

THE BOOK OF RUTH

January 04, 2017

CHAPTER 1

The setting of the book of Ruth

Chapter 1:1 This was during the era of the Judges, and during the darkest of times Spiritually, a time characterized in the book of Judges as a period of religious and moral degeneracy, national disunity and frequent foreign oppression. It is breathtaking to think that during this dark period there are still people, a remnant that are seeking for redemption and revival! We need to hear more about redemption and revival in these last dark days that we are living in.

The book of Ruth is a true story and these Ruth has her genealogical lineage is in the Kingly line of David.

NOTABLE FEATURES OF THE BOOK OF RUTH

1. It is one of two books of the bible that bears the name of a woman. The book of Esther is the other book; however, Ruth is the only book that has a woman as the main character. She is a young Gentile woman that is brought to live among the Hebrews, she then marries a Hebrew that is in the Royal lineage of David. Esther is a young Hebrew woman who is brought to live among the Gentiles, she marries a Gentile that is on the throne of that Empire.
2. The Book of Ruth is a love story in several different ways.
 - a. No doubt one of the purposes is to extol virtuous love between a man and a woman
 - b. It exemplifies how love can overcome alienations and prejudices.
 - c. It is a beautiful portrayal of a young wife's devoted love for her Mother-In-Law.
 - d. The greatest picture in this story is that it is a portrayal of Christ's love and redemption for His bride.
3. All three main individuals in this book excel in qualities of Character, Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz. It is notable that they are held in such high esteem by the Jews
4. It is striking that this Moabite woman would marry so honorably in Israel. DEUT. 23:3 "An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the Lord; even to their tenth generation shall they not enter into the congregation of the Lord for ever:"

She was cursed and despised, yet she entered in. This was the grace of God demonstrated. We have been cursed, we have been despised, we are unworthy but Jesus Christ was willing to redeem us!

EPH. 2:1 9 1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

2Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

4But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

5Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

6And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

7That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

8For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Though unworthy to enter into the goodness of God, she became the Great Grandmother of King David. The genealogy in the final chapter of the book explains how Ruth became the great-grandmother of David: Boaz begot Obed, Obed begot Jesse and Jesse begot David (Ruth 4:17).

Ruth is one of five women mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus Christ. The other 4 are Mary, Tamar, Bathsheba and Rahab.

THE AUTHORSHIP OF RUTH

The author is unknown. Jewish tradition points to Samuel.

OUTLINE

- Introduction: Naomi Emptied (1:1–5)
- Naomi Returns from Moab (1:6–22)
- Ruth Clings to Naomi (1:6–18)
- Ruth and Naomi Return to Bethlehem (1:19–22)
- Ruth and Boaz Meet in the Harvest Fields (ch. 2)
- Ruth Begins Work (2:1–7)
- Boaz Shows Kindness to Ruth (2:8–16)
- Ruth Returns to Naomi (2:17–23)

- Naomi Sends Ruth to Boaz’s Threshing Floor (ch. 3)
- Naomi Instructs Ruth (3:1–5)
- Boaz Pledges to Secure Redemption (3:6–15)
- Ruth Returns to Naomi (3:16–18)
- Boaz Arranges to Fulfill His Pledge (4:1–12)
- Boaz Confronts the Unnamed Kinsman (4:1–8)
- Boaz Buys Naomi’s Property and Announces His Marriage to Ruth (4:9–12)
- Conclusion: Naomi Filled (4:13–17)
- Epilogue: Genealogy of David (4:18–22)

January 11, 2017
LAWS OF REDEMPTION

Before we begin to understand this book, we must first be able to understand the laws of redemption. This story is based on the laws that God had Moses bring forth.

LEV. 25:23-25

23The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me.

24And in all the land of your possession ye shall grant a redemption for the land.

25If thy brother be waxen poor, and hath sold away some of his possession, and if any of his kin come to redeem it, then shall he redeem that which his brother sold.

This is completely based upon land. Every family was granted a portion of land. In the event that the owner were unable to retain it due to poverty, they would have to sell it and whoever had the cash in hand could buy it. Interestingly, if in the future a Near-Kinsman became available who could redeem it, the current owner would be forced under the law to sell it back to the family member. THIS NEAR KINSMAN HAD THE FIRST RIGHT. If there was no Near-Kinsman available, the family would have to wait fifty years for the Year-of-Jubilee which would return the land to the original family.

LAW CONCERNING SLAVERY

LEV 25:47-48

47And if a sojourner or stranger wax rich by thee, and thy brother that dwelleth by him wax poor, and sell himself unto the stranger or sojourner by thee, or to the stock of the stranger's family:

48After that he is sold he may be redeemed again; one of his brethren may redeem him:

This law had to do with slaves and the redemption of them. People would go into debt and sell themselves as slaves to pay for the debt. In such cases, if there were a Near-Kinsman who had the money, he could pay the debt and redeem them. In DEUTERONOMY 25, we find the Law of the Redeemer. If a man and woman were married but had no children, and the husband were to die...under this law, it was the duty of the Near-Kinsman to marry her and raise up children with her. This was not a forced duty. The kinsman had the responsibility of marriage to the widow and in this relationship the near-kinsman had a special name given to him...

Goel – NEAR KINSMAN

Redeemer in the Old Testament almost always refers to God.

THESE TWO WORDS ARE EXACTLY THE SAME...GOD BECAME THEIR REDEEMER & THEIR NEAR-KINSMAN

Ruth 3:9 And he said, Who art thou? And she answered, I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman.

She was asking him in this section of scripture to become her husband. She was asking him to buy back that which was lost.

