

Ruth 1:22 "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**."

Ruth 2:23 "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"

- ❖ In lesson 3, we saw the significance of Barley and wheat harvest. Ruth is seen working in Boaz's field from the time they arrived to Bethlehem, at the beginning of barley harvest to the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest, work taking place from morning until evening.
- ❖ All of this pictures the work to be done throughout the entire Christian life as we continue to seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness.
- ❖ Simply put, the work that Ruth is to do in Boaz's field is to be done in connection with resurrection and is also to be done in connection with death and resurrection. The work to be done is through the resurrection power of the Holy Spirit and must necessitate the death of self for this to be accomplished.

Gal. 5:24 "And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25** If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." Not following the works of the flesh as shown in vs. 19 but having the fruit of the spirit evident in all that we do.

Rom. 8:13 "For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live." This would be referring to life or death (separated from Christ's millennial reign) in the coming age.

John 12:24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain"

- ✓ Death and resurrection is exactly what we saw in the foundation in **Gen. 1:9** "Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. **10** And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good. **11** Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. **12** And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. **13** So the evening and the morning were the third day"
- ✓ It is only after 'the dry land' has been raised from beneath the waters, raised from the place of death, by the power of the Holy Spirit that the land becomes fruitful – and this happens on the 3rd day. This is the picture of water baptism that we discussed in lesson 3... **Rom. 6:3-12**.
- ✓ Our work in the Lord's field can only be done in resurrection, only after leaving our old man in the place of death in order to walk in newness of life through the 'new man', the man of the spirit. This is what we call 'dying to self' or 'denying ourselves' and it is only following this action of putting to death the deeds of the body so as to walk in the Spirit that our work will have its proper result just like Ruth.

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.

- ❖ At the beginning of Chapter 2, following the arrival in Bethlehem we have the introduction of Boaz, a mighty man of great wealth who is in the family of Elimelech, Naomi's dead husband. And right here we

are able to identify who it is that Boaz pictures, and we will visit this when we get to the redemption of the inheritance.

- ❖ In v2 we see Ruth asking for permission to go to 'the field' to glean heads of grain and she is hoping to find favor with the owner of the field. And in Ruth's asking and Naomi's giving her approval, we can once again see **the inseparable connection between Ruth's actions and the scriptures**, which Naomi represents.
- ❖ And as Ruth goes and begins to glean she 'happened' to come to the part of the **field belonging to Boaz**. As we all know by now, the word is its own commentary and to find out all about this field, we can go to **Mat. 13** parables. **Mat. 13:18** *"Therefore hear the parable of the sower: 19 "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom.....23 "But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word [of the Kingdom] and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.....38 "The field is the world...39 ...and the reapers are the angels"*
- ❖ Ruth, picturing the faithful Christian, has heard and understood the word of the kingdom and having been sown out into the world she is seen producing fruit – gleaning heads of grain.
- ✓ Now we know from - **1John 5:19b** *".....the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one"*
- ✓ If the field is the world, which it is, and it's also under the sway of the wicked one, then how should we understand Ruth being in that part of the field belonging to Boaz? The answer can be found in the prayer of the Lord recorded in –
John 17: 14 *"I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 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 by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 "And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. 20 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;"*
- ❖ We have all been sown out into the world, but this is not about geography, rather it is about finding ourselves in the midst of this world's system of ruler ship under the god of this world, whilst in possession of the truth of scripture in order to produce fruit.
- ❖ We are in the world, but we are not of the world and that which separates us from the world is the truth of the Word, the word of the kingdom.
- ❖ So, as we find ourselves in the world, not conforming into its patterns, but following the things of the Spirit not the things of the flesh so we find ourselves in that part of the 'field' belonging to Boaz – that which has to do with our new man and spiritual things not that which has to do with our old man and carnal things.
- ❖ And as we have already seen it is only by walking in the spirit, in faithful obedience to the scriptures and keeping the old man in the place of death that we are able to be fruitful.
- ❖ The idea of going to another 'field' then would be 'working' apart from the instruction of the scriptures, apart from walking in the Spirit. Nothing we would do apart from the scriptures and apart from walking in the Spirit could have any value with respect to producing fruit for the Kingdom.
- ❖ This then is Ruth in the part of the field belonging to Boaz who was of the family of Elimelech.
- ❖ In all these, we have to see 'spiritual warfare as we have to strive to overcome, the flesh, the world and the devil by putting on the whole armor of God. Remember it's those who overcome that will have the right to sit with Him on His throne according to Rev. 3:21.

