

## Timeline of Truth – Ruth 2:18-23 – Ruth Returns Home from Gleaning, and Naomi Responds

<b>THEME (Overall Book Idea):</b> God <i>always</i> rules: - even when we cannot know what He is doing - even when it takes many years - even when God allows us to suffer	<b>A rhyme that captures these ideas:</b> - God is <i>always</i> in control   Though we may be <i>unaware</i> . - And God may work over <i>many years</i>   And allow troubles <i>hard</i> to bear. - But God is <i>always</i> in control   We can <i>trust His loving care</i> .
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**Two Memory Verses:**

<b>4:14</b> Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel!"	<b>4:17</b> Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.
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**Ruth 1:1-5 – Trouble Comes with Life**

*We are impacted by large-scale and personal apostasy, adversity, and tragedy, but God is always actively in control. When the judges ruled (cultural apostasy), famine (widespread adversity), and deaths of husband/sons (personal tragedy).*

**Ruth 1:5-7 – Naomi Makes Difficult Decisions (A secondary lesson, but one that is evident here.)**

*We are to make wise decisions built from the truths of the Bible to honor God. Naomi had assess her situation, evaluate her choices, choose the most righteous choice, & act on that choice by returning to Judah.*

**Ruth 1:8-18 – Naomi Seeks to Provide a Better Future for Her Daughters-in-Law**

*God wants us to make significant, permanent, often costly life choices for Him. Naomi makes a selfless decision to send her daughters-in-law home; Ruth makes a selfless choice to stay with Naomi.*

**Ruth 1:19-22 – Naomi Enters Bethlehem (with Ruth) Greeted But Grieved**

*Circumstances that we cannot control (beyond our obedience) are controlled by God, and require us to trust Him. Naomi expressed her heart and circumstances and tied her circumstances to God’s ultimate control.*

**Ruth 2:1-3 – Ruth Seeks to Provide, and God Works Out Details**

*God works through our choices of active obedience and wisdom to accomplish His will through us. Ruth purposes to serve and provide for her mother-in-law, gleaning in the fields as allow for the poor and widows, and God works.*

**Ruth 2:4-17 – Boaz Rewards Ruth’s Choices**

*Ruth works hard as a gleaner, and organized Boaz takes note and provides direction, provision, protection, and encouragement.*

- The example of Boaz exhorts us to care for the needy, and especially to encourage those who seek to serve God.
  - The example of Ruth exhorts us to work hard as we sacrificially serve others and as we ultimately serve God.
1. Boaz Arrives at the Field (**Belief in the LORD is the central focus in the life of Boaz.**)
  2. Boaz Asks Regarding Ruth’s Protector (**Boaz reaffirms the assigned protection for women.**)
  3. Boaz Receives the Answer (**Boaz operates intentionally and responsibly.**)
  4. Boaz Instructs Ruth to Work in His Field (**Boaz actively cares for those in need in planned detail.**)
  5. Ruth Questions Boaz in Grateful Humility (**Ruth is aware that she is rightfully seen as an outsider.**)
  6. Boaz Explains His Actions (**Boaz encourages those that live righteously, sacrificially, and spiritually for the LORD.**)
  7. Ruth Receives Boaz’s Kindness in Grateful Humility
  8. Boaz Makes Extra Provision for Ruth (**Boaz provided the opportunity for Ruth to maximize her time and effort. He did not remove the need for her to work, but allowed her to work as profitably as possible.**)
  9. Ruth Works Very Hard, All Day, All the Way (**Ruth takes no shortcuts in work, in time, or in process.**)

*Ruth 2:17 So she [Ruth] gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.*

**Ruth 2:18-23 – Ruth Returns Home from Gleaning, and Naomi Responds**

*Naomi begins to see the work of God amid her sufferings as He acts through the loyal, loving efforts of Ruth.*

<sup>18</sup> Then she took it up and went into the city,	<b>18a – Ruth _____ from the Field</b>
and her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. (29-30 lbs of grain!)	<b>18b – Naomi Sees Ruth’s _____</b>
So she brought out and gave to her what she had kept back after she had been satisfied.	<b>18c – Ruth Shares the Prepared Food She Held Back from _____</b>
<sup>19</sup> 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."	<b>19a – Naomi _____ Ruth and Blesses Her Benefactor</b>

<p>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."</p>	<p><b>19b – Ruth _____ the Owner of the Field</b></p>
<p><sup>20</sup> 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!"</p>	<p><b>20a – Naomi _____ the LORD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God's _____</li> <li>• God's _____</li> </ul>
<p>And Naomi said to her,          "This man is a relation of ours, one of our close relatives."</p>	<p><b>20b – Naomi _____ Boaz</b>  <i>"ours" – Ruth considered part of the family through marriage</i></p>
<p><sup>21</sup> Ruth the Moabitess said,          "He also said to me, 'You shall stay close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.'"</p>	<p><b>21 – Ruth Gives Even More Good News</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing _____</li> <li>• Ongoing _____</li> </ul>
<p><sup>22</sup> 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."</p>	<p><b>22 – Naomi Affirms the Instructions of Boaz</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Naomi emphasizes going out with the young women</li> <li>• Naomi emphasizes remaining in the field of Boaz</li> <li>• Naomi's reasoning?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ _____ protection &amp; provision</li> <li>○ Possible _____ solution</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><sup>23</sup> 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.</p>	<p><b>23 – Ruth Obeys Naomi</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ruth's ongoing obedience regarding her _____</li> <li>• Ruth's ongoing obedience regarding the _____</li> <li>• Ruth's ongoing hard _____ through both harvests</li> <li>• Ruth's ongoing _____ to Naomi</li> </ul>