She wasn't becoming immodest in asking, but she was making him aware of her situation.

God is aware of our situation and he has become our near kinsman redeemer...our GOEL!

Naomi has been called the prodigal daughter of the old testament

21I went out full, and the Lord hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the Lord hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me?

THE FAMILY

1Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Beth-lehem-judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.

2And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Beth-lehem-judah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there.

3And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons.

FATHER ELIMELECH – GOD IS KING

WIFE NAOMI – PLEASANT

SON MAHLON – WASTING PINING (LONGING)

SON CHILION – SICKLY

They lived in Bethlehem-Judah (Bethlehem – HOUSE OF BREAD it was noted for it's farmland). If you lived in Bethlehem meant that you would have plenty, you would lack nothing to eat.

This is an excellent picture of how God sees us living in HIM!!! We should be living in a land of plenty!!!

God is our King and He should sit upon the throne of our heart as He leads, directs and provides for our every step. If God is our King, we will have our needs met by him. Maybe not all our wants...

The names of the sons provide a picture that not all was well in that house.

There was a lack of spiritual health and this very well could be why they chose women that were Moabite. This was prohibited.

The bible states that there was a famine in the land. Rain ceased, harvest died, nothing would produce... and the people became hungry.

The land was supposed to be plentiful, fruitful, but when we are not in the will of God, He will dry up the blessings that were meant for us. Yes, it is true that we all face hardships, yes, we all face difficulties, but when we are holding on to Jesus and we are living right, we will pull through the test, we will pull through the character-building hardship, but when we blatantly decide to do our own thing, God will withhold his hand of blessing!!!

January 18, 2017

ELIMELECH decided to move his family because of the famine I the land

2 Chron. 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land

We are suffering from a famine in the land today, not just in the church world with the worshiptainment and social club it has become, but also on a personal level. The church has drifted so far from where it once was. I had a preacher stand in our gym just the other day. He grew up in the holiness movement that was the bedrock of the Assemblies and dared to ask me if I was legalistic. NO, We do what we do based upon the scriptures, not because someone demands that of us. The church of today isn't even recognizable today compared to the church from the turn of the century, and it's not just the clothesline that has changed. What has changed is the foundation of prayer.

We are afraid to pray

We are afraid to meet with God

We are afraid of who we are and what we might become.

We are afraid of where prayer will take us and how we will get there.

We don't want to change from who we are into what God wants us to become.

Our relationships will change, our associations, the way we look at things from God's perspective, everything about us will change and we don't want to do that, and so when we look at 2 Chron. 7:14 If my people,

IF MY PEOPLE!!!!

It is a conditional statement.

If..then that or else...

IF.....

which are called by my name,

shall humble themselves,

and pray, and seek my face,
 and turn from their wicked ways;
 THEN.... will I hear from heaven,
 and will forgive their sin,
 and heal their land

February 1, 2017
Chapter 1 Continued

Elimelech decided to move his family to Moab because of the famine. It is not uncommon for Christians who are experiencing spiritual famine to decide to sojourn in Moab for a while. Moab- is a type of the World.

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN THAT GENERALLY LEADS TO FAMINE?

We get the impression that the move was supposed to be temporary. Nobody plans on moving to Moab permanently.

Just because things aren't going your way, just because you thought things should be better than they are, doesn't mean that you should go play in MOAB.

*****WHY DO PEOPLE GROW DISCONTENTED WITH THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH GOD? WHY DO THEY END UP IN MOAB?

Elimelech Died in Moab. WHAT DOES THAT TELL US ABOUT HIS INTENTIONS TO STAY IN MOAB FOR A SHORT TIME?

HOW MAY YEARS DID NAOMI STAY IN MOAB? WHAT DID SHE LOSE IN MOAB?

Someone once said, "don't ever lose what God has given to you because it may very well be the hardest thing to get back if you ever get it back."

Sampson shook himself and the power of God would fall on him. When he provided an avenue for the enemy to take advantage of Him and cut his strength he went to shake himself again and there was no more power. When he finally was able to gain his strength back again he shook himself for the last time.

Naomi lost her husband, her two sons, and no doubt went through tremendous heartache because her sons married Moabite women.

Can I stop here for a moment and address a couple of things about parenting.

1. Parents, the decisions you make will shape your children's lives. Elimelech chose to live in Moab and not only did it kill him, it also took his sons lives.
2. Elimelech's choice to live in Moab gave his sons the green light to marry Moabite women. Where you as a mom or dad lead, THEY WILL FOLLOW! Lead them in the path of righteousness and they will follow...lead them astray and they will follow.
3. WHAT OTHER LESSONS DO YOU READ IN THIS?

When Naomi returned home V19, people were in shock, Is this Naomi?

Why do you suppose they asked that question?

She said, don't call me Naomi- (Pleasant)..., call me Marrah-(Bitter).

Why

She was not in a place in life that she could no longer take care of the fields she was once able to handle.

Moab had taken it's toll on her physically. For you and me, the world will take everything it can from you. I don't care how pleasant, beautiful, attractive, inviting, it all may seem, it will sap the very spiritual life from you.

Naomi went out full and came back empty

Proverbs 13:15 ...The way of the transgressor is hard.

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

February 8, 2017

Good News From Home

Concerning Naomi's Losses, The Lord used her losses to bring her back home.

God is able to take bad situations and turn things around for people. We see this with the Prodigal Son, He was in a far country, and had placed himself in a situation where he was brought to the lowest of lows. It was in that hour that he realized there was something better.... And he came back to the father.

HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED A TERRIBLE SITUATION IN YOUR LIFE / FAMILY THAT BROUGHT YOU BACK TO THE FOOT OF THE CROSS?

