

**The Book of Judges**  
**THE MARVELOUS ROMANCE OF RUTH AND BOAZ / PART THREE**  
**April 12, 2017**  
**Session 12**

1 The story takes a whole new slant in chapter 3. It would not be understandable unless we  
2 took a look at part of the Mosaic Law (the law of Moses) in the Torah:

3  
4 Deut. 25:5-9

5 **If brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the**  
6 **dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: her husband's brother shall go in**  
7 **unto her, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of an husband's brother**  
8 **unto her. [6] And it shall be, that the firstborn which she beareth shall succeed in the**  
9 **name of his brother which is dead, that his name be not put out of Israel. [7] And if**  
10 **the man like not to take his brother's wife, then let his brother's wife go up to the**  
11 **gate unto the elders, and say, My husband's brother refuseth to raise up unto his**  
12 **brother a name in Israel, he will not perform the duty of my husband's brother. [8]**  
13 **Then the elders of his city shall call him, and speak unto him: and if he stand to it,**  
14 **and say, I like not to take her; [9] Then shall his brother's wife come unto him in the**  
15 **presence of the elders, and loose his shoe from off his foot, and spit in his face, and**  
16 **shall answer and say, So shall it be done unto that man that will not build up his**  
17 **brother's house.**

18  
19 Well....that is certainly not a principle in effect today, is it?

20  
21 Suppose a young man falls in love with a girl back in those days. But his brothers don't  
22 take to her. They oppose the marriage ferociously. Why? Because if that brother dies,  
23 one of them will be responsible to marry her and take care of her.

24  
25 Luke 20:27-40 Then came to him certain of the Sadducees, which deny that there is  
26 any resurrection; and they asked him, [28] Saying, Master, Moses wrote unto us, If  
27 any man's brother die, having a wife, and he die without children, that his brother  
28 should take his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother. [29] There were therefore  
29 seven brethren: and the first took a wife, and died without children. [30] And the  
30 second took her to wife, and he died childless. [31] And the third took her; and in like  
31 manner the seven also: and they left no children, and died. [32] Last of all the woman  
32 died also. [33] Therefore in the resurrection whose wife of them is she? for seven had  
33 her to wife. [34] And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world  
34 marry, and are given in marriage: [35] But they which shall be accounted worthy to  
35 obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given

1 in marriage: [36] Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels;  
2 and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection. [37] Now that the  
3 dead are raised, even Moses shewed at the bush, when he calleth the Lord the God of  
4 Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. [38] For he is not a God of the  
5 dead, but of the living: for all live unto him. [39] Then certain of the scribes  
6 answering said, Master, thou hast well said. [40] And after that they durst not ask  
7 him any question at all.

8  
9 This was a very unusual law which placed a childless widow in an advantageous position.  
10 She could legally claim her husband's brother to take care of her. This was actually  
11 God's provision and was a strong protection for women.

12  
13 There you have the setting for our opening passages of Ruth:

14  
15 Ruth 3:1-9 Then Naomi her mother in law said unto her, My daughter, shall I not  
16 seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee? [2] And now is not Boaz of our  
17 kindred, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley to night in the  
18 threshingfloor. [3] Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon  
19 thee, and get thee down to the floor: but make not thyself known unto the man, until  
20 he shall have done eating and drinking. [4] And it shall be, when he lieth down, that  
21 thou shalt mark the place where he shall lie, and thou shalt go in, and uncover his  
22 feet, and lay thee down; and he will tell thee what thou shalt do. [5] And she said unto  
23 her, All that thou sayest unto me I will do. [6] And she went down unto the floor,  
24 and did according to all that her mother in law bade her. [7] And when Boaz had  
25 eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap  
26 of corn: and she came softly, and uncovered his feet, and laid her down. [8] And it  
27 came to pass at midnight, that the man was afraid, and turned himself: and, behold, a  
28 woman lay at his feet. [9] And he said, Who art thou? And she answered, I am Ruth  
29 thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near  
30 kinsman.

