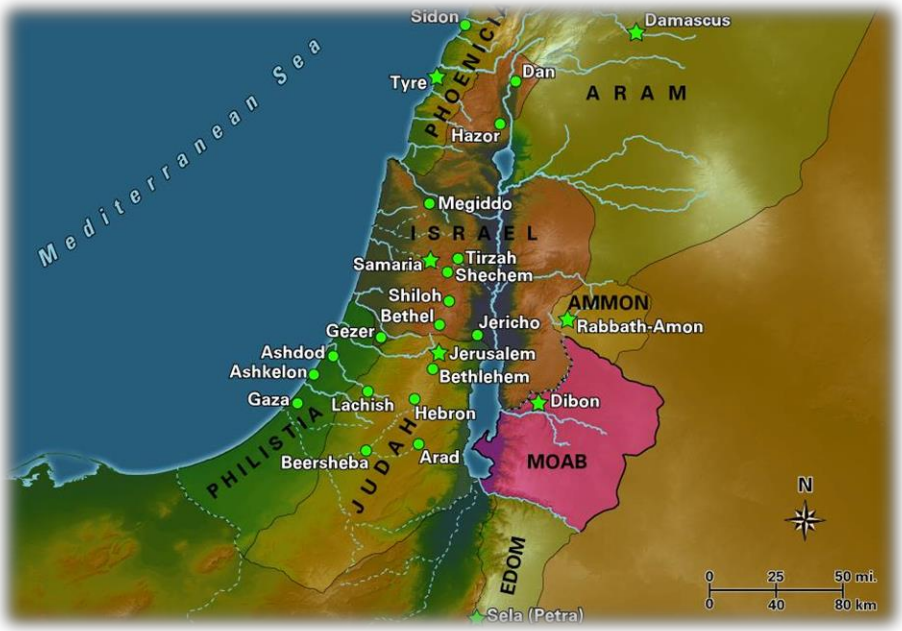
What did Naomi want Ruth and Orpah to find? *'Rest' – literally consolation in matrimony to another husband*

In Naomi's homeland of Israel, if a woman's husband died then it was the custom for his unmarried brother to marry her. This was done so that the family lands and **inheritance** remained within their family.

However, Naomi had no more sons that could marry Ruth or Orpah and without a husband of her own she could not have any future sons. So through much weeping, she told them to go back, with the hope that in the future they might find a new husband in their own country of Moab.

If you look at the map you can see MOAB in purple. Now look to see if you can find where **Bethlehem** is and circle that.

The Book of Ruth does not tell us how far they had traveled before Naomi told them to go back. Maybe they had reached the border of the land. The land of Moab was a separate country from Judah, which was in Israel. It was not part of the Promised Land given to the Jews by God.



Naomi was also very upset because she realized that the Lord GOD was punishing her, and so she felt she was without hope of a future for herself or for her 2 daughters-in-law.

Ruth 1:11 But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Are there still sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?
12 "Turn back, my daughters, go-for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, if I should have a husband tonight and should also bear sons,
13 "would you wait for them till they were grown? Would you restrain yourselves from having husbands? No, my daughters; for it grieves me very much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me!"

Why can't Naomi provide any future husbands for Ruth or Orpah? (v.12)
She is too old to find a husband and have future sons they could marry.

Which phrase reveals that Naomi believes the Lord was punishing her? Underline it in v.13.

Despite this, both Ruth and Orpah are determined to stay with Naomi. But when she tells them a second time to return, Orpah decides to go back.

Ruth 1:14 Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth **clung** to her.

So Orpah kisses Naomi and turns back to Moab, towards her family and towards the land of her birth. Orpah is never mentioned in the Bible again after she returns to Moab.

We have now seen **a separation** take place between Orpah and Ruth and Naomi. Are you beginning to wonder what that might picture for us? *A difference between those who are faithful and unfaithful will eventually be made.*

Ruth however, clings to her mother-in-law. She is determined to remain with Naomi all the way to Bethlehem. Ruth's name means **'a friend'** or **'a companion',** and that's exactly what she is as she accompanies Naomi on the journey.

1). Do you think there is a journey that we are required to make?

2). If so, what sort of journey and where should it lead us to? *It is a spiritual journey that we make towards Christ and His Kingdom*

3). How can we make this journey? *By studying and being obedient to the Word of God*

4). Do we have a choice in this? *Yes we have freewill to choose but the outcome will be different if we choose not to make the journey and turn back like Orpah*

5). Are we required to make the journey alone? *No, there are others who are making the same journey*

6). Who goes with us? *As well as others on the journey, the Holy Spirit goes with us*

The journey of Ruth and Naomi is a TYPE of the spiritual journey that we are to make as Christians with the potential of an inheritance at the end.

The Book of Ruth is filled with **Types**, or **word pictures**, that enable us to grasp great spiritual truths. What is **a Type?** *It is a person, place, thing, or event that points to something future, which is called the Antitype.*

So far

- we have seen 2 Gentile women become part of a Jewish family through marriage, followed by the subsequent death of their husbands.
- we have seen a journey beginning towards a place called 'the House of Bread' that takes them from the country of their birth towards a land that is being blessed by God.
- we have seen a widow woman – Naomi- choosing to return to her homeland after living in a Gentile land for 10 years. And finally,
- we have seen that, like Ruth, we must make a spiritual journey towards 'Bethlehem' – The House of Bread

Matthew 6:9 "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.
10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.
11 Give us this day our daily bread.
12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.

13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Ruth 1:14 Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth **clung** to her.

The Holy Bible
Give us this day our daily bread — Matt 6:11

The Book of Ruth

Lesson 3

"I Will Go!"

Lesson Aim: To show how Ruth's declaration, "I will go," is a pattern for us as we make our spiritual journey accompanied by, and clinging to, the Word of God.
Scriptures: Ruth 1:14-18

In our last lesson from The Book of Ruth, Naomi had begun a journey to return to her hometown of Bethlehem. She was making the journey from a foreign country called Moab because she heard that the famine in Bethlehem was over. Do you remember what a famine is?

It's when there is not enough food for the people to eat. Naomi heard that God had visited His people the Jews, and provided bread for them to eat.

Last lesson we also began to see that the Book of Ruth is filled with **Types**, or **Word pictures**, that enable us to grasp great spiritual truths.

> A type always points to something future and can be seen in a **person** such as Ruth, a **place** such as Bethlehem, a **thing** such as bread, or an **event** such as the famine.

So far we have seen 2 Gentile women became part of a Jewish family through marriage, followed by the subsequent death of their husbands. We have seen a journey beginning towards a place meaning 'the House of Bread' that takes them from the country of their birth towards a land that is being blessed by God. What is bread a type of? *The Word of God*

We have seen a Jewish widow woman – Naomi- choosing to return to her homeland after sojourning in that Gentile land. Then, on the journey, we saw that a separation took place between Orpah (who is not seen again in the Bible) who chose to return to the land of her birth, and Ruth who clung to Naomi.

After Orpah leaves, Naomi again tests Ruth's resolve to continue on the journey. However, Ruth is very determined to go to Bethlehem and she clings to Naomi and begs her to be allowed to go with her. Let's read about it:

Ruth 1:14 Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

15 And she said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people
and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law."
16 But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from
following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you
lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God.
17 Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The LORD do
so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me."

In v.15 what does Naomi say Orpah has returned to?
Her people and to her gods

Do you think Orpah could be a type of someone?
Unfaithful Christian who returns to the things associated with the world

Do you remember the meaning of Ruth's name?
*Ruth's name means '**a friend**' or '**a companion**'*

The choice that Ruth was facing – go back to her old life just like Orpah, or follow Naomi to Bethlehem – is one that all Christians must face.

Orpah chose to return to her old life – her people and her gods. Orpah is a picture or type of unfaithful Christians who give up or turn around after they have accepted Jesus as their Savior.

What is Ruth's response? Read verses 16 & 17 again.
16 But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God.
17 Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me."
Ruth begs Naomi to allow her to accompany her on the journey to Bethlehem. In fact her desire goes way beyond just making the journey together - it is a lifelong commitment that Ruth is making.

Complete the list of the 8 things Ruth declares she wants of Naomi:

1. *Entreat me not to…..* *leave you*
2. *Don't let me turn back from…..* *following after you*
3. *Where you go……* *I will go!*
4. *Where you lodge…..* *I will lodge*
5. *Your people shall be…..* *my people*
6. *Your God shall be…..* *my God*
7. *Where you die…..* *I will die and there will I be buried*
8. *The Lord do so to me…..* *and more also*

……IF ANYTHING BUT DEATH PARTS YOU AND ME!

Who are Naomi's people? *The Jews, the Nation of Israel*

Who is Naomi's God? *The God who in the beginning created the heavens and the earth*

Naomi's God is the God of Israel and also the God who created the heavens and the earth. He is God the Father, our Heavenly Father! Ruth's choice to turn her back on the country of Moab where she was born was also a choice to turn her back on the many false gods in her country. Instead she was choosing to worship the One True Living God – Jehovah.

Ruth said to Naomi, "wherever you go I WILL GO!" Ruth is a picture, or **Type**, of the faithful Christian and just as she was fully determined to continue on the journey to Bethlehem, we too must embark upon our spiritual journey towards the heavenly land that we have been promised!

Now go back and circle the words "**I will go**" in v.16.

When Naomi sees Ruth's determination, she no longer tests her with regards to returning to her old life. And Ruth, whose name means 'friend and companion', accompanies Naomi all the way to Bethlehem.

Ruth 1:18 When she saw that she was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her.

What was Naomi's response to Ruth's determination to remain with her? *She stopped speaking to her, meaning she stopped testing her resolve to continue on the journey to Bethlehem.*

As Christians, we too have been called to separate ourselves from that which is associated with our first birth.

Do you know or remember what our "first birth' is, and why we would be called to separate ourselves from it? *Our first birth is our birth in the natural, and we separate from it in the sense that we focus on our 'new birth' when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ.*

As we separate ourselves from the god of this world/age, Satan, we must cling just like Ruth to 'Naomi'. In effect we need to say, **"I will go!"**

That which **Naomi** represents is very interesting because, as we shall see in our next lesson, she is **a picture** of the nation of Israel. However Naomi is also what we call **a double type** (meaning 2 types), which we begin to see when Ruth clings to her.

So what is it that the nation of Israel provided and we as Christians should cling to? *The nation of Israel provided the written word of God, and also the living Word of God - Jesus*

Hopefully you are beginning to realize that Ruth is **a type** of the faithful Christian, and that we are to cling to the Word of God.
Naomi is **a double type** of:

- that which Israel provided - the Word of God (Rom.3:1-2) which we are to cling to and
- also the nation of Israel *(more on that in the next lesson)*

If you answered 'Jesus Christ' to the last question, that is also correct because Jesus is the Word made flesh (John 1:1,14). He is that which we call the Old Testament in bodily form. (Col.2:9) And He is that which the nation of Israel provided - Jesus Christ, our Savior!

As we finish see if you can match the following Types/Pictures to what they portray:

Type or Word Picture:	**Antitype or What it Portrays**
Ruth	The Word of God
Orpah	Spiritual Journey
Naomi	Gentile land
Bread	Faithful Christian
Moab	House of Bread
Journey to Bethlehem	Unfaithful Christian
Bethlehem	The Word of God given to Israel

I will go!

The Book of Ruth

Lesson 4

Arrival in Bethlehem

Lesson Aim: To show how Naomi is a type of the Nation of Israel

Scriptures: Ruth 1: 19-22

In our last lesson entitled "I Will Go!" we heard how Ruth clung to Naomi because she was determined to follow Naomi all the way to Bethlehem:

Ruth 1:16 But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, **I will go**; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God.
17 Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me."

Ruth was facing a choice - to either go back to her old life just like Orpah did, or to accompany Naomi to Bethlehem. Although it must have been very difficult, she chose to turn her back on the country of Moab where she was born. This was also a choice to turn her back on the many false gods there so that she could worship the One True Living God – Naomi's God, the God of all the Universe. And just like Ruth, we as

Christians have been called to separate ourselves from that which is associated with our first birth (this world under Satan, the god of this age) and '**cling**' to Naomi.

In our last lesson, we also learnt that **Naomi represents that which was given to Israel – the Scriptures.** Ruth clung to Naomi, and declared that Naomi's God would be her God, and this is a picture or **a type** of what we are to do. We are to 'cling' to the Word of God, whilst being led by the Holy Spirit as we travel on our spiritual journey from the land of our birth to a land that God is calling us to.

What land is God calling us to? *A heavenly land*

Go back and read that last paragraph again.

How should we understand clinging to the Word of God? Do we need to walk around with our Bibles tucked under our arm all day? What do you think? Discuss.

The focus of our lesson today is to see how Naomi not only represents the Scriptures (the Word of God) given to the nation of Israel, but how she is also **a type of the nation of Israel** itself.

Let's now read our verses from Ruth chapter 1 for our lesson today:

Ruth 1:19 Now the two of them went until they came to Bethlehem. And it happened, when they had come to Bethlehem, that all the city was excited because of them; and the women said, "Is this Naomi?"
20 But she said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me **Mara**, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.

21 "I went out full, and the LORD has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has **testified** against me, and the Almighty has **afflicted** me?"
22 So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. Now they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of **barley harvest**.

Barley

In v.19, what sort of reception did Naomi and Ruth receive when they arrived in Bethlehem? *All the city was excited because of them;*

Despite the fact that she was gone for 10 years, the women of the city recognized Naomi, but she told them not to call her that name. What did she want them to call her? *Mara*

What reason did she have for wanting to be called Mara? (v.20)
*"Do not call me Naomi; call me **Mara**, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.*

The name 'Naomi' means = pleasant
The name 'Mara' means = bitter

In v.21 Naomi said she 'went out full,' meaning she left Bethlehem full. Who left Bethlehem with her? *Elimelech & her 2 sons Mahlon & Chilion*

But now the Lord has 'brought her home again empty' because her husband Elimelech and her 2 sons Mahlon and Chilion are no longer with her. What happened to them? *They died whilst in Moab*

Naomi is telling the women of the city that the Lord God has **testified** against her and **afflicted** her (v.21). Imagine a court room where the defendant on trial is Naomi with her family and the Witness called to 'testify' against her just happens to be the Lord God!

Not only that, but He is also the Judge delivering her punishment, which is the 'affliction'!

(Do you know what the picture represents?)

The scales represent justice where evidence is weighed up before judgment can take place. The hammer is a gavel which a judge uses to control proceedings in a court room.

WOW! No wonder Naomi no longer wanted to be called a name that means 'pleasant,' but instead wanted to be called 'Mara,' meaning 'bitter'!

So how are we to make sense of what has happened to Naomi? Why would the LORD deal so bitterly with her and her family?
What do you think?

