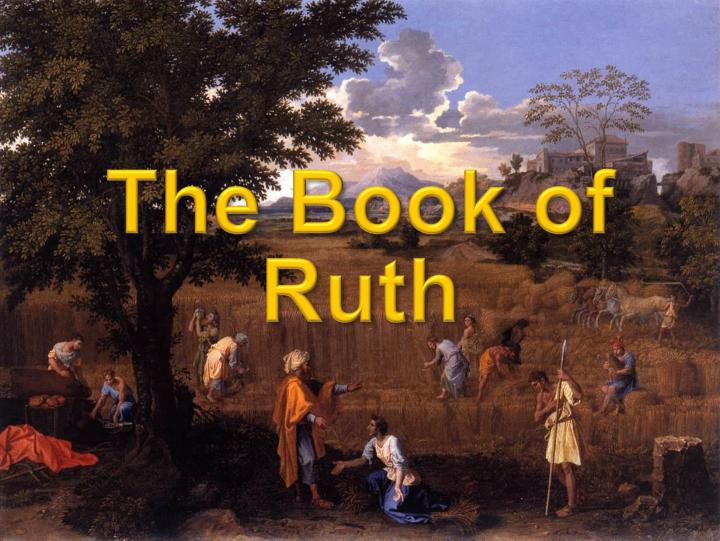
HAT THE



BUBLE IS ABOUT

The book of Ruth PART 1

theultimate



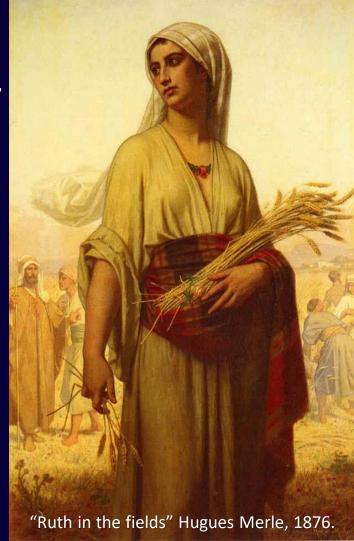
2 TIMOTHY 3:16 16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in right-17 that the man of God may be 11-croughly equipped eousness.

Shavout (Pentecost)

- It is the time of wheat harvest in Israel and is believed to commemorate the anniversary of the day when God gave Torah to Moses on Sinai. It is also believed to be the day of King David's birth and death.
- Shavuot means "sevens" or "weeks," hence it is called the feast of weeks. It falls seven weeks after Passover.
- The Jews celebrate Shavout in several ways:
 - They don't work, attend synagogue, & light candles.
 - The only Mosaic feast using leavened bread.
 - They read the Torah, Ten Commandments, a poem on the greatness of God, and the book of Ruth.

The Book of Ruth

- "In the days the judges ruled."
- The ultimate love story
 - At the literary level
 - At the prophetic level
 - At the personal level
- An extremely significant book for Believers
 - The role of the Goel the Kinsman-Redeemer
 - The essential prerequisite to Revelation



Overview of the book's plot

• Ruth, a Moabite and widow of a Jewish man (and a princess according to commentators), gave up her life in Moab to join her Jewish mother-in-law, Naomi, in the Land of Israel. She insisted on adopting Naomi's God and religion.



- A central element of the story is Ruth going to local barley and wheat harvests to collect charitable handouts. She gleans in the fields of Boaz, a judge and a close relative of Ruth's dead husband Elimelech.
- The marriage of Ruth and Boaz resulted in a child, Obed, the grandfather of King David.

Ruth is a book of history

History covers:

The Book of Judges, like many histories, presents only the wars and battles of its time. The Book of Ruth deals with what average people were doing between those wars.

Real PERSONALITIES

Real PEOPLES

Real PATTERNS

Real PURPOSE

Why Study the Book of Ruth?

- The book of Ruth shows how God works His purposes on the earth even under adverse circumstances.
- Every book, every name, every detail in the 66 books in the Bible is there by design.
- One of the Bible's most dramatic prophetic books.
- Each detail carries the romance of Ruth and Boaz along.
- Each detail <u>also</u> carries along the romance of God's plan of redemption introducing serious concepts like:
 - Kinsman-Redeemer (the Goel)
 - Israel and the Church

The time of the Judges

- During the period between the death of Joshua and the appointment of Saul as king, Israel functioned as tribes in a loose confederation without central government.
- As crises arose, God raised individual deliverers called "judges," unelected temporary non-hereditary leaders.
- The Bible uses "judge" as a verb which means "to decide on," not as a noun "a person who decides cases"
- The time of the Judges (c. 1382-1063 BC) was a time of spiritual confusion, apostasy and moral decay as far as the nation was concerned.
- Yet in the midst of it all, God was working out His plan in those hearts and lives that were open to Him.

