

# Study of Ruth: Pointing to Jesus

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**Scripture Focus:** Ruth 4:7-18

The agreement involving the redemption of Elimelech's land, including "Ruth the Moabite, the widow of the dead man, to maintain the dead man's name on his inheritance," (4:5) had been confirmed with the passing of a sandal. It would be Boaz doing the redeeming, not "so and so." Mahlon's wife Ruth, a foreigner, would now be the wife of Boaz. Notice, those who witnessed the transaction not only attested to what had taken place but added their blessing. (See 4:11-12.) What a blessing it was!

- What does the willingness of Boaz to take Ruth, a foreigner from an enemy country, as his wife to bear his children communicate? Perhaps knowing that Rahab of Jericho (and a former Canaanite prostitute) was related to Boaz might help shed some light. Rahab was redeemed and integrated into the tribe of Judah, as was Ruth. **(See the genealogy of Jesus, Mt. 1:1-16.)**
- Even in the present, there are those who speak of "blood purity" and the importance of avoiding "contamination" when people of different groups and countries bear children. How does this story speak to those who have these concerns or hold such views?

Ruth bore a son and he was called "Obed". Obed became the father of Jesse, the father of David. Yes, that would be King David! The son of Ruth and Boaz was the great grandfather of David from whose line would come the Savior and Redeemer of the world, God in the flesh, full of unfailing love, mercy, grace, and truth.

This story emphasizes steadfast love and faithfulness. The main characters, Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz all manifest acts of "*chesed*," Hebrew for steadfast love. Ruth shows *chesed* in cleaving to Naomi, Naomi shows *chesed* to Ruth in securing her future, and Boaz shows *chesed* to Ruth in redeeming her. Above all, God shows *chesed* to each and every one, AND to all of us!

**"It was from Boaz, an Israelite without deceit, and from Ruth who became an Israelite not in race but in mind; not in blood but faith; not by tribe but by virtue and goodness, that Jesus came as the most perfect expression of all graces." (H. Lockyer)**