31  
32 It should be noted here that God not only wanted to protect the women, but He wanted to  
33 protect "land rights." Make no mistake about this fact (biblically and historically): God  
34 considers the Land of Israel to be His! Each of the twelve tribes was given land in the  
35 promised Land....and each individual family had its own parcel.

36  
37 (Even today, most of the land in Israel is controlled by the government. If you want to  
38 build a house, you may do so, but you will have to LEASE the land for probably 50 or 100  
39 years.) Current-day political leaders who believe they can merely carve up the Land of  
40 Israel for their own agendas are sadly mistaken. The Land belongs to God.

## BOAZ'S LEGAL DILEMMA

*In the case of Ruth, she is a widow without any children, and the property which belonged to her husband, if any, was in a foreign country (Moab). She and her mother-in-law are simply dead broke. However, because of her relationship to Naomi, she can press her legal claim on Boaz since he a "near kinsman."*

*However, the hands of Boaz are tied. He cannot claim her for his wife. Ruth has to initiate the first move. She has to claim him as her husband!*

We are going to find out here that Boaz is NOT THE CLOSEST RELATIVE! Ruth has a couple options; she can actually "claim" the other guy. Boaz has to wait it out. Naomi told Ruth that she needed to make the first move. But what a move!

It would take place on a threshing floor, of all places! How romantic!

*After the grain was cut and harvested, it was taken to the threshing floor. In the late afternoon a breeze would come up and blow until sundown (sometimes til midnight). Sheaves of grain would be spread on the clay floor and trampled by oxen drawing a heavy sled. Then the threshers would throw the grain into the air so that the chaff would be blown away and the good grain would fall to the floor. At this time of year, all the local families would camp around the threshing floor. After the feast was over, the men would sleep around the grain. Since the threshing floor was circular, they would put their heads together toward the grain and their feet would stick out like spokes. They slept that way to protect the grain from marauders or thieves who might break through and steal.*

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In the first verse of Ruth 3, Naomi asked her daughter-in-law, "Shall I find rest for thee?" That Bible-ese for, "**Do you want me to help you find a husband?**" Remember in the classic show "Fiddler On The Roof" the song "Match-maker?" Here we see it demonstrated in Scripture.

Naomi gave Ruth explicit instructions:

1. "Wash up!" Ruth had been working in the fields.
2. "Use some perfume!" Anoint thyself.
3. "Wear something nice!" Not those work clothes!
4. "Now do something something positive!" Make a claim on this man!

The world is filled with people just waiting for something wonderful to happen. It might help them if they'd improve their education, get into the work place (even at the most

1 menial level). Do something! **FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD!** (James 2:17)

2  
3 **NOTHING QUESTIONABLE ABOUT NAOMI'S INSTRUCTIONS**

4  
5 **Ruth 3:4 And it shall be, when he lieth down, that thou shalt mark the place where**  
6 **he shall lie, and thou shalt go in, and uncover his feet, and lay thee down; and he will**  
7 **tell thee what thou shalt do.**

8  
9 No, this was not some sexual action taken in a private location. Naomi would never have  
10 requested Ruth to do something improper. The threshing floor was a public place. The  
11 harvesters were there with their families. In effect, Naomi instructed her daughter-in-  
12 law: "When everyone has finished the evening meal, people will prepared to rest for the  
13 night." Remember the sleeping arrangement - like a giant wheel with spokes. "Now,  
14 Ruth, Boaz will lie down with his head toward the grain and his feet sticking out. You lie  
15 down with your feet toward his feet...and pull his cloak down over your feet." Not very  
16 romantic by our standards, I know – but very culturally correct in that day and age.

