

# ◆ ◆ ◆ MELTON MESSAGE ◆ ◆ ◆

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## The Book of Ruth

### CHAPTER 1

Verse 1: Going from Beth-lehem-judah to Moab is certainly not a good move. The name *Bethlehem* means “house of bread,” and the name *Judah* means “praise.” Consequently, Christ, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, was born in Bethlehem. Therefore, Elimelech’s leaving Bethlehem pictures the believer wandering away from Christ. In a more general sense, he can also picture lost humanity who has wandered away from God.

Verse 6: Naomi hears that back in Bethlehem “the LORD had visited his people in giving them bread,” so she decides to return to Bethlehem, thus picturing the wayward saint who decides to return to the Lord’s fellowship.

Verses 15-17: **“And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law.”** If she does, Jesus will not be born in Bethlehem, which the Scriptures require. So, in verses 16 and 17, Ruth says, **“Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.”**

### CHAPTER 2

Verse 1: The name *Boaz* means “strength.” So, just as Boaz has the strength or power to redeem Ruth, Christ has the strength to seek and save that which is lost.

Verse 2: The words **“... him in whose sight I shall find grace ...”** should ring a bell with all Christians who have found grace in the sight of Jesus Christ.

### CHAPTER 3

Verse 1: **“Then Naomi her mother in law said unto her, My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee?”** This is said in the context of Ruth getting a husband, namely Boaz. So, the sinner finds “rest” when he comes to Christ (Mat. 11:2-29).

Verses 4 and 8: **“And it shall be, when he lieth down, that thou shalt mark the place where he shall lie, and thou shalt go in, and uncover his feet, and lay thee down; and he will tell thee what**

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thou shalt do . . . And it came to pass at midnight, that the man was afraid, and turned himself: and, behold, a woman lay at his feet.” So the church’s proper place is in willful submission at the feet of Christ.

## **CHAPTER 4**

Verse 10: Christ purchased the church with his own blood, so Boaz says, **“Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife . . .”** Acts 20:28 is a good cross reference: **“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”**

Verse 11: The words “be famous in Bethlehem” remind us of the most famous name to ever come out of Bethlehem, the name that is above every name, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Verse 15: **“And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life . . .”** So Jesus Christ restores life to all who receive Him. Psalm 69:4 is a good reference: **“. . . then I restored that which I took not away.”**