The answer lies in who Naomi and her family represent, rather than them as individuals. Do you remember why Elimelech took his family away from Bethlehem, Judah to go to Moab? *A famine in the land*

Yes that's right, there was a famine in the land. We also learnt that the scarcity of food was during the time of the Judges. Let's review:

Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Which is immediately followed in our Bibles by the first verse of the Book of Ruth:

Ruth 1:1 Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons.

The famine was not just a lack of food, but also **a lack of the Word of God,** because everyone was doing exactly what they thought was right in their own eyes rather than what God wanted them to do.

God had also told Israel through Moses that they were **not** to seek the peace and prosperity of the land of Moab (Deut.23:6). Yet Elimelech left Bethlehem (the House of Bread) to find security in the land of Moab. Moab was a Gentile land - not the Promised Land - and it was the very nation that had tried to curse Israel.

That which happened to Naomi and her family as a result of their choices, and what Naomi said about it, shows us clearly that they represent the Nation of Israel.

Elimelech was disobedient when he turned his back on the land of his inheritance and sought prosperity outside that land, from a people who were not a part of the family of God.

To use Naomi's words, 'they went out full' but she returned 'empty' - they did not prosper in that land.

The Book of Ruth has many TYPES that point to something future, and therefore it is a prophetic book. The central character of the book is Ruth, but what happened to Naomi and her family is **a prophetic picture of the nation of Israel,** of whom they are a type.

Throughout their history, the Jewish people have suffered affliction and persecution because of their disobedience, and also because they are God's chosen people. However when we get to the end of our study of this book, we will see that prophecy reveals a much happier future for Israel (Naomi) who will no longer be bitter (Mara). We will see how Ruth and Naomi's future prosperities are connected to each other.

In the next lesson, we will look at Ruth working in the field – gleaning for the barley grains.

God will judge His People

Ezekiel 18:30 "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways," says the Lord GOD. "Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin."

The Book of Ruth

Lesson 5

Gleaning in the Field

Lesson Aim: To show how we are called to work in the Lord's Field

Scriptures: Ruth 2:1-7

In our last lesson, Naomi and Ruth had arrived in Bethlehem. The whole city was excited to see them! In fact some of the women recognized her and called out to her saying "Is this Naomi?" However Naomi was

not happy to be called by that name anymore. She wanted them to call her 'Mara' which means 'bitter', because the Lord had dealt bitterly with her and her family. When she left Bethlehem 10 years before, her husband and 2 sons were with her, but now she was returning without them.

Ruth and Naomi arrived in Bethlehem in the springtime when it was time for the barley in the fields to be harvested. Just as Naomi had heard whilst in Moab, the famine was now over and there would be bread to eat.

Barley

The Lord Almighty had judged Naomi and her family's actions because they chose to leave the land of their inheritance and look for prosperity in Moab, amongst a people that He had told them not to seek peace and prosperity from. As a result, Naomi was returning 'empty' without her husband and 2 sons.

We saw that the choices that Elimelech made for his family in turning his back on the land of his inheritance was disobedience, and as a result they were 'afflicted' by the Almighty God. From this, we learned that Elimelech and Naomi's family is **a type,** or a picture, **of the nation of Israel** who historically has often sought prosperity in Gentile lands,

putting their trust in Gentile rulers rather than in God. As a result, God will deal with them and their actions within those Gentile lands yet future.

Today we want to follow Ruth's actions and see how they reveal that we have been called to work in the Lord's field. Let's read:

Ruth 2:1 There was a relative of Naomi's husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech. His name was Boaz.
2 So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."
3 Then she left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. And she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech.

What does Ruth ask Naomi? "Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor."

What was Ruth's desire in doing so? To find favor from the field owner

What was Naomi's response? "Go, my daughter."

How is Boaz described in v.1 and who was he related to? There was a relative of Naomi's husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech.

Ruth asks Naomi if she can go and glean heads of grain. **Gleaning** means 'to gather and pick up in small quantities' and is mentioned in:
Leviticus 19:9 'When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest.

The Lord told Israel through Moses that when they came into the Promised Land of their Inheritance, they were not to collect in all their crops from their fields. They were to leave the corners of their fields and if they left sheaves in the middle, they were not to go back and gather them.

Instead, the harvest left over in the corners and elsewhere was to be left for the poor people. That would be people like Naomi and Ruth who no longer had husbands, or for orphans and strangers. We saw in **Ruth 2:2** that Ruth's desire was that her request to glean grain in a particular field would be looked upon favorably by the owner of that field. Now let's read on further:

Ruth 2:4 Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, "The LORD be with you!" And they answered him, "The LORD bless you!"
5 Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?"
6 So the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered and said, "It is the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab.
7 "And she said, 'Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.' So she came and has continued from morning until now, though she rested a little in the house."

Whose field was Ruth gleaning grain in? Boaz

When he arrives from the city, what does he notice and ask of his servant? "Whose young woman is this?"

What had Ruth asked of the servant? 'Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.'

When did Ruth's work in the field begin? So she came and has continued from morning until now

Ruth 2:8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, "You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women.

What 3 things does Boaz command Ruth to listen to?

- Do not go to glean in another field
- nor go from here
- but stay close by my young women.

Why do you think she is told not to go elsewhere? Boaz wants Ruth to remain working in his field alongside his workers only.

The answer lies in who Boaz is a picture of, and what 'the field' represents in connection with him. **Boaz is a Type of the Lord Jesus Christ**. This will become more obvious as we continue through our study of the Book of Ruth.

Now let's consider 'the field'. Jesus tells us exactly what it represents when He gave the 'Parable of the Wheat and the Tares' to His Disciples. (Tares are a type of weed that looks like wheat but is not). As you read about the field, underline what it is.

Matthew 13:37 He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.
38 "The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one.

What is the field likened to? The world

What can we see 'growing' together in the same 'field'? Sons of the kingdom (good seeds), and sons of the wicked one (tares).

If the field is the world, how might we relate this to Boaz's instructions to Ruth to only work in his field? Since Boaz is a type of Christ, what do his instructions mean for us? How is it possible for us to only work in Christ's field? Discuss. *(Teachers, use the above questions to initiate a discussion showing how there is a 'work' that is in alignment with the Word of God which demonstrates we are working in Christ's 'field'. And there is a 'work', that of being disobedient to the Word of God, that would place us outside of Christ's 'field'. It is a choice of faithful obedience or disobedience that determines whose 'field' we are working in. c.f. 1st John 1:5-9; 5:18-19)*

When Jesus was with His Disciples He prayed this:

John 17:15 "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.
16 "They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.
17 "Sanctify them [separate them] by Your truth. Your word is truth.

Does Jesus pray for His Disciples to be taken out of the world? No

What does He pray will happen instead? They will be kept from the evil one.

Who is the evil one? Satan

What is it that will keep them (and us) separated from the evil one? The Word of Truth

We are to live our lives in this world, as we do not have a choice about that. BUT we are to separate ourselves from the evil that is within this world, and we can only do that through the Word of God which is truth. We are to be in the world BUT NOT aligned with the world. That is how we must understand Boaz's instructions to Ruth to work only in his field. The work we are to do is laid out in the Word of Truth – our Bibles.

Boaz told Ruth to stay close by his young women. This means that we are to associate with others who, like us, desire to be working in the correct field of work. We do not have to do the good works on our own, as there may be others alongside us with the same goal of finding favor with the Landowner. We are to work in Jesus's field alongside those other Christians doing likewise.

In our next lesson, we will look at further instructions that Boaz gives to Ruth, as well as what he has heard about her behavior.

The Book of Ruth

Lesson 6

Ruth is Commended by Boaz

Lesson Aim: To see how like Ruth we are called to leave the 'land of our birth' and work with a view to receiving praise from the One Boaz typifies – the Lord Jesus Christ.
Scriptures: Ruth 2:8-12

In our last lesson we saw how Ruth began gleaning grain in the fields and eventually came to be working in Boaz's field who was a relative of Naomi's dead husband Elimelech. She had been working from morning and when Boaz arrived from Bethlehem he asked his servant in charge who Ruth was. He then went to speak with Ruth and told her to listen to his instructions. She was told:

- Do not go to glean grain in another field
- Do not go from here
- Stay close by his young women

As we studied further we learnt that in Scripture 'the field' is often likened to 'the world' which we looked at in the Parable of the Wheat and Tares (Mat.13:37-38) and in Jesus's prayer for His Disciples (John 17:15-17). In Boaz's instructions to only work in his field we now know that although we live our lives in this world, we are to separate ourselves

from things associated with this world which are under the current god of this world – Satan. Instead we are to work in the field typified by Boaz's field – the Lord Jesus Christ's field of work. The work we are to do is laid out in the Word of Truth – our Bibles and it is intimately connected to the 7th Day.

When Boaz told Ruth to stay close by his young women this showed us that as we walk in the good works prepared for us beforehand that there will be others also choosing to work in Christ's field. We are to associate with those whose desire is to also be working in the correct field of work, staying separate from that which is associated with the evil works under 'the evil one':

John 17:15 "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.
16 "They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.
17 "Sanctify them [lit. separate them] by Your truth. Your word is truth.

To begin today we are going to look at further instructions Boaz gives Ruth. Let's begin with the verse we ended with last lesson and read on:

Ruth 2:8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, "You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women.
9 "Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn."

Where does Boaz tell Ruth to keep her eyes?
On the field

Who is she to follow after?
Boaz's young women

What is Ruth to do when she is thirsty?
"Go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn."

Boaz gave Ruth some very specific instructions about what she is to do as she works in his field. Her focus must be in one place only. The water she is to drink is from one place only.

Do you remember of whom Boaz is a type? Jesus Christ

Who is Ruth a type of? Faithful Christians

Because Boaz is a type of Jesus and Ruth a type of the faithful Christian then the instructions given by Boaz to Ruth contain great spiritual truth for us also.

Where should our focus be? On Jesus and what He says in His Word

Who are we to follow after? Jesus and those around us who have the same goal and are working in the same 'field'.

Do you know where we are to obtain 'water' to drink when we are thirsty?
From Jesus, the Word of God
John 7:37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.
38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

How is it possible to go to Jesus to drink when we are thirsty?
By going to the Scriptures we are going to Jesus to drink

The Word of God is often referred to as water and it is 'living water' because Jesus is 'the word made flesh' (John 1:14).

Not only that but the Word of God is able to cleanse us of our sins:

Ephesians 5:26 that He [Jesus] might sanctify [separate us] and cleanse [us] with the washing of water by the word,

It is also 'living water' because as we 'drink' from the Word of God we can 'have life' in the age to come – the 7th Day – having cleansed ourselves by the Word of God.

Let's now read what happens next with Ruth and Boaz:
Ruth 2:10 So she fell on her face, bowed down to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?"
11 And Boaz answered and said to her, "It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before.

In v.10 what does Ruth say to Boaz after she falls on her face, bowing down to the ground? "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?"

What reason does Boaz give for showing such favor towards Ruth in v.11? Underline all that has been reported to him.

Discuss: Is it possible for us to do likewise? Do we have to move physically to another country? Do we have to leave our parents? Are we to cling to someone else like Ruth did to Naomi? *(Clearly we are not talking about leaving physically but spiritually leaving all that is associated with the things in this world that lie under the influence of the wicked one, Satan, the god of this world/age.)*

One more verse to study today:
Ruth 2:12 "The LORD repay your work, and a full reward [lit. wages] be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge."

Does God pay wages, a reward for good work?

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

According to Hebrews 11:6 what 'work' is being rewarded? Those who come to God believing that He will reward those who diligently seek Him.

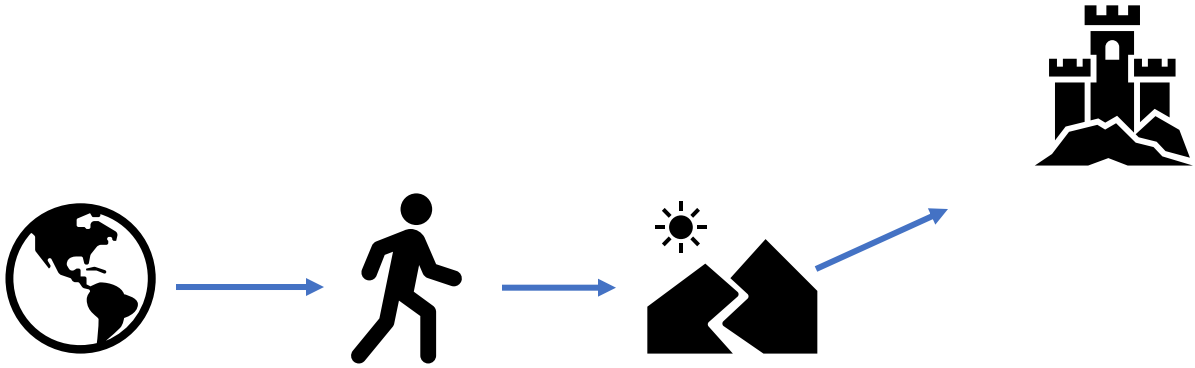
So what might working in Christ's field involve if we are to be paid 'wages', or receive a reward? We are to seek God/Jesus through our diligent study of the Word of God. And we are to believe that this 'work' will be rewarded by Him.

Boaz's desire for Ruth was to receive a 'full reward' from the Lord. Jesus has the same desire for ourselves and it will begin by drinking deeply from the well of water, <u>which is the Word of God</u>.

We are to 'diligently seek Him' through His Word and by faith believe that He will reward us – literally pay us wages for doing so. That is the work that we are to do and we do not have to leave the country of our birth or our parents physically to do so. Isn't that good news!

However, we are to turn our back on the evil things associated with this world – the land of our birth – and seek refuge in a God in a heavenly land. That is where our focus must be and that is the good work worthy of a reward from Him.

What is this picture sentence saying?



We are to turn our back on things to do with this world and journey towards the heavenly city

The Book of Ruth

Lesson 7

Beating Out The Grain

Lesson Aim: To show how we are to feast on the Word of God, which enables us to remove the 'chaff' from our lives as typified in Ruth beating out the grain she had gleaned.
Scriptures: Ruth 2: 13-17

In our last lesson, Boaz gave Ruth specific instructions as to where she should work – she was not to go to another field but stay in his field. He also told her to 'stay close by his young women'. Ruth's focus was to be on Boaz's field and she was to follow his reapers. Boaz commanded the young men not to touch her, and instructed her to drink from the water vessels that they had filled when she was thirsty.

Boaz's desire was for Ruth to receive a full reward from the Lord, and we learnt that Jesus's desire is the same for us. But it is only possible if we drink deeply from 'the well of water', which is the Word of God.

Today we want to look more at Ruth's work in Boaz's field and how he continued to grant her his favor. In doing so, we also want to be ready

to understand how the developing relationship between Ruth and Boaz is important for us as well. Let's read today's key verses:

Ruth 2:13 Then she said, "Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants."

14 Now Boaz said to her at mealtime, "Come here, and eat of the bread, and dip your piece of bread in the vinegar." So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed parched grain to her; and she ate and was satisfied, and kept some back.

