

Great Grandparents to a King

The Story of Ruth and Boaz

Part 3
A Testimony of God's
Protection
Ruth 3



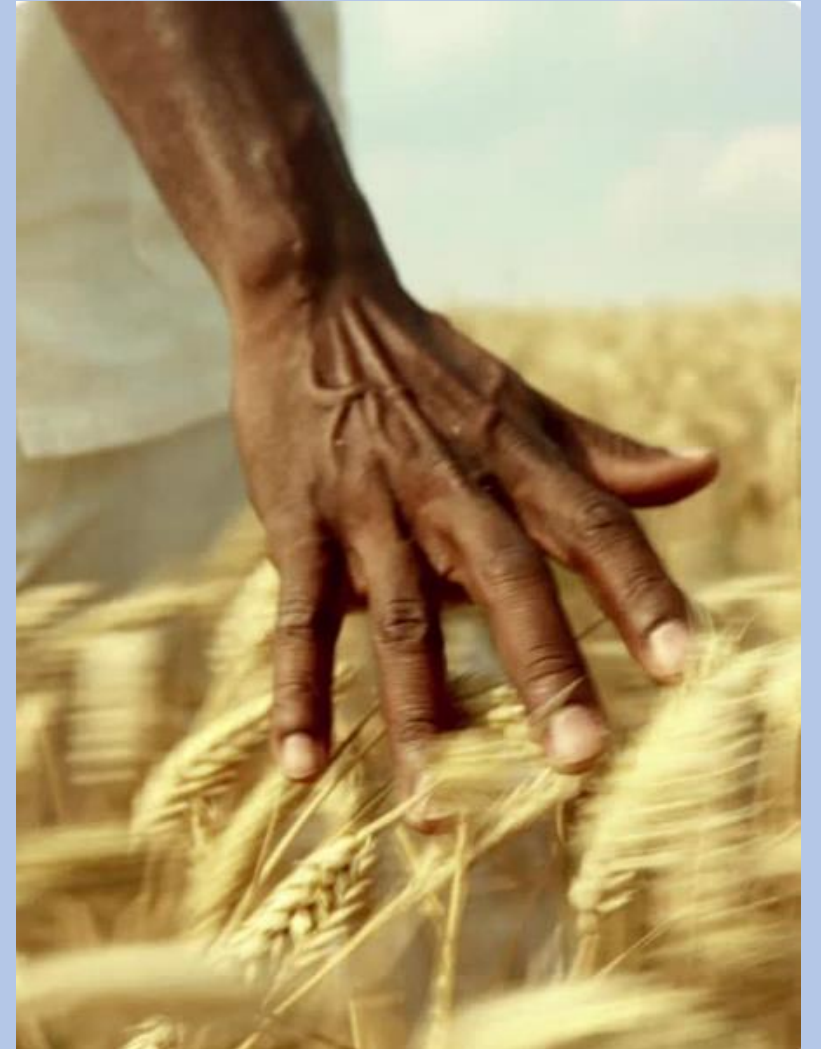
A Little Review from last week:

- Naomi decides to return to Bethlehem
- Naomi's spirit is crushed (after all she lost her husband and 2 sons), but through a series of events ordained by God, her life will be repaired and restored
- Ruth, someone who was without hope was blessed beyond what she could dream and Naomi will once again find joy in the Lord



A Little Review from last week:

- Ruth begins working for Boaz
- We learned that Boaz was a worthy man of high moral character
- We also learned that Boaz was quite attracted to Ruth and I think the feelings were mutual for Ruth
- Two people with upstanding character were about to fall madly in love



Evidence of God's Protection



Ruth 3:1-18

Here is what life
was like for a
woman at the
time in which
Ruth lived:

For the most part it was a man's world

Those women who were married were
cared for by their husbands

Those women who were not married
had to rely on other men with the
character to take on such a
responsibility

Here is what life
was like for a
woman at the
time in which
Ruth lived:

Jewish law would require that widows
were to be cared for

Caring for those in need or those
incapable of taking care of themselves
fell on the shoulders of those who had
the means to do so

What does the Old Testament say about caring for orphans, widows and the needy?

