

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. The name of the man was Elimelech, the name of his wife was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion—Ephrathites of Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to the country of Moab and remained there.

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Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left, and her two sons. Now they took wives of the women of Moab: the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth. And they dwelt there about ten years. Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband. —RUTH 1:1-5

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But she said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me."

—RUTH 1:20

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RUTH 1:20

Scene I: Heartache

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But she said to them,
"Do not call me Naomi;
call me Mara, for the Almighty has
dealt very bitterly with me."

—RUTH 1:20

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THREE LIFE CATEGORIES

Decision

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THREE LIFE CATEGORIES

Divorce

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THREE LIFE CATEGORIES

Death

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RUTH 1:6

Scene II: Hardship

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"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 so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me."
 —RUTH 1:16-17

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So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."
 —RUTH 2:2



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SCENE II: HARDSHIP

RUTH 2:1

The Evidence of God's Providence

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SCENE II: HARDSHIP

RUTH 2:12-13

The Assurance of God's Faithfulness

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The figure of the eagle is used in the Pentateuch as an image of God's power being utilized for the protection and nurturing care of his people. Speaking of Jacob (Israel), Moses declares, "As an eagle stirs up its nest, hovers over its young, spreading out its wings, taking them up, carrying them on its wings, so the Lord alone led him" (Deut. 32:11-12).

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Moreover, God himself compares the Exodus deliverance to an eagle's activity. "You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself" (Exod. 19:4). The "wings," of which Boaz speaks (v. 12), symbolize the power of the grace that Ruth is experiencing, in protection and provision.

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SCENE II: HARDSHIP

RUTH 3:13-23

The Grace of God's Provision

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RUTH 3:1-5

Scene III: Hope

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Certain stipulations of God's Law were designed to care for extended family and kin. According to Leviticus 25:25, when an individual became so poor that he had to sell or forfeit his property, a prosperous relative was to redeem or buy back the property for the poor family member. The Hebrew word that is used for this close relative is "goel" and is translated either as "redeem" or "relative" in the Old Testament. This person is thus called a "kinsman-redeemer."

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Another responsibility of a close relative is found in Deuteronomy 25:5-10. If a husband died before having a male heir, then an unmarried brother of the deceased was to marry the widow and produce the first-born son in his brother's name. If there were no eligible brothers available, then the duty passed on to the closest eligible male relative.

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In Ruth's case there were no brothers available, and thus Boaz, as a close relative, had a responsibility towards Ruth as well as towards the family property which Naomi was forced to sell out of poverty.

So Ruth's behavior in chapter 3 was not some indiscreet escapade, but rather her legally proper initiative to tell Boaz that she was willing for him to take on his responsibilities as kinsman-redeemer (3:9).

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Ruth 4:13-22

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Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab,
Boaz begot Obed by Ruth,
Obed begot Jesse, and
Jesse begot David the king.
MATTHEW 1:5-6a

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But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. —GALATIANS 4:4-5

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For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. —ROMANS 15:4

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There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.
Thank you, oh, my Father, for giving us Your Son,
And leaving us your Spirit
'til the work on earth is done.

—KEITH GREEN

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