Shechem ★Designated City of Refuge Mahanaim? Tappuah SOUTHERN Joppa Adam TRIBES AMMON EPHRAIM DAN Lod Jazer? Bethel Rabbah Jericho (OT) Jabneh BENJAMA Heshbon Aijalon Beth-hoglah Bezer? Ashdod Beth-shemesh . Jebus Ashkelon Medeba Gath REUBEN HADUE Lachish . Hebron Aroer En-gedi Gaz SIMEON Amón River Beersheba . MOAB SIMEON NEGE E D'O M Bozrah.



Judges (human weakness: divine strength)

OPPRESSORS

- King of Jericho
- King of Moab
- Ammonites
- Amalekites
- Philistines
- King of Hazor
- Midianites and Easterns
- Amalekites
- Philistines
- Ammonites
- Ammonites
- Philistines

DELIVERERS

- Otheil
- Ehud
- Shamgar
- Deborah/Barak
- Gideon
- Tola
- Jair
- Jephthan
- Ibzan
- Elon
- Abdon
- Samson

Relationship of Judges and Ruth

- Ruth takes place during thes time of the judges.
- The book of Ruth shows how God works His purposes on the earth even under adverse circumstances.
- Two themes run through the book of Judges:
 - Israel had no king in Israel in those days
 - People did what was right in their own eyes.
- The book of Ruth tells them where their king will come from:
 - Two miles away from the throne (Bethlehem)

In Tanakh, Ruth & Judges are Tbook

In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

Judges 17:6: 21:25

And said unto him [Samuel], Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

1 Samuel 8:5:25



A Question

How could Samuel appoint Saul (a Benjamite) as Israel's first king when he knew that the king was to come from the tribe of Judah?

Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's children shall bow down before you.... The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

Genesis 49:8,10



Who wrote the book of Ruth; when?

- Israel had no king in Israel in those days (thus, "those days" must be over and a king in power).
- David is named in Ruth 4, but not as king (thus, Saul must be the king at the time of the book).
- Samuel (1088-1008 BC) wrote Ruth (and Judges) to switch people's thinking from Saul to David.



Outline of the Book of Ruth

- Love's ResolveChapter 1
 - Ruth cleaving to Naomi
- Love's Response....Chapter 2
 - Ruth gleaning
- Love's Request.....
 Chapter 3
 - the threshing floor scene
- Love's Reward.....Chapter 4
 - redemption of both land and bride

Relevant laws of Ancient Israel

- Ruth Chapter 1: Laws of Exclusion
 - Deuteronomy 23:1-6
- Ruth Chapter 2: Law of Gleaning
 - Leviticus 19:9-10; Deuteronomy 24:19,21
- Ruth Chapter 3: Law of Levirite Marriage
 - Deuteronomy 25:5-10
- Ruth Chapter 4: Law of Redemption
 - Leviticus 25:47-55

Laws of Exclusion

- 23 "He who is emasculated by crushing or mutilation shall not enter the assembly of the LORD.
- ² "One of illegitimate birth shall not enter the assembly of the LORD; even to the tenth generation none of his *descendants* shall enter the assembly of the LORD.
- ³ "An Ammonite or 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, 4 because they did not meet you with bread and water on the road when you came out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you. 5 Nevertheless the LORD your God would not listen to Balaam, but the LORD your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God loves you. 6 You shall not seek their peace nor their prosperity all your days forever.

