

Timeline of Truth – Ruth 4:11b-13 –God's Blessing of Children Spoken and Illustrated

THEME (Overall Book Idea): God *always* rules:

- even when we cannot know what He is doing
- even when it takes many years
- even when God allows us to suffer

A rhyme that captures these ideas:

- God is *always* in control | Though *we* may be *unaware*.
- And God may work over *many years* | And allow troubles *hard* to bear.
- But God is *always* in control | We can *trust His loving care*.

Two Memory Verses:

4:14 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!"

4:17 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.

Ruth 1:1-5 – Trouble Comes with Life

We are impacted by cultural apostasy, large-scale adversity, and personal tragedy, but God is always actively in control.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Ruth returns with a great quantity of grain and information on the field's owner. Naomi praises God for His care.

^{2:20} 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**." **2:20 | 3:9; 3:12 (2); 3:13 (4s) | 4:1; 4:3; 4:4 (5); 4:6 (4); 4:8; 4:14**

Ruth 3:1-5 – Naomi Guides Ruth to Approach Boaz

Naomi directs Ruth to approach Boaz with a marriage proposal based upon his kinsman-redeemer relationship (and their lengthy observation).

Ruth 3:6-18 – Ruth Approaches Boaz as Naomi Instructed

God works through the godly and biblical guidance, initiative, and obedience of His people.

⁹ And he said, "Who are you?" So she answered, "I *am* Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a **close relative**." ... ¹² "Now it is true that I *am* a **close relative**; however, there is a **relative** closer than I. ¹³ "Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be *that* if he will **perform the duty of a close relative** for you—good; let him do it. But if he does not want to **perform the duty** for you, then I will **perform the duty** for you, as the LORD lives! Lie down until morning."

NAU "Remain this night, and when morning comes, if he will **redeem** you, good; let him **redeem** you. But if he does not wish to **redeem** you, then I will **redeem** you, as the LORD lives. Lie down until morning."

Ruth 4:1-6 – Boaz Goes to the Gate to Secure Ruth's Future

Boaz promptly keeps his promise to pursue a Biblical solution for Ruth. When we know what we are to do, we do it, even if it means loss for us.

¹ Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there; and behold, the **close relative** of whom Boaz had spoken came by. So Boaz said, "Come aside, friend, sit down here." So he came aside and sat down. ² And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down. ³ Then he said to the **close relative**, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, sold the piece of land which *belonged* to our brother Elimelech. ⁴ "And I thought to inform you, saying, 'Buy *it* back in the presence of the inhabitants and the elders of my people. If you will **redeem it**, **redeem it**; but if you will not **redeem it**, then tell me, that I may know; for *there is* no one but you to **redeem it**, and I *am* next after you.'" And he said, "I will **redeem it**." ⁵ Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy *it* from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance." ⁶ And the **close relative** said, "I cannot **redeem it** for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance. You **redeem my right of redemption** for yourself, for I cannot **redeem it**."

Ruth 4:7-11a – Boaz Redeems Ruth

Boaz fulfills his duty as the closest relative and his promise to Ruth and redeems Ruth.

⁷ Now this *was the custom* in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging, to confirm anything: one man took off his sandal and gave *it* to the other, and this was a confirmation in Israel. ⁸ Therefore the **close relative** said to Boaz, "Buy *it* for yourself." So he took off his sandal. ⁹ And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You *are* witnesses this day that I have **bought** all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's from the hand of **Naomi**. ¹⁰ "Moreover, **Ruth** the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have **acquired** as my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate. You *are* witnesses this day." ¹¹ And all the people who *were* at the gate, and the elders, said, "We *are* witnesses."

Ruth 4:11b-13 – God's Blessing of Children Spoken and Illustrated

God has designed marriage to produce children, which should be desired and received as God gifts them to us.

<p>¹¹ And all the people who <i>were</i> at the gate, and the elders, said, "<i>We are witnesses.</i>"</p>	<p>1. The Context of the Comments</p> <p>a. _____ <i>is speaking?</i></p> <p>b. _____ <i>are they affirming?</i></p>
<p>The LORD make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of Israel;</p>	<p>2. Their Blessing of Ruth</p> <p>a. <i>The Divine</i> _____ : <i>The LORD (He is the Enabler)</i></p> <p>b. <i>The Specific</i> _____ : <i>The Woman Coming to Your House</i></p> <p>c. <i>The Desired</i> _____ : <i>Impact Through Children</i></p>
<p>and may you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem.</p>	<p>3. Their Blessing of Boaz</p> <p>a. _____ (<i>abundance</i>)</p> <p>b. _____ (<i>importance</i>)</p>
<p>¹² "May your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring which the LORD will give you from this young woman."</p>	<p>4. Their Blessing of the "House" of Boaz and Ruth</p> <p>a. <i>Reference: Like the prominent house of Perez</i></p> <p>b. <i>Reason:</i></p> <p>1) _____ : <i>Number – Because of the [many] offspring</i></p> <p>2) _____ : <i>Giver – The LORD will give you</i></p> <p>3) _____ : <i>Channel – From this young woman</i></p>
<p>¹³ So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son.</p> <p>Gen 1:27-28 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."</p> <p>Gen 9:1,7 So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. ⁷ And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; Bring forth abundantly in the earth And multiply in it."</p> <p>Gen 33:5 And he lifted his eyes and saw the women and children, and said, "Who are these with you?" So he said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant."</p> <p>Lev 26:9 For I will look on you favorably and make you fruitful, multiply you and confirm My covenant with you.</p> <p>Ps 127:3 Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.</p>	<p>5. The Involvement of God in Conception and Children</p> <p>a. <i>The marriage of Boaz and Ruth</i></p> <p>1) <i>Marriage is</i> _____ <i>by God</i></p> <p>2) <i>Marriage comes as the</i> _____ <i>step to a relationship</i></p> <p>3) <i>Marriage is a</i> _____ <i>relationship</i></p> <p>b. <i>The intimacy of Boaz and Ruth (the human act)</i></p> <p>1) <i>The primary</i> _____ <i>of marriage and gender</i></p> <p>2) <i>The</i> _____ <i>of marriage</i></p> <p>c. <i>The involvement of God in conception (the divine act)</i></p> <p>1) <i>The</i> _____ : <i>The LORD gave her (Ps 127:3)</i></p> <p>2) <i>The</i> _____ : <i>Individual</i></p> <p>3) <i>The</i> _____ : <i>Conception</i></p> <p>4) <i>The</i> _____ : <i>Of intimacy (Gen 1:27-28)</i></p> <p>d. <i>The end of God's gift → A Son</i></p>

Based Upon What God Has Revealed in His Word:

1. **Why is it correct to say that marriage is primarily for producing children?**
2. **Why is it correct to say that children are something God desires to give?**
3. **Are we to see the bearing of children a blessing or a curse?**
4. **Are children to be desired, or avoided?**
5. **What are some of the God-revealed effects of children?**
6. **Are children given by God, or chosen by parents?**
7. **If God seeks to give children, and we reject them, who is wrong?**
8. **How do the views and practices of our culture and the Church reflect or reject God's teaching?**