15 And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her.

16 "Also let grain from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave it that she may glean, and do not rebuke her."

17 So she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.

In v.13, what does Ruth say Boaz has done for her? You have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants."

Ruth says she is not like one of Boaz's maidservants. In what way was she different? She was a foreigner from a different country

Ruth was from the country of Moab, so she was different from the women of Bethlehem. That would make her what the Bible calls 'a Gentile'. That simply means non-Jewish. However, as we discovered in lesson 1, Ruth had previously married Naomi's son, something that rarely happened between Jews and Gentiles. Mahlon subsequently died, but despite this, Ruth had become part of a Jewish family through her marriage.

Read v.14 again. What happened at mealtime? 14 Now Boaz said to her at mealtime, "Come here, and eat of the bread, and dip your piece of

bread in the vinegar." So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed parched grain to her; and she ate and was satisfied, and kept some back.

Do you remember what bread is a type of? The Word of God or Jesus

Parched Grains

John 6:35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

Jesus is the 'bread of life' and every day we are to go to Him for spiritual food. Jesus is also referred to as the 'Word of God'.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God…
14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jesus was the Word of God that became flesh. He is your Bible in a bodily form. How amazing is that!

When Boaz fed Ruth with bread at the mealtime, we can see a beautiful picture of Jesus giving us Himself from the Word of God.

Finish the following verse:
Matthew 6:11 Give us this day our Daily _____ Bread _____.

Once Ruth finished eating, she got up to work again:
Ruth 2:15 And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her.
16 "Also let grain from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave it that she may glean, and do not rebuke her."

How is Boaz making it easier for Ruth to glean the grain? Grain was being dropped purposefully to make it easier for Ruth to pick up.

Ruth is not to be 'reproached' or 'rebuked' by Boaz's workers. That means they were not to scold her, or insult her and put her to shame. Instead they were to drop grain purposefully for her to pick up. Boaz is doing everything possible for Ruth to successfully gather in as much grain as possible.

In the same way, Jesus is making it possible for us to do the good works of 'picking up the grain' from the Word of God to feed ourselves spiritually. Ruth was well fed by Boaz and even had some left over! (v.14)

Ruth 2:17 So she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.

How long did Ruth work? Until evening

What do you think 'beating out' the grain involves in the natural?
Removing the grain from the stalk by beating it against something hard

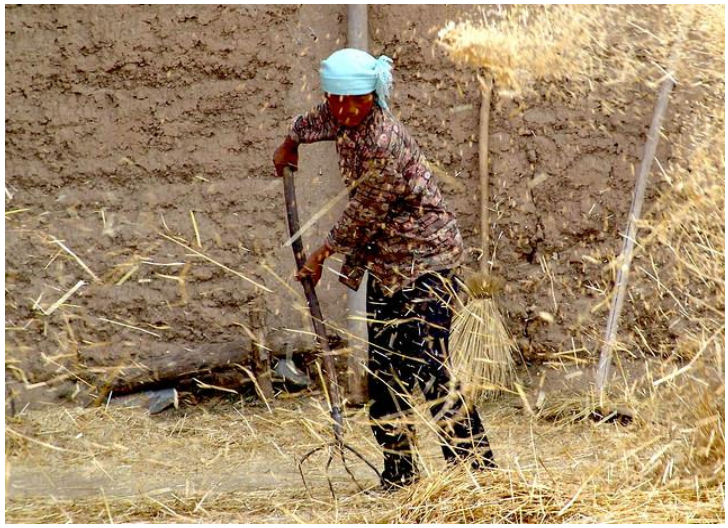
Why would that be done? The grain was the part of the plant that would be used for food, not the stalk, or the husk that surrounded the grain.

An 'ephah of barley' was a unit of measurement and would be equal to about 6 US gallons today.

Beating out the grain was when the kernels of grain would be knocked off the stalk. This could be done by beating the stalks against a rock or hard surface. When there was a lot, then cows or oxen might be driven back and forth over it pulling a sled. This would be done on hard ground, which would be called the 'threshing floor'. As the animals trod over the harvested stalks, so it separated the grain and broke up the stems into small pieces. This was called **'threshing'**.

The next part of the processing was called **'winnowing'**. This involved throwing the grain into the air and catching it again, maybe in a large flat basket. Sometimes it was tossed into the air with a sort of pitch fork or fan. The air currents would then blow away the chaff - the outer husks of the grain which were worthless - along with the broken-up stems. The chaff and the stem pieces would fall free from the grain

that was heavier. Today, threshing and winnowing is all done by machinery, but years ago this was done by hand.



Discuss: If the chaff is worthless, and Ruth removes it from the grain she has gleaned, what does this point to? Faithful Christians will work to remove that which is of no value, such as sin and anything that might distract us from being faithfully obedient.

What might the Word of God and the Holy Spirit reveal to us that is worthless in our lives and will need to be removed?

Ruth worked all day until evening – what does that picture for us? The work we are required to do will continue for a complete period of time – until we stand before Jesus at His judgment seat. We are to be continually going to Him for cleansing and the removal of sin from our lives.

We are like that grain of wheat or barley that needs to be sifted to remove the 'chaff' in our lives – everything that is of our old sin nature. We can only do this through the leading of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God showing us what needs to be removed. As we do this, we do a good work that will receive a reward – we will receive a commendation just like Ruth had from Boaz. This is working in Boaz's field and is to be done for the rest of our Christian lives, hence the picture of Ruth working from morning until evening.

As we finish see if you can match some further types with their antitypes:

Type	**Antitype**
Boaz	Removing the sin
Ruth	Judgment Seat of Christ
Bread	Sin
Beating out the grain	Faithful Christian
Chaff	Jesus Christ
Threshing Floor	The Word of God

The Book of Ruth

Lesson 8

Ruth Returns to Naomi

Lesson Aim: To show how Naomi is a type of the Word of God which we are to obey, and to Whom we are accountable.
Scriptures: Ruth 2: 18-23

In our last lesson, we learnt that Boaz helped Ruth as she was gleaning by telling his young men not to bother her, and telling them to drop extra grain for her to pick up. Jesus is like Boaz because He helps us 'pick up the grain' that we find in the Word of God. In fact, God prepared these works just for us, a long time ago!

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Ruth worked from morning until evening, and then she **beat** out the barley stalks to separate out the grain from the chaff. (The chaff is the outer part of the grain that must be removed before the grain can be used to make food).

We are like the grain that needs to be 'beaten' and 'sifted' (not literally!) because we also need to remove the 'chaff' in our lives. What do you think 'the chaff' might be?

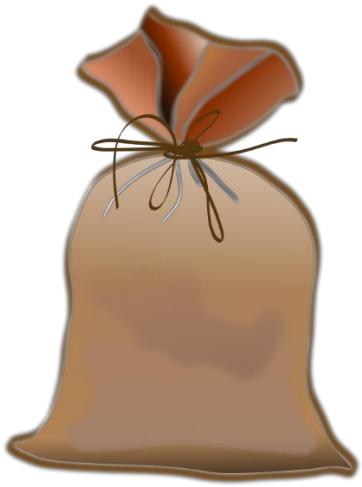
Yes, sin! Everything that is of our old sin nature. And we do this through studying the Word of God and letting the Holy Spirit teach us. This is the good work that we read about in Ephesians, and it is to be done for the rest of our Christian lives. We can see this in the fact that Ruth works all day until evening.

Today we want to look at what Ruth does next. Let's read:

Ruth 2:18 Then she took it up and went into the city, and her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. So she brought out and gave to her what she had kept back after she had been satisfied.
19 And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where have you gleaned today? And where did you work? Blessed be the one who took notice of you." So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz."

Where does Ruth go after her work? To her mother-in-law Naomi, in the city

And do you remember that she gleaned an ephah of barley? That's about 5 to 6 gallons – you could think of it as 5 or 6 big jugs of milk. That's a lot of barley that Ruth gleaned!



In v. 18, what does Ruth give to her Mother-in-law? Ruth brought out and gave to Naomi what she had kept back from her meal with Boaz and the reapers.

It was very honorable that Ruth kept some of the meal to bring back to Naomi.

Naomi is obviously impressed with what Ruth has been able to accomplish that day. She asks her where and for whom she worked.
What is Ruth's reply?
"The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz."

When Ruth returns home to Naomi and then gives an account to her of what she had done that day, we get a picture of how we are to continually go to the Word of God to make sure we are doing our work in the Lord's

field correctly. We can read about why we need to do this in 2nd Corinthians:

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Where are we all going to appear? The judgment seat of Christ

When and where do you think this will take place? Following the resurrection or rapture of the church

What are we to receive in that future Day? The things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. In lesson 6 we looked at Hebrews 11:6 that showed that God is a rewarder (lit. pays wages) to those who diligently seek Him.

We know that Naomi is a Type of the Word of God given to Israel. Let's look at what the word of God is able to do for us in the present:

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

How is the word of God described in the first part of Hebrews 4:12?
For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit

The word of God is able to divide, between our soul and our spirit. When we believed in Jesus our spirit was saved but **not** our soul therefore we must let the word of God separate our unsaved soul from our saved spirit. This is what takes place every time we obey what the Bible says rather than what our soul wants to do.

Verse 13 tells us that Jesus sees all that we do, 'no creature is hidden' from Him and to Him we are accountable.

Jesus is the Word of God made flesh (John 1:14), and because 2nd Corinthians tells us we shall 'all appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ' we can know that it is the Word of God that will be our Judge. We must consistently go to the written word, just as Ruth went to Naomi, to make sure we are following the spirit which is saved rather than our soul which is not yet saved.

Revelation 1:16 also describes Jesus as Judge.

Revelation 1:16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

Do you think Jesus will have a literal sword coming out of His mouth at His Judgment Seat?!

No He will not. What is depicted in Revelation 1:16 is the same as Hebrews 4:12, where we read that the Word of God is "sharper than any two-edged sword." We will be judged by the Word of God and we know that the Word of God is Jesus. He is the written word of our Bibles.

So we can now see that Jesus is the One to whom we are accountable, just as Naomi is the one to whom Ruth was accountable.

In v.19 Naomi blesses the one who has taken notice of Ruth. Now read what she says when she hears who it was:

Ruth 2:20 Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "Blessed be he of the LORD, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!" And Naomi said to her, "This man is a relation of ours, one of our close relatives."

It is at this point that Ruth learns Boaz is **a close relative** of hers and Naomi's. Naomi's comment, 'blessed be he of the Lord' is true for two reasons:

- First, she realizes that Boaz has been obedient to the Scriptures by providing for her and Ruth, who are both widows.
- Second, she knew that as a relative, he could redeem (or buy back) the land of their inheritance (Deut. 25:5-6)

[For a review of the significance of inheritance see Lesson 2]

21 Ruth the Moabitess said, "He also said to me, 'You shall stay close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.'"
22 And Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, "It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, and that people do not meet you in any other field."
23 So she stayed close by the young women of Boaz, to glean until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest; and she dwelt with her mother-in-law.

How long was Ruth told to work in Boaz's field? Until all the harvesting was finished. So she stayed close by the young women of Boaz, to glean until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest.

What do you think this signifies? Ruth continued to work for a complete period of time, from beginning to the end. We likewise once we believe in Jesus Christ must continue to do the work laid out in the Scriptures until 'the harvest' is over. That will be when all Christians are gathered to the JSOC.

Likewise, Naomi also encourages Ruth to stay within Boaz's field and beside his young women. Re-read v. 22. What do you think those instructions mean for us? We are to continue working alongside fellow believers, doing the work the Bible tells us to do.

Now let's put together the details of the verses we have looked at in this lesson and what we should learn from them:

- After working all day in the field, Ruth returned to her mother-in-law and brought with her what she had gleaned and beaten out.
- She also brought for Naomi the leftover food that Boaz had given her at mealtime.
- Naomi wanted to hear an account of where and with whom she worked that day, after which Naomi revealed that Boaz was a close relative of theirs.

- Naomi was full of praise for Boaz's actions because in his kindness to Ruth he was acknowledging his duty towards the poor, but also the 'living' (Ruth & Naomi) and the 'dead' (Naomi's husband and 2 sons).
- Next, Naomi instructs Ruth in the same way Boaz did, which was to continue working in his field alongside his young men and women and not to go to glean in another person's field.
- Ruth continued to work in Boaz's field until the end of both the barley and the wheat harvests, all the while dwelling with Naomi.

How does this apply to us?

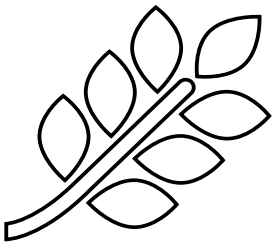
- We too have been called to work in a particular 'field' owned by the One Boaz typifies – the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The Word of God instructs us as to what the work is, and teaches us that it always involves us removing the 'chaff' (sin) from our lives. In that way we are also the 'field of work'.
- As we obey the written Word of God so we separate our saved spirit from our unsaved soul
- We are to do this until the Lord's harvest is completed.

When do you think His harvest will be completed?

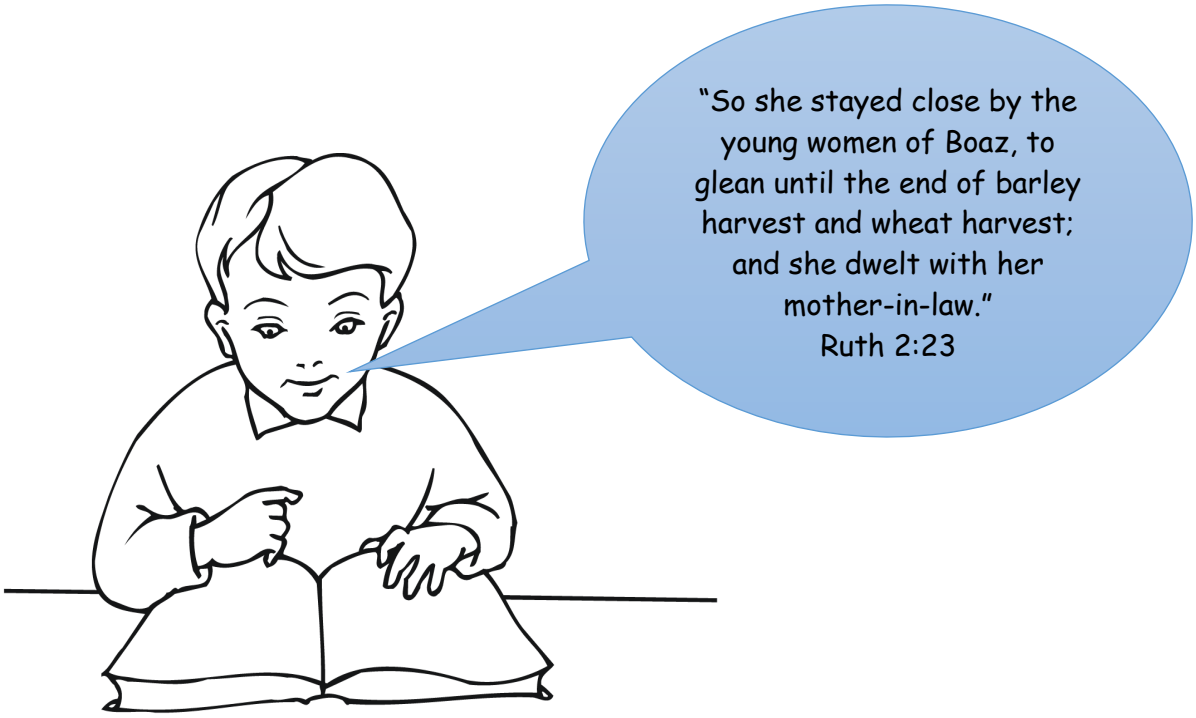
- Just as Ruth followed Boaz and Naomi's instructions to stay by his young women, so we should continue to 'work' alongside others who are doing the same work in the Lord Jesus's 'field'. This would involve fellowshipping with like-minded Believers.
- If we were to go to 'another person's field' then we would be outside of the will of the Lord and outside of the protection He provides us.
- What we must now understand is that we should be copying Ruth's complete obedience to the One Naomi and Boaz typify – the Lord Jesus Christ and the Word of God.