Deuteronomy 23:1-6

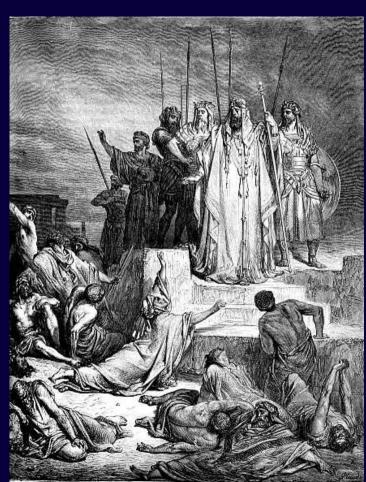
Chapter 1: Ruth Cleaving

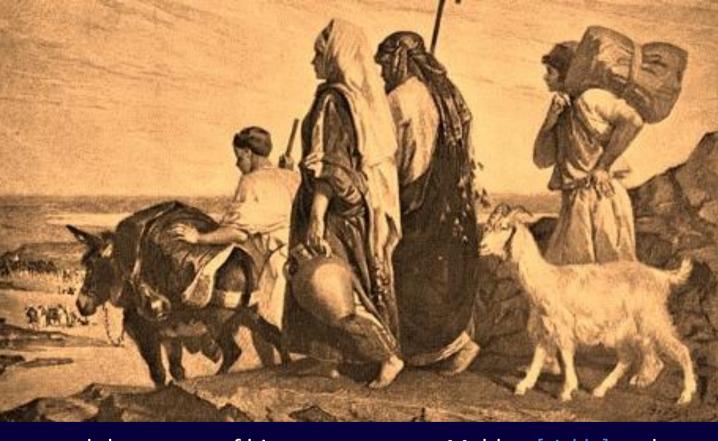
- "In the days the judges rules...."
- Famine drives the family to Moab c. 1194 BC:
 - Elimelech ("My God is King")
 - Naomi ("Pleasant"; "My delight"); [Mara ("Bitter")]
 - Mahlon ("Sickly"; "Unhealthy"; "to blot out")
 - Chilion ("Puny"; "pining"; "wasting away")
- Naomi deters daughters-in-law from following c. 1094 BC:
 - Orpah ("Fawn"; "Gazelle") [Ultimately returns]
 - Ruth ("Desirable"; "friendship") [Ultimately remains]

Ruth 1 – Love's Resolve

Moves to Moab

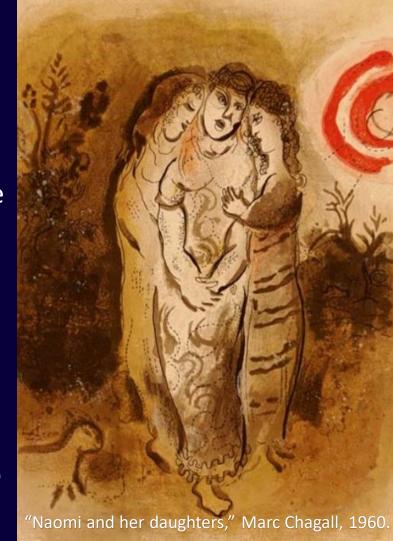
- Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons.
- ² The name of the man was Elimelech [God is my king], the name of his wife was Naomi ["pleasant"]....





... and the names of his two sons were Mahlon [sickly] and Chilion [wasting, puny], Ephrathites of Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to the country of Moab and remained there.

- 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 [fawn], and the name of the other Ruth [desirable]. And they dwelt there about ten years.
- Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband.



- 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 that the LORD had visited His people by giving them bread. Therefore she went out from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.
- ⁸ And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law,

"Go, return each to her mother's house. The LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.

The LORD grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband." So she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.



⁶ 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 that the LORD had visited His people by giving them bread. ⁷ Therefore she went out from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.

"Naomi and Her Daughters In Law," Minton Parian, 1864

⁸ And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law,

"Go, return each to her mother's house. The LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.

The LORD grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband." So she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.



"Naomi and her daughters," George Dawe, 1803.

¹⁰ And they said to her, "Surely we will return with you to your people."

¹¹But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Are there still sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands? 12 Turn back, my daughters, go—for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, if I should have a husband tonight and should also bear sons, ¹³ would you wait for them till they were grown? Would you restrain yourselves from having husbands? No, my daughters; for it grieves me very much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me!"



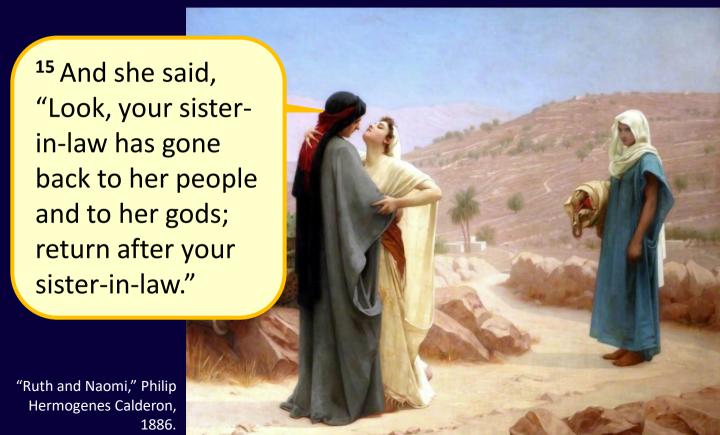
But Naomi understood her people:

An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to their tenth generation shall they not enter into the congregation of the LORD for ever: because they met you not with bread and with water in the way, when ye came forth out of Egypt; and because they hired against thee Balaam the son of Beor of Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse thee.