The Lord often uses news of revival to bring the backslider back home. Vs 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 how that the Lord had visited his people in giving them bread.

When the blessings of God begin to fall upon the church, the backsliders hear about it and it stirs them to return home to the foot of the cross.

She returns to nothing Vs 21 I went out full, and the Lord hath brought me home again empty:

When she left, she was probably hopeful, money in the pocket, big dreams, but the wrong direction.... She went out with a husband, two sons... She came back home but returned with far less than when she went out. Backsliders lose much more than when they went out.

No one wakes up one day and say's they are going to Moab. It's a process that begins on the church pew...in your seat at church...

1. They stop praying no longer moving forward and not ready to move backward... slowly deceiving yourself to believe you can live in a non-existent middle- ground. You hope that your new life in Moab will be more fulfilling and exciting that where you came from.
2. Neglect their daily devotions and fill your day with other things such as indulging in little compromises as you begin to test the waters of Moab and begin to settle in for a longer stay than you expected.
3. Grow cold in your seat, you go through the motions, come to church, sing, clap your hands and even pray, ... all the while neglecting your responsibilities to the Lord. Seemingly you look back over your time in Bethlehem as if it were another life, a dream
4. Isolate yourself from Christian fellowship and begin to blur the line from being in the world but not of the world.
5. Stop going to church, which is the battlefield hospital for every weary, and wounded soldier of Christ that wars on the field of life weekly. When you are in MOAB, you have moved away from the House of plenty...Bethlehem
6. Determine that Christians are Hypocrites as you look, act and talk more like the country you have fled to
7. Trade Christian fellowship for unchristian fellowship... CHRIATIANS DON'T LIVE IN MOAB!!!
8. Allow yourself small sinful pleasures, When in Moab you do what the Moabites do.

9. Admit openly that you are the sinner you are and willingly embrace it as you sear your conscience with a hot iron, no longer bothered by the gentle dealing of The Holy Ghost. After living in Moab for a while, you become immune to the sinfulness you are surrounded by. It becomes you, but it is not becoming of you.

***** There are a few things to consider here. *****

1. Went out full...came back empty
2. She brought back a gentile daughter in law
3. She may not have even realized how empty she was. To live, she was forced to sell off her property because of her extreme poverty.
4. The world in a bitter place, and will instill that in you
5. You will never return from Moab the same as when you left.
6. She returned from Moab with Ruth, When and if you do return from Moab, a part of Moab will return with you in the form of memories and scars.

BUT THERE'S GOOD NEWS FROM HOME!!!

She came home...

February 15, 2017

CHAPTER 2

1And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz.

Boaz- "In Whom There is Strength" Boaz is a foreshadow, of Jesus Christ. Boaz was a goel, The term Goel is found more than 60 times in the Old Testament and it is a reference to God Jehovah and lays the foundation for the coming great Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

It is Jesus that has proven himself to be the great redeemer of lost sinners and He is the restorer of Hopeless situations.

The whole point of this book is to demonstrate, exemplify the redemption of Jesus Christ through the events in the book of Ruth. It is a beautiful picture of what Jesus has done for us!

1. The redeemer had to have the right to be able to redeem. To have that right, he had to be a near kinsman. NO ONE ELSE HAD THAT RIGHT.

What qualifies a someone who was to be a redeemer? What qualifies Jesus to be our redeemer?

If Jesus was to be a redeemer He had to become a near kinsman. How did Jesus satisfy this qualification?

HEB 2:14-17 14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

15And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

16For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

17Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

There are qwo qualifications that Jesus Satisfied to become our Near Kinsman.

- A. Through the incarnation – He became a man
- B. By taking our sins upon him at The cross, Our guilt of sin was absorbed through His shed blood. Our sin was laid upon Him and He bore our sin, He died, my death, He took my place.

This is the sum of it all, At his birth in that lowly, humble beginning, He was made into the likeness of men. Phil 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:, **but at the cross He was made in the likeness of sinful flesh**

Rom. 8: 1-4

1There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

3For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

4That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2. He had to have the power to Redeem. Boaz was a mighty man of wealth. When it comes to redeeming power, this is where Jesus excels.

EPH 3: 20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

EPH 1:18-20 , 22 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what **the riches of the glory** of his inheritance in the saints,

19And what is the **exceeding greatness of his power** to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

20Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and **set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,**

22And hath **put all things under his feet**, and gave him to be the **head over all things to the church,**

If He has the power to do all that then He has the power to be able to Redeem us!!!

3. He had to be willing to redeem us. In Chapter 4 we find that the near Kinsman refused to buy back, redeem them, but with Boaz it was different! He was more than willing to redeem her because he loved her. Not only does The Lord want to redeem us and is willing to do so, but He loves us, even in our lost state! So many people say, I can't go to church because I'm not living right... That is the very reason why you need to be in church! We go to the hospital when we are sick!, We go to the clinic when we aren't feeling well...but we refuse to go to church, the place of help and healing, when we are not well spiritually. Jesus wants to redeem us, He is willing to redeem us, He wants to buy us back from our lost state of being, He not only does He have the right, Not only does He have the power, But He has the desire because of His great love toward us!!!

Tit 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Rom 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Eph. 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

1 John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

NEXT WEEK...

I skipped a very important part of Chapter 1. The contrast between Orpah and Ruth.

The difference between Professors and Possessors.

February 22, 2017

CHAPTER 2 CONCLUSION

In Chapter 1: 6-7, Naomi decides to head back home to Bethlehem Judah and her two daughters in law went with her.

6Then 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 how that the Lord had visited his people in giving them bread.

7Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her; and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah.

In Verse 8 She urges them to go back to their own people. 8And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the Lord deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me.

And in verse 11-13 she decides to give them some womanly council, some insight as to what they needed, not what they wanted.

How many of you realize that there is a difference between what we want and what we need?

What these girls needed was a home and a husband and she knew that if they were going to follow her back to Bethlehem Judah that they were not going to be afforded that kind of life.

This crisis revealed the difference between Orpa and Ruth.

14And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her.

It was apparent that they both loved her. There was no doubt about that. The tears flowed from their eyes at the thought of separating themselves from Naomi, but it was Orpa that kissed her and went back, but Ruth, as tears continued to flow, still held on to her...she clave, stuck, cling, linked... however you want to say it, she wasn't going anywhere without Naomi by her side. She would not let her go! Ruth was totally devoted to Naomi.

These two girls remind us of two types of Christians.

Professors and Possessors

Let's face it! We have all been around the people of God...Christians, and you know who is the real deal, and who is putting on a halfway decent front. We are surrounded by people every day that profess with their mouth that they go to church, they are there on Sunday's, Wednesday's and other times during the week. They will come to the Altars and pray, give in the offerings, sing in the choir, play instruments, and many other things, but when it comes down to it, they are a professor. They look official, but their devotion is superficial, their commitment level is artificial, all the while they feel that they are sacrificial.

Have you ever been in a situation where someone professes to be a Christian until they open their mouth? How did you feel?

1. ORPAH – Professors of devotion to God. They Claim to Love the Lord but when their faith is tested they choose to go back into the world. The truth is that Orpa's love was an emotional love, shallow, she wept, she cried and she boohooed, but when Naomi began to describe the hardships...suddenly, she walked away. Your level of love and commitment can't just be superficial because there will be hard times that will come your way and if you don't have a deep-rooted devotion for Jesus you will be swept away with your superficial emotions and be drawn back into the very thing he saved you from.

What causes a Christian to have a superficial, (professors), level of commitment to The Lord?

How can a Christian move away from the emotional commitment to The Lord?

2. Ruth – Possessors of devotion to God. Ruth's love was clearly different than that of Orpah. It was deep. She had the faith enough to believe that the destination was worth the journey, and when the circumstances of life were explained to her by Naomi, she was willing to hold on.

Ruth's faith and love produced fruit and works. Listen, we know that we are not saved by our works EPH 2:8-9, your faith should produce works!!! Words are cheap... words are easy to say, but when the ground begins to shake underneath you, you need to have something to hold onto, and His name is Jesus!!! One side note, parents, let your children grow up. If you catch them every time they fall, they

will never learn to lean on God! If they need something, tell them to pray about it!!! Help them to become possessors and not professors.

3. Orpah left to Moab and suddenly Naomi puts pressure on Ruth. VS 15. It seems strange that Naomi would even suggest to Ruth to go back to Moab. It is possible that Naomi was testing her level of commitment. I have to believe that if there was something solid in the idolatrous religion of Moab, then it would have been easy for Ruth to go back, but the very mention of the word gods simply meant that she was going to have to make a decision. Yes, by refusing to go back to Moab Ruth was making a decision to follow after Naomi, but more importantly, she was making a decision to follow after her God! This type of decision is the demarcation, the differentiation, the delineation that you and I make that will either join us together or separate us for all eternity! You will either be a professor or a possessor.
4. Orpah went back to the idolatrous lifestyle and nothing is mentioned of her ever again in scripture, but Ruth chose God, and consequently God Chose her to be a part of the greatest plan of the ages,...the bringing of Jesus Christ into this world, The savior, The Redeemer. Oh the ironies of life, She needed a redeemer, and by her a Redeemer was brought into this world.

In VS 16-17
 16And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:

17Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.

we find her well-formed reply to the words of Naomi as she prodded her to return to Moab. These words are the literary gems of a noble character as they are expressed at a very dramatic moment. This piece contains Pathos, Passion and Poetry. She was forever putting the old life in Moab behind her, and forever embracing the new life in front of her.

March 1, 2017

CHAPTER 2 RUTH IN THE FIELD OF BOAZ

We know that God has a plan for us. Some of us would love nothing more than for The Lord to lay it all out in front of us and show us everything that is before us. Unfortunately for us, God doesn't do things that way. His plan is always, incredible, unique and tailored just for you. His plan is always going to be more than you ever thought, not what you expected, and it will always exceed your expectations. God certainly had a plan for Ruth and his name was Boaz, which means, "In Whom Is Strength", and even better, he was a near kinsman of Naomi

Ruth 2: 1 And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz.

QUESTION: Does God still have a plan for someone who didn't grow up in church or give their life to the Lord until they are older?

Some of you have not grown up in Church, some of you may have had some rough patches along the way of life and sometimes when that happens there is a feeling of unworthiness that accompanies that. Listen, You need to know that just because you have made some mistakes along the way doesn't mean that God doesn't have a plan for you. He does! If you are willing to come to Him, He is willing to lay out His plan for you!

Now Ruth had some type of understanding of the Old Testament. Enough to understand LEV 19:9-10

LEV 19:9 And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not wholly reap the corners of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleanings of thy harvest.

LEV 19:10 And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard, neither shalt thou gather every grape of thy vineyard; thou shalt leave them for the poor and stranger: I am the Lord your God.

RUTH 2: 2 And Ruth the Moabite said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter.

God made allowances for the widowed, strangers, orphans, those that the World would like to forget about, God Remembers....and not only does God remember them, but he provides for them as well.