17  
18 Soon after falling asleep, Boaz's feet probably got chilly and he noted his cloak, the cover,  
19 had been pulled off him. He sits up, looks down between his feet and sees Ruth: Ruth  
20 3:9-10 (From the Living Bible)

21 **"Who are you?" he demanded.**

22 **"It's I, sir--Ruth," she replied. "Make me your wife according to God's law, for**  
23 **you are my close relative."**

24 **[10] "Thank God for a girl like you!" he exclaimed. "For you are being even**  
25 **kinder to Naomi now than before. Naturally you'd prefer a younger man, even**  
26 **though poor. But you have put aside your personal desires.**

27  
28 Ruth had every legal prerogative to "demand her rights." But she didn't. This was love  
29 in action. And Boaz responded: Ruth 3:11 **And now, my daughter, fear not; I will**  
30 **do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou**  
31 **art a virtuous woman.** This is an extraordinary response on the part of Boaz because  
32 Ruth was a foreigner, a Moabite. She did not come to Bethlehem like some prima donna.  
33 She obviously had developed and shown a valid, reputable manner to everyone.

34  
35 **TROUBLE IN RIVER CITY!!**

36  
37 All seems to be going along well when Boaz dropped the bomb: Ruth 3:12 **And now**  
38 **it is true that I am thy near kinsman: howbeit there is a kinsman nearer than I.**

39  
40 It is possible that this other fellow was much wealthier than even Boaz. But Ruth was

1 not after money. I believe she loved Boaz. But what to do about this other fellow who  
2 had a more viable case to make to claim her? Boaz gave her instructions:

3  
4 **Ruth 3:13 Tarry this night, and it shall be in the morning, that if he will perform**  
5 **unto thee the part of a kinsman, well; let him do the kinsman's part: but if he will not**  
6 **do the part of a kinsman to thee, then will I do the part of a kinsman to thee, as the**  
7 **Lord liveth: lie down until the morning.**

8  
9 It is notable that Boaz always acted to protect Ruth. Remember - it's night now, and for  
10 her to climb back up the winding hill to Bethlehem in the dark could have been fatal to  
11 her. She could have been attacked by some pervert. Boaz protected not only her  
12 personal safety, but her reputation as well: **Ruth 3:14 And she lay at his feet until the**  
13 **morning: and she rose up before one could know another. And he said, Let it not be**  
14 **known that a woman came into the floor.**

15  
16 Boaz did not want "the other guy," the other closer kinsman, to get any ideas about  
17 claiming Ruth. Or to put his own reputation in jeopardy.

18  
19 Now note his generosity: **Ruth 3:15-16 Also he said, Bring the vail that thou hast**  
20 **upon thee, and hold it. And when she held it, he measured six measures of barley,**  
21 **and laid it on her: and she went into the city. [16] And when she came to her mother**  
22 **in law, she said, Who art thou, my daughter? And she told her all that the man had**  
23 **done to her.**