Deuteronomy 23:3-4

Ruth and Orpah were Moabitesses.

¹⁴ Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.



¹⁶ But Ruth said:

"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. ¹⁷ 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."

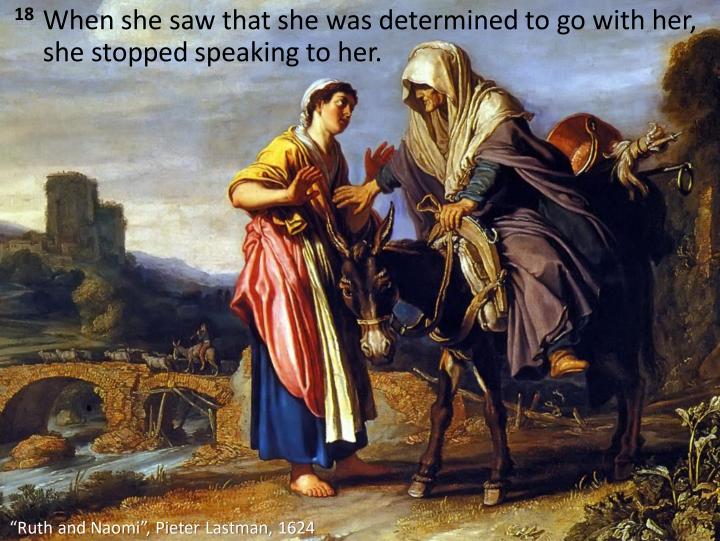


Ruth's Sevenfold Decision

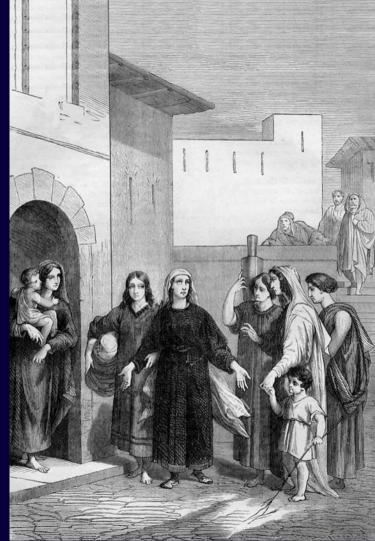
Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you:

- 1. For wherever you go, I will go;
- 2. And wherever you lodge, I will lodge;
- 3. Your people shall be my people,
- 4. And your God, my God.
- 5. ¹⁷ 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 parts you and me."

Ruth 1:16-17

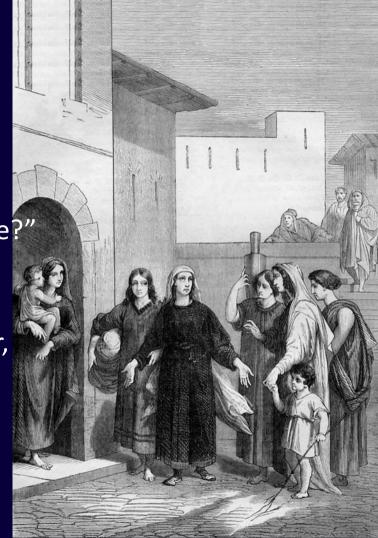


- 19 Now the two of them went until they came to Bethlehem. And it happened, when they had come to Bethlehem. that all the city was excited because of them; and the women said, "Is this Naomi?"
- ²⁰ But she said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara [bitter], for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.



LORD has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?

²² So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. Now they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.