The beautiful picture here is that the harvesters start their work of gathering in the fields, and as they went along, they could not gather every little fragment, they were to leave a little behind on purpose. I am so thankful that The Lord leaves blessing for us on purpose sometimes!

Ruth was not a reaper, she was a gleaner. Reapers were the recognized employees, the workers, a gleaner was the poor, and unfortunate that were allowed by law to enter the fields and pick up the fragments that remained.

Listen church, there is a beautiful lesson to be learned here. There are opportunities, there are spiritual, blessings, there are great things in store for us if we are willing to work a little harder, pray a little harder, seek the Lord a little harder. You see, a reaper doesn't really have to work all that hard. The field is ripe, it's ready, he didn't even have to pick it clean! It was easy, but for those that are gleaners, you must seek a little more, you have to search a little harder, you have to dig in a little deeper in the altars. We want the Lord to come by and bless us, but the blessings are already there.... we just need to search them out!!!

March 15, 2017

CHAPTER 2 RUTH IN THE FIELD OF BOAZ (Cont.)

And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz, who was of the kindred of Elimelech.

4And, behold, Boaz came from Beth-lehem, and said unto the reapers, The Lord be with you. And they answered him, The Lord bless thee.

Out of all the fields she could have gleaned in, she chose the field of Boaz. She did not plan that, she didn't know who he even was. Some would say she was lucky, or fate, but to the Child of God, to the one who is devoted to The Lord, there is no such thing as fate or luck, your every footstep is ordered by The Lord.

ROM. 8: 28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

4 And, behold, Boaz came from Beth-lehem, and said unto the reapers, The Lord be with you. And they answered him, The Lord bless thee.

It seems that Boaz had not been in the field all morning long, but came out to check on his reapers during the heat of the day. Boaz showed great respect for his reapers by pronouncing a blessing to them. They

returned the blessing back to him as a show of respect and honor. There was a mutual respect between the Boaz and his reapers. I believe that if anyone is subordinate to you, you need to show great respect and appreciation for them, and if you are subordinate to anyone, you need to show respect for them, and their office, whether it be a teacher, employer, pastor, bus driver, manager, etc.... **ROM. 13:7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.**

What we see next is that Boaz began to take notice of Ruth. He saw that she was a stranger. Church, we are NOTW!

HEB 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

1 Pet 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

EPH 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

Church, we are just passing through, this world is not my home. I don't want to get too comfortable here because it's almost moving day!!!!

In Verses 5-16 we find that Boaz is treating her with an uncommon courtesy.

5Then said Boaz unto his servant that was set over the reapers, Whose damsel is this?

Out of all the people that gleaned in the field, there was something special about this one! I am so glad that Jesus noticed me. I am so glad that Jesus was mindful and thoughtful of me. We sing the song, He Didn't have to do it, but He did!

6And the servant that was set over the reapers answered and said, It is the Moabitish damsel that came back with Naomi out of the country of Moab:

7And she said, I pray you, let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves: so she came, and hath continued even from the morning until now, that she tarried a little in the house.

Ruth, was busy working in the field, She was no doubt sunburned, darker complexion, disheveled in appearance, dirty. She sought refuge from the sun in a small house, but it was temporary. The field will have an effect on you when you tarry there. You might find some refuge along the way, but it will never be enough as long as you tarry in the field....

1. HE ADVISED HER NOT TO GO TO ANOTHER FIELD:

8Then said Boaz unto Ruth, Hearest thou not, my daughter? Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens:

Boaz says his first words to her, words of comfort...Listen to me, you don't have to go from field to field searching for substance. Your search ends right here and right now. This is your last stop. Everything you need is right here. Boaz was a man of wealth and plenty, and could very easily provide enough for her. No one will harm you here. When you are thirsty, you have enough to drink of water that you have not even drawn. In other words, I will take care of you from here on out. There is more than enough in Jesus Christ for each of us! ***Phil. 4:19 "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."*** I am so glad that we have a great High Priest that is touched with the feelings of our infirmities... He knows what we are going through and he has made provision for us!!!

2. SHE CAME UNDER HIS PROTECTION:

9Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after them: have I not charged the young men that they shall not touch thee? and when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men have drawn.

Boaz gave strong orders that no one harm or harass her, in fact, they were to protect her. HEB. 13:6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

3. HE PROVIDES FOOD AND DRINK FOR HER:

MATT. 5:6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Isa. 55:1 Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

10Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldst take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?

4. HE DECLARED HE KNEW ALL ABOUT HER:

11And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore.

12The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.

John 4:29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

Boaz say's, you have made a commitment to the people and the God of this land. The God of Israel. You have left Moab and everything you have ever known and have been willing to be a stranger here as you learn to trust the Living God. Not only have I noticed you, but God has noticed you, and you will be rewarded!

If any knows all about us, it's Jesus! Our sin, and shame, our hunger and thirst for Him and even our commitment to Him. He knows all about us! **PSA. 44:21 Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart.**

5. HE BLESSED HER:

13Then she said, Let me find favour in thy sight, my lord; for that thou hast comforted me, and for that thou hast spoken friendly unto thine handmaid, though I be not like unto one of thine handmaidens.

14And Boaz said unto her, At mealtime come thou hither, and eat of the bread, and dip thy morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers: and he reached her parched corn, and she did eat, and was sufficed, and left.

15And when she was risen up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not:

16And let fall also some of the handfuls of purpose for her, and leave them, that she may glean them, and rebuke her not

Boaz told the young men to leave handfuls on purpose. What a tremendous blessing! Listen, the blessings of God are above and beyond His provision! She still had to glean for them. She still had to search them out, but they were there!!! **PROV. 10:22 The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.**

She shows her respect for Boaz, by falling on her face, bowing before him and acknowledging his kindness. I don't know why we have been granted grace. I don't know why God provides for us even when we are undeserving of it. This is why it is called Grace. It is God's unmerited favor toward us!!!

