

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of February 26, 2023

THEME: "Ruth"

BETHLEHEM

Sunday Read Ruth 1:1-16

"So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter-in-law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest." The city of Bethlehem came into the limelight with the arrival of Naomi and Ruth after the death of their husbands. Bethlehem became forever significant as the birthplace of Jesus the Son of God. Naomi, along with her husband Elimelech and two sons, had left their hometown of Bethlehem because of a famine in the land of Judah. While there, the two sons married Moabite women, who were Gentiles. This could be considered a prefiguring of the inclusion of Gentiles into the Christian faith in God's overall scheme of things in the future. Although born into a Jewish home to eventually take the throne of David in Jerusalem, Jesus is the Savior of the world. The Gentiles would join the Jews to become the Church, which originally consisted solely of Jews in her inception. As the angel said to the shepherds in Luke 2, the message of the gospel is for "all people."

MOTHER-IN-LAW

Monday Read Ruth 1:19-22

"So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter-in-law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest." It is interesting to see how often God has used the extended family to accomplish His work on His earth down through the ages. Remember Abraham taking his nephew Lot when called to leave his homeland. We read this in Genesis 12:5: *"And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came."* It was , the father-in-law of Moses who gave his son-in-law some valuable advice as we read in Exodus 18:17: *"And Moses' father-in-law said unto him, The thing that thou doest is not good."* We are all familiar with the visit that Mary, the mother of Jesus, made to her cousin Elisabeth when pregnant with Jesus recorded in Luke 1:36-40: *"And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren...And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Judah; and entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth."*

BOAZ

Tuesday Read Ruth 2:1-3

"And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz." Boaz was a wealthy businessman who had hired many employees to work the fields. Ruth took it upon herself to join them in a part of the land that belonged to Boaz. One day Boaz noticed her and inquired about who this woman was. He was told that she was a Moabite who had returned to Judah with Naomi. God used these circumstances to bring Ruth into His scheme of things that would change the course of the nation and eventually the whole world! What a

reminder this is of the truth of Romans 8:28: *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."*

ROMANCE

Wednesday Read Ruth 2:8-12

"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. The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God" One day Boaz took notice of Ruth, and he asked the other workers about her. The foreman advised him that she was the Moabite woman that had returned with Naomi. He explained to Boaz that she had asked to work with them in the fields. Boaz then approached Ruth and reassigned her to work with the other women rather than in the fields with the men. He warned the workers in the fields not to touch Ruth. Eventually, Boaz had a conversation with Ruth and was highly complementary as noted in today's Bible reading. That conversation began a very special relationship!

PARENTHOOD

Thursday Read Ruth 4:12-22

"So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the Lord gave her conception, and she bare a son." The romance resulted in a marriage, and God blessed Boaz and Ruth with a son whom they named Obed. It is important to note a significant detail that God included in this birth announcement: *"The Lord gave her conception."* The baby in the womb is a work of God. The psalmist and the prophet affirmed that important truth in Psalm 139:13 and Jeremiah 1:5: *"For thou hast possessed my reins...Thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet."* As it turned out, that child Obed became the grandfather of David, who eventually became the King of Israel!

PROPHETIC TRUTH

Friday Read II Samuel 7:12-13

"And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever." Fast forward in the life of David, Ruth's great grandson, and we read this covenant that God made with David in today's Bible reading. God told David that his throne would be that of an eternal kingdom, giving notice that this was the Messianic line into which Jesus would be born. Little did Naomi and Ruth know how God would bless them because of the special relationship that grew out of what could be considered tragic circumstances years before!

MESSIANIC LINE

Saturday..... Read Matthew 1:5-6

"And Salmon begat Boaz of Rahab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse; and Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias." It could be argued that the most profound truth in the

book of Ruth is that she was the great-grandmother of David. It was David to whom God made the covenant of His eternal kingdom. We know now that Jesus, God the Son, is that eternal king. How interesting that Ruth is the only woman mentioned in this Messianic line of Jesus. All that because she was willing to depart from her own people and be with her mother-in-law Naomi. Little did Ruth know that God would honor her to that degree because of her decision not to depart from her mother-in-law!