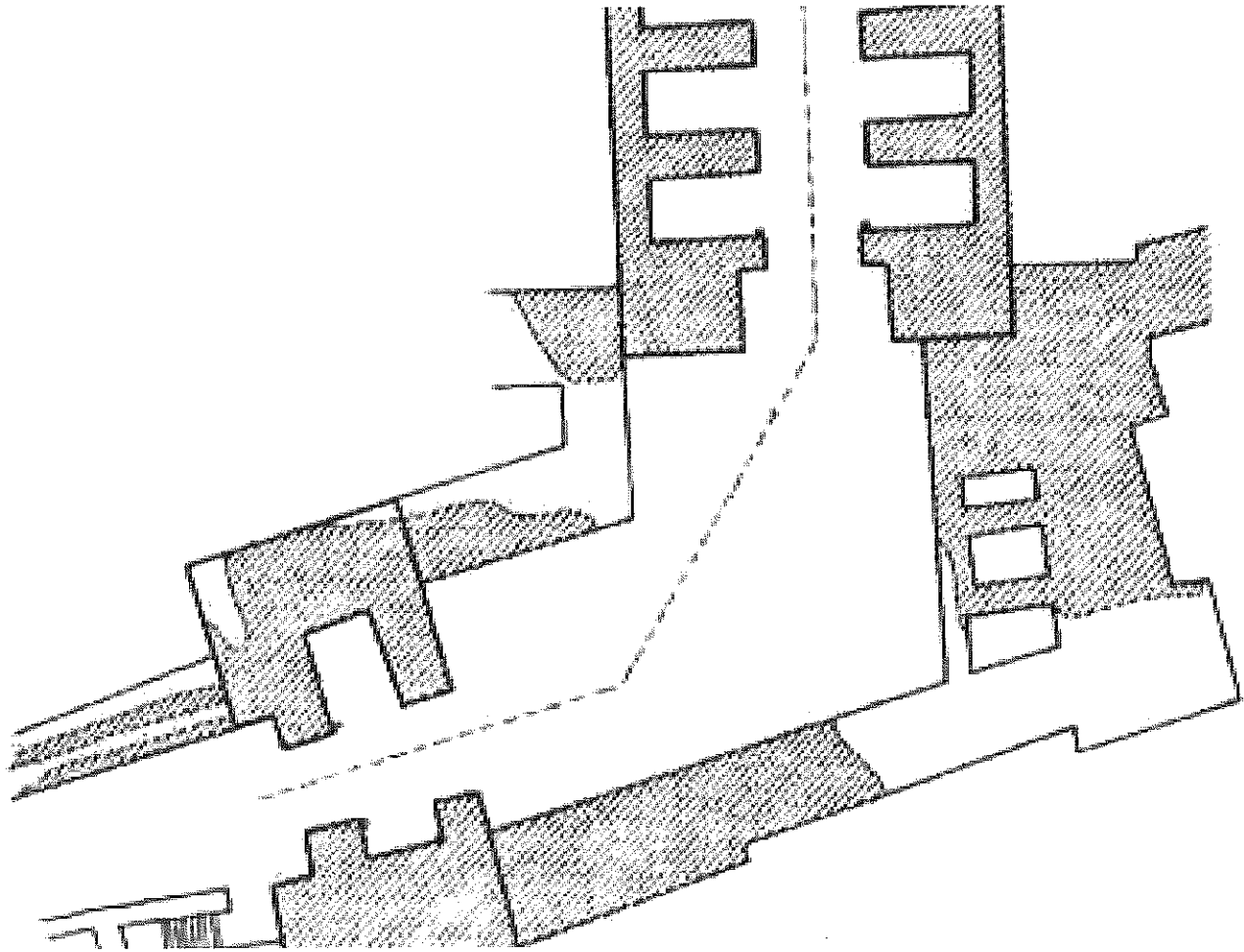
24  
25 "Who art thou, my daughter?" In good old English today, "Well, Ruth, is he going to  
26 marry you or not?"

27  
28 **Ruth 3:17-18 And she said, These six measures of barley gave he me; for he said to**  
29 **me, Go not empty unto thy mother in law. [18] Then said she, Sit still, my daughter,**  
30 **until thou know how the matter will fall: for the man will not be in rest, until he have**  
31 **finished the thing this day.**

32  
33 Not quite a three-carat diamond engagement ring, but it symbolized basically that  
34 commitment. Naomi recognized that the matter was going well and that Boaz would do  
35 everything he could to secure this marriage. "Ruth, you claimed him, the matter is taken  
36 care of."

37  
38 That's the way it is with salvation, my friend. When you claim Jesus as your Redeemer,  
39 the matter is settled. As your "Kinsman-redeemer" He has already paid the price on the  
40 cross, and you have accepted Him as Savior and Lord! The matter is finished!

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DRAWING OF THE CITY GATE AT MEGIDDO: NOTE THE ROOMS FOR BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT MATTERS

### CHAPTER FOUR

This chapter focuses on the work of Boaz in redeeming Ruth.

**Ruth 4:1-2 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. [2] And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, Sit ye down here. And they sat down.**

City gates in those ancient days were not only used for access and egress, but all kinds of business and government matters were conducted in rooms “at the gate.” In the drawing above you see the city gate at Megiddo, built in the days of King Ahab. Coming into the city (from the top) you encountered immediately all kinds of rooms and gathering places. It would have been similar to this in Bethlehem where Boaz called ten elders of the town.