EPH. 2:8-9 8For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9Not of works, lest any man should boast.

March 22, 2017

CHAPTER 3 MARRIAGE????

1Then Naomi her mother in law said unto her, My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee?

The rest she is talking about is not the R&R we talk about today... it was marriage. For 6 solid weeks she gleaned in the field of Boaz. She never strayed from his field. She remained faithful and worked hard gathering for herself and Naomi. Prior to her arrival in Bethlehem, while in Moab, Ruth had a very difficult life. One of pain, suffering and full of sorrows, and it was Naomi's desire to see her finally receive shelter and piece in the midst of life's storm. How many of us, prior to meeting Christ as we gleaned in His field suffered at the hands of the cruel place we call Moab. How many of us, suffered tragedy, heartache and sorrow prior to Jesus? The cry of Naomi wanting relief / marriage, settling down, substance and security is just like the Cry of Jesus, seeking to find refuge from this sin sick world for us. He knows of the burdens, the sting of life and sorrows that have

befallen us, and it's His hearts cry that we follow His pathway into safety and rest. Jesus said Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest for your souls. Church, so many people will seek shelter in this life outside of Jesus Christ, and there is no rest or shelter apart from The Lord.

Heb. 4:9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. 10For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

Not only is Naomi suggesting marriage, but she names a Man! Boaz. Naomi appointed herself as the role of mediator, and she had a legal basis for it. Boaz, after all, was a near kinsman. Naomi noticed that all throughout the harvest, Boaz went out of His way to make accommodations for Ruth. He showed her an uncommon courtesy. It was apparent that he admired her. By Boaz showing His interest in her, he was in essence showing his interest in her as a wife, and being her redeemer. It was incumbent upon Ruth now. It was up to Ruth at this point. Boaz had done all he could do up to this point. Ruth was a widow and things were a little different with widows. It was her role to ask him to be her Goel.

DEUT. 5: 5If brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: her husband's brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of an husband's brother unto her.her husband's...: or, her next kinsman

6And it shall be, that the firstborn which she beareth shall succeed in the name of his brother which is dead, that his name be not put out of Israel.

7And if the man like not to take his brother's wife, then let his brother's wife go up to the gate unto the elders, and say, My husband's brother refuseth to raise up unto his brother a name in Israel, he will not perform the duty of my husband's brother.brother's: or, next kinsman's

8Then the elders of his city shall call him, and speak unto him: and if he stand to it, and say, I like not to take her;

9Then shall his brother's wife come unto him in the presence of the elders, and loose his shoe from off his foot, and spit in his face, and shall answer and say, So shall it be done unto that man that will not build up his brother's house.

10And his name shall be called in Israel, The house of him that hath his shoe loosed. The interest of Boaz filled Naomi and Ruth with assurance.

Ruth 3:3 Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor: but make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking.

It is possible that Ruth was still wearing the garments of mourning at that time and Naomi was encouraging her to change out of the old garments and put on new garments. There comes a time when we need to change out of what we were and become what He wants us to be. There is a New beginning in Jesus Christ. Gone are the things of old...the old way of thinking, the old way of living, the old way of being. ***2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.***

THE THRESHING FLOOR

RUTH 3:4 And it shall be, when he lieth down, that thou shalt mark the place where he shall lie, and thou shalt go in, and uncover his feet,

The threshing floor was constructed in the open field, where the strongest winds would blow. They would create a large circle of cut down field and make a short wall around it. As the wind would blow, they would beat the sheaves and the wheat till the grains would separate. Then they would fling the whole of it into the air and as the strong winds would blow, the lighter husks, chaff would be caught by the wind and blown away while the grains would fall back down into the basket. They would do this until all the chaff was blown away. Threshing was usually done in the evenings and all the workers and their family members would come out and help until the whole harvest was completed. At the end of the harvest there was a big meal for everyone and at the close of the night, when everyone would go home, someone would be required to stay behind and stay and sleep

on the floor so no one would steal the grain. It was on this threshing floor that Naomi instructed Ruth to tell him to be her Goel. We must be the ones to come to Christ. ***John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.***

Jesus is drawing today, just like Boaz was drawing Ruth. His desire to go out of His way to reach out to her is just as important as the Spirit of God reaching into our hearts and drawing us to Him.

There was nothing immodest that went on there on the threshing floor. It was not improper or immoral. It was very pragmatic, reasonable, sensible. She went to the threshing floor, after he went to sleep and lay down at his feet. When he woke up she was to ask him to be her Goel.

Ruth 3:9 And he said, Who art thou? And she answered, I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman.

In other words, “Marry me...Save Me. You are the only one who can redeem me from my helpless situation.” She said, cover me with your skirt... Your robe... and the custom of the day was this... By providing himself as a covering for her, he is in essence accepting the idea that, YES, I will marry you and I will be your covering, your protector in marriage.

RUTH 3:10 And he said, Blessed be thou of the Lord, my daughter: for thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich.

11And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.

12And now it is true that I am thy near kinsman: howbeit there is a kinsman nearer than I.

The response of Boaz revealed that He understood the implications. He knew exactly what she meant and he was certainly pleased. He was so happy that he offers blessings to her and was apparently happy that she felt the way she did, but there was a problem. There was someone else that was a near kinsman that was closer than he was. This

meant that this man had first choice. If they were to be together some things needed to be worked out.

