

THE BOOK OF RUTH

INTRODUCTION

Think about events in your life, decisions and choices made, that brought you to where you are today.

Providence - something prepared or supplied for the future; hast provided.
(Genesis 50:19) "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good ... "
(Esther 4:14) "Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"
(Romans 8:28) "We know that all things work together for good to those who love God ... "

Ruth is transformed from poverty to wealth, widow to wife, barren to fertile, and foreigner to Israelite.

CHAPTER 1

(v1) "In the days when the judges ruled" - after the conquest ... before the kings.
"There was a famine in the land of Bethlehem, Judah," so Elimelech and Naomi, and their two sons, Mahlon and Chilion, go to Moab. Elimelech dies.
The two boys marry women from Moab: Mahlon marries Ruth and Chilion marries Orpah.
The two boys die, and the three widows set out to return to Judah.
Naomi entreats Ruth and Orpah to return to Moab. Orpah does, and Ruth follows Naomi.
It's OK, the O.T. law provided for Ruth: (Exodus 22:21-22)

CHAPTER 2

Arriving in Bethlehem about the time of harvest, Ruth goes into the fields to glean for their support.
The O.T. law made provisions for the poor: (Leviticus 19:9-10, 23:22)
The field belonged to Boaz, a relative of Elimelech (Ruth's deceased father-in-law).
Boaz hears of Ruth's story and makes provision for her gleaning and safety.

CHAPTER 3

(v9-10) Ruth reveals herself to Boaz as a relative, and he is a "kinsman-redeemer."
(v11) Boaz will honor Ruth's request; however, Boaz knows there is a relative closer in kin than he is, and he must perform the duty or not.

CHAPTER 4

Boaz approaches the nearer kinsman, and he surrenders his right according to the custom of the time.
(v1) "the gate" - the traditional place for legal matters to be settled.
(Deuteronomy 25:5-10; Amos 5:10; Job 31:21)
(v7) "one man took off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was a confirmation in Israel"
If the deal was not confirmed, then the incident of spitting in the face.
With shoe in hand, witnessed by the elders, Boaz marries Ruth.
They have a child, Obed, who is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

CLOSE: Watch your **thoughts**, for they become your words.
Watch your **words**, for they become your actions.
Watch your **actions**, for they become your habits.
Watch your **habits**, for they become your character.
Watch your **character**, for it becomes your destiny.