

The Blessed Hope!

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;” –(Titus 2:13)

Diamond & Nugget #15

Why did the Jews read the book of Ruth? This is one of the questions that arises when we look at **Shavuot** or the Feast of Pentecost. Why study the book of Ruth? It's a beautiful literary example and an exemplar of the early Israelite life. It deals with the Laws of Gleaning, Redemption and Levirate marriages covered in the study of the Daughters of Zelophehad –(Numbers 27:1-11). The fact is that the four chapters of Ruth are some of the richest evidence for God's Master Plan of Redemption. This “Diamond & Nugget” will provide an overview of this little 4-chapter book and yet it is loaded with thematic “Typology” insights that are directly linked to the return of the Messiah.

This started out to be the final segment on the True **Shavuot** Pentecost; however, there is significant textual material which adds to the “**harmonization**” of the Hebrew text which gets lost in the English translations of the Bible. I added some key information pertinent to the Leviticus 23:15-16 passage. Most of you only want to know a date for the Rapture rather than how I arrived at the date of **July 20, 2020**. The July 20th date will be for Israel, but in the United States, it will still be **Sunday, July 19, 2020**. How I came to the date is equally as important if for no other reason than to be sure its credibility is clear. Due to the length of this conclusion, (eight pages of detailed complexity for this information), I decided to include it as an appendix and attach it to the last segment “Diamonds & Nuggets #16”. It fully reconciles the issue of two wheat harvests, (spring and summer), plus a true date for Pentecost.

The book of Ruth demonstrates God's grace toward people. In fact, the meaning of the name Ruth is “grace.” In the story, Ruth received blessings from God that she did not merit. And, being a Moabite, she received God's blessings despite her status as a Gentile woman. This book represents what might be perceived as the veil that hangs over the Jews and their inability to see clearly “**For now we see through a glass, darkly;...**” and their God imposed discipline. The Apostle Paul noted this in 1st Corinthians 13:12.

Jack Wellman is Pastor of the Mulvane Brethren church in Mulvane Kansas. Pastor Wellman provides this beautiful synopsis of the Book of Ruth:

The Book of Ruth's author is never mentioned but it was not written by Ruth. Some Bible scholars believe it was written by Samuel but years before David became king as it refers to a "former time" so the date may have been around 1010 B.C. and appears to be an account that took place during the time of the judges. It appears to be written specifically for the nation of Israel so that they could see the lineage of David as coming through Ruth and Boaz. This book is very unique and although one of the shortest books in the Bible, it is one of the most theologically rich in meaning as we will later see.

Famine and Death

Elimelech and Naomi are an Israelite family from Bethlehem. When famine struck the area, they were forced to migrate to Moab which was a pagan nation and that was when Elimelech died. Their two sons married Moabite women, Orpah and Ruth but both of Naomi's sons died so it was only Naomi and her two daughters remaining. This was a great misfortune for the family because they had no source of income and unlike Israel, Moab had no such support system for widows and orphans. The only thing that Naomi could do was to locate one of her kinsman who was Boaz. Naomi tried to make both her daughters-in-law stay behind and although Orpah did, Ruth said one of the most beautiful statements that the Bible has recorded in it; ***"Wherever 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).

Ruth is Greatly Blessed

Naomi located her late husband's kinsman. It was Boaz, which means "my strength" and Ruth went to the fields to glean the fields from what the reapers left. Boaz saw Ruth in the fields gleaning grain and inquired about who she was -(Ruth 2:5). They told Boaz that it was a Moabite woman that came with the widow Naomi from out of Moab. -(Ruth 2:6). Boaz made her feel welcome and invited her to stay in the area and ensured that she and Naomi would have more than enough grain to eat -(Ruth 2:8-10, 15-18). He then invited her to eat with him and the reapers -(Ruth 2:14).