13Tarry this night, and it shall be in the morning, that if he will perform unto thee the part of a kinsman, well; let him do the kinsman's part: but if he will not do the part of a kinsman to thee, then will I do the part of a kinsman to thee, as the Lord liveth: lie down until the morning.

14And she lay at his feet until the morning: and she rose up before one could know another. And he said, Let it not be known that a woman came into the floor.

15Also he said, Bring the veil that thou hast upon thee, and hold it. And when she held it, he measured six measures of barley, and laid it on her: and she went into the city.veil: or, sheet, or, apron

16And when she came to her mother in law, she said, Who art thou, my daughter? And she told her all that the man had done to her.

17And she said, These six measures of barley gave he me; for he said to me, Go not empty unto thy mother in law.

18Then said she, Sit still, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall: for the man will not be in rest, until he have finished the thing this day.

Boaz was not going to sit still, rest until this matter was taken care of. He was going to fight for her, (Not literally...) It is interesting to note that there was absolutely nothing that Ruth could do at this point. It was out of her hands. She had to leave it to Boaz. We must realize that IF there is nothing we can do to change our situation, we need to Let Jesus handle it.

1 Pet. 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

**March
29, 2017**

CONCLUSION CHAPTER 3

Ruth 3:18 Then said she, Sit still, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall: for the man will not be in rest, until he have finished the thing this day.

BE STILL.... One of the hardest things for any of us to do. We are often occupied every day fully, from the time we get up till the time we go to bed. If we get into a car we are often entertained by the music we listen to. If we as young people are engaged in school-work or sports, they often have music going. Our every moment is occupied and filled with something to the point that we are hardly ever quiet or in a quiet state of being. There comes a time when we need to stop everything that is going on, slow down with all the work, play, daily activities and allow God a moment of time when He can do His work. Look at the verse....Boaz was eager to get busy for Ruth according to Naomi. She said sit still, be still. There is no need to get in a rush, no need to make rash decisions, no need to get ahead of the situation until you know the outcome. If you don't know the outcome of a situation that is beyond your control, sit back and let God handle it for you, because He is not going to rest until all is well.

PSA. 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God:

Exodus 14:14 - The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

Psalms 37:7 - Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself ...

Psalms 62:5 - My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation [is] from him.

Psalms 91:1-16 - He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Isaiah 41:10-13 - Fear thou not; for I [am] with thee: be not dismayed; for I [am] thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

So we are left off with the dramatic cliffhanger of chapter 3. Just when you thought everything was going so well. Just when we were about to have a happy ending of riding off into the sunset together, there is a glitch in the system.

Church, You are going to have a, “glitch in the system” from time to time.

Why?

Why do we have to have the drama?

Why do we have to have things appear to go south for me?

What did I do to deserve this?

Why does this always happen to me?

Why can't I be a part of “That” family? They always look like they have it all together!

Listen, what you perceive as a setback, what you believe to be a hardship, what you think is a difficult time in your life might just be that, but what you must understand is that you are following the plan that God has for you. And when you are traveling from point A to Point B in Christ, there is no straight line.

God had a beautiful plan for Ruth, but in order to get her from where she was....MOAB...a really bad place in her life that was full of sorrow and heartache, to an elevated place of power and respect, there was a period of growth, and change. Change doesn't happen overnight. In order to take this woman with a worldly attitude and mentality and be able to change it into a mentality / Spirituality that is leadership material, a massive amount of change needs to take place. Church, as a young Christian I would have never been in a place to be able to lead this church with that spirituality / mentality. I needed to change.

Let's take a look at a few things to better understand this.

1. When we first meet Ruth in Chapter 1 she is in a hopeless state. Destitute and a stranger in a foreign land. She is without God and without hope. We don't know it at the time, but she has a covenant of promise that is upon her...the promise of a near kinsman. Church, there was a time we were exactly where she was, destitute, without hope and without God, but little did we know, there was a covenant of promise about us!

2. She comes under the wings of the God of Israel and is brought to glean in the fields of Boaz. I am thankful that someone pointed me in the right direction. I am so glad someone showed me the way to Calvary.
3. At the threshing floor we find her asserting her claim for a near kinsman redeemer. She was required to make the first step. She was obliged to go to Him, to call upon Him. Jesus paid it all. His gift is free. We must be the one willing to say, “here I am...you know everything there is to know about me. I have nothing to hide, you know where I’ve come from and you know where I’ve been and what you see is what you get. This is it!!!” Boaz knew her, yet He loved her anyway! And He did not leave her in the state that he found her!!!
4. Ruth is seen as the bride of Boaz and as the mother to His home. She had the most lowly possible beginning that you could have imagined. I didn’t come from a preachers home. I am the son of a drunk. My father did not see me as a son. He saw me as an obligation and he could not wait for me to turn 18 so he could stop paying his child support. He wasn’t a part of my life, and I could have made many decisions in my life away from God. I had many opportunities to stay in the Mother Of All Bad places, but somehow, somehow, He saw through the muck and the mire, the filth of this world and saw the potential in me. He didn’t leave me where He found me. He elevated me to where I am today. Guess what church? He did the same thing for you as well.

Ruth went from the most humblest of beginnings and was lifted to the highest possible blessings. And to think, all this was made possible because of a Goel, a redeemer that loved her.

Chapter 4

Boaz did not rest. He stationed himself at the gate of the city until he met the other near kinsman.

What does the gate of the city mean and why is it important?

The city gate was where legal matters and business transactions were settled. It would be equivalent to a city courthouse today. It was here at the gate that Boaz meets the other Near Kinsman.

