



Compromise or Faith?

RUTH CHAPTER 1

March 9, 2025

THE BOOK OF RUTH

Though only four chapters in length, we will begin to see the account of compromise, sin and death and yet out of this despair, hope, restoration and life through faith!

As we read and study this book, I want us to pay attention to these specific correlations:

1. Faithless actions to carry on a family lineage vs faithful action and its consequence.
2. A faithful outcast being blessed in the same lineage as the people of promise.
3. Unwavering faith shown in commitment - and the blessing this faith brings.
4. The correlation of a faithful kinsman redeemer and Christ faithfully redeeming his Church.

I. A DIVINE BACKGROUND

When: this is the time when judges ruled. (Jg. 17:6)

What: There is a famine in the land - famines throughout Scripture represent God's judgment. (1 Kings 18:2, Amos 8:11)

Where: Bethlehem, Judah. Already this is significant in understanding the correlation of God's story of redemption. Bethlehem means '*house of bread*' Judah means '*praise*'. And who would be born in Bethlehem? The Living Bread which came down from Heaven, Jesus Christ who deserves all praise forevermore. (Jn. 6:51)

II. A PRODIGAL FAMILY COMPROMISING IN A GARBAGE COUNTRY

Before Christ could be born in Bethlehem, a family would need to trust God. But unfortunately, the first thing we see is a family leaving the house of bread and the praise of God for a garbage nation. In Psalm 108:9 God says: "*Moab is My washpot*," which according to J. Vernon McGee could be translated, "Moab is My garbage can." It's not a word of endearment.

1. The family destination is Moab! (Gen. 19:30-38)
 - Moab means "*he is of my father*," a perpetual reminder of faithless drunken incest!
 - The nation of Moab was always hostile to the Israelites.
 - Balak, king of Moab tried to curse the Israelites by Balaam.
 - King Solomon took wives of Moab who worshiped Chemosh, turning his heart away from the Lord (1 Kings 11:1, 7, 33).
2. The family:
 - **Elimelech** - the husband, his name means "*my God is King*."
 - **Naomi** - wife, "*my delight*" but would soon change to bitterness.
 - **Mahlon** - son, his name means '*sick*'.
 - **Chilion** - second son, his name means '*pinning*' meaning: '*a broken, sick heart*'.

- **Orpah** - a moabites, meaning 'gazelle'
- **Ruth** - a moabites, her name means 'friendship'. And Ruth certainly lives up to her name!

Key: Seek God's advice before leaving the house of bread and a place of praise to go live in a nation God likens to **as a garbage can**.

III. FAITH CLINGS TO THE TRUTH IN ACTION

Naomi doubles down on the hopeless situation: turn back, go back to your old way of life, go back to your idols, leave me to die alone.

1. Faith is not shown by tears and kisses (Jn. 20:1-17).
2. **Faith abides clinging to Truth** no matter how easy the tug to return to our old ways of life.
 - Mary clung to Jesus as Peter and John returned back to the comfort of their home.
 - Judas kissed Jesus but was soon dead by suicide.
 - Orpah kissed Naomi in tears but returned to her pagan gods.
 - Only Ruth and Mary knew how to cleave onto Truth
 - Ruth's faith follows, lodges and worships until death:

*"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 1:16-17)

Key: Refuse to slip back home whenever the idols beckon. When you live by true conviction of faith, without any false expectations, no circumstance in life will ever deter you.

Notes:

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