“You shall not pervert the justice due to the sojourner or to the fatherless, or take a widow's garment in pledge, but you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this. “When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. When you beat your olive trees, you shall not go over them again. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow. When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not strip it afterward. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow.” Deuteronomy 24:17-21

Caring for the less fortunate is a principle found throughout Scripture:

Caring for others is a form of protection and this is an attribute God has displayed throughout the Old and New Testament

Ruth is about to receive divine protection and provision through Boaz and the results are beyond her dreams

Evidence of God's Protection



Seen through the Plan of Redemption
(Ruth 3:1-5)



“Then Naomi her mother-in-law said, my daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you? Now is not **Boaz our kinsman**, with whose maids you were? Behold, he winnows barley at the threshing floor tonight. Wash yourself therefore, and anoint yourself and put on your best clothes, and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking ” (Ruth 3:1-3)



“It shall be when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies, and you shall go over and uncover his feet and lie down; then he will tell you what you shall do. She said to her, all that you say I will do”
(Ruth 3:4-5)

Evidence of God's Protection – Through the Plan of Redemption

- Take note of Naomi's care for Ruth and her future; "My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you" (Vs 1):
 - ✓ Naomi was concerned for Ruth's well being
 - ✓ Naomi was concerned for Ruth's future
 - ✓ The Lord had everything planned

Evidence of God's Protection – Through the Plan of Redemption

- Naomi points out that Boaz (the man in whose field that Ruth worked) was a kinsman
- ✓ Boaz was a relative of Elimelech
- ✓ This made Boaz an eligible candidate to be a kinsman redeemer – someone who could “redeem” or take on the responsibilities of a relative who dies (Leviticus 25)
- ✓ Boaz clearly loved Ruth and clearly desired to fulfill that role

Evidence of God's Protection – Through the Plan of Redemption

- The Lord's Protection does not come by accident
 - ✓ Ruth worked in the field of Boaz because God directed her there
 - ✓ Boaz, though not the closest relative (as we will see) and perhaps not the first option to be a kinsman redeemer but he was God's choice
 - ✓ The Lord's choice is always the "Right Choice"

“It shall be when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies, and you shall go over and uncover his feet and lie down; then he will tell you what you shall do. She said to her, all that you say I will do” (Ruth 3:4-5)

- Take note how God brought Ruth and Boaz together
 - ✓ Naomi also would have known that Boaz was at the threshing floor
 - ✓ Thus Naomi instructed Ruth to prepare herself (bathe and put on her best clothes)
 - ✓ Ruth will lie at Boaz’s feet, which was a ceremonial act that was completely proper
 - ✓ Boaz’s (a man of noble character) actions also will not compromise his or Ruth’s testimony

Evidence of God's Protection



Seen through the Purpose of
Redemption
(Ruth 3:6-10)



“So, she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law had commanded her. When Boaz had eaten and drunk and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came secretly and uncovered his feet and lay down. It happened in the middle of the night that the man was startled and bent forward; and behold, a woman was lying at his feet” (Ruth 3:6-8)



“He said, who are you? And she answered, I am Ruth your maid. So **spread your covering over your maid**, for you are a **close relative**. Then he said, may you be blessed of the Lord, my daughter. You have shown your last kindness to be better than the first by not going after young men whether poor or rich”
(Ruth 3:9-10)

Evidence of God's Protection – Through the Purpose of Redemption

- God's purposes are always holy and righteous as were Ruth and Boaz's
 - ✓ Naomi knew exactly what appropriate behavior was and she taught Ruth what to do
 - ✓ Ruth did precisely what she was told
 - ✓ When Boaz awoke in the middle of the night and discovers Ruth at his feet – he too did nothing inappropriate

Evidence of God's Protection – Through the Purpose of Redemption

- Ruth responds; “I am Ruth your maid (servant). So spread your covering over your maid, for you are a close relative”:

- ✓ Ruth was asking Boaz to be her redeemer by requesting that he spread his blanket over her which symbolized Boaz as her **protector** and **provider**.
- ✓ Boaz knew precisely what Ruth was asking
- ✓ Boaz was prepared to be her redeemer by offering her the security of marriage