Ruth 4:1 Then went Boaz up to the gate, and sat him down there: and, behold, the kinsman of whom Boaz spake came by; unto whom he said, Ho, such a one! turn aside, sit down here. And he turned aside, and sat down.

Boaz says, Hey buddy, sit down, there is something very important we have to talk about. Boaz does something completely unexpected... He gathers 10 men as witnesses when only 3 were required. He goes above and beyond to ensure, to seal this case closed without a shadow of a doubt.

Ruth 4: 3 And he said unto the kinsman, Naomi, that is come again out of the country of Moab, selleth a parcel of land, which was our brother Elimelech's:

Ruth 4:4 And I thought to advertise thee, saying, Buy it before the inhabitants, and before the elders of my people. If thou wilt redeem it, redeem it: but if thou wilt not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know: for there is none to redeem it beside thee; and I am after thee. And he said, I will redeem it.

In all of this we see Boaz as a picture of Jesus Christ.

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

So, Who is the other near kinsman?

The other near kinsman has no name. He is absolutely unknown to us, but what we find interesting is not the fact that we don't know his name, but I do believe that we know what he represented!

Most scholars believe that this near kinsman represented, "The Law". You see the law came first and it also had first claim on the sinner. You see, God introduced the Law through Moses, (Exodus 20). It was a standard that the Children of Israel were to live by. It was what they were governed by and the law of God had a very high standard

and high penalties for those that disobeyed. The law meant death to everyone that failed to meet the standard.

What we find in this passage of scripture is that the other Near Kinsman could not and would not accept the responsibility of being the near kinsman.

RUTH 4:6 And the kinsman said, I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance: redeem thou my right to thyself; for I cannot redeem it.

Romans 8:1-4

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

April 5, 2017

CONCLUSION CHAPTER 4

What The Law could not do

The Law could not solve the sin problem. It could only temporarily cover it. Also, It could not provide a new heart, There was no provision in the law to mend sin where it begins, in the heart, it could only show us what God expected. The powerless redeemer, (the nearer kinsman) that could not redeem Ruth is representative of the law. The 10 witnesses are there to confirm his inability to redeem. These 10 witnesses are representative of the 10 commandments (God's expectations for us) which sum up the law.

7Now this was the manner in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning changing, for to confirm all things; a man plucked off his shoe, and gave it to his neighbour: and this was a testimony in Israel.

8Therefore the kinsman said unto Boaz, Buy it for thee. So he drew off his shoe.

It was there in the Gate of the city, the place where transactions and business deals are done that Boaz catches this Nearer Kinsman. He tells him that he is heir to the land of Elimelech that Naomi has for sale, He quickly say's, I'll redeem it! Then Boaz say's, wait just a minute...there's a catch. Ruth comes with it, and you will be responsible to raise a family with her. That changed everything for him. For fear of losing his current assets, the nearer Kinsman refuses to be the Goel for Ruth. This released Ruth from the Nearer Kinsman and made her available to Boaz, but to seal the deal, equal to signing a contract or a good old fashioned handshake, The Nearer Kinsman needed to remove his shoe and hand it to Boaz. This simple act broke every bond and tie Ruth legally had to the Nearer Kinsman. She was no longer legally his, but now legally belonged to Boaz.

The foot, and bare feet are important in scripture. God tells Moses to take off his shoes because he is standing on holy ground.

“Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground”

(Exodus 3:5)

In the Old Testament “feet” and “shoes” symbolized power, possession, and domination

When Moses removed his shoes (Exodus 3:5) he acknowledged Yahweh's, God's lordship; Feet and shoes also played symbolic roles in ancient property transactions.

In Joshua 10:24 we find that Joshua wrought a great victory and 5 kings were captured and laid on the ground. He called for the captains of the men of war to pass by and place their foot on the necks of the kings symbolizing their defeat, and Israels victory!

The nearer Kinsman, by removing his shoe and handing it to Boaz was relinquishing his ownership, power, control, ties, bonds, and his dominion over Ruth. Boaz was victorious. I am reminded of a certain verse of scripture, you can find in Genesis 3. The relationship that God had with mankind had just suffered a serious blow. Adam and Eve had just made

a decision that cost them their fellowship with God and caused them to be separated from him by their decision to partake of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But God did not leave them in this sinful state. God, always striving to bridge the gap between Himself and His creation, created an avenue, a way for His people to find their way back to Him. He did this in **Gen. 3:15 *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.***

God stood in the gap and made a way through Jesus Christ. He said, The foot of Jesus is going to bruise the head of the enemy, Satan. That moment set in motion the redemption of the people of God. Once owned by the law, once owned by the enemy, under the rule and power of someone else who was a nearer Kinsman. The bible tells us that we have all sinned and come short of the Glory of God. There is none righteous, no not one. It tells us that the Wages of sin is death. We were all under the dominion of someone else, but God in his mercy, God in His grace made a way of escape. God built a bridge that would span the gap, the separation between God and man, and His name is Jesus! Back in Genesis 3:15, it might not have been clear, we didn't see the whole picture, but the picture gained clarity as Jesus was suspended between Heaven and earth on that tree we call the Cross of Calvary. It was on that tree that Jesus Bruised his foot on the head of Satan, It was on that tree that Satan took off his shoe and handed it over to Jesus, in defeat. It was on that tree that Jesus, as our Captain, called us over and had each of us place our feet on the neck of the enemy. Jesus won the victory, Jesus paid the debt, Jesus shed His blood and bought us back, but it was in this victory that he turned to us and handed us His victory. Therefore we are overcomers, It's by the blood of the lamb and by the blood and by the word of our testimony!!!