As we shall see in chapter 3 of the Book of Ruth, the work we are doing here on earth will end. Then it will be followed by a time of judgment when we shall give an account for the things we have done. We do not know the exact timing of when the Lord's harvest will be completed, but it could be very soon and we need to be ready and found to be working hard up until that time.

In our next lesson, Naomi instructs Ruth to make further preparations to meet with Boaz on his threshing floor. We will look at what that portrays for us!



What shall I do?
I know! ….
Let me see what
the Bible says!


"So she stayed close by the
young women of Boaz, to
glean until the end of barley
harvest and wheat harvest;
and she dwelt with her
mother-in-law."
Ruth 2:23

The Book of Ruth

Lesson 9

Preparing for the Threshing Floor

Lesson Aim: To show how Ruth's preparations to meet Boaz on his threshing floor are a TYPE of the preparations Christians are to make to meet Christ at His 'Threshing Floor'.
Scriptures: Ruth 3:1-5

In our last lesson, we saw how after working in Boaz's field, Ruth had been able to glean a large quantity of barley which she then beat out to remove the chaff. Do you remember what the chaff is? The outer husk of the grain that was worthless.

Ruth then returned to the city and to her mother-in-law Naomi, and answered Naomi's questions about what she had done that day. Naomi revealed that Boaz, the man for whom Ruth had been working, was **a close relative** of theirs and might be able to **redeem their family inheritance**. She advised Ruth to do exactly what Boaz had said, and to continue working in his field alongside his young women until the end of harvest time. And with a heart of faithful obedience, that is exactly what Ruth did.

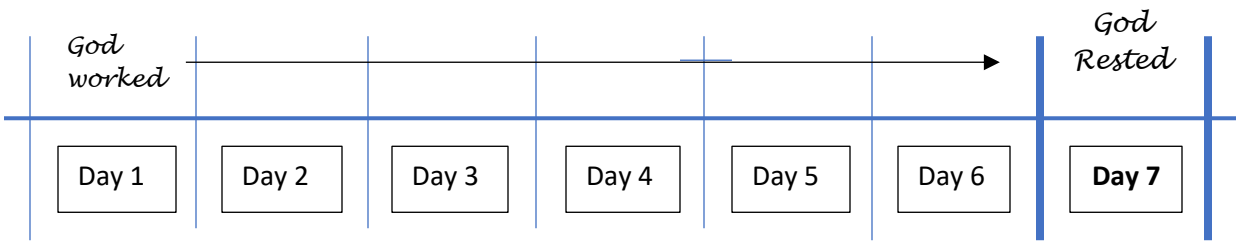
In the last lesson, we learnt that Boaz and Naomi typify the Lord Jesus - the Word of God - the One to whom we must be faithfully obedient. We do this by working in Christ's 'field', and we learn about this work in **Ephesians 2:10**, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

As we begin chapter 3 of the Book of Ruth, we will see how Naomi gave Ruth instructions about how to prepare herself to meet Boaz on his threshing floor. We will also see what these instructions mean for us.

Ruth 3:1 Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shall I not seek security [lit. 'rest'] for you, that it may be well with you?
2 "Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.

What does Naomi want for Ruth in v. 1? Naomi wants to seek security [lit. rest] for Ruth.

The word translated **'security'** literally means **'rest'**. This should remind us of the 7th Day in Genesis when **God 'rested'** from all His work! The Book of Ruth pictures the faithful Christian acting in obedience to the Word (represented by Naomi), and it shows us what we must do to enter the 7th Day Rest of God.



In order for Ruth to find **rest** and **security**, she would need to find a husband who was also able **to redeem** the family's lost inheritance. That's why it was so important that Boaz was a close relative. According to Jewish law, he would be able to buy back (redeem) a relative's property and marry his widow (Lev.25:25).

According to Ruth 3:2, where was Boaz going to be that night, and what was he going to be doing?

He was winnowing barley that night at the threshing floor.

Yes, he was going to be winnowing barley on his threshing floor.

You may remember that **winnowing** involves removing the grain from its surrounding husk or 'chaff'. This was done on a threshing floor like the one in the picture above. Once this was done, it could be poured into sacks or storage containers and later used to make food.

Boaz was going to be winnowing barley on his threshing floor because the time of harvesting was over and it was time to **separate** the grain from the chaff. Naomi gave Ruth important instructions about how she should prepare to meet him that night. Let's read on:

Ruth 3:3 "Therefore **wash yourself** and **anoint yourself**, **put on your best garment** and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.
4 "Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do."
5 And she said to her, "All that you say to me I will do."

Naomi tells Ruth to prepare by doing 3 things: wash herself, anoint herself, and put on her best garment. She also tells her not to make herself known to Boaz until after he has finished eating and drinking.

According to verse 4, how is Ruth to make herself known to him?
"You shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do."

That might seem a very strange thing that Naomi is telling Ruth to do. But in that time and culture, Boaz would have understood that Ruth was making a request of him. We will learn what that request is in a following lesson.

What is Ruth's response to Naomi's instructions?
"All that you say to me I will do."

Now let's look again at the preparations Ruth was to make before going to the threshing floor. They are so important for us because they are a TYPE, or pattern, that we must try to follow in our own lives.

Do you remember our 'Types Song'?

A Type is something that points to something else,
A Type can be seen in:
A Person, Place, Thing or Event from the Bible.
Like Adam and Jesus,
Or Isaac and Jesus,
Or Joseph and Jesus,
Or Egypt and the World,
Oil and the Spirit,
Or the Flood and Tribulation,
A Type points to something else!

Naomi gave Ruth three important instructions before she was to go to the threshing floor. **Ruth 3:3** "Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor;

What do these mean for us?

Wash Yourself

Ruth had to physically wash herself so that she was clean. For us, we need to be clean spiritually – cleansed from the sin in our lives. **1st John 1:9** tells us how to do this: "If we confess our sins, He [Jesus] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Put a circle around the first word of the verse. What does that tell us? "If" means it is conditional. We will only be forgiven of our sins and cleansed **if** we confess them.

Here is another Scripture that shows how we can be cleansed:
Ephesians 5:26 that He [Jesus] might sanctify and cleanse her [us] with the washing of water by the word,

As we read what the word of God says and we recognize the sin in our lives, we then confess that sin to Jesus and He removes that sin, so we can be righteous once again. In order to be clean, we must be regularly reading and studying the word of God, and going to Jesus for cleansing.

Anoint Yourself

Ruth also needed to anoint herself, which meant applying some kind of oil to her body.

Do you know what 'Oil' is a type of in Scripture? Yes, **oil is a type of the Holy Spirit**. We sang about that in our Types song.

How do you think the 'Oil' can benefit us? The Holy Spirit is our Helper and our Teacher.

We can learn more about this in a parable Jesus told about 10 Virgins, in which 5 were wise and 5 were foolish.

Matthew 25:1 "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.
2 "Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish.
3 "Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them,
4 "but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

What did the 10 virgins take with them as they went to meet the bridegroom? (v.1) Their lamps.

What did the 5 foolish virgins do as they went to meet the bridegroom? (v.3) They took their lamps but no oil for the lamps

What did the 5 wise virgins do as they also went to meet the bridegroom? (v.4) They took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

Who would the bridegroom be a picture of? Jesus Christ

The wise virgins are those Christians who are filled with the word of God – filled with the Holy Spirit – who are fully prepared (just like Ruth) to meet Christ on His Threshing Floor. The more we study, the more the Holy Spirit fills us as we are filled with the Word, preparing us to meet Christ!

Let's continue to put more oil in our lamps!

Put on Your Best Garment

Finally, Ruth was also to be properly dressed for meeting Boaz. We know that she had already:

- Gone on a journey to Bethlehem
- Gleaned in Boaz's field
- Beat out the grain to remove the chaff
- Stayed close by Boaz's workers until the end of the harvest
- Obeyed and dwelt with her mother-in-law
- Washed herself
- Anointed herself

As a result of doing all that, Ruth was qualified to put on her 'best garment'.

Let's learn more about what that garment is.

Revelation 19:7 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."
8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

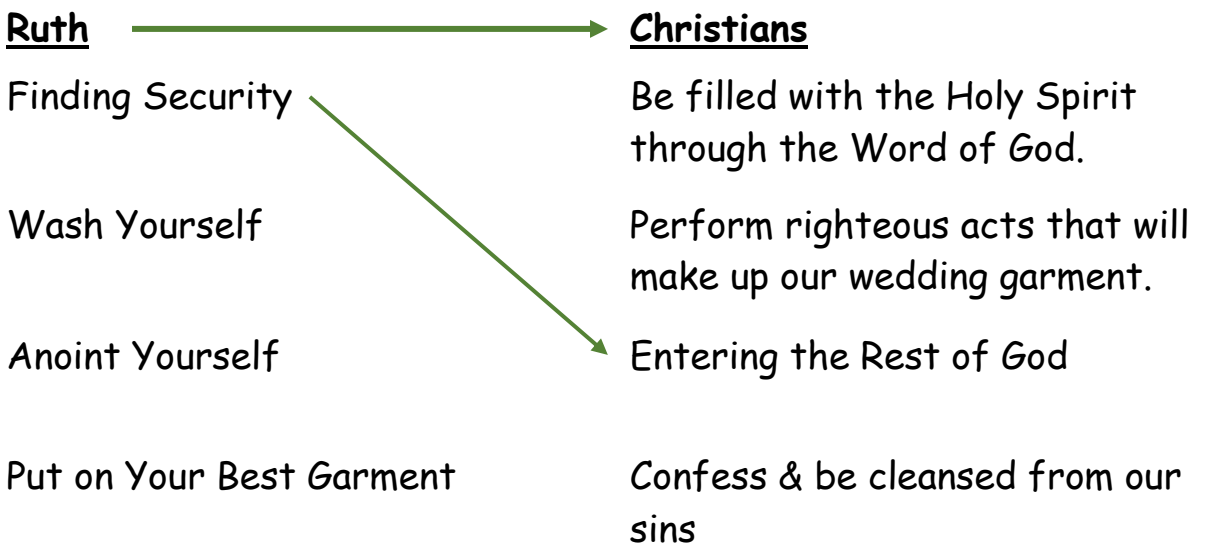
What is the event? This is the marriage supper of the Lamb to His Bride

How is the Lamb's wife dressed? In fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

The Lamb's wife is dressed in a garment made up of "the righteous acts of the saints." Ruth's garment was made of the same thing – her own righteous acts, which included all she had done to prepare for her meeting with Boaz.

When we meet Christ at His threshing floor, we will be properly prepared **if** we have done the same things that Ruth did. Our attitude toward Jesus (the Word) must be the same as Ruth's attitude toward Naomi when she told her, "All that you say to me I will do." (Ruth 3:5).

We have covered a lot today. We will finish by matching the **Types** and **Anti-Types** from our lesson. Draw an arrow from the left-hand column to the appropriate right-hand column.



The Book of Ruth

Lesson 10

On the Threshing Floor at Midnight

Lesson Aim: To see how Ruth's appearance on Boaz's Threshing Floor at Midnight is a TYPE pointing to the future appearance of ALL Christians at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Key Scriptures: Ruth 3:6-13

Review Time

Our study through **the first 2 chapters** of the Book of Ruth has been leading us towards the focus of the whole book, which is revealed in **chapter 3** and fulfilled in **chapter 4**. We have repeatedly seen how the Book of Ruth is filled with TYPES pointing to something else, and we shall soon see that the Types in chapters 3 and 4 point to future events.

What is our definition of a Type? *(See last lesson if you cannot remember)*

A Type is something that points to something else,
A Type can be seen in:
A Person, Place, Thing or Event from the Bible.

We are studying this book of the Old Testament in such detail because what it points to is so important for you and me today. In fact, it is a matter of our life or death for The Age to Come!

WOW! We better pay attention then!

In **chapter 1** we saw Ruth, who is a Type of the faithful Christian, determined to make the journey from the land of her birth to Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi. We also learned that Naomi is a Type of the Word of God given through Israel.

In **chapter 2** Ruth asked Naomi to let her go glean for grain in a field of someone with whom she 'might find favor'. Ruth found herself in the field belonging to Boaz, and she found so much favor that she was able to glean even amongst the sheaves without anyone hindering her.

At the end of the day, Ruth beat out the large quantity of grain which she had gleaned in order to remove the chaff, and then she returned with it to the city and Naomi. When Naomi heard that Ruth had been working in Boaz's field and had found favor in his eyes, she instructed Ruth to continue working there because Boaz was **a relative** of theirs. In fact, he was **a close relative** who had the **right to redeem the inheritance** that had been lost through the death of Naomi's husband and 2 sons.

Ruth continued working in Boaz's fields until the end of both the barley and wheat harvests, all the while living alongside Naomi.

In our **last lesson** we began on **chapter 3,** and we saw that Naomi knew the time of harvesting was over and that Boaz was going to be winnowing barley that night on his threshing floor. Naomi instructed Ruth to go down to the threshing floor, and at a certain point she was to make herself known to Boaz. However, Naomi instructed Ruth to make specific preparations before going down to the threshing floor.

What were the 3 things Ruth was to do?

1. Wash herself

2. Anoint herself

3. Put on her best garment

Ruth's proper preparations for meeting Boaz are more Types pointing to what we as Christians must be doing as we prepare to encounter the Lord Jesus Christ at His 'threshing floor'.

John the Baptist when teaching about Jesus said this of Jesus:
Matthew 3:12 "His [Jesus's] winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

What does John say Jesus has in His hand and what is He going to do?
He has His winnowing fan in His hand and is going to clean out His threshing floor.

