

The Romance of Redemption

Chapter 5

Audio Lesson: Old Testament Survey lesson 31



Objective: To understand from the story of Ruth how God loves and redeems His people.



“Where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.”

—Ruth 1:16

The book of Ruth is a beautiful love story that took place in the days of the judges. This love story mirrors salvation and our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Old and New Testament Scriptures tell us we are betrothed to Him as a bride is betrothed to her bridegroom. The book of Ruth presents this relationship as a “Romance of Redemption.”

Ruth was not a Hebrew, but after her Hebrew husband died, she chose to identify with her mother-in-law’s people. Her commitment to Naomi, to the Hebrew people, and to God is a remarkable picture of loyalty. In her story, we see how God loves those who are not part of His family and how His grace applies to those who love Him. From the law of the “kinsman redeemer,” we learn how God redeems those who come to Him and brings them into His eternal family.



1. True or false? The period of the judges is considered a low point of Hebrew history spiritually, culturally, intellectually, and socially.
2. True or false? A love story is very appropriate to include in the Bible.
3. True or false? The book of Ruth is more than a love story. It is also an allegory that teaches us spiritual truths.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

4. How does Scripture most frequently portray God's relationship to His people?
 - a. As a master to his slaves
 - b. As a teacher to his students
 - c. As a bridegroom to his bride
 - d. As a general to his army

5. What does the book of Ruth illustrate?
 - a. Captivity
 - b. Redemption
 - c. Disobedience
 - d. Holiness

6. What country was Ruth from?
 - a. Moab
 - b. Egypt
 - c. Midian
 - d. Israel

7. What attitude did Ruth show when she went with Naomi to Bethlehem?
 - a. She was very reluctant to go.
 - b. She agreed to try living in Bethlehem for a few months.
 - c. She just wanted to get away from Moab.
 - d. She made a pledge of loyalty to the Hebrew people and their faith.

8. Who did Naomi blame for all of her problems?
 - a. Ruth
 - b. Herself
 - c. God
 - d. Boaz

9. How does God deal with prodigals? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. He lets them suffer the consequences of their choices.
 - b. He turns His back on them.
 - c. He makes everything work out well for them.
 - d. He welcomes them back when they return.

10. How did God's laws affect Ruth?
 - a. She experienced judgment because of them.
 - b. She experienced grace because of them.
 - c. She did not have to obey them because she was not a Hebrew.
 - d. The law excluded her from Israel.

11. What did a kinsman-redeemer do for a widow?
- a. He paid all her debts and married her.
 - b. He paid her debts and let her go.
 - c. He married her after she paid her debts.
 - d. He agreed to find a good husband for her.



Naomi was bitter at God and did not want to accept any responsibility for the consequences of the choices she had made. Have you made some bad choices and are now suffering the consequences? What should you do?

In what ways is your commitment to God like Ruth's commitment? Will you go wherever He leads? Write a statement of your loyalty to Him in the space below.



Thank God for His grace and acceptance, and praise Him for His mercy. Ask Him to help you understand His love more deeply.



Going Deeper

1. Would a good title for the first chapter of the book of Ruth highlight a prodigal father, a prodigal mother, or a prodigal family? Why? _____

2. Joshua, Judges and Ruth are history books and allegories. What is the allegorical theme of the book of Ruth? _____

3. In what way does the pledge of loyalty that Ruth gives to Naomi (Ruth 1:16) show that she had become a believer while she was living in Moab? _____

4. What hope did Ruth have when she returned to Bethlehem with Naomi? _____

5. How did Ruth know she had the right to go follow behind the reapers in the fields as a gentile woman? _____

6. Why was Naomi overjoyed when she heard that Ruth had gleaned in the fields of Boaz? _____

7. Since this couple and their child are in the genealogy of the Messiah, was the reality that she happened to glean in the fields of Boaz fortunate, random chaos, a coincidence or was it Providential? Explain. _____