Chapter 2: Ruth Gleaning

The Law of Gleaning

Leviticus 19:9-10;

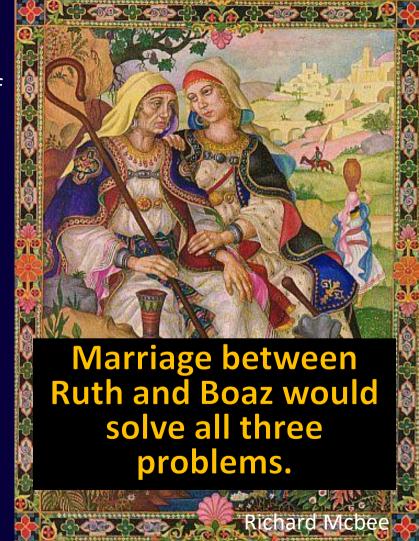
Provision for the destitute

- Deut. 24:19-20?
- Ruth "happens" upon the field of Boaz
 - Boaz = "In Him is Strength" (Temple Pillar)
 - Introduced by "Unnamed Servant"
 - Protection + "handful or two on purpose"
- Goel Kinsman-Redeemer
 - Law of Redemption

- Leviticus 25:47-50
- Law of Levirite Marriage Deuteronomy 25:5-10

Naomi's Issues

- 1. How could the name of her husband Elimelech be maintained among the tribes of Israel since both sons were now dead?
- 2. What steps must
 Naomi take to protect
 her inheritance which
 Elimelech had left in
 Naomi's trust?
- 3. How could Naomi provide rest and security for her faithful daughter-in-law Ruth?



Ruth 2- Love's Response

- ¹ There was a relative of Naomi's husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech. His name was Boaz.
- ² 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."



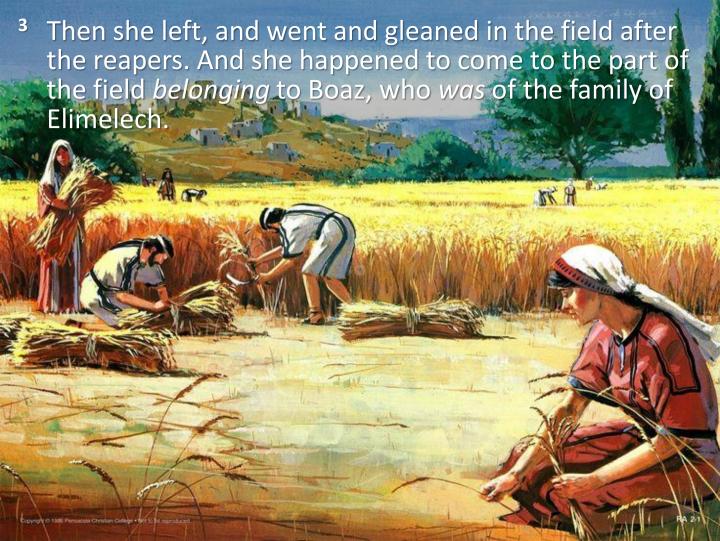


Law of Gleaning

And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not wholly reap the corners of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleanings of thy harvest. And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard, neither shalt thou gather [every] grape of thy vineyard; thou shalt leave them for the poor and stranger.....

Leviticus 19:9-10

 What the reapers missed or was spilled was left for the widows and the destitute.



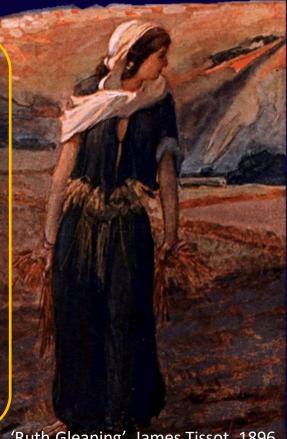
- 4 Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, "The LORD be with you!" And they answered him, "The LORD bless you!"
- ⁵ Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers,

"Whose young woman is this?"

"Boaz and Ruth," John Faed, 1860.

⁶ So the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered and said,

"It is the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. ⁷ And she said, 'Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.' So she came and has continued from morning until now, though she rested a little in the house."



'Ruth Gleaning', James Tissot, 1896

- 8 Then Boaz said to Ruth,
- "You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women.
- ⁹ Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn."



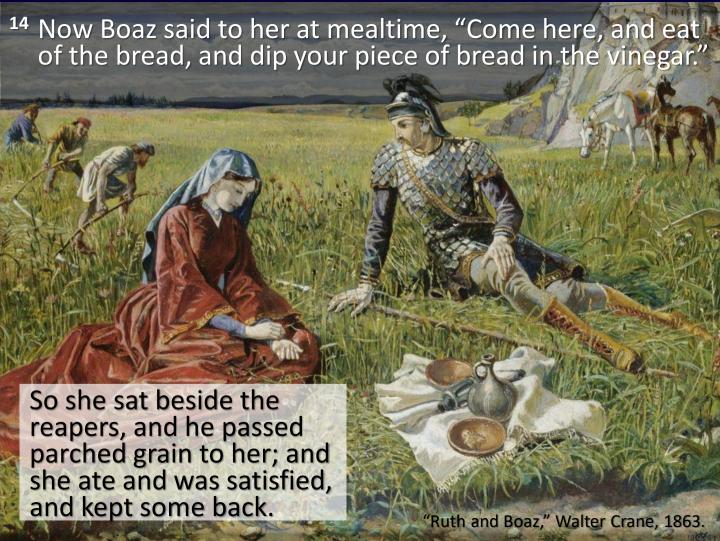
So she fell on her face, bowed down to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?"