Where does the wheat end up? In His barn

What happens to the chaff? It is burnt up with unquenchable fire

We can see from this verse that **a separation** will take place between the valuable grain and the worthless chaff. This is a picture of a time of future JUDGMENT when a separation will take place.

Like Ruth's preparations to meet Boaz, we need to be properly prepared for our arrival in front of the Lord Jesus at His 'threshing floor'.

Last lesson we learnt what Ruth's preparations pictured for us:

Ruth:		Christians:
'Wash yourself"	→	Confess our sins & be cleansed from all unrighteousness (= removing the chaff)
'Anoint yourself'	→	Be filled with the Holy Spirit through studying the Word of God
'Put on your best garment'	→	Perform righteous acts that will make up our 'wedding' garment

What was Ruth's response to Naomi's instructions? (Ruth 3:5)

"All that you say.... to me, I will do!

Today we will follow Ruth to Boaz's threshing floor and see what transpires. Then in the next lesson we will discover in more detail what that pictures for us.

Ruth 3:6 So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her.

7 And after Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was cheerful, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay down.
8 Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet.

In the winnowing, a separation of the grain from the chaff had taken place and Boaz was pleased with the outcome. That is why his heart was cheerful and he could lie down and rest at the end of the heap of grain.

What did Ruth then do in obedience to Naomi's instructions (v.7)?
She came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay down.

What happened next, and at what time? It happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet.

The timing is significant. It is another aspect of the account that points to judgment. *(We will look at a further example of the same timing in our next lesson.)*

Ruth 3:9 And he said, "Who are you?" So she answered, "I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative."
10 Then he said, "Blessed are you of the LORD, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich.
11 "And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman.

Underline what Ruth requests of Boaz in v.9.

Write out why she is able to ask this of Boaz:

For you are .... A close relative

The phrase **'Take your maidservant under your wing'** is an interesting phrase because obviously Boaz is not a bird and does not have wings!

It can also be translated as **'Spread the corner of your garment over your maidservant'**.

Ruth's reason for asking this was not because she was cold, but because Boaz was **'a close relative'**.

In **Lesson 2** we learnt from the Scriptures that if a woman's husband died without giving her a child, then an unmarried male member of the family was to take the widow as his wife. This was done so that the family lands and **inheritance** remained within the family. The first son born to the new husband would be named for the dead husband and he would be entitled to the inheritance that belonged to the dead husband. In this way the deceased husband was **remembered through the birth of a son** who was named after him. <u>This was a very important part of the Law given to Israel</u>.

What was Ruth asking Boaz when she uncovered his feet and said: "I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative'"?

'Ruth was seeking Boaz's protection but more importantly she was requesting that he redeem the inheritance which would have been Mahlon's, and marry her to raise up a son for Mahlon, her dead husband.

How does Boaz reply to Ruth's request? Does he say he will do it?
I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman.

Boaz understood exactly what Ruth was asking of him. He knew her request was within the requirements of the Law given to Israel and he was happy to do what she had requested of him.

Boaz mentioned Ruth's good reputation in the town: all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman. (v.11) To be a **virtuous** person would mean someone who is morally excellent and honorable.

All Ruth's work and preparations for meeting Boaz on the threshing floor had been excellent, and therefore she received a favorable outcome. She was commended by Boaz and he agreed to take her as his wife and redeem the inheritance for her.

Let's read on a bit further:

Ruth 3:12 "Now it is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I.

13 "Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be that if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you-good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as the LORD lives! Lie down until morning."

What is the one thing that might have hindered Boaz from doing the duty of taking Ruth as his wife? Underline it in v.12.

Ruth was to remain on the threshing floor until morning when Boaz would be able to go and see if an **even closer relative** would want to perform the duty of marrying Ruth and raising up a son to receive the inheritance. According to the law, the closer relative had to be given the opportunity to perform the duty and redeem the inheritance first; however if he would not, then Boaz would.

That's all for today! More on this next time.

Proverbs 31:10 Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.

The Book of Ruth

Lesson 11

The Judgment Seat of Christ

Lesson Aim: To show how the 'Threshing Floor' and 'Midnight' are TYPES of the future Judgment Seat of Christ at which all Christians must appear.

Key Scriptures: Ruth 3:7-13 & 2nd Corinthians 5:10 & Exodus 11:1, 4-7; 12:29-31

Barley Grains

In our last lesson we discovered that Boaz was winnowing barley on his threshing floor and that this action was a Type of the future Judgment Seat of Christ. This is an event that ALL Christians will appear at, just as Ruth did on Boaz's threshing floor.

2Corinthians 5:10 For <u>we must all</u> appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

According to this Scripture why do we need to appear before Christ?
That each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad

Jesus will make a judgment as to whether we have been faithfully obedient to Him and His Word, or not – 'whether good or bad'. This judgment is pictured through the winnowing of the grain and we looked at a verse where John the Baptist talked about this very thing:

Matthew 3:12 "His [Jesus] winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

What happens to the wheat and what happens to the chaff?
The wheat goes into the barn and the chaff goes into the fire.

The idea of winnowing, or separating, is important because it is a double-type. Either, like Ruth, we winnow the grain ourselves by removing sin from our lives, and are then found faithful at the JSOC. **Or** if we don't, then Christ, like Boaz, will separate us, because we shall be found unfaithful at the JSOC. This separation from Jesus, due to our unfaithfulness, will last for the duration of the Millennial Kingdom.
*(Teachers: You may wish to consider looking at the **Parable of the Dragnet** that teaches the same concept with the good put into vessels and the bad thrown away.)*

As we return to the Book of Ruth, we saw last time that once the 'winnowing' had taken place Boaz, laid down to **rest** at the end of the heap of grain. He was satisfied with the work that had been accomplished.

It was after this that Ruth 'came softly and uncovered his feet, and laid down' (Ruth 3:7). Let us remind ourselves as to what happened next:

Ruth 3:8 Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet.

At what time did this take place? Midnight

As we mentioned last lesson, the timing is significant and is another aspect of the account that points to **judgment**. Let's look at when **'midnight'** is first mentioned in the Bible and see how that represents a time of judgment:

Exodus 11:1 And the LORD said to Moses, "I will bring yet one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here....
... 4 Then Moses said, "Thus says the LORD: 'About **midnight** I will go out into the midst of Egypt;
5 'and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the animals.
6 'Then there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as was not like it before, nor shall be like it again.

7 'But against none of the children of Israel shall a dog move its tongue, against man or beast, that you may know that the LORD does make a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.'

This is the account of the final plague that God brought on the land of Egypt to cause the Pharaoh to let the Children of Israel, who were slaves, to go free. Do you remember how many plagues through Moses, God brought on the Egyptians? 10 in total with this one being referenced as the 10th.

Despite the previous 9 plagues, Pharaoh would not let the Children of Israel leave so in this final plague all the firstborn of man and beast would die. Only then would Pharaoh let them leave. However as v.7 above says this judgment of the death of the firstborn will not be against Israel. God made a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.

Do you remember why the Children of Israel were spared when the angel of death passed over the land of Egypt? What did they do that made the difference? *(Teachers try to elicit information as to their understanding of the Passover, and if vague then take a few moments to go over this very important aspect of salvation)*

That's right, they put faith in the death and shed blood of the Passover lambs by killing the lambs and putting the blood on the doorposts and lintels of their houses. As a result God spared them, but not so for the Egyptians:

Exodus 12:29 And it came to pass at midnight that the LORD struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock.

30 So Pharaoh rose in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not one dead.
31 Then he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, "Rise, go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. And go, serve the LORD as you have said.

God had brought 10 plagues upon the people and land of Egypt because of their treatment of Israel, and it was not until the death of the firstborn of people and livestock that Pharaoh's hardened heart would let them go. This judgment came to pass at MIDNIGHT and it is because of this first mention, that MIDNIGHT in Scripture is a Type for a time of Judgment.

Ruth 3:9 And he said, "Who are you?" So she answered, "I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative."

Last lesson we learnt that the phrase 'Take your maidservant under your wing' can also be translated: **'Spread the corner of your garment over your maidservant'**. Ruth was able to ask Boaz this because he was a close relative of hers and Naomi. She was asking Boaz to do 2 things. Fill in the missing words:

1. Redeem the family i n h e r i t a n c e

2. M a r r y Ruth and raise up a s o n to receive the redeemed i n h e r i t a n c e

Ruth 3:10 Then he said, "Blessed are you of the LORD, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich.
11 "And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman.

How does Boaz respond to this request? Boaz blesses Ruth and tells her not to fear because he is willing to fulfill her request.

What do all the people of his town know about Ruth? That she is a virtuous woman.

Ruth's exemplary reputation was known by all the people of the town. You might also recall this from chapter 2:

Ruth 2:11 And Boaz answered and said to her, "It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before.
12 "The LORD repay your work, and **a full reward** be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge."

Ruth was seeking Boaz's protection (under his wing) and was asking him to marry her and redeem an inheritance that had been lost due to the death of her husband.

Ruth had done all the work and made all the necessary preparations in order to arrive at the threshing floor to make this request. Her behavior showed her to be a 'virtuous woman' – she was morally good and upright – and as such it was Boaz's duty to grant her request, and we see that he was happy to do so.

Boaz's praise for Ruth's good character once again shows her to be a Type of the Faithful Christian. The outcome for Ruth was a positive one because Boaz was willing to redeem the lost inheritance and take her as his wife. The **'full reward'** Boaz talked of in chapter 2 was going to be Ruth's. That same **'full reward'** is also mentioned in the New Testament this way:

Colossians 3:23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,
24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.
25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.
('No partiality' = God will not play favorites but will be just)

How are we to work? (v.23) Heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,

How is the 'full reward' referred to in **Colossians 3:24?** The reward of the inheritance

In v.25 we see the Christian whose works have not been done 'heartily as to the Lord'. They will be repaid for their actions but it will not be 'the reward of the inheritance'.

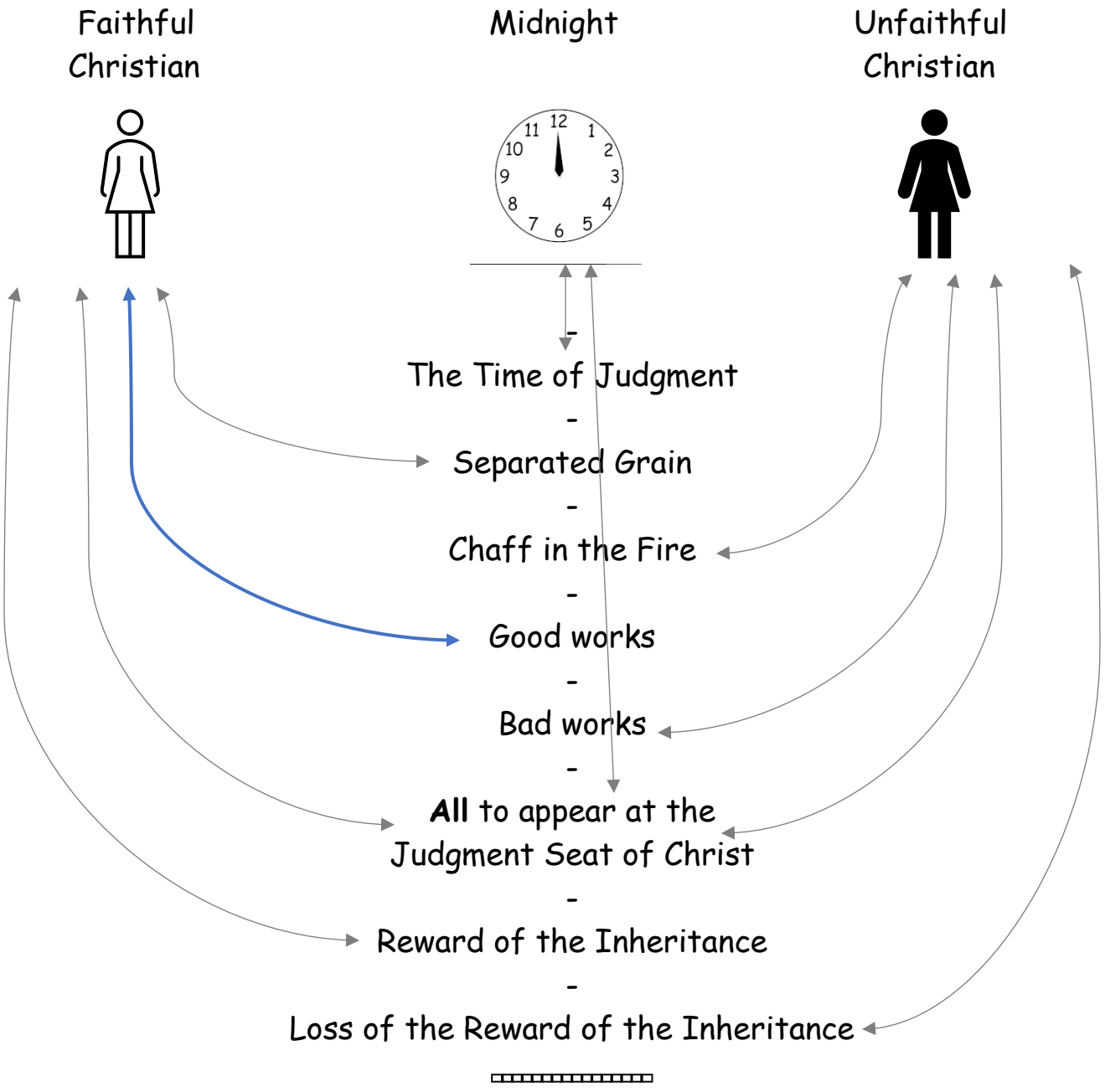
In our last lesson Boaz revealed that there was a **closer relative** who must first be given the opportunity to perform the duty required of a close relative and redeem Ruth's inheritance. If he were unwilling, then Boaz would perform that duty.

Ruth 3:12 "Now it is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I.
13 "Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be that if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you-good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, **then I will perform the duty for you**, as the LORD lives! Lie down until morning."

What instruction does Boaz give Ruth in v.13? Stay the night… lie down until morning. Any redemption by either the closer relative or Boaz cannot happen until morning.

Ruth must now enter a period of waiting. In our next lesson Ruth returns to Naomi with the news of all that happened to her on the threshing floor, and she is again told to wait. In the Antitype, (the fulfillment) to which this period of waiting points, once the future Bride for Christ is revealed, they must also wait until He redeems the inheritance for His Bride at the appointed time.

On the next page are a list of different Types and outcomes taken from the Scriptures in today's lesson. Draw a line from each one to the relevant images as they apply. I have done one for you.



When you have finished check your answers on the next page.

