

The Book of Ruth – Part Nine

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Adapted from John Herbert's Notes; Presented by Jeanne Alley

1). Ruth 3:1

Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shall I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you? 2 "Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. 3 "Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. 4 "Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do." 5 And she said to her, "All that you say to me I will do." 6 ¶ So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her.

2). We will remember that the Book of Ruth is a type, a word picture, that presents the experience of the faithful Christian – the Christian who will be found worthy to be a co-heir with Christ, adopted as a first born son, part of the bride of Christ.

a). And what we see in the events that take place on Boaz's threshing floor are events that will take place in respect of the faithful Christian at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

3). The threshing floor is seen as a place of Judgment in –

Matthew 3:12

"His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

a). These words are spoken of Christ by John the Baptist and clearly denote the separation of that which is of value from that which has no value. The wheat gathered into the barn – the chaff burnt with unquenchable fire.

b). Judgment of this nature in respect of unfaithfulness, pictured through the process of winnowing at the threshing floor, is also presented in relation to Israel in –

Jeremiah 15:7

And I will winnow them with a winnowing fan in the gates of the land; I will bereave them of children; I will destroy My people, Since they do not return from their ways.

c). And although judgment of this kind is certainly going to happen at Christ's Judgment Seat, this negative side is not presented in Ruth because this is not the book's focus. We can, however, go elsewhere in scripture to view Christ's Judgment Seat from the perspective of the unfaithful Christian.

4). In Romans chapter 8 we read –

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

a). Condemnation = Greek word *katakrima* a compound word made up of *kata* = down and *krima* = judgment; meaning a negative or condemnatory judgment.

b). And our scripture plainly teaches that there will not be this kind of judgment for those Christians who walk according to the Spirit.

c). And this of course is what we find in respect of Ruth. She has, throughout the course of the Book, been faithfully obedient to Naomi, her mother-in-law.

d). Naomi is a type of the nation of Israel, and more specifically, that which has come to us through that nation – the Word of God. Both the Lord Jesus Christ who is the 'Word made flesh' and the written word which speaks completely of Him.

e). Now as seen in –

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

f). Literally it reads, all scripture is *God breathed*; therefore, it is the breath of God, which is the Spirit of God.

g). So Ruth being faithfully obedient to Naomi, and the Christian being faithfully obedient to the Word of God, would both constitute walking according to the Spirit.

5). Again we need to note that Ruth's actions in relation to Naomi's instructions are with a view to a specific goal –

Ruth 1:9a

"The LORD grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband.

a). There is a specifically stated destination -

Ruth 1:19

Now the two of them went until they came to Bethlehem.

b). And there was to be work in a specific location -

Ruth 2:8

Then Boaz said to Ruth, "You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women.

c). And of course as we saw in our opening scripture, there was to be specific preparation in order to meet Boaz on his threshing floor for the purpose of marriage and the redemption of an inheritance.

d). There is a powerful deception that exists in Christianity (generally) and is even prevalent among those who look for a literal Kingdom that says there can be a faithful Christian life that exists apart from God's stated purpose for creating mankind and providing eternal redemption. In other words, it is possible to live a faithful Christian life without knowing anything about the Millennial kingdom or what it takes to get there. The clear evidence of scripture is that this is not the case -

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

e). The catalog of faith presented in Hebrews 11 that God gives as His own commentary shows example after example of those faithful individuals whose whole life is organized in relation to God's promise of a coming seventh day and God's reward for those seeking participation in that Day -

Hebrews 11:16

But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

Hebrews 11:24

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; 25 choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin; 26 considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.

f). And this, as we have seen, is exactly the evidence of the Book of Ruth.

6). Ruth has left the land of her birth to go to the land of her calling in order to find rest in the house of her husband.

a). She has worked for a specific period of time, in a specific location, at the end of which she is to go to Boaz on his threshing floor.

b). And to be ready for that meeting, she has made proper preparation by washing herself, anointing herself and putting on her best garment.

c). All of these actions have focus and purpose, and provide for us a type that we must recognize.

7). In the antitype, this will also be the experience of the faithful Christian.

a). That faithful Christian will have left the land of their birth to go to the land of their calling, looking for the Rest that awaits them within a marriage relationship in that land.

b). They will have worked for the complete period of time expressed in the course of their race of faith -

Hebrews 10:36

For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise...

c). They will have worked in a specific location, producing fruit through good works in relation to the death of self and the resurrection power of the Spirit.

d). And they will have been in a continual process of preparing themselves for their appearance at Christ's Judgment Seat.

8). Not only this, but the events of the Book of Ruth also foreshadow the organization of New Testament scripture. The entire New Testament moves from the removal of the Kingdom of the heavens from Israel and the subsequent offer of this realm of the Kingdom to the Church through the Gospels and Acts; - seen in the first half of Ruth chapter 1 with Elimelech's family dispersed into a Gentile land and the marriage of two Gentile women into that family - on into everything that we need to know concerning the journey, the work and the preparation in the Epistles, from Romans through Jude - seen in the second half of Ruth chapter 1, through Ruth chapter two and the first half of chapter 3. We can see that the New Testament ends in exactly the same place as the

second half of Ruth chapter 3 and chapter 4 - the Judgment Seat of Christ.... a marriage relationship... redemption of the inheritance and regality (in the Book of Revelation).

