

Timeline of Truth – Ruth 4:13-17 – The LORD Accomplishes (a Step in) His Plan

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 actively gifts them to us.

<p>¹¹ And all the people who were at the gate, and the elders, said, "We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of Israel; and may you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. 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." 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>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Context of the Comments 2. Their Blessing of Ruth 3. Their Blessing of Boaz 4. Their Blessing of the "House" of Boaz and Ruth 5. The Involvement of God in Conception and Children
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Ruth 4:13-17 – The LORD Accomplishes (a Step in) His Plan

God continuously controls the details of life to bring about His ultimate will and to bless His obedient followers.

<p>¹⁴ Then the women said to Naomi,</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Timing and the Talkers <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Timing (cp. 4:13) b. The Talkers (cp. 1:19)
<p>"Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative;</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. They Bless the LORD for His Involvement <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. God as the Ultimate _____ (11-13): All... b. God’s Eventual _____ c. God’s Provision of the _____ Close Relative
<p>and may his name be famous in Israel!</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. They Bless the Baby of Ruth and Boaz <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. His Identity b. His Impact (in all Israel, cp. v. 11)
<p>¹⁵ "And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age;</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. They Bless the Future Service of the Baby <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. _____: A restorer of life (vitality/life/lifeline) b. _____: A nourisher of your old age
<p>for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him."</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. They Identify the Relationship of the Baby <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ruth’s _____ connection b. Ruth’s _____ love for Naomi c. Ruth’s great _____ d. Ruth’s _____ blessing
<p>¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Naomi’s Care of the Baby <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Took the child b. Laid him on her bosom c. Became a nurse to him (think "foster-mother")
<p>¹⁷ Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "There is a son born to Naomi."</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. The Women Characterize the Baby <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. His name? (rather, "proclaimed his significance") b. The meaning (a son; born to Naomi)
<p>And they called his name Obed.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Boaz and Ruth Name their Baby <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. His name b. The meaning ("one who works / serves")
<p>He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. The Surprising Descendants of the Baby <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The father of Jesse b. The (grand)father of David

1. God has _____ short-term plans, and long-term plans (of which we are rarely aware).
2. God _____ His promises over generations, centuries, and millennia.
3. God _____ control over things we cannot see and cannot know.