Faithful Christian	Midnight	Unfaithful Christian
Separated Grain	Time of Judgment	Chaff in the fire
Good Works		Bad Works
All to appear at the JSOC	JSOC	All to appear at the JSOC
Reward of the Inheritance		Loss of the Reward of the Inheritance

The Book of Ruth

Lesson 12

Time to Wait

Lesson Aim: Once the Bride has been revealed, a time of waiting will follow while the inheritance is redeemed, and before the Bride can become the Wife.
Key Scriptures: Ruth 3:13-18

In our last lesson, we studied the type of Ruth's appearance on Boaz's threshing floor, and the antitype it points to. Let's review with a few questions.

Qu: What is the antitype of Ruth's appearance on Boaz's threshing floor?
All Christians will appear at the JSOC

Qu: At what time did Boaz become aware of Ruth on his threshing floor?
Midnight

Qu: Where in the Bible is the very first mention of this same time as a picture of judgment? Exodus chapter 12 with the 10th and final plague in Egypt, the night of the first Passover.

Qu: What 2 things was Ruth requesting when she uncovered Boaz's feet?

1) Redeem the inheritance
2) Marry me to raise up a son to receive that inheritance

Qu: What was Boaz's response to Ruth's request?

"I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman." (3:11)

Through our study of the Book of Ruth, we have come to recognize that Ruth presents the picture of the faithful Christian who has done everything necessary to prepare for meeting Christ at His Judgment Seat (2Cor.5:10). We also noted that Boaz became aware of her presence beside his uncovered feet at midnight.

The very first mention of **midnight** as a **type of judgment** is in Exodus chapter 12, which describes the tenth and final plague that God brought upon the people and land of Egypt, because of their harsh treatment of the Children of Israel:

Exodus 12:29 And it came to pass **at midnight** that the LORD struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock.

God executed a judgment upon Egypt and Pharaoh at midnight with the death of all the firstborn, whilst Israel was spared through their faith in the blood of the Passover lambs.

Boaz became aware of Ruth at midnight on his threshing floor, which we know is a type of the Judgment Seat of Christ. That is something we must all be preparing for NOW, because we know not when it will take place.

As a result of Ruth's proper preparations, once on the threshing floor, she was able to make the request of Boaz to:

- redeem the forfeited inheritance
- take her as his bride.
- because she was a "virtuous woman," Boaz was duty bound to fulfill her request, which he would do happily.

Ruth 3:11 "And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman.

However, Boaz then revealed to Ruth that there was **a closer relative** than himself to Naomi, who needed to be given the opportunity to fulfill her request first. If he was not willing to do so, then Boaz would do it.

Now let's read the rest of chapter 3 to see what happened next for Ruth as Boaz went to redeem the inheritance for her.

Ruth 3:14 So she [Ruth] lay at his [Boaz's] feet until morning, and she arose before one could recognize another. Then he said, "Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor."
15 Also he said, "Bring the shawl that is on you and hold it." And when she held it, he measured six *ephahs* [lit. six measures] of barley, and laid it on her. Then she went into the city.
16 So when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "Is that you, my daughter?" Then she told her all that the man had done for her.
17 And she said, "These six *ephahs* [measures] of barley he gave me; for he said to me, 'Do not go empty-handed to your mother-in-law.'"
18 Then she said, "Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day."

In **v.14** we see that Ruth remained on the threshing floor until the morning, in obedience to Boaz's instructions. Before Ruth left the threshing floor, what did Boaz give to her (**v.15**)?
He measured six *ephahs* [lit. six measures] of barley, and laid it on her.

What was his purpose in doing so according to **v.17**? 'Do not go empty-handed to your mother-in-law.'

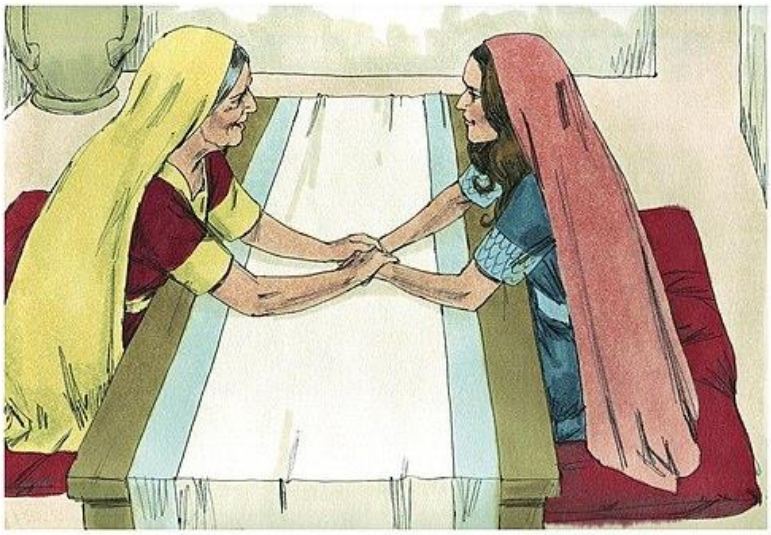
Where did Ruth then go, and to whom? She returned to Naomi in the city.

When Ruth returned to Naomi, she was able to tell her mother-in-law what she had accomplished, and what Boaz did for her. The 6 measures of barley Ruth was given to carry in her shawl showed that she had achieved a favorable outcome by following Naomi's instructions perfectly.

The word that has been translated **"shawl"** in **v.15** can also be translated as **"veil"**. The shawl, or veil, would have been part of the **"best garment"** that Ruth put on in **Ruth 3:3** after washing and anointing herself. This is similar to weddings today, in which the bride wears a veil in a marriage ceremony, prior to becoming the wife of her future husband.

After Ruth returned to Naomi with the 6 measures of barley in her shawl, Naomi gave her more instructions:
Ruth 3:18 Then she said, "Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day."

What does Naomi say the man will not do, and for how long? "He will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day."



There was nothing more that Ruth could do but wait. And by giving her the 6 measures of barley, Boaz had supplied all that she and Naomi would need during the time they waited for him to complete the work of redeeming the inheritance for her.

The Antitype of Today's Key Verses

When a type points to something else, whether it is a person, place, or thing, that which it points to is the Antitype.

We know that Boaz is a type, and Jesus is the Antitype.

Ruth is a type of the faithful Christian who will, have properly prepared for meeting their **Redeemer** – Christ - at His Judgment Seat.

Naomi is a type of the Word of God given through Israel.

Ruth, in dwelling alongside Naomi and obeying her instructions, is a type of the faithful Christian who, in the antitype, is studying and obeying the Word of God. And in this we can see exactly what we need to do, to be accepted as part of Christ's Bride.

Once Christ's Bride is revealed at His Judgment Seat, then the work of redeeming the inheritance can take place.

We shall see in chapter 4 that in the same way that Boaz, or the closer relative, are in a position to redeem the previously forfeited inheritance, so Jesus Christ is our Redeemer! Hallelujah!

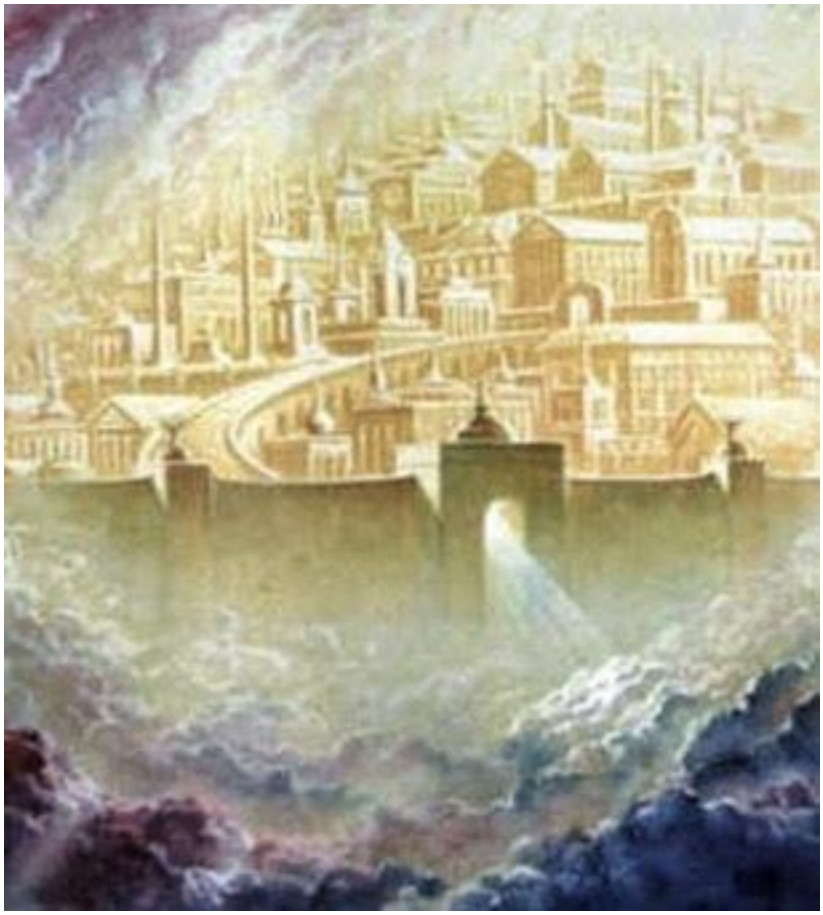
Christ, in the Antitype of Boaz, will tell the Bride to **wait** in a certain place for a period of time:
Ruth 3:13 "Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be that if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you [be your redeemer] - good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as the LORD lives! Lie down until morning."

Naomi also told Ruth to sit down and **wait**, because there was nothing more for her to do:
Ruth 3:18 Then she said, "Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day."

In chapter 2 verse 17 Ruth had beaten out one ephah of barley and with Boaz now giving her 6 measures of barley it made 7, a number of divine completion. Through this we can see once again what will be a favorable outcome for Ruth.

So Ruth waited with Naomi in the city for Boaz to fulfill his duty of redeeming the inheritance. Those who will be identified at the JSOC as having been faithful to the Word of God will also be required to **wait in the city** – the heavenly city – the New Jerusalem. Jesus will not rest until He has concluded the matter!

Numbers 23:19 "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?



The Heavenly City – The New Jerusalem

The Book of Ruth

Lesson 13

Boaz at the City Gate

Lesson Aim: To show how in OT times, all transactions and matters of business were carried out at the gates of the city. Therefore, Boaz meets with the closer relative at the city gate with a view to redeeming the inheritance for Ruth.

Key Scriptures: Ruth 4:1-6

In lesson 12, we learned that after Ruth had revealed herself and made her request known to Boaz, he told her to lay down and wait until morning. Whilst on Boaz's threshing floor, she had requested that he – because he was a close relative - would redeem, or purchase, the land that had previously belonged to Naomi's husband. At the same time he purchased the land as an inheritance, he would also be agreeing to take Ruth as his wife.

But before that was possible, there was a relative closer to Naomi and Ruth who must first be given the opportunity to do likewise. This is why Boaz had to meet the closer kinsman at the gates of the city, as we shall see in our lesson.

Qu: Before Ruth returned to Naomi in the city, what did Boaz give her to take, and how did Ruth carry it? Boaz gave Ruth 6 measures of barley to carry in her shawl.

Before Ruth left the threshing floor at the break of day, Boaz filled her shawl, or veil, with 6 measures of barley, which she was to take home to her mother-in-law Naomi.

"He measured six measures of barley."—*Ruth* iii. 15.

Qu: On her return to Naomi, Ruth recounted what had taken place the previous evening and that morning. As a result, what instruction did Naomi give to Ruth, and what did she say Boaz would do?

Let's read about it again:
Ruth 3:18 Then she said, "Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day."

Ruth was told to 'sit still' as she waited with Naomi in the city for Boaz to fulfill his duty of ensuring the inheritance was redeemed, either by the closer relative or himself.

Is there a parallel for us? Of course! If we have been faithful to the Word of God, then when we arrive at the JSOC we will also be required to **wait in the city** – the heavenly city – the New Jerusalem, until our inheritance has been redeemed. Jesus will not rest until He has concluded the matter on that Day, either!

We will now look at what happens next as Boaz goes to 'conclude the matter this day'.

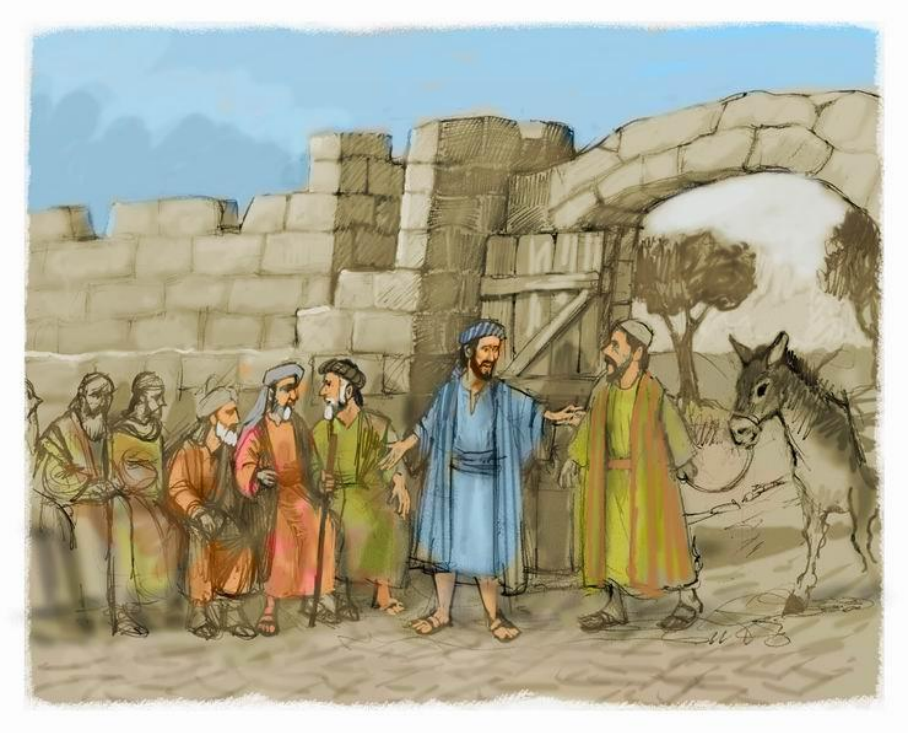
Ruth 4:1 Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there; and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz had spoken came by. So Boaz said, "Come aside, friend, sit down here." So he came aside and sat down.
2 And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down.

Qu: Why do you think Boaz chose the city gate to meet with 'the close relative'? Not only would it have been a focal point of the city with people coming and going, but it was also where matters of business would have been carried out.

In OT times, all matters of business were carried out at the gates of the city, where they would be witnessed by the community's rulers, who were called 'elders'. The elders were given the authority to witness and confirm legal transactions and to pass judgments. This would be similar to judges and/or juries today.

Qu: How many elders does Boaz gather to advise and witness what he plans to do? 10

That number is one of God's special numbers. It shows completeness, and as such it is a perfect number of elders to witness what Boaz has to say to his relative.