The Kinsman Redeemer

Naomi suggested that it would be best for Ruth to be redeemed by and to marry Boaz, her kinsman redeemer and so she followed the custom of the nation of Israel. Ruth washed herself, anointed herself with perfume, put on her best apparel so that she could lie down at the feet of Boaz and uncover his feet. Then Boaz would then tell her what to do next -(Ruth 3:1-6). She did as she was told and when Boaz had finished his evening meal, he lay down and Ruth uncovered his feet and lay next to them and Boaz was startled awake and asked "Who are you?" Ruth said ***"I am Ruth your handmaid: therefore spread your skirt over your handmaiden; for you are a near kinsman"*** - (Ruth 3:9). Boaz accepted Ruth and said ***"Blessed you are of the Lord, my daughter: for you have shown more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as you didn't follow young men, whether rich or poor. And now, my daughter, don't fear: I will do to you all that you require: for all the city of my people know that you are a virtuous woman. And now it is true that I am your near kinsman: although there is a kinsman nearer than I"*** -(Ruth 3:10-12).

The other kinsman, upon finding out that Ruth and Naomi had no inheritance, declined to take her and so she married Boaz and Boaz became her kinsman redeemer -(Ruth 4:6). Boaz then bought all that Elimelech had, which was really only Elimelech's daughter and widow. Boaz and Ruth ended up marrying and Ruth and Boaz became part of the royal lineage that would extend down to David and hundreds of years later, the lineage of Jesus Christ.

The Purpose of the Book of Ruth

This book was written to Israel but I believe it has an even greater and much deeper meaning to Christians today because it is reflective of our own Redeemer, Jesus Christ. There are striking similarities and symbolisms of what happens to the sinner and what the Redeemer has done for all those who have repented and trusted in Him. For those who have been born again, we are all like Ruth and Christ redeemed us like Boaz redeemed her. Ruth represents the bride of Christ and Boaz represents the Bridegroom, Jesus Christ.

- Christians are like Ruth, a Moabite, or specifically, Gentiles but God offers salvation, first to the Jews but also to the Gentiles also -(Romans 1:16; 2:10).
- Just as Boaz sought after Ruth, so God sought us -(Ruth 2:5-14).
- When Ruth bowed down at Boaz' feet, so we bow down at Christ's feet -(Ruth 2:10) and as Ruth humbled herself before Boaz, we must humble ourselves before Christ -(1st Peter 5:6; James 4:10).
- God ensures we will have all of our needs met like Boaz made sure Ruth would have all that she needed -(Ruth 2:7-16).
- Boaz gave Ruth comfort -(Ruth 2:13) just as God comforts us -(2nd Corinthians 1).
- Jesus gives us the bread of life -(John 6:35) just as Boaz gave Ruth bread to survive -(Ruth 2:14).
- Just as we have all of our sins washed away and have the righteousness of Christ imputed to us -(2nd Corinthians 5:21) so Ruth washed herself and put on her best apparel -(Ruth 3:3) representing our white linen mentioned in Revelation 19:8 and elsewhere.
- Ruth lay at Boaz' feet as an act of submission to his will -(Ruth 3:4) as we should do at Christ's feet being in submission to Him and His will -(James 4:7).
- Christians have had their sinfulness covered by Christ's righteousness; Boaz gave Ruth the veil that she was covered with that had been used by Boaz -(Ruth 3:14-15).

- Boaz purchased the right to redeem Ruth -(Ruth 4:9) so that Elimelech and Naomi's name would not be cut off from among the living, and included of course, Ruth; so too did Jesus Christ purchase us with His own blood and redeemed us from being cut off from having access to God and allowing us to have eternal life.

The Book of Ruth King David and Jesus Christ's Lineage

So Boaz took Ruth ***“Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.”*** Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, ***“A son has been born to Naomi.”*** They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David” (4:13-17).

Conclusion:

It is so easy to see the symbolism of Ruth as the Bride of Christ and Boaz as Christ, our Redeemer. More than a “restorer to life,” He brings us eternal life. He purchased us with His own blood. There is no greater cost that could be paid. If you are a child of God, read the Book of Ruth and see if you don't see the similarities between Ruth and the church and Boaz and Jesus Christ. We were sought, caught, bought, and taught. Like Ruth, we bring nothing. We could no more earn our salvation than Ruth could earn Boaz's redemption of her. The Book of Ruth is a precious story of how we were redeemed by the blood of the Lamb of God, spilled by our Redeemer. It's somewhat like the old hymn Rock of Ages and which Ruth could most certainly identify with: *“Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling; naked come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace.”*

Pastor Jack Wellman's understanding of the Book of Ruth offers a great overview since it illustrates the richness of Typology and Prophecy. The Book of Ruth is a “linking” book that solidifies the unity and purpose for the Old and New Testament.

