

## FOUNDATIONAL PICTURE: RUTH – Part 1

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- ❖ We spent time laying all the foundation in Genesis Chapter 1, because what we saw in the foundation is what the Book of Ruth as a type for us is all about. It's not possible to properly understand the book of Ruth without this foundation being in place.
- ❖ Briefly then, by way of a synopsis, we can see the same beginning point for **Ruth 1:4** "*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.*" Orpah and Ruth, both Gentiles, became members of a Jewish family, this is the beginning point for them previously seen in the light shining out of the darkness.
- ❖ There is then the process for Ruth beyond her beginning point, paralleling the subsequent 5 days of work. This process for her is pictured through her journey to Bethlehem, her gleaning in Boaz's field and her preparation for going to Boaz's threshing floor. This then leads to marriage with Boaz, the kinsman redeemer, and a redeemed inheritance. And beyond the redeemed inheritance, regality/ruler ship are seen through their great grandson David the king – **Ruth 4:17** "*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."*
- ❖ Let's now go back and look at the detail beginning again with the first 2 verses.  
**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.*"
  - ✓ Although the Book of Ruth gives us a type/antitype teaching, we should remember that this is an account of real people who existed within a historical context seen in the Book preceding Ruth unsurprisingly called, 'Judges.'
  - ✓ We previously had a snapshot of the book of Judges and we saw what characterized the days when the judges ruled. (Please read it through when you get time to have a wholistic view of the book).
  - ✓ This is particularly significant for us because of what this then points to with regards to future events.
  - ✓ There is one verse which really sums up for us the circumstances that existed during the days when the Judges ruled, the very last verse in the Book of Judges, the last thing recorded before Ruth begins – **Judg. 21:25** "*In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes."*
  - ✓ There was during this time a continuous cycle of action and reaction with regards to Israel and God as a result of what we see in the verse from Judges 21, something we can see demonstrated through Judges Chapter 2. A Chapter which sets the perspective for the rest of the Book – **Judg. 2:11** "*Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals; 12 and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger."*

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- ✓ As a result of Israel's disobedience the Lord's anger was aroused against them **Judg. 2:14** *'And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel. So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies. 15 Wherever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for calamity, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn to them.*
- ✓ Israel then was afflicted at the hands of the Gentile nations who they had been commanded to drive out of the land when they entered it under Joshua, something they had failed to do. Then as a result of this Gentile affliction – **Judg. 2:15b** .....*And they were greatly distressed.*
- ✓ Israel's great distress led to a cry of repentance to which a merciful God responded – **Judg. 2:16** *'Nevertheless, the LORD raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them.'*
- ✓ But then the cycle began all over again – **Judg. 2:19** *"And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they reverted and behaved more corruptly than their fathers, by following other gods, to serve them and bow down to them. They did not cease from their own doings nor from their stubborn way."*
- ✓ This continuing cycle eventually led to the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities and the end of the Theocracy (This we will see in the future God willing).
- ✓ Israel scattered amongst the Gentile nations is a circumstance that has existed since the time of the Assyrian/Babylonian captivity and still scattered in Gentile lands and this is still true of their condition today.
- ✓ So then, the famine in the land that caused Elimelech and his family to leave Bethlehem, Judah, to go to the land of Moab, a Gentile nation, would be part of God's judgment upon His people and therefore place this event during one of the nation's downward spirals into disobedience; Elimelech and his family picturing the Jewish nation as a whole. And although this would have been a literal famine we cannot help but hear echoes of that prophesied in - **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."*
- ✓ This then provides us with the **historical context for the Book of Ruth** which the Lord then uses to take us to events surrounding the time of the Lord's first advent through to the future Millennial Kingdom.
- ✓ And just as Moses had come to Israel with the offer of the earthly realm of the kingdom so the One greater than Moses came to the nation with the offer of the heavenly realm of the kingdom – which as we know Israel rejected resulting in 2 consequences.
  - a). Firstly, the heavenly kingdom was taken from them to be offered to those who would comprise a new nation. **Matt. 21:43** *"Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it".*
  - b). Secondly, Israel was set aside while God would deal with this new group of household servants. Something that can be seen in **Matt.13:1** *"On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea."*
- ❖ If we now bring this back to the Book of Ruth this is what we find – **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*

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**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.* **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.* **5** *Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband."*

- ✓ We see a Jewish family remaining in a Gentile land for **10 years** – pointing to a complete period of time which pictures Israel scattered amongst the Gentile nations until the time that God has allotted for this has been completed.
- ✓ We also see **3 deaths** in this family pointing to God's complete, divine judgment upon the nation within the complete period of time allotted to them, but we also see that **Naomi survives** her husband and her sons showing us that although complete, Divine judgment will be enacted upon the nation the **nation will survive and will not be destroyed**.
- ✓ And in the midst of this we see Orpah and Ruth, Gentile women, **becoming part of this Jewish family with death in view** pointing us once again to that which we saw prophetically represented at the beginning of Matthew Chapter 13 – God calling out of the Gentiles a people for His name to receive the offer of the kingdom of the heavens which Israel had rejected. Something made possible through the death of our Lord with Israel also in the place of death during the time in which this is to take place.

FOUNDATION	TYPE	ANTITYPE
Day 1 The light shines in the darkness	Being part of a Jewish Family	Eternal Salvation-Salvation of the spirit

### QUESTIONS:

1. Read Ruth 1:1-5 – What is the historical setting for the Book of Ruth and what might we learn from it?
2. What is significant about the family dwelling in Moab for 10 years?
3. What is significant about the deaths of Elimelech, Mahlon and Chilion and what are they a type of?
4. What is Naomi a type of and what are we taught through her surviving her husband and sons?
5. How is Day 1 in the restoration in Genesis pictured for Orpah and Ruth. What scripture did we look at?
6. Can you think of any NT scripture that would give a parallel picture to Orpah and Ruth becoming part of a Jewish family?
7. How was this same picture presented in the Matthew 13 parables?
8. Acts 15:14"Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name"
- 9. ANY QUESTIONS?**

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- ❖ **May the Lord bless your diligence and just know that as we look forward to reaping the reward in that future day, we are sowing now. If we sow, we shall reap, if we faint not.**