

“REDEMPTION’S ROMANCE”

(Dale G. Hudson)

June 21, 2020

“Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons.” (Ruth 1:1)

The days when the judges ruled... - These were the times of the Judges. It was not Israel’s finest hour. This was a time before Israel had a king; a time when those who were in charge were military leaders appointed by God. After the death of Joshua, military leaders led Israel into the continuation of the conquest of Canaan.

- Even though God swore to give the Land of Canaan to them, Israel refused to drive out the inhabitants of the land. It is ironic that one of the first things the Lord commanded Israel to do when they entered Canaan (the Promised Land) was to tear down their idols—which they refused to do.
- Then, on top of that, when Joshua’s generation died, there arose another generation who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel.
- One of the main reasons God chose Abraham was that he would teach his children and continue the legacy of the truth and integrity of the covenant and how not to break it. (Gen. 18:19)

It was during this turbulent time that we find a love story!

Key Statement: The book of Ruth is read only at the Feast of Weeks—Shavuot or Pentecost—and it is only at this feast that leaven (yeast) is used.

Hosea 12:10 –

“I have also spoken by the prophets, and have multiplied visions and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets.”

- Similitudes – A comparison between two things; the quality or state of being similar to something; a resemblance
- *Damah* (Strong’s Heb.) – To compare; by implication, to resemble, liken, consider, devise (be) like – (n.) mean, think, use, to be like

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Prophecy

Greek Model:

Prophecy = Prediction → Fulfillment

Hebrew Model:

Prophecy = Pattern

Again, this book is always read at the Feast of Weeks (Shavuot). This is the only feast in which leaven is used, unlike Passover.

“Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem-Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.” (Ruth 1:1)

- Who: The family of Naomi
- What: The actions taken because of a famine
- When: In the days of the Judges (After Joshua, but before their first king)
- Where: Bethlehem to Moab

The Time of the Judges:

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|----------|
| - Othniel | - Deborah | - Tola |
| - Ehud | - Gideon | - Abdon |
| - Shamgar | - Jephthah | - Samson |

“Famine” – The reason why the family leaves the land (Bethlehem, Judah) typically when there is sin (such as idolatry), God would shut up the heavens and there would be no rain. (Lev. 26, Deut. 11:16-17)

Famines took place during the lifetime of:

- | | |
|-----------|----------------|
| - Abraham | - Gen. 12:10 |
| - David | - 2 Sam. 21:1 |
| - Elijah | - 1 Kings 17:1 |
| - Gideon | - Judges 6:2-5 |

The famine had to have lasted for several years to compel the Naomi’s family to leave the land and find sustenance in Moab.

When the family left for Moab, Naomi also left their land in Bethlehem and the right to farm on it.

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Ten (10) years would pass before Naomi would hear that the famine had ended.

Key Statement: This is the Book that links Bethlehem to David!

Sojourn – “Gur” Heb. – A resident alien. “To live among people who are not blood relatives; as a foreigner”

Moab – One of two sons of Lot conceived by the incestuous relation with one of his daughters (Gen. 19:36, 37)

- The Moabites had hired Balaam to curse Israel during their journey toward Canaan.
- Under normal circumstances, the Moabites were barred from participation in the national, corporate life of Israel. (Deut. 23:3-6)
- It was the woman of Moab (under the council of Balaam) that tempted Israel to sin and commit adultery with them in the worship of Baal Peor. (Num. 25)

Elimelech – Naomi’s husband – “God is King”

Naomi – “Pleasant”

Mahlon – “To be sick, unhealthy, sickly”

Chilion – “Wasting” or “pining” (suffer a mental and physical decline)

“And Elimelech, Naomi’s husband dies; and she was left, and her two sons.” (Ruth 1:3)

“And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years.” (Ruth 1:4)

Orpah – “Fawn or Gazelle” – (married Chilion)

Ruth – “Friendship” or “Desirable” (married Mahlon) (Ruth 4:10)

“And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband.” (Ruth 1:5)

When Elimelech (Naomi’s husband) left Bethlehem for Moab, he lost his property. (Possibly he sold it or lost it being in debt)

“Then she arose with her daughters-in-law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the Lord had visited His people in giving them bread.” (Ruth 1:6)

Read Ruth 1:7-15

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The national god of Moab was “Chemosh” and the local god/deity was “Baal Peor” which covered human sacrifice and sexual perversion. (Num. 21:29, Num. 25; 1 Kings 11:7,33; 2 Kings 3:26-27)

vs. 16 –

“Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge;

Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God; where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried.

The Lord do also to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me.”

“The Lord”-

Instead of invoking the name of the Moabite god chemosh, Ruth invokes the name of the covenant-keeping God Jehovah! (in making an oath)

Ruth makes a sevenfold decision:

1. For where you go, I will go.
2. Where you lodge, I will lodge.
3. Your people shall be my people.
4. And your God my God.
5. Where you die, I will die.
6. And there will I be buried.
7. The Lord do so to me, and more also, if anything but death part you and me.

Similar Formulas used Seven Times in Samuel and Kings:

By Eli concerning Samuel	1 Sam. 3:17
By Saul of Jonathan’s execution	1 Sam. 14:44
Of Jonathan’s Friendship with David	1 Sam. 20:13
By David concerning Nabal	1 Sam. 25:22
By David concerning Amasa	2 Sam. 19:13
By Ben-Hadad concerning Samaria	1 Kings 20:10

“An Ammonite of Moabite shall not enter the assembly of the Lord; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the assembly of the Lord forever.” (Deut. 23:3)

It took “10 generations” before a Moabite could get into the assembly or get residency amongst Israel.

The Law may have excluded us from God’s family, but GRACE includes us when we put our faith in the “Kinsman Redeemer”!

In the genealogy of Matthew 4, the names of five (5) women are included (4 were unsavory):

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1. Tamar – Committed incest with her father-in-law Judah
2. Rahab – Committed harlotry
3. Ruth – A Moabitess (outcast)
4. Bathsheba – Another man’s wife (Uriah), but David took her (Solomon’s mother)
- 5.

“When she (Naomi) saw that she was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her.”
(vs. 18)

(Read vs. 19, 20)

Naomi – Pleasant

Mara – Bitter (Exod. 15:22-27)

Almighty – El Shaddai (The Breasted One)

(Read vs. 21, 22)

The Jew’s Catechism is His Calendar (S.R. Hirsch)

The Heptadic Calendar

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ▪ The Week of Days | The 7 th day is Shabbat |
| ▪ The Week of Weeks | The 50 th day is Shavuot |
| ▪ The Week of Months | The Religious Year |
| ▪ The Week of Years | The Sabbatical Year |
| ▪ Seven Weeks Plus One | The Jubilee Year |

The Jubilee Year:

- All land reverts to its owner
- All slaves go free
- All debts are forgiven
- The time of the restitution of all things (Acts 3:21)

Jubilee