Ruth contains a critical element in Messianic Genealogy: it connects the House of David with the tribe of Judah. Jesus would not have been born in Bethlehem otherwise. Ruth is a love story in a variety of ways: Between Ruth and Naomi as well as between Ruth and Boaz. God's love for us means that redemption required God to become our kinsman.

Ruth is one of the most dramatic books of prophecy in the Bible. The ancient Jewish Scriptures often included Ruth with the book of the prophets. The basic theme is that these 66 books are a single message system; every book, every name, every detail is there by design. In Ruth every detail not only carries this romance along, it also carries the romance of redemption with it, and it gives us hints about God's plan (Kinsman-

Redeemer; Israel and the Church). The Old Testament course title I had taken was actually named “The Romance of Redemption.”

One cannot fully appreciate the book of Ruth without recognizing that there are multiple levels of study in the book of Ruth:

1. Primary application (historical, an event that actually happened; it occurred in the time of the Judges)
2. Practical (homiletic—application to our own lives)
3. Prophetic revelations (mystical and prophetic insights)

My seminary professor who taught the course on Ruth, Esther, and Song of Solomon began his first day of class with this question, *“Was God’s greatest achievement creation or redemption?”*

- 1) Total space in the Bible devoted to:
Creation (Genesis: two chapters; a few Psalms; Job: two chapters; Isaiah: two chapters)!

Redemption (the entire Bible....)

- 2) What did it cost God? (His Son!)
Two books of the Bible were named after women: Esther and Ruth. Both, in a sense, were involved in the exile. In Hebrew culture women normally are not recognized in genealogies. Four women are mentioned in the Genealogy of the Messiah (three of dubious reputation):

- Tamar
- Rahab (Boaz’ mother)
- Ruth
- Bathsheba

Ruth is largely studied because of its literary structure. Every word is skillfully chosen. There are many word plays, puns, and inclusions... The four chapters of Ruth are some of the richest chapters of the Bible. The Typology of the Bride motif discussed in an earlier “Diamond and Nugget” is the central theme of the Bible, a love letter to humanity! The concept of God’s love is integral to specific laws for God’s people.

Law of Gleaning -(Leviticus 19:9, 10; Deuteronomy 24:19, 21).
Grace is the basis for human existence.

Law of Redemption

Law of redemption -(Leviticus 25:47-50). Israel belongs to God. When Joshua enters the land, it is then granted to the 12 tribes. That land was to stay in that tribe. You could “sell” your land, which was really more of what we would consider a “lease” (you sold the rights to use the land for awhile). In the year of Jubilee the land would return to the original owners. When you sold your land, the title deed would also include the rules for title redemption. The law required a procedure so that if your next of kin would show up

there was some procedure where he could purchase back the unused years (called “redeeming the land”). In Jeremiah 25, Jeremiah was instructed to buy land right before captivity... have to understand what will happen after captivity—Jeremiah’s descendants will come back and claim the land. The title deed would be a scroll on the back of which would detail the procedure for redemption. This whole concept becomes important when you get to Revelation 5, with the seven-sealed book, written within and on the backside and sealed with seven seals. God Himself reclaims the title of all creation, through One who is sinless and the rightful owner of the Earth.

Law of Levirate Marriage -(Deuteronomy 25:5-10). The Levirate marriage dealt with a situation where you had a widow with no issue (husband passed away with no children). She could go to the next of kin and put a claim on him to take her to wife to raise up children for the family. This is called “the Levirate Marriage.”

He had to meet three conditions to make it work. First, he had to be a near kinsman. Secondly, he had to be able to perform. Thirdly, he had to be willing; it was not required. If he chose not to, he had to give her his shoe, a symbol of shame; he had failed to do the kinsman’s part.