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."

- ✓ Now Ruth is not the only one 'working' in the field, but she is the one who attracts Boaz's attention once he has come from Bethlehem.
- ❖ And why has she attracted his attention and singled out from other young women? Because of what she has done and is currently doing. Let's jump down a few verses for a moment - **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."*

And where does Boaz get this information? From 'the servant who was in charge of the reapers', which gives us a direct connection with the identical servant from Genesis Chapter 24 – **Gen. 24:66** *"And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done."*

This connection should make it clear for us who the servant in charge of the reapers pictures. Once again the servant is a picture of the Holy Spirit within the context of His search for the Bride. And then if we go back to the Matthew 13 parables we can also identify the reapers - **Mat 13:39** *"..... and the reapers are the angels."*

Heb 1:14 *"Are they [the angels] not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?"*

- ❖ So here is the most extraordinary thing that we need to realize – if we are following the example seen in Ruth, then we have already come to the attention of our Savior; He has already seen us amongst all the others in the field and He is continually receiving a full report of all we do. This goes beyond the fact that God is omniscient and therefore must know everything, to the intimacy of taking a personal interest in us, of taking an active role in our progress - **1Pet. 3:12** *"For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers;" [From Psalm 34]*

Our Savior is taking the same personal interest in individual Christians whose hearts and minds and determination are as Ruth's

2Ch 16:9 *"For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him."*

- ✓ In Boaz's initial encounter with Ruth, he gives her a very specific command – **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?..."*
- ❖ We have seen the personal interest Boaz takes in Ruth and how his care for her extends to giving her very direct instructions as to what she is to do while gleaning in his field.
- ❖ He gives these instructions to her so that she will maximize the amount of grain she gleans, so that she will be successful in her work – all of which must be seen within the context of how the account of Ruth ends, with a redeemed inheritance and marriage and David the king in her lineage.
All of this must be seen in both the type and the antitype within the context of the conclusion of the matter, marriage and a redeemed inheritance with regality in view
Ruth has remained fully obedient to that picturing the scriptures for us and we have seen the expected outcome for her and the same will be true of us.
- ✓ Do we realize that the Lord has given us the same instructions? Our work must be done within the Lord's field as we walk according to the Spirit continually keeping our old man in the place of death and we must not allow our old man to draw us away into another field.

- ✓ And our work through the man of the spirit can only be accomplished as we remain within the boundaries of the truth of scripture as we begin in Genesis and build on the foundations laid there and we must not be drawn away into another field as we are warned in - **Col 2:8** *"Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."*
 - ✓ **Vs.8** "...but stay close by my young women" And to help us stay in the correct field we are to remain 'close by' those who are like minded for mutual encouragement, support and direction.
 - ✓ And should we be wise enough to do these things we can find even greater encouragement from our Lord from the mouth of Boaz – **Ruth 2:12** *"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."*
- Does this bring Psalms 91 to mind? **Psalms 91:1** *"He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust." 3 Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler And from the perilous pestilence. 4 He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler.*

1. How can we explain 'the part of the field belonging to Boaz'?
2. What is to work in another field?
3. What ways did we look at whereby a Christian can find himself working in 'another field', rather than the Lord's field?
4. Read 1 Peter 3:12 and 2 Chronicles 16:9 – What is the Lord's response to us if we respond correctly to what is revealed in His Word?
5. Where do we see this pictured in the Book of Ruth?
6. Does Ruth find favor just because she has become a member of a Jewish family and what do we learn from this for ourselves?
7. Read Ruth 2:4-7 – Who does the servant in charge of the reapers picture, who do the reapers picture and how do we know?
8. Look at verses 5-6 again, also read v11 and Genesis 24:66 – what do you think about this?
9. Read Ruth 2:8 – what is the command given here and what do you think is the reason?
10. Read Ruth 2:12 – What encouragement do we find in this verse as we continue working in the Lord's field?
11. What's the connection between this verse and the first few verses in Psalms 91?
12. In reviewing lesson 3 and 5, how can we remain fruitful during this dispensation?