

Ruth Chapter 2 Commentary

1 ¶ "And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz."

Now, we are introduced to the near kinsman, who is going to do what God commands, under the law, about redeeming, and marrying the widow of a family member to raise up seed to the dead. This will be a marriage to Ruth, the daughter-in-law, because Naomi is past the age of bearing children.

2 "And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter. 3 And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz, who was of the kindred of Elimelech."

Notice: Ruth is giving honor to her mother-in-law, by asking her to let her go seek work. It is good and right to show respect to those whom God has directed us to be respectful of, especially those older than we are.

Again, we see evidence of God at work in Ruth's life, because Ruth understood she would need to find grace, in eyes of whosoever's field she gleamed. Why? Because she is a Moabite and not an Israelite. It will be by the grace of God if any let her glean being a stranger in the land. Just as it was Naomi and Ruth's hap to come to Israel at harvest time; so, it is Ruth's hap to turn into the field of Boaz to glean. It is the providence of God at work. We would describe this as God working behind the scenes to accomplish his will and purpose.

4 ¶ "And, behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said unto the reapers, The LORD be with you. And they answered him, The LORD bless thee. 5 Then said Boaz unto his servant that was set over the reapers, Whose damsel is this? 6 And the servant that was set over the reapers answered and said, It is the Moabitish damsel that came back with Naomi out of the country of Moab: 7 And she said, I pray you, let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves: so she came, and hath continued even from the morning until now, that she tarried a little in the house."

Boaz comes to the fields and blesses the reapers, who, in answer, bless Boaz. This demonstrates a good relationship between master and employees, with all seeking the favor of God.

Boaz immediately notices Ruth and ask who she is. He is told that she is Ruth, the Moabitess, daughter-in-law to Naomi, who came home with Naomi. The servant of Boaz tells him: Ruth asked permission to glean in the field, which he granted. She is commended for being very busy, not a lazy person, which is a reminder to us; we should not be slack concerning our duty, and our service, to our God and his church.

8 "Then said Boaz unto Ruth, Hearest thou not, my daughter? Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens: 9 Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after them: have I not charged the young men that they shall not touch thee? and when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men have drawn."

God has been at work in Boaz's heart, as well as the heart of Ruth, as is manifested here. God moves Boaz to have a love for Ruth, and he manifest this by telling her to stay in his fields and glean. He tells her; he has charged his reapers to not touch her, wherefore, she is to not fear of being harmed in any way, because she has come under the authority of his protection. Boaz extends special favor to her, by giving her the right to drink of the water drawn by his workers, which was not usually allowed. Gleaners were expected to provide their own food and drink.

10 "Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger? 11 And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother-in-law since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore. 12 The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust."

Ruth, recognizing that she has found grace in Boaz, is so humbled by the magnitude of the blessings, she falls on her face, and she asks why she has been given such favor. Boaz tells her; I have heard of thy life, and how thou hast come to trust in God, by leaving all that you once knew, to come to a people that you knew not heretofore. Boaz commends her, for her faithfulness to God.

This gives us the picture of a sinner, having been born-again, turning away from the old flesh nature, and putting on the new Christian nature. This is manifested by the subject making a public confession of their faith, in the finished work of Jesus Christ, the only means of eternal salvation, and eternal forgiveness of sins.

We are given a similar blessing as seen in: ***Mr 10:29-30; 29 "And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, 30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.***" It is easy to see; there is blessing in being a faithful subject of the Lord Jesus Christ.

13 "Then she said, Let me find favour in thy sight, my lord; for that thou hast comforted me, and for that thou hast spoken friendly unto thine handmaid, though I be not like unto one of thine handmaidens."

Ruth recognizes, the magnitude of the blessing she has been given, in the grace of Boaz to her. She acknowledges that this brings her comfort. She acknowledges that she is a stranger, and pilgrim, in Israel, and gives Boaz her thanks, for his grace to her, even though she is not an Israelite.

This gives us the picture, of the born-again sinner making that public confession of faith in Jesus Christ. When one comes forward to join the church; they are acknowledging that Christ has already performed a work in their hearts, and they are now ready to make it known.

"though I be not like unto one of thine handmaidens." I believe this testifies to us of the one asking for a home in the visible church, who believes that they are worse sinners than those who are in the church fellowship already. However, we remind the coming sinner, and those already in the church fellowship; we are all sinners, who have been saved from our sins by the grace of God, through the finished work of Jesus Christ. We believe that those who come forward in true humility are born-again children of God.

As we consider Ruth and her behavior; we see the humility that God's grace has put in her. We see Ruth walking in the light of the grace of God. We are reminded; we do not come to the church boisterous in our talks of what we have done, or that we have saved ourselves eternally; rather, we come acknowledging that it is the grace and favor of our near Kinsman, Christ Jesus, that has given us opportunity to come into his church.