The Close Relative

Ruth 4:3 Then he said to the close relative, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, sold [literally: 'was about to sell'] the piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech.
4 "And I thought to inform you, saying, 'Buy it back in the presence of the inhabitants and the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know; for there is no one but you to redeem it, and I am next after you.'" And he said, "I will redeem it."

Qu: How do we know from **v.3** that both Boaz and the close relative are in the family and therefore eligible to purchase the land from Naomi? (Hint: there is one word which tells us.) our brother Elimelech

Boaz refers to Elimelech as 'our brother'. He may not have been their literal brother because that term is sometimes used to refer to other male family members. Christians will sometimes refer to other Christians as 'brothers' because they are all part of the same family – the family of God. But in either case, he would have been a relative.

Qu: Apart from Boaz and the close relative, is there anyone else able to purchase the land? (**v.4**)
"There is no one but you to redeem it, and I am next after you"

The redeeming (purchasing) of land was a very important transaction that had to be witnessed, which is why Boaz says: 'Buy it back in the presence of the inhabitants and the elders of my people.' Although Boaz was talking to the closer relative, he was making sure the elders of the city could hear what was being said.

Qu: What does the close relative say he will do?
And he said, "I will redeem it."

Let's continue reading:

Ruth 4:5 Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy it from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance."
6 And the close relative said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance. You redeem my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot redeem it."

Although the closer relative initially says he will redeem the inheritance, he changes his mind once Boaz finishes explaining all that is involved.

Let's read **v.5** again:
5 Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy it from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to perpetuate [continue or preserve] the name of the dead through his inheritance."

Ruth also had a legal interest in the land because it would have passed to her firstborn son with Mahlon, **if** they had had children before he died. Since she was still of an age to marry and raise up a son to preserve the family name and lands, redeeming the inheritance included not just purchasing the land, but also marrying Ruth.

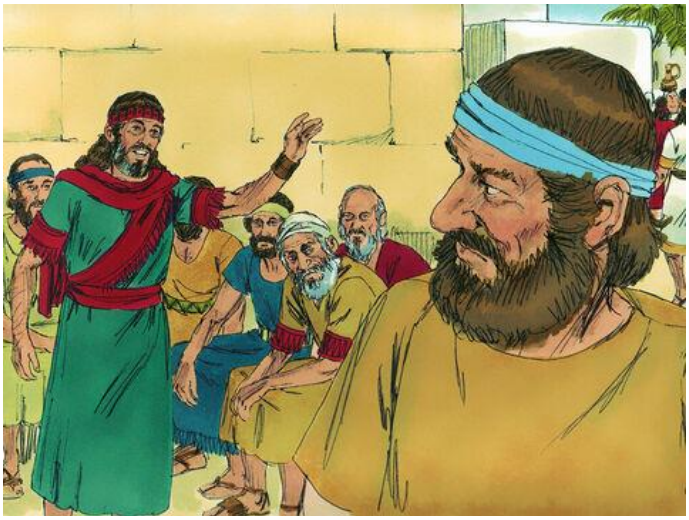
Jewish law dictated that the male family member who redeemed the inheritance from Naomi and Ruth must also marry Ruth. Then any son they had together would ultimately receive the inheritance that would have been Mahlon's, which had also been his father Elimelech's.

Boaz was fully aware of these obligations under Jewish law, and he pointed them out to his close relative in **v.5**. Now let's read our final verse for today again:

Ruth 4:6 And the close relative said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance. You redeem my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot redeem it."

Task: Underline why the close relative says he cannot redeem the land, after he learns about the additional requirement to take Ruth as his wife.

The reason that redeeming the land and marrying Ruth would ruin his own inheritance is not stated, but it is logical to assume that he could not do so because he already had a wife, or was about to marry. As a result, he gives up his right to redeem and instead passes it on to Boaz.



As we have studied the Book of Ruth we have come to realize that there are a lot of types in it that God wants us to see and understand. And today's lesson reveals another new type for us.

Let's review what we have learnt or already know so we can place this new type into the picture God is showing us:

- We know that Boaz is a type of Jesus Christ
- We know that Jesus will have a Bride to rule with Him in His Kingdom in the 7th Day
- We know that Ruth is a type of the faithful Christian who will make up Jesus's Bride
- In our lesson today, we learnt that there were only 2 persons in the family who could redeem the inheritance

- The closer relative would not redeem the inheritance, as it would affect his own inheritance, presumably because he was either married or about to marry

Qu: Who do you think the closer relative is a type of, and therefore, who is His wife? Who is the only One who can bring about redemption? Have you managed to work out Who the Closer Relative is?

(Teachers use the above questions to see if the children can work out that only God the Father and God the Son are in a position to redeem. If not then move on and read the following paragraphs.)

God the Father and **God the Son** are the only Ones in a position to bring about redemption. Although Jesus shed His blood when He was crucified, it was also the blood of God that was shed that day (**Acts 20:28**).

The **nation of Israel** is the wife of God (**Isa.54:5**), and it is God the Father who will ultimately redeem her (through the events of the Tribulation). It is Jesus Christ, the Son, who will redeem Christians and their inheritance. **The closer relative is a type of God the Father.**

This explains why the closer relative can't redeem the inheritance and take Ruth as his wife, and why it has to be Boaz who does it.

The faithful Christian will be a part of the Bride of Christ and rule with Him during the 7th Day, the Millennial Kingdom. That is why Boaz MUST BE THE ONE to redeem the land and take Ruth as His wife.

What about the Closer Relative and His wife?
God the Father will rule with and through His wife, the nation of Israel, during the 7th Day. And that is why He, as the Antitype of the closer

relative, could not redeem the land and take Ruth for His wife. Israel will be His Wife in the 7th Day.

In our next lesson we will look at how the fulfillment of the redemption of the inheritance for Ruth is confirmed. Then we will go to the NT to see its future fulfillment in the antitype.

On the next page match the Type with the Antitype.

Match the following TYPE to the ANTITYPE:

TYPE	ANTITYPE
City Gates	God the Father
Elders	Jesus Christ
Closer Relative	Israel
Boaz	Court or legal setting
Wife of Closer Relative	Faithful Christians
Ruth	Judges or Rulers

The Book of Ruth

Lesson 14

The Kinsman Redeemer

Lesson Aim: To show how Boaz's marriage to Ruth and his redemption of the inheritance is a picture of Christ's future redemption of the Inheritance for His future Bride.

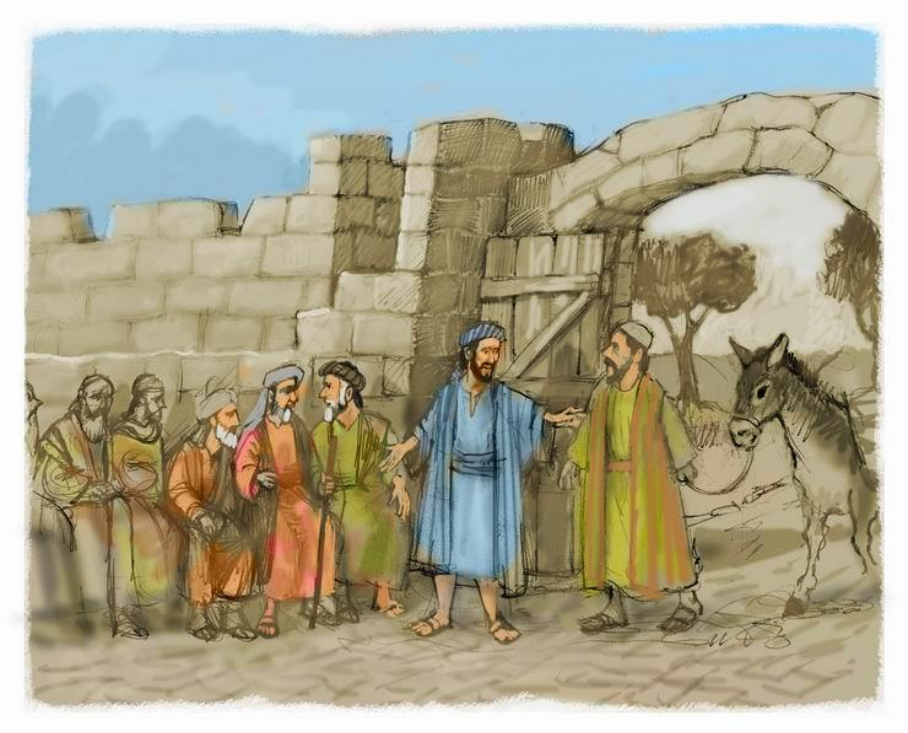
Scriptures: Ruth 4:5-10
Revelation 5:1-7

In our last lesson, Ruth having met Boaz on his threshing floor was waiting with her mother-in-law Naomi in the city. Boaz, meanwhile, went to the gate of the city to meet with a kinsman (relative) who was closer to Naomi than himself. A **kinsman** is a male relative of the same bloodline. Boaz went to the city gate because that was where all matters of business were carried out and witnessed by the elders of the city.

Qu: Do you remember how many elders were there? 10

Naomi was selling the piece of land that had belonged to her dead husband Elimelech, and according to Jewish law it should be sold to a family member. So Boaz gave the nearer kinsman the opportunity to

purchase it. If he wasn't willing or able, then Boaz was next in line to do so.



To redeem the inheritance meant purchasing the land and also marrying Ruth in order to raise up a son to continue the family name and inheritance. The nearer kinsman was indeed willing to redeem the land, but not to marry Ruth, so he declined.

Let's read verses 5 & 6 again:

Ruth 4:5 Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy it from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance."
6 And the close relative said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance. You redeem my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot redeem it."

Boaz and the nearer kinsman were the only 2 in a position to act as a redeemer for Naomi and Ruth. The nearer kinsman's name is not given in the book but because of what we know about the antitypes of Him and Boaz, we know the reason he could not marry Ruth and redeem the inheritance: he already had a wife.

Qu: Who is the nearer kinsman a type of? God the Father

Qu: And who is He already married to? The nation of Israel

Now let's read verses 7 to 10 of chapter 4:

Ruth 4:7 Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging, to confirm anything: one man took off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was a confirmation in Israel.
8 Therefore the close relative said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself." So he took off his sandal.
9 And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, from the hand of Naomi.
10 Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate. You are witnesses this day."

Qu: What does the close relative do in **v.8** to show he could not redeem the inheritance, and that Boaz should do it instead? So he took off his sandal.

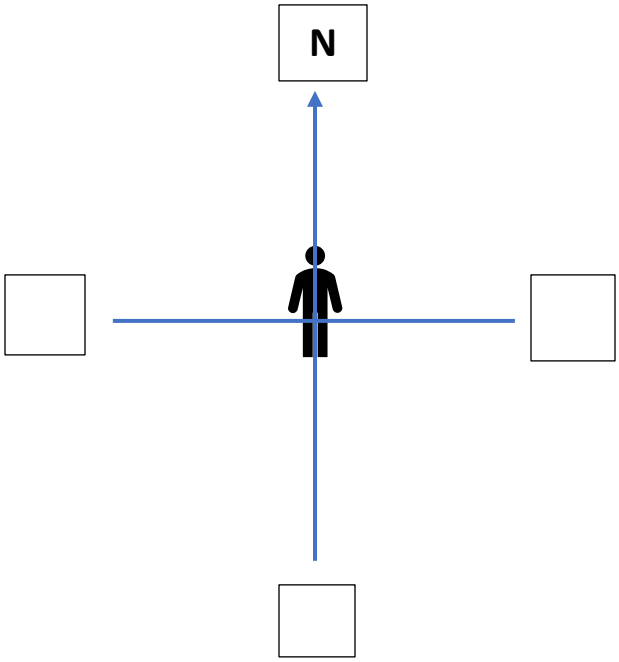
As we read **verses 7 & 8**, that may sound like a very strange thing to do when confirming a transaction.

However, the use of a shoe or the foot was not uncommon in the OT to demonstrate possession or authority. Look at the following example:

Genesis 13:14 And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are-northward, southward, eastward, and westward;
15 "for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.
16 "And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered.
17 "Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you."

Qu: In **v.14** the Lord told Abram to look to the **N**orth, **S**outh, **E**ast, and **W**est. He had to look in all 4 directions of the compass. Do you know the directions on a compass? A compass always points to the North.

Fill in the missing directions on the compass below.



Qu: What did the Lord tell Abram to do in **v.17** after He gave the land to him and his descendants? "Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you."

This was a way of showing to Abram all the land that God was giving to him and his descendants. God then told Abram's descendants, the Children of Israel, something very similar:

Deuteronomy 11:24 "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours

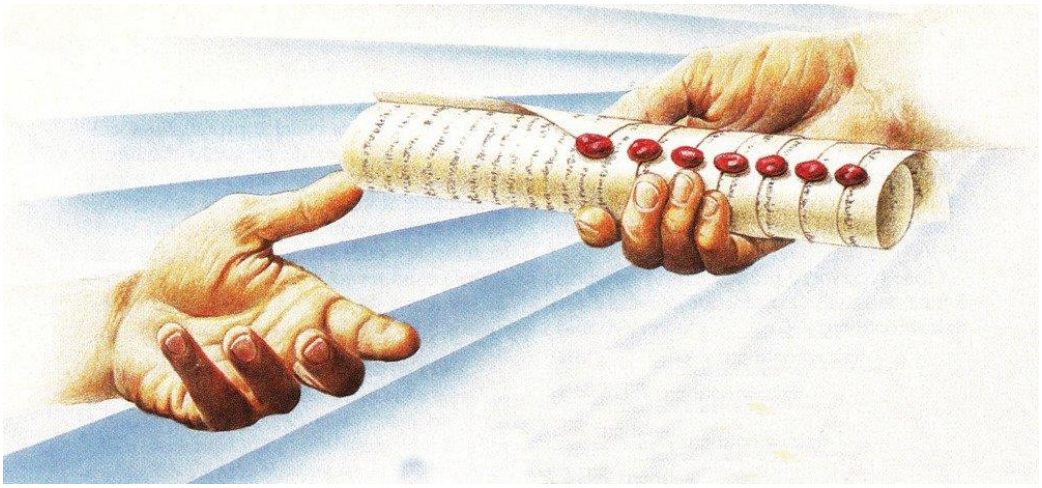
The Type and the Antitype

When the closer relative told Boaz and the elders at the city gate that he could not redeem (purchase) the piece of property that had belonged to Naomi's husband and 2 sons, he took off his sandal and gave it to Boaz to show he was surrendering any right to the land, or to Ruth. This made it possible for Boaz to redeem the inheritance **and** take Ruth as his wife.

We know from the previous lesson that the closer relative is a type of God the Father, and Boaz is a type of God the Son, Jesus Christ. The Book of Revelation reveals when a similar transaction will take place. However it will not be a sandal that will pass between God and the Lord Jesus, but a scroll with 7 seals upon it. The scroll is such an important document because it reveals what must be done to redeem the inheritance for Christ and His bride. Let's take a look at that future event:

Revelation 5:1 And I saw in the right hand of Him [God the Father] who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.
2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"
3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.
4 So I [the Apostle John] wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.
5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, **the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David**, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."
6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood **a Lamb as though**

it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.
7 Then He [the Lamb] came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him [God] who sat on the throne.