Once ensconced there, Boaz knew that the “other man” would sooner or later show up. Remember that this fellow was a relative (don’t know the relationship). When the fellow

1 came into the gate, Boaz called him over to meet with him and ten elders. (The city gate  
2 served as a town courthouse.)

3  
4 Now Boaz approached the subject indirectly: Ruth 4:3-5 **And he said unto the**  
5 **kinsman, Naomi, that is come again out of the country of Moab, selleth a parcel of**  
6 **land, which was our brother Elimelech's: [4] And I thought to advertise thee, saying,**  
7 **Buy it before the inhabitants, and before the elders of my people. If thou wilt redeem**  
8 **it, redeem it: but if thou wilt not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know: for there is**  
9 **none to redeem it beside thee; and I am after thee. And he said, I will redeem it. [5]**  
10 **Then said Boaz, What day thou buyest the field of the hand of Naomi, thou must buy**  
11 **it also of Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead**  
12 **upon his inheritance.**

13  
14 Boaz told this fellow that Naomi had a parcel of land that could be purchased by a relative.  
15 The man said, "OK, I'll buy (redeem) it." Then Boaz said, "And...there is a woman who  
16 comes with it...a Moabitess named Ruth. You buy the land, you get the woman."

17  
18 Well, this fellow didn't know Ruth and he certainly didn't want to be encumbered with  
19 some widow from a foreign land. That changed the deal!

20  
21 Ruth 4:6 **And the kinsman said, I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I mar mine own**  
22 **inheritance: redeem thou my right to thyself; for I cannot redeem it.**

23  
24 So Boaz is going to get the land....and Ruth. But note how the transaction was handled:

25  
26 Ruth 4:7-11 **Now this was the manner in former time in Israel concerning**  
27 **redeeming and concerning changing, for to confirm all things; a man plucked off his**  
28 **shoe, and gave it to his neighbour: and this was a testimony in Israel. [8] Therefore**  
29 **the kinsman said unto Boaz, Buy it for thee. So he drew off his shoe.**

30 **[9] And Boaz said unto the elders, and unto all the people, Ye are witnesses this**  
31 **day, that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and**  
32 **Mahlon's, of the hand of Naomi. [10] Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of**  
33 **Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his**  
34 **inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and**  
35 **from the gate of his place: ye are witnesses this day. [11] And all the people that were**  
36 **in the gate, and the elders, said, We are witnesses. The Lord make the woman that is**  
37 **come into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of**  
38 **Israel: and do thou worthily in Ephratah, and be famous in Bethlehem:**

39  
40 It should be carefully noted here that just as Boaz claimed Ruth as his bride, so Jesus has

1 claimed His redeemed as His Bride. The saved of Earth are the Bride of Christ.

2  
3 Ruth 4:13-17 [13] So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in  
4 unto her, the Lord gave her conception, and she bare a son. [14] And the women said  
5 unto Naomi, Blessed be the Lord, which hath not left thee this day without a  
6 kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel. [15] And he shall be unto thee a  
7 restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for thy daughter in law, which  
8 loveth thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him. [16] And Naomi  
9 took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it. [17] And the  
10 women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and  
11 they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

12  
13 We are learning here of the ancestors, not only of King David but of Christ Jesus Himself.

14  
15 God is in charge, my friend! He is in control! So we close this wonderful little book of  
16 Ruth - and also the entire account of the 400 year time of the Judges.

17  
18  
19 Next Wednesday night is our annual Church Business Meeting. It is vital that every  
20 member exercises his or her responsibility in attending. Darlene and I are going to Israel  
21 for several weeks but the Wednesday night studies will continue with staff pastors.

22  
23 STARTING WEDNESDAY NIGHT, MAY 24<sup>TH</sup>, I BEGIN A NEW SERIES CALLED:

## 24 THE GREAT ESCAPE!

25 From Cairo (Memphis) to The Promised Land  
26 THE BOOK OF EXODUS!