14 "And Boaz said unto her, At mealtime come thou hither, and eat of the bread, and dip thy morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers: and he reached her parched corn, and she did eat, and was sufficed, and left. 15 And when she was risen up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not: 16 And let fall also some of the handfuls of purpose for her, and leave them, that she may glean them, and rebuke her not. 17 ¶ So she gleaned in the field until even, and beat out that she had gleaned: and it was about an ephah of barley. 18 And she took it up, and went into the city: and her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned: and she brought forth, and gave to her that she had reserved after she was sufficed."

Ruth, having asked for continued blessing from Boaz, seen in: ***Ru 2:13 "Then she said, Let me find favour in thy sight, my lord;***" is granted this request in Boaz's answer to her. She is afforded the blessing of eating with the reapers, and Boaz exemplified this to his reapers by giving her food from his table.

Additionally, Boaz commands his reapers concerning her when she has gone back to work. Boaz tells them to let her glean, even where they have not yet reaped. He also tells them to drop handfuls on purpose, of what they have reaped for her to glean. In other words, Boaz is making it as easy as he can, for Ruth to gather sustenance, for herself and her mother-in-law.

We see that Ruth continues to be faithful in working, even after receiving the grace and blessing of Boaz. She continued to be a busy worker until the harvest ended. The result is a great blessing.

We pause here to point out; there are those, who are in the church, who, having received the gift of salvation by grace, sit down and do not continue to labor in the field. They sit still, expecting to be given everything they need without further effort on their own part. Ruth sets the example; when we have been

accepted into the church fellowship, we are to continue asking for God's blessing, and we are to be working as hard as we can to gather these blessing to ourselves.

Why was Ruth gleaning? for herself or others? She was gleaning for her own sustenance, and for the sustenance of her mother-in-law. In our efforts to serve the Lord and gain his blessing in our lives, we are also laboring for others to share in the blessing of God. Others gain a blessing as they see God's blessings manifested in your life as a Christian. You will also be willing to share, with others, of the abundance that God blesses you with. As Ruth demonstrated, you take, what you need, of God's blessings of abundance, and you give the rest to others, who are in need. We do this, in Christian fellowship, by building up one another in the Lord.

19 "And her mother-in-law said unto her, Where hast thou gleaned today? and where wroughtest thou? blessed be he that did take knowledge of thee. And she shewed her mother-in-law with whom she had wrought, and said, The man's name with whom I wrought today is Boaz. 20 And Naomi said unto her daughter in law, Blessed be he of the LORD, who hath not left off his kindness to the living and to the dead. And Naomi said unto her, The man is near of kin unto us, one of our next kinsmen. 21 And Ruth the Moabitess said, He said unto me also, Thou shalt keep fast by my young men, until they have ended all my harvest. 22 And Naomi said unto Ruth her daughter in law, It is good, my daughter, that thou go out with his maidens, that they meet thee not in any other field. 23 So she kept fast by the maidens of Boaz to glean unto the end of barley harvest and of wheat harvest; and dwelt with her mother-in-law."

Naomi, seeing the abundance of Ruth's efforts, knows that she has received special favor, and ask where she gleaned, acknowledging that someone has extended to her great favor and kindness. Ruth tells her that she was in the fields of Boaz. She adds that Boaz has told her to abide in his fields and under his protection. We are told that Ruth continued gleaning in the fields of Boaz until the harvest was completed.

What an example for us today. When others ask, of the great favor that God has granted us in life; we should be ready to give an answer, and to declare the greatness of God, and his abundant mercy and grace.

This chapter gives us an example of being steadfast in our Christian walks in life. We are told in the New Testament scriptures about continuing until the end, seen in:

- ***Col 1:21-29; 21 "And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled 22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprovable in his sight: 23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister; 24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church: 25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; 26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: 27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: 28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: 29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily."*** We get from this text the same picture we see in the life of Ruth. We, aliens, and strangers to grace, having been born-again by the grace of God, are given favored status in the church, when we make our public profession of faith. However, we must continue pursuing the grace and mercy of God to expect continued favor and blessings. We see this exemplified in Paul's life, as he continued to preach and teach the word of truth about Jesus Christ.
- ***1Ti 4:12-16; 12 "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. 13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. 14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. 15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. 16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."*** As Timothy is charged to continue in faithfulness, so we see Ruth continuing in steadfastness of faith in God, who

has made her accepted in the beloved. This faithfulness should also be manifested in our lives as Christians.

Naomi tells Ruth; Boaz is a near kinsman of the family. As we continue our study in the book of Ruth, this near kinship will manifest, that God has worked in the hearts of Boaz and Ruth. It will also give us the prophetic picture, of the Gentile people being grafted into the Church of Salvation by Grace. Thank you, Lord Jesus, Hallelujah! Amen!