Evidence of God's Protection – Through the Purpose of Redemption

- Boaz responds; “May you be blessed my daughter”:
 - ✓ There was an age difference between Ruth and Boaz
 - ✓ Boaz commended her for not going after a “younger man” and thus fulfilling her commitment to her first husband to do everything possible to continue the family lineage (the whole purpose of the kinsman redeemer)

Evidence of God's Protection – Through the Purpose of Redemption

- God's purpose of redemption is seen through the fact that Ruth **needed** to be redeemed and Boaz was the **means** of redemption:
 - ✓ Ruth could have gone her own way and did her own thing, but she didn't. She needed and wanted a **redeemer**
 - ✓ Boaz was completely capable and qualified to be Ruth's redeemer and he too could have done his own thing, but he didn't. There was a "right way", and Boaz chose that way!

Evidence of God's Protection



Seen through the Pledge of
Redemption
(Ruth 3:11-18)




“Now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you whatever you ask, for all my people in the city know that **you are a woman of excellence**. Now it is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I. Remain this night, and when morning comes, if he will redeem you, good; let him redeem you. But if he does not wish to redeem you, then **I will redeem you**, as the Lord lives. Lie down until morning”

(Ruth 3:11-13)

“So she lay at his feet until morning and rose before one could recognize another; and he said, Let it not be known that a woman came to the threshing floor. Again he said, give me the cloak that is on you and hold it. So she held it, and he measured six measures of barley and laid it on her. Then she went into the city” (Ruth 3:14-15)



A close-up photograph of a vibrant red rose resting on a dark, textured stone pedestal. The rose is in sharp focus, showing the intricate layers of its petals. The background is blurred, showing green foliage and other stone structures. A white, torn-edge style silhouette is overlaid on the left side of the image, partially covering the rose and the background.

“When she came to her mother-in-law, she said, how did it go, my daughter? And she told her all that the man had done for her She said, these six measures of barley he gave to me, for he said, do not go to your mother-in-law empty handed. Then he said, wait, my daughter, until you know how the matter turns out; **for the man will not rest until he has settled it today**”
(Ruth 3:16-18)

Evidence of God's Protection – Through the Pledge of Redemption

- There was a little glitch in the redemption process for Ruth:
 - ✓ Boaz knew there was another kinsman who was one spot closer than he was in the redeemer pecking order
 - ✓ Boaz could have overlooked this technicality, but his character wouldn't allow him to
 - ✓ Boaz had to give the opportunity for the other kinsman to be the "kinsman redeemer" since it was his right to do so

Evidence of God's Protection – Through the Pledge of Redemption

- There was a little glitch in the redemption process for Ruth:
 - ✓ This meant Ruth had to wait just a little longer
 - ✓ Boaz would go to the other kinsman and give him the opportunity to redeem Ruth
 - ✓ Should the other kinsman not exercise his right to redeem Ruth then Boaz would do it with great joy!

“So, she lay at his feet until morning and rose before one could recognize another; and he said, Let it not be known that a woman came to the threshing floor. Again, he said, give me the cloak that is on you and hold it. So, she held it, and he measured six measures of barley and laid it on her. Then she went into the city”
(Ruth 3:14-15)

- Boaz’s pledge of protection is also seen in his watch care over Ruth:
 - ✓ He protects her testimony and her integrity by seeing to it that she doesn’t fall victim to gossip. Nothing inappropriate happened but gossipers are not careful about the facts
 - ✓ Boaz also provides for Ruth by supplying her and Naomi with plenty of food while he was away settling the matter of Ruth’s redemption

Evidence of God's
Protection -for us as well



Seen through His Plan, Purpose and
Pledge of Redemption through Christ



- ✓ God has a **plan** to redeem us that was set from the earliest days when Adam and Eve sinned
- ✓ God has a **purpose** to redeem us and bring us (those who believe) unto Himself and to spend eternity with Him
- ✓ God has made a **pledge** to redeem us while we wait for Christ to return, and that pledge is His Holy Spirit

“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in who also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the **redemption of the purchased possession**, to the praise of His glory”
(Ephesians 1:13-14)