Qu: In **v.1**, where is the One holding the 7 sealed scroll seated? And do you remember what the number 7 points to? He is seated on the throne. The number 7 is a number showing divine completion of whatever is in view which in this case is the terms for the redemption of the inheritance.

It is a number that points to divine completion. Where in the Bible does that number first appear as a foundation to show that? Genesis 1:1- 2:3

Verses 2 & 4, reveal what was necessary if someone was going to be able to open and read the scroll. They needed to be 'worthy to open the scroll', to read it or let loose its seals. Initially no one was found who qualified to do so, and because the Apostle John knew the significance of the scroll he wept much.

Qu: Who is it that tells the Apostle John not to weep in **v.5?** One of the elders

That's interesting that it is the same word as those who witnessed Boaz and the closer relative doing business at the city gate!

Qu: According to **v.5,** who has prevailed, and is therefore worthy to open the scroll? **The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David**, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

Jesus is from the tribe of Judah and He is a descendant of King David.

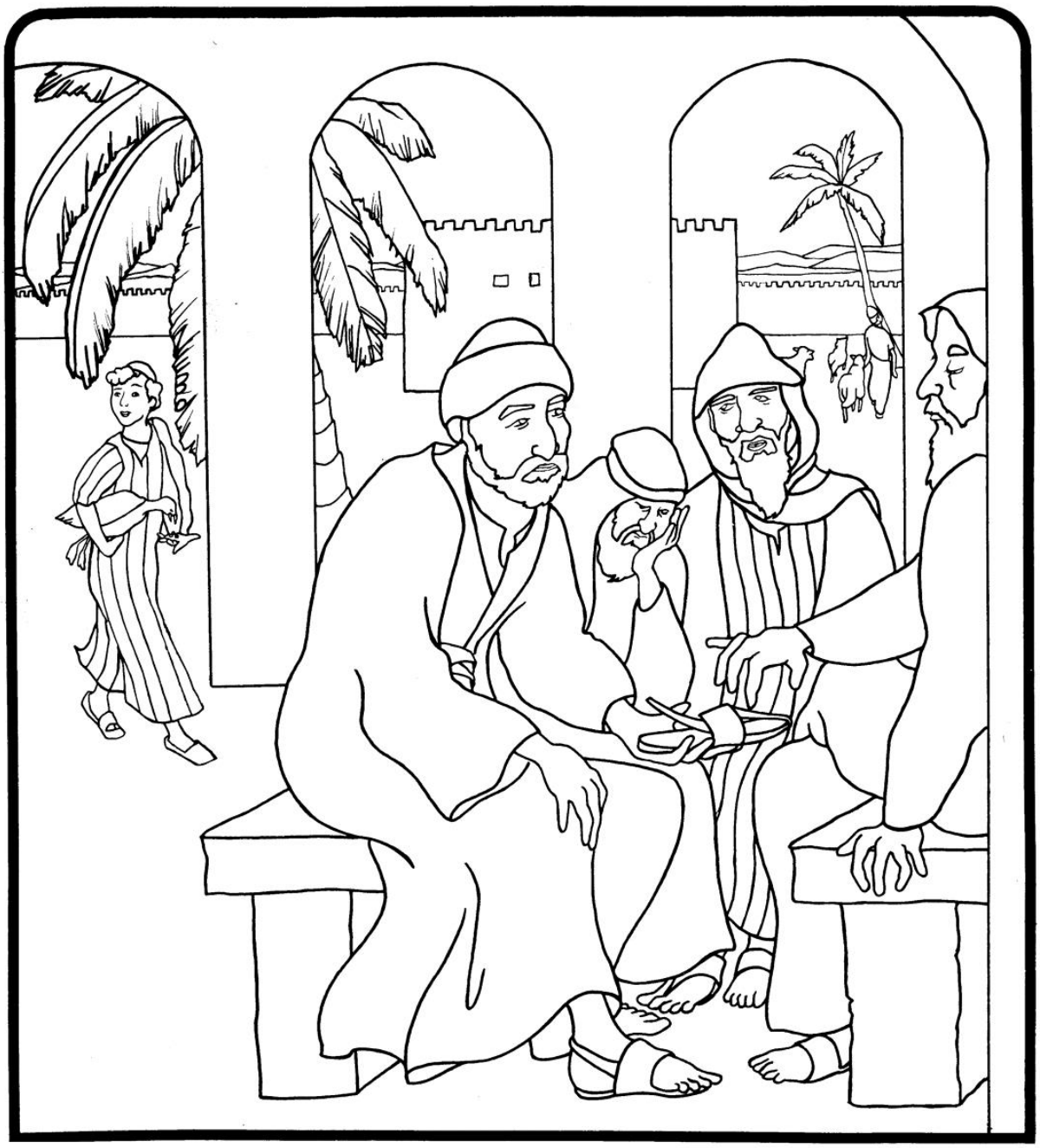
Qu: How is the one found worthy described in **v.6?**
A Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes,

Jesus is **the Lamb** who was slain to redeem all who would put faith in Him. The redemption price was paid on the Cross of Calvary. It was His death and shed blood.

What is the land of Christ and His Bride's inheritance? It is the earth which is currently being ruled over by Satan.

Is the land, the Earth, redeemed yet? Well that cannot begin to happen until all Christians appear at the JSOC and the faithful are identified as part of Christ's Bride. Then the scroll will be opened and the process of redeeming the land (the earth) will begin. **Hallelujah!**

Today we have covered a lot of very important things. Who would have thought that taking off a sandal and giving to another could be so significant? Well done!



The Book of Ruth

Lesson 15

Redemption, Marriage & Rulership

Lesson Aim: To show how the blessing pronounced on the marriage of Ruth and Boaz leads to their descendants becoming Royalty through their great grandson King David, and how it ultimately points to Christ and Rulership with Him.

Scriptures: Ruth 4:10-22

In our last lesson, we continued to study the events that took place at the gates of the city in Ruth chapter 4. We saw that the closer relative that Boaz met with in front of the elders of the city was not able to redeem the inheritance for himself because he was not able to take Ruth as his wife. How did the closer relative demonstrate this to Boaz?

Let's read it:

Ruth 4:8 Therefore the close relative said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself." So he took off his sandal.

The closer relative gave the authority he had to redeem Ruth and the property to Boaz.

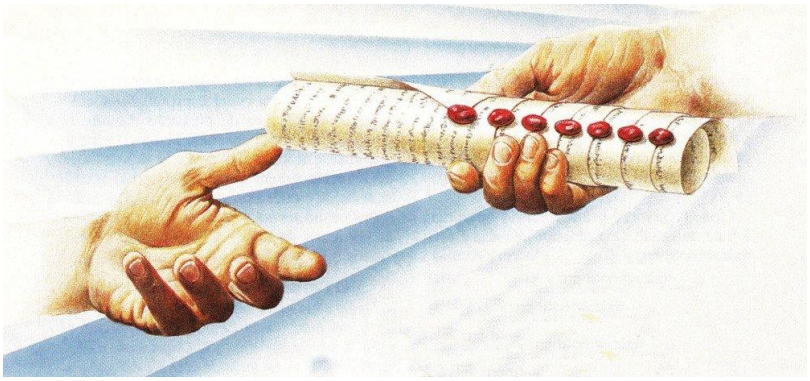
Also last week, we looked at other OT examples that showed how the use of a shoe or foot can depict authority over a piece of land.

- God told Abram to walk the length and width of the land he was giving to him and his descendants (Gen.13:14-17)
- Before the children of Israel entered the land of their inheritance, Moses told them that every place on which the sole of their foot trod would be theirs. (Deut.11:24)

It was a very significant event when the nearer kinsman gave up his rights of redemption by passing his sandal to Boaz. It is a Type, and last lesson we looked at what it points to in the Book of Revelation.

Who are the 2 individuals involved in the Revelation account, and instead of a sandal, what will pass between them? (Rev.5:1-7) God the Father seated on the throne passed a scroll with 7 seals to the Lamb who had been slain, who we know is Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

That's right, God the Father seated on His throne in the heavens passes a scroll with 7 seals on it to the Lamb who had been slain. The Lamb is also described as 'the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David' (Rev.5:5).



The Lamb is of course Jesus, who was slain to redeem all who would put faith in Him. He paid the redemption price on the Cross of Calvary through His death and shed blood. The same blood makes possible our salvation - both spirit and soul and body - AND the redemption of the inheritance for His Bride.

The land of His & His Bride's inheritance **is the Earth,** which is currently being ruled over by Satan. But that will change when Jesus Christ takes the scroll from God the Father and the seals on the scroll are unsealed in turn.

In fact, it will take 7 years to complete. Do you know what this period of time is called in Scripture?

It is referred to as the seven year Tribulation, and the last three and a half years are called the Great Tribulation, because the suffering will be so intense (Mat.24:9, 21).

We have been looking at future events from the Book of Revelation as we study the Book of Ruth because Ruth and Revelation complement each other.

The Types that we see in the Book of Ruth have their fulfillment in the events recorded in the Book of Revelation, the last book of the Bible.

The Book of Ruth acts as a guidebook to teach us what we should do to be found worthy to rule with Christ in the 7th Day. Ruth is our example.

WILL YOU CHOOSE TO BE LIKE RUTH?

The Book of Ruth shows what all of Scripture is moving towards. Jesus Christ and His Bride ruling together in the 7th Day, the Millennial Kingdom!

So as we study the final verses of the Book of Ruth today, we will see that it ends exactly how the Book of Revelation ends. Both books end with:

Redemption, Marriage & Rulership in the 7th Day

Let's study our final verses from Ruth:

Ruth 4:10 "Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate. You are witnesses this day."

11 And all the people who were at the gate, and the elders, said, "We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of Israel; and may you prosper in Ephrathah *[another name for Bethlehem]* and be famous in Bethlehem.
12 "May your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring which the LORD will give you from this young woman."
13 So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son.

So Ruth became Boaz's wife without a big ceremony. In fact, she was not even present, but the transaction was witnessed by the elders and people of the city. The people of the city then pronounced a blessing upon the marriage: that it would prosper and become famous in Bethlehem!

After the birth of Ruth's son, the women of the city also pronounced a blessing upon Naomi. Underline what they said to Naomi in the following verses:

Ruth 4:14 Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel!
15 "And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him."
16 Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him.
17 Also the neighbor women gave him 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.

Do you remember when Naomi first returned to Bethlehem at the end of chapter 1 and that 'all the city was excited because of them; and the women said, "Is this Naomi?"' (Ruth 1:19b). *(Lesson 4)*

What name did Naomi tell them to call her instead, and why was that (Ruth 1:20-21)? "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.
21 "I went out full, and the LORD has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?"

The marriage blessing that the people had pronounced upon Boaz & Ruth came true when they had a son whose name was **Obed**. Also, with the birth of Obed, Naomi's fortunes were restored just as the women said to her in v.15. Naomi was no longer 'Mara', meaning 'bitter'. She had now become 'Naomi,' meaning 'pleasant', and Ruth is said to be better to her than if she had had 7 sons!

Eventually, Obed would have a son of his own called **Jesse**. And Jesse would have a son called **David**. When David grew up He would not just become famous in Bethlehem (v.11), but also famous in all Israel (v.14). Why is that?

David would become the 2nd King over Israel. The book concludes with a genealogy beginning with Judah's son Perez:

Ruth 4:18 Now this is the genealogy of **Perez**: Perez begot **Hezron**;
19 Hezron begot **Ram**, and Ram begot **Amminadab**;
20 Amminadab begot **Nahshon**, and Nahshon begot **Salmon**;
21 Salmon begot **Boaz**, and Boaz begot **Obed**;
22 Obed begot **Jesse**, and Jesse begot **David**.

The final chapter of the Book of Ruth has shown us that an inheritance had been Redeemed and a Marriage took place. That marriage produced an heir whose descendant would become king and rule over Israel. The Book of Ruth ends with Rulership.

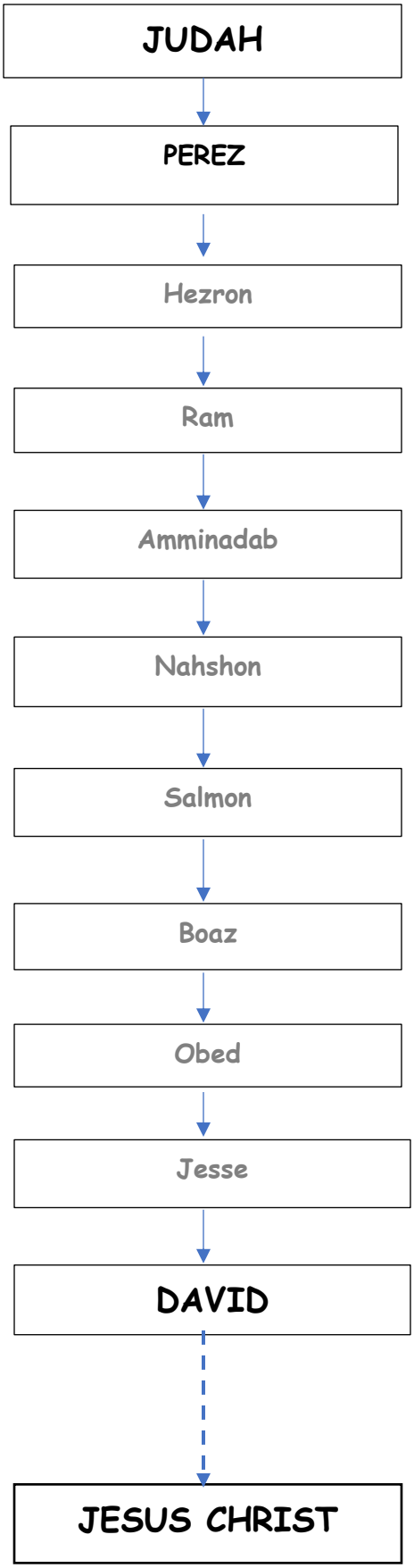
David was not the only one born in Bethlehem who would be 'famous in Bethlehem' (v.11) and 'famous in Israel' (v.14)!

Matthew 1:1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham….

Because of Ruth's faithfulness and Boaz's obedience to the Scriptures, they would have a descendant who would be Jesus Christ, the Son of God who was born King of the Jews. And where was Jesus born?
In Bethlehem, the city of David.

Final Activity:

Using verses 18 to 22 of Ruth chapter 4 complete the genealogy chart on the following page.


JUDAH
PEREZ
Hezron
Ram
Amminadab
Nahshon
Salmon
Boaz
Obed
Jesse
DAVID
JESUS CHRIST

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