

**Ruth, the Faithful Moabitess**  
**Ruth 1-4**  
**Lesson 17**

**Trinity Bible Church Sunday School**  
**December 27, 2009**

# The Book of Ruth

- ▶ **It's not about Ruth!**
- ▶ **It's not about Elimelech!**
- ▶ **It's not about Naomi!**
- ▶ **It's not about Boaz!**
- ▶ **It's not about Obed!**
- ▶ **The Book of Christ**

# One Nation Under God

- ▶ Nation established in the Promised Land
- ▶ Organized under the Law of Moses

# One Nation Under God

- ▶ During the time of the judges,
- ▶ the Israelites became like the Canaanites,
- ▶ but God preserved them as a distinct, surviving people and nation
- ▶ by raising up judges who saved them from their enemies.

# One Nation Under God

- ▶ Character of the age – Judges 17-21
- ▶ No king in Israel
- ▶ Everyone did what was right in his own eyes
- ▶ Can God fulfill His Promise to Abraham?
- ▶ Ruth answers that question

# The Book of Ruth – Outline

- ▶ Ruth 1 – The days of the judges
- ▶ Ruth 2 – The kindness of the LORD (CHECED)
- ▶ Ruth 3 – The kinsman-redeemer (GA'AL)
- ▶ Ruth 4 – The blessing of God

# Ruth 1 – the days of the judges

- ▶ Elimelech – *My God is king*
- ▶ Naomi, Mahlon, Chilion
- ▶ Went to dwell in Moab
  - Under judgment – (famine Deut. 28)
  - Faithless
- ▶ Loss of blessing – death of father and sons

# Naomi returns to Israel

- ▶ Naomi in search of blessing  
The LORD visited His people . . .
- ▶ Faithless  
Sent daughters-in-law back to Moab to find rest
- ▶ No hope or expectation of blessing  
Contrast with Job 13:15 and Habakkuk 3:17-18
- ▶ Bitter (*Mara*)



# Ruth

- ▶ Condemned nation – Deuteronomy 23:3-6
- ▶ Married Mahlon (Ruth 4:10)
- ▶ Devotion to Naomi – seemingly (1:16-17)
  - Devotion to the people of Naomi
  - Devotion to the God of Naomi
- ▶ Ruth the faithful Moabitess

# **An upside down world**

- ▶ Naomi, the Jew – doubted goodness of God
- ▶ Ruth, the Moabite – entrusted herself to God

# Ruth 2 – the kindness of the LORD

- ▶ A relative of Naomi's husband
- ▶ Ruth enters the harvest
- ▶ She “happened to come . . .” (2:3)
- ▶ The great wealth of Boaz
- ▶ “A full reward . . . under His wings”
- ▶ An honored servant of Boaz

# Ruth 2 – the kindness of the LORD

- ▶ Naomi's interpretation (2:20)
- ▶ The kindness (CHECED) of the LORD
- ▶ A kinsman-redeemer

# **Ruth 3 – The kinsman-redeemer**

- 1. Property or slave (Leviticus 25:25-55)**
- 2. Property dedicated to the LORD (Leviticus 27)**
- 3. Manslaughter – Cities of Refuge**
- 4. God is Israel's Redeemer (Psalms and Prophets)**

# Ruth 3 – The kinsman-redeemer

- ▶ Marriage to the kinsman-redeemer
- ▶ The precedent of the daughters of Zelophehad
- ▶ Numbers 26:33; 27:1-11; Joshua 17:3-6
- ▶ Must marry within the clan of the tribe of their father (Numbers 36:1-11)

# Ruth 3 – The kinsman-redeemer

- ▶ Naomi's plan
- ▶ Kinsman-redeemer
- ▶ Take me under your wing
- ▶ Boaz noted her character
- ▶ Boaz accepted the responsibility

# Ruth 4 – the blessing of God

- ▶ The transaction at the gate
- ▶ Protection of hereditary property
- ▶ The principle of the daughters of Zelophehad
- ▶ The name of Elimelech is perpetuated



# Ruth 4 – the blessing of God

- ▶ Bonus Lesson (4:17-22)
- ▶ Ruth, Moabitess, is brought into the family of Christ – the coming King.
- ▶ Ruth illustrates the plan of God
- ▶ The Coming King who is Kinsman-Redeemer will be united to His people.

# **The final lesson from an evil era**

- ▶ God is at work
- ▶ He will provide a King
- ▶ The end will be more than we could imagine
- ▶ The blessing is received through faith