

Answer to Prayer that He Be Famous in Israel (Ruth 4:13ff)
Running thru Ruth: Message #6

Grace Chapel

Dr. John Niemelä

July 8, 2007

INTRODUCTION

REVIEW

- (1:1–5) While the judges ruled, an Ephrathite family of Bethlehem (Elimelech, Naomi, Mahlon, and Chilion) went to the plains of Moab to escape a food shortage, Elimelech died, Mahlon & Chilion died childless after 10 years of marriage to Moabitesses
- (1:6–10) Naomi plans to go to Judah alone, wishing God's blessing on them
- (1:11–14) Naomi urges Orpah/Ruth to return to Moab, because she is past childbearing; Orpah reluctantly obeyed, but Ruth clung to Naomi
- (1:15–18) Naomi's peer pressure, but Ruth's oath caused her to cease
- (1:19–22) Naomi and Ruth return & are welcomed, but Naomi is bitter
- (2:1–3) Ruth sought to glean in the field of one who would allow her and *happened* to find the field of Boaz, a close righteous relative of Elimelech
- (2:4–7) Boaz came & greeted the workers in the Lord; his foreman said that Ruth was the Moabitess who returned w/ Naomi & that she diligently gleaned after asking permission
- (2:8–13) Boaz urged Ruth to remain in his protection; she remarked about his grace to her as a foreigner; he spoke of her selflessness towards Naomi & wished for the Lord to reward her
- (2:14–16) Boaz asked her to join the crew for lunch; she was filled; Boaz commanded the workers to remarkable generosity toward Ruth
- (2:17–23) Ruth winnowed about 30 lbs. of barley & carried it to their place and gave Naomi leftovers from lunch; Ruth said Boaz is who was so generous; (he did not forget covenant loyalty) so Ruth accepted his protection and *planned* to glean thru barley & wheat harvests
- (3:1–5) Naomi plans to seek security for Ruth by contacting Boaz: Ruth agrees to wait until Boaz was asleep before uncovering his feet
- (3:6–14) Ruth obeyed the plan; Boaz awoke & was shocked to see her; she discretely asked him for protection, because he was Elimelech's close relative; he commends Ruth's covenant loyalty & pledges that Ruth will become legally secure; she stayed until just before dawn and was told not to mention coming to the threshing floor
- (3:15) Boaz gave her grain to take to Naomi; she told Naomi all that had happened, including that Boaz would not send her empty-handed; Naomi urged Ruth to be content, knowing that Boaz would insure that she would become legally secure
- (4:1–6) Boaz & Piloni Almoni (PA) came to the gate; after calling ten elders, Boaz urged PA to buy from Naomi (the right to redeem) Elimelech's land & PA agreed, until Boaz indicated that Ruth also possessed inheritance rights, so redeeming the land also involved perpetuating Mahlon's line (Levirate marriage); PA refused to redeem the land and to enter into Levirate marriage with Ruth, because of his own inheritance
- (4:7–8) Piloni Almoni told Boaz to redeem the land & confirmed the deal by giving his sandal to Boaz; Boaz attested before the elders that he was redeeming Elimelech's land & would enter into Levirate marriage w/ Ruth; the elders affirmed witnessing Boaz's action & wished for the Lord to bless them with a dynasty thru their son

4:13–17 Boaz and Ruth have a son who becomes Naomi's redeemer

(4:13) Boaz entered into Levirate marriage with Ruth and had a son

Contrary to popular opinion, the Hebrew in verses such as this is discrete, not graphic
For one line of evidence, cf. passages like Exodus 7:10

(4:14) The women assured Naomi that the Lord did not leave her without a kinsman redeemer (her grandson)

(4:15) Women spoke of the grandson loving Naomi in her latter years as Ruth loved her

(4:16–17) Naomi held her grandson and the women observed that Naomi again had a son (the ancestor of David)

(4:18–22) Boaz and Ruth were ancestors of David in the dynasty of Perez

The genealogy skips a couple of generations:

(“x begot z” allows for the meaning, “x begot z **through** y”)

CONCLUSION