

“Relative Redemption”

An Inductive Study of the Book of Ruth

Study 2: Look for the Blessing of God

A. A Coincidental Selection. Ruth 2:1-3

1. Naomi’s husband had a relative. What do we know about him? 2:1
2. What was Ruth’s request? 2:2
3. What did she mean by “one in whose sight I might find favor”? 2:2
4. What was Naomi’s response? 2:2
5. What did Ruth do? 2:3
6. Where did she just happen to find herself? ¹ 2:3
7. Is there such a thing as good luck for a believer?
8. Is there such thing as coincidence for a believer?
9. Justify your answer with other Scripture. ²

B. Boaz Asks Some Questions. Ruth 2:4-6

1. Who came from Bethlehem out to the field being harvested? 2:4
2. Evaluate the character of Boaz based upon the exchange of greetings between himself and his harvest hands. 2:4
3. Boaz seemed to exhibit a certain amount of curiosity. What was the question he put to the foreman whom he had placed over harvest crew? 2:5

¹ Ruth 2:3 - “and she happened to come to the portion of the field belonging to Boaz” The Hebrew is explicit: “Her chance chanced upon the portion of the field belonging to Boaz”

² Ruth 2:3 question - Justify ... with other Scripture: Do any of the following have any bearing? Prov. 16:33; Dan. 2:20-22; Rom. 8:26-32; 9:10-24; Eph. 1:5, 11.

4. How did Boaz' foreman identify Ruth? ³ 2:6
5. What had been Ruth's request? 2:7
6. How diligently had she been working? 2:7

C. Boaz Strongly Advises Ruth to Harvest Only in His Fields. Ruth 2:8-13

1. How did Boaz address Ruth? 2:8
2. Where did he admonish her to harvest barley? 2:8
3. With whose young women does he urge her to associate? 2:8c-9a
4. In what way has he been solicitous of her personal safety? 2:9b
5. In what way does he look out for her physical well-being? 2:9c
6. How would you describe Ruth's reaction to Boaz' speech? 2:10a
7. What question does she ask of him? 2:10b
8. What is her basis for her incredulity? 2:10c
9. Boaz' explanation. 2:11
 - a. What had been reported to him about her relationship with Naomi?
 - b. Whom had she left?
 - c. What had she left?
 - d. To whom had she attached herself?
10. Boaz' blessing. 2:12
 - a. Whom did he ask to reward her?

³ Ruth 2:6 - Moabite: What was God's view of Moabites, one which He imposed on Israel (Deut. 23:3-6)? How often is the designation "Moabite" used in the book of Ruth? Of what significance is this?

b. How did he describe her relationship to the God of Israel? ⁴

11. Ruth’s appreciation. 2:13

a. What does Ruth acknowledge that she has found in Boaz’ sight?

b. How does she assess his treatment of her?

c. How does she acknowledge her inferior position?

D. Boaz Extends Additional Favor to Ruth. Ruth 2:14-17

1. What invitation does Boaz extend to Ruth at noontime? 2:14

2. What command concerning Ruth did Boaz issue to the young men working for him? 2:15

3. How did he expand upon that command? 2:16

4. How long did Ruth continue harvesting? 2:17

5. What did she do at the end of her day? 2:17

6. How much barley did she thresh out of all the stalks she had collected? ⁵ 2:17

E. Naomi Gratefully Receives Ruth’s Report. Ruth 2:18-23

1. Ruth delivered the barley grain to Naomi. 2:18

2. What was Naomi’s initial reaction? 2:19a (How do you think she asked that question?)

3. What was the substance of her blessing? 2:19b

4. What information did Ruth reveal to her mother-in-law? 2:19c

5. What was Naomi’s response on hearing the name of their benefactor? 2:20a

⁴ Ruth 2:12 - “under whose wings you have come to seek refuge”: What does this metaphor mean? Ruth herself will use this same metaphor in Ruth 3:9!

⁵ Ruth 2:17 - “about an ephah of barley”: Approximately 3/5 of a bushel of barley, or about 36 pounds. This would have been equivalent to half a month’s wages, which she had earned in a single day!

6. What filled Naomi with such wonderment and joy? ⁶ 2:20b
7. What advice from Boaz did Ruth convey to Naomi? 2:21
8. What was Naomi's reaction to this advice? 2:22a
9. What was her reasoning? 2:22b
10. What did Ruth do in light of the advice given to her? 2:23a
11. How long did she work with the young women of Boaz? 2:23b
12. Where did she live?

F. Reflection

1. How would you contrast the events of Ruth 1 with the events of Ruth 2?
2. Do you have any way to account for the change in circumstances?
3. What had been Naomi's attitude in response to the events of Ruth 1?
4. How would you describe Naomi's attitude in Ruth 2?
5. What do you believe about "chance" for a Christian?
6. Why does the writer keep referring to Ruth as "the Moabitess" who came "from the land of Moab?"
7. How do you assess Boaz' treatment of Ruth?
8. How do you assess Ruth's response to Boaz' treatment of her?
9. How does the word "favor" (*chen*, [2580](#)) in the OT compare with the word "grace" (*charis*, [5485](#)) in the New Testament?
10. Do you have any principles you could devise about dealing with depression and bitterness from Ruth 1 and 2?

⁶ Ruth 2:20 - he is one of our closest relatives: This translates the Hebrew word ga'al ([1350](#)), a supremely key word in the book of Ruth. It means "relative-redeemer." See "[The Duties of a Relative Redeemer](#)."

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