

God's Relentless Pursuit of Ruth, And You!

What Is God Doing In Your Life?

Circa, 1100 Years Before Christ

The last line in the book of Judges.

Judges 21:25 (NLT2)

“In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.”

Ruth 1:1-2 (NLT2)

“In the days when the judges ruled in Israel, a severe famine came upon the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah left his home and went to live in the country of Moab, taking his wife and two sons with him. ² The man’s name was Elimelech, and his wife was Naomi. Their two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in the land of Judah. And when they reached Moab, they settled there.”

Summary of a Short Story

- Elimelech – (My God is my king) – takes Naomi (Pleasant)
- 2 sons, Mahlon (Wimpy, sick) and Kilion (Perishing, dying)
- Leave Bethlehem – (House of bread or the breadbasket), during a famine
- Goes to Moab – Arch enemy, idolize human sacrifice
- “They settled there.”

Naomi's Men Exit The Story.

Ruth 1:3-5 (NLT2)

Then Elimelech died, and Naomi was left with her two sons. The two sons married Moabite women. One married a woman named **Orpah**, and the other a woman named **Ruth**. But about ten years later, both **Mahlon** and **Kilion** died. This left Naomi alone, without her two sons or her husband.

Ruth 1:16-18 (NLT2)

But Ruth replied,

“Don’t ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!”

When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said nothing more.

A Bitter Sweet Home Coming

Ruth 1:19-22 (NLT2)

So the two of them continued on their journey. When they came to Bethlehem, the entire town was excited by their arrival. “Is it really Naomi?” the women asked.

“Don’t call me Naomi,” she responded. “Instead, call me Mara, for the Almighty has made life very bitter for me. ²¹ I went away full, but the LORD has brought me home empty. Why call me Naomi when the LORD has caused me to suffer and the Almighty has sent such tragedy upon me?”They arrived in Bethlehem in late spring, at the beginning of the barley harvest.



A “Chance Encounter”

Ruth 2:3 (NIV)

So she went out and began to glean in the fields behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she found herself working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelech.

Today we might say:
“It just so happened”

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- Q: Naomi sees the groceries: What field did you work today?
- A: Ruth: The name of the man is Boaz.
- R: Naomi: He is our close relative, he's a kinsman-redeemer.

Naomi Plays Cupid with Ruth and Boaz



Become The Blessing For Which You Pray

- **When Boaz awakens, he says,**
"Who are you?" Ruth replies, "I am your servant Ruth," "Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman-redeemer." (3:9)
- **Note: Back in Ruth 2:12, Boaz had blessed Ruth as follows:**
"May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge."
- Ruth challenges Boaz to become the blessing that he requested of Yahweh!

Boaz Negotiates To Become *Kinsman-Redeemer*

Boaz is the second in line kinsman-redeemer but the first in line refuses so Boaz becomes the kinsman-redeemer.

Ruth 4:9-10 (NLT2)

Then Boaz said to the elders and to the crowd standing around, “You are witnesses that today I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelech, Kilion, and Mahlon. ¹⁰ And with the land I have acquired Ruth, the Moabite widow of Mahlon, to be my wife. This way she can have a son to carry on the family name of her dead husband and to inherit the family property here in his hometown. You are all witnesses today.”

Ruth 4:13-16 (NLT2)

So Boaz took Ruth into his home, and she became his wife.

When he slept with her, the LORD enabled her to become pregnant, and she gave birth to a son.¹⁴ Then the women of the town said to Naomi, “Praise the LORD, who has now provided a redeemer for your family! May this child be famous in Israel.

¹⁵ May he restore your youth and care for you in your old age. For he is the son of your daughter-in-law who loves you and has been better to you than seven sons!”¹⁶ Naomi took the baby and cuddled him to her breast. And she cared for him as if he were her own.

What was God Doing?

Well...

“It just so happened...”

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The neighbor women said, “Now at last Naomi has a son again!” And they named him Obed. He became the father of Jesse and the grandfather of David. Ruth 4:17

What is God Doing in Your Life?

Those...

“It Just So Happened”

Is another way of saying,

“God Is At Work.”