

HER FAITH — — HIS POWER

WOMEN WHO TRUSTED GOD
AND CHANGED HISTORY



Ruth, from Hardship to Blessin

From Famine to Faith

The Book of Ruth begins with hardship. Famine forced Naomi, her husband Elimelech, and their two sons to leave their home Bethlehem, in Israel. They settled in Moab, a nearby foreign land. Tragically, Naomi's husband died, and later, both her sons died as well, leaving Naomi and her Moabite daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth, widowed.

Naomi, now alone in this unfamiliar land, knew that to survive, she needed to return to her hometown in Israel. She urged her two daughters-in-law to stay in Moab. Orpah agreed, but Ruth chose to stay with Naomi and declared, "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." (Ruth 1:16)

Ruth's choice was a decisive step of faith toward the God of Israel. She left behind her homeland, culture, and pagan gods to stay with Naomi and follow a God she had come to know and trust. This also displayed her deep love and loyalty toward her mother-in-law, Naomi, who faced a perilous journey back to her homeland.

From Ordinary to Extraordinary

When Ruth and Naomi arrived in Bethlehem, they were destitute. Hungry and in need, Ruth did what the poor at that time did. She took the humble role of gleaning—picking up leftover grain in the fields after the harvesters finished reaping. By "chance," she ended up in the field of Boaz, a wealthy farmer and relative of Naomi's late husband.

This was no accident. God's providence often works through what seems like a coincidence. Boaz had heard about Ruth's kindness toward Naomi. Then, when he saw her determination to provide for Naomi and herself, he extended special protection and generosity to her, a foreign woman. Something completely counter to the culture at that time.

Naomi recognized God's potential provision in Boaz. She instructed Ruth to approach him according to the custom of the kinsman-redeemer—a relative who could marry a widow to preserve the family line. Boaz responded with integrity and honor, ensuring that the proper legal steps were followed.

From Brokenness to Blessing

Ruth's faithfulness in the face of loss positioned her to be part of something far greater than she could have imagined. The story concludes with Ruth marrying Boaz and giving birth to a son, Obed, who became the grandfather of King David. From a foreign widow with no future, Ruth became part of the royal lineage of the Messiah.

Boaz's role as redeemer is a beautiful foreshadowing of Jesus Christ. This is the heart of the gospel message. Just as Boaz redeemed Ruth, brought her into his family and secured her future, Jesus redeems us from sin, bringing us into God's family and giving us eternal security.

Often God's hand in our lives is most clearly seen in hindsight. What may seem like random ordinary events can turn out to be the very path God uses to build us into the people He wants us to be. Our role is to remain faithful in the small, everyday acts—like Ruth gleaning in the fields—and to trust that God is weaving them into His greater plan.

The Arc of our Story

The Book of Ruth begins with hardship and loss for Naomi and Ruth. Yet, in the end, they have full lives and a legacy that points to Jesus Christ. The arc of their story moves from famine to harvest, from loss to joy, from hopelessness to redemption. Where are you in your story arc? Here are some reflections to help guide you toward joy in your journey:

- **Faith often means leaving your comfort zone.** Like Ruth, we may be called to step into unfamiliar territory, trusting God's leading.
- **God works through ordinary obedience.** Ruth's simple act of gleaning led to a life-changing encounter.
- **God's plan is bigger than our pain.** Ruth's story reminds us that our trials can be the soil for God's greatest blessings.
- **We all need a Redeemer.** Boaz points us to Jesus, the true redeemer, who rescues us from spiritual poverty.



Joy For Your Journey,
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