



RUTH RECAP

Ruth – historical narrative told with theological perspective

Historical narrative–

- Naomi returned to Bethlehem after 10 years in Moab
- Returned as widow, both sons dead, no grandchildren
- Has daughter-in-law Ruth
- No longer Naomi (Pleasant) but Mara (Bitter) because God has made her life bitter



RUTH RECAP

Ruth – historical narrative told with theological perspective

Theological perspective–

- Love – hesed; commitment to welfare of another even if it is costly; parallel to agape
- Special Providence – God’s active and ongoing sustaining, governing, and purposeful care for His people



RUTH 2:1-23

2.1-2: In the morning at Naomi's house

- Beginning of barley harvest but no crops to reap
- Little to no food on hand
- Introduction of male relative – Boaz; man of standing:
 - Well-off/good reputation
 - Noble character
- Ruth proposes to glean barley if she finds favor with a landowner
 - Gleaning laws – required leaving portion of harvest for poor to gather (Lev 23.22)



RUTH 2:1-23

2.17-23: In the evening at Naomi's house

- Has a place to glean through both barley and wheat harvests – approx. 6 wks
- Enough barley on hand for 5 days – ephah = 10 daily loaves of bread
- Boaz is guardian/kinsmen-redeemer



RUTH 2:1-23

Guardian/kinsmen-redeemer; formal, legal role within an extended family:

- Responsible for economic well-being of a family member especially if in crisis
- Ensure ancestral land never passes out of the family (Lev 25:25–30)
- Buy back family members who have sold themselves into slavery because of poverty (Lev 25:47–55)
- Track down and execute murderers of near relatives (Num 35:12, 19–27)
- Receive restitution money on behalf of deceased crime victim (Num 5:8)



RUTH 2:1-23

2.3: God's providential care for Naomi and Ruth-

- As it turned out, she was working in a field owned by Boaz – she 'happened to come'
- Refers to happening/occurring of that which is beyond human control



RUTH 2:1-23

2.4-16: Boaz's hesed towards Ruth
Summed up in 'Daughter'
Offers her:

- Stability – stay here with women who work for me
- Protection/safety – I have told the men not lay a hand on you
- Provision – whenever you are thirsty get a drink of water; have some bread
- Acceptance/relationship – come over here



RUTH 2:1-23

2.14-16: Boaz's hesed towards Ruth
Summed in 'Daughter'

Offers her:

- Blessing –
 - May the Lord repay you for what you have done – restore you to wholeness/completeness
 - May you be richly rewarded by the Lord – paid your full wages
- Under whose wings you have taken refuge – Ruth is under providential care of Yahweh



RUTH 2:1-23

Result of Boaz's hesed towards Ruth

- You have given me comfort – allowed me to 'breathe deeply'

Father, we are grateful for Your providential care.

You sustain us by Your right hand.

You work all things in our lives together for our good.

Yet we worry.

We know we are more precious to You than the flowers of the fields or the birds of the air, but the worries of this life consume us.

Forgive us for failing to trust in Your unwavering commitment to our well-being.

Confess any areas of life where you are finding it difficult to trust the Lord



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As we take this communion, remind of us of Your great love for us
and give us the grace to breathe deeply this morning,
trusting that You Jesus hold all things together.



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