9). We would do well to remember that all the NT Epistles, without exception, deal with matters surrounding the salvation of the soul.

a). And although there are innumerable secondary applications to be found in these scriptures, the secondary must never be to the exclusion of (or the superceding of) the primary focus which is the coming Millennial Kingdom and all that is associated with it.

10). Ruth's appearance on Boaz's threshing floor is just one facet of a complete OT word picture that presents to us the event that we call the 'rapture' of the Church.

a). The foundation for this begins in Genesis 5 with Enoch -

Genesis 5:24

And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

b). Genesis 5 begins with the genealogy of Adam through Seth, and Enoch is the seventh from Adam. Enoch is removed alive from the earth before the events of the worldwide flood in the days of Noah, who is the tenth from Adam. Both 7 and 10 being numbers of completion.

c). Enoch typifies the removal of Christians from the earth prior to the events of the Great Tribulation - the time of Jacob's trouble.

d). Another example we see in Genesis is Lot and his family being removed prior to the destruction of the cities of the plain in Genesis 18 & 19 -

Genesis 19:17

So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed."

e). And here with Lot and his family we would see the Judgment Seat in respect of the unfaithful Christian.

f). And in Genesis 24, Rebekah is removed from the land of her birth following the oldest servant's successful search for a bride for Isaac...an event that follows the death of Sarah in Genesis 23 (typifying the death of Israel), but precedes Abraham re-marrying in Genesis 25 (typifying the re-marriage of God to Israel) -

Genesis 24:61

Then Rebekah and her maids arose, and they rode on the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed.

g). We can clearly see on one hand Christians being removed from the earth *prior to* the destruction of Gentile world power – a power that has been in existence for approximately 2600 years for the purpose of bringing Israel to a place of repentance –

Luke 17:28

"Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; 29 "but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. 30 "Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

h). And on the other hand we see Christians being removed from the earth *prior to* God's restoration of Israel –

Romans 11:25

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;

The restoration of Israel comes about because of Israel's repentance, thereby removing the need for Gentile domination, paving the way for the blessing of these nations through Israel just as God had laid out in Genesis chapter 9 and the promises to Abraham.

i). Although Ruth does not present the picture of the destruction of Gentile world power, we do see her appearance on the threshing floor preceding Boaz's redemption of the inheritance – an event that is one and the same as the great tribulation – the time of Jacob's trouble – Daniel's 70th week.

j). And as we would expect, all of this is perfectly consistent with what we find in the Book of Revelation.

11). In Revelation chapter 1 we read –

Revelation 1:1

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants-- things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, (cf. Luke 17:30 above)

- a). The things which "must shortly take place" begin with the revelation of Christ as Judge -

Revelation 1:12

Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; 15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; 16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

- b). And standing before the Judge is the *complete* Church -

Revelation 1:20

"The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

- c). And what follows of course is judgment -

Revelation 2:2

"I know your works..."

- d). The whole process of this judgment continues through Revelation Chapters 2 + 3 and presents a more complete commentary on the events surrounding Ruth's appearance on the threshing floor and Lot's attempted escape from the cities of the plain.

- 12). Then in Revelation chapter 4 we return to the point where Revelation 1 began -

Revelation 4:1

After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this." 2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.

3 And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.

a). Only we are now viewing events of Revelation 1 from a different perspective. We are still seeing the rapture of the Church, but we are no longer looking at Judgment, but events subsequent to judgment. And we can know that judgment has passed, for it is signified by the rainbow around the throne.

b). It is now that the events typified by Ruth's appearance on Boaz's threshing floor have been completed and the bride has been revealed and accepted –

Ruth 3:11

"And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman.

c). It is now we see the 24 Elders casting their crowns before God as those qualified to take their positions of rulership have now been identified. [Explain the 24 elders]

d). And then in Revelation chapter 5, we move to the events of the redemption of the inheritance –

Revelation 5:6

And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

e). Scripture, through the types to the antitypes, is in complete agreement with itself.

13). We can know for certain that –

2Corinthians 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

a). And we can know for certain that this will be after a complete period of time – 6 days – 6000 years –

Hebrews 10:37

"For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.

b). And can also know for certain that this must take place before God destroys Gentile world power –

Revelation 11:15

Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

This comes after that seven-year period we know of as the Tribulation, the time of Jacob's trouble, Daniel's 70th Week.

c). And before God's restoration of Israel (which takes place during that same 7-year time frame) –

Jeremiah 23:7

"Therefore, behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "that they shall no longer say, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,' 8 "but, 'As the LORD lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I had driven them.' And they shall dwell in their own land."

14). So as we can see from the scriptures that all the events recorded in the Book of Ruth move inexorably towards Boaz's threshing floor. This is an event pictured throughout scripture, an event that we cannot escape, that will be manifested at its pre-appointed time. It is an event that we should look forward to with excitement and anticipation, if we have like Ruth prepared properly – or it will be an event filled with terror that will overtake us like a thief in the night if we have been so foolish to ignore its inevitability.

a). Let us take heart and take heed of that recorded for us in –

1Thessalonians 4:13

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words. 5:1 ¶ But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should

write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 ¶ Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. 11 ¶ Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

14). Church, we know what the Word of God says ... it only remains for us to decide what we will do with it.

15). Next week, God willing, we will return to Boaz's threshing floor and conclude this section of the message.