Hems

Hems (Greek: *kraspedon*; Hebrew: *shuwl*) hem, border, fringe, bottom edge of skirt or train. In ancient Mesopotamia, “to cut off the hem” was to strip one of his personality, and authority. A husband could divorce his wife by cutting off the hem of her robe. A nobleman would authenticate his name on a clay tablet by pressing his hem on the clay.

- David’s removal of Saul’s hem: 1st Samuel 24.
- Fringes on Levitical garments: Numbers 15:38, 39; Deuteronomy 22:12; Exodus 28:33, 34.
- God’s Covenant with Israel: Ezekiel 16:8; Exodus 39:25, 26.
- Lord’s hem sought for healing: Matthew 14:36; Mark 6:56; Luke 8:44.
- Goal of the woman with issue of blood -(Matthew 9:20-21; Mark 5:31). Same “age” as Jairus’ daughter: 12 years. Gentile woman = type of the Church?
- Joseph’s coat was a seamless robe which was very prized. As was Jesus’ coat.
- For the greatest study of 100 ways Joseph was a type of Jesus Christ, see ‘Genesis’ by A.W. Pink. The value of God’s application of Typology is firmly fixed in Joseph.
- The Temple veil was torn, symbolizing the end of man as a High Priest;
- Jesus’ hem was not torn because He is our High Priest forever.
- In God’s covenant with Israel -(Ezekiel 16 & 39), God says of Israel “***I will spread my skirt over you.***” This is God’s way of expressing His covering, His protection over the House of Israel.
- So, when Ruth says this to Boaz; she is making a claim on him to put her to wife because he is obligated under the Law of the Levirate marriage.

These are merely a few of the hidden concepts in plain sight, and I could easily get carried away with the wealth of Types, Themes, and Motifs that are found in Ruth that reveal the deeper love God has for His children. The name of the Book of Ruth embodies the essence of her name “Grace” as revealed in God’s Love Letter to

humanity. Another way of expressing the meaning of **“Grace”** is **“God’s Richest at Christ’s Expense!”**

The Law is perfect: That is why imperfect men cannot keep it
 The Law is holy: That is why sinners are condemned by it
 The Law is just: Therefore, cannot show mercy to the guilty

| Law | Grace |
|---|---|
| Prohibits | Invites and gives |
| Condemns the sinner | Redeems the sinner |
| Reveals sin | Atones for sin |
| Is the knowledge of sin | Is redemption from sin |
| Was given by Moses | And truth came by Jesus Christ |
| Demands obedience | Bestows and gives power to obey |
| Says do and do not | Says “It is done” |
| Says, continue to be holy | Says “It is finished” |
| Curses | Blesses |
| Slays the sinner | Makes the sinner alive |
| Shuts every mouth before God | Opens the mouth to praise God |
| Condemns the best man | Saves the worst man |
| Says pay what you owe | Says I freely forgive you all |
| Says “The wages of sin is death” | Says “The gift of God is eternal life” |
| Says “The soul that sinneth it shall die” | Says Believe and live |
| Was done away in Christ | Abides forever |
| Puts us under bondage | Sets us in the liberty of the sons of God – (Romans 12:1) |

In the Feasts of the Lord, the first three feasts are well understood as they were clearly prophetic of the First Coming of Jesus Christ; Crucified at Passover’ and Resurrected on the Feast of Firstfruits. There are also three feasts in Tishri (the 7th month). Most scholars believe that the last three feasts have something prophetically to do with the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.



Ruth is traditionally associated with the Feast of Pentecost! It is always read at the Feast of Pentecost (or Feast of Weeks). This is the only feast where leavened bread is called for (leaven is a type of sin and is prohibited in the other feasts). The Feast of Pentecost is predictive of the Church, its birth and its deliverance!

How interesting that the Book of Ruth is associated with the Feast of Weeks. By inductive reasoning and deductive logic our inference is that the True Pentecost is the time of God's "Deliverance before Judgment", i.e., the "Blessed Hope" Rapture!

Blessings in the Name of All Names, Jesus Christ,

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P.S.: The next and final segment of this series, Blessed Hope #16 will bring to a close this series on expanded clarification on why the Church has observed the wrong date for Shavuot or Pentecost.