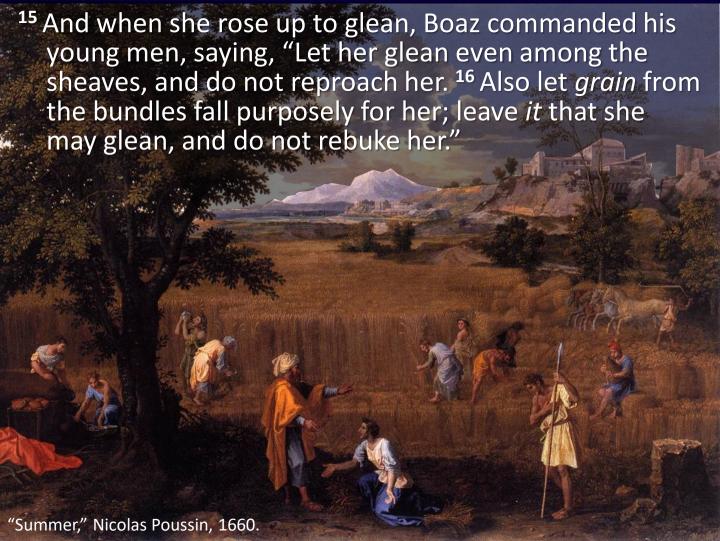


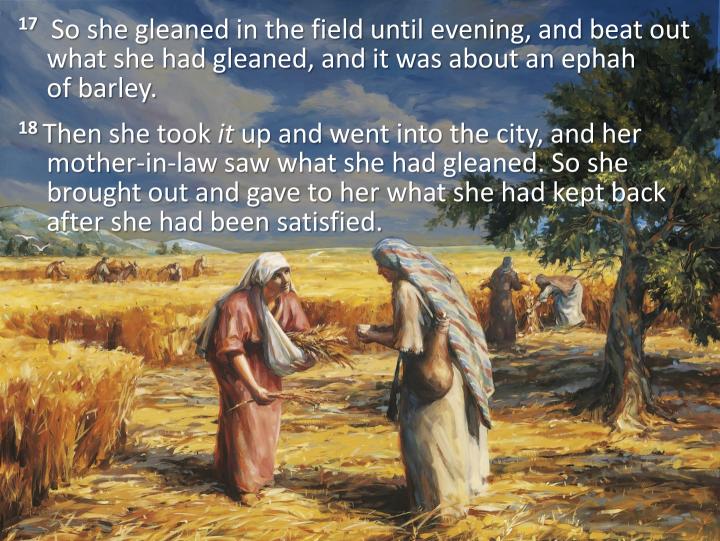
¹¹ And Boaz answered and said to her, "It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before. 12 The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge."

find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants.









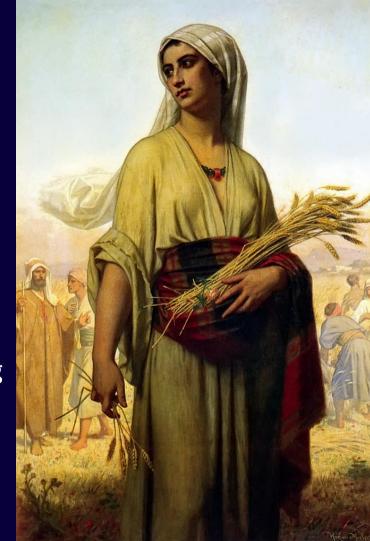
¹⁹ And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where have you gleaned today? And where did you work? Blessed be the one who took notice of you."

So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz."

²⁰ Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "Blessed be he of the LORD, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!" And Naomi said to her, "This man is a relation of ours, one of our close relatives."

"Ruth swearing her allegiance to Naomi", Jan Victors, 1653

- 21 Ruth the Moabitess said, "He also said to me, 'You shall stay close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.'"
- And Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, "It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, and that people do not meet you in any other field."



23 So she stayed close by the young women of Boaz, to glean until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest; and she dwelt with her mother-in-law.



Richard Mcbee

