

**“HANDFULS OF PURPOSE”**  
**EBC YOUNG PEOPLE 2007**  
**THE BOOK OF RUTH**

The footprints in the sand were long ago erased - the aching in Naomi’s heart would forever remain! It was such a logical decision to leave until the famine was over and then return. But, the very step they had taken to avoid the perils of famine had taken them straight into the arms of death. Little did Naomi realize that it would be without her husband and her two sons and that she would be accompanied by a Moabitish woman as she made the long and difficult trip back to “the House of Bread.”

Many are the lessons we will learn this week as we explore this wonderful little book - 85 verses - bearing the name of a Gentile woman from the land of Moab – arch enemies of the children of Israel. Among them we will see that God has a place where he has put his Name, that He is a God of Government, a God of Restoration, a God of Saving Grace and a God who is the “rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.” Hebrews 11- vs 6

1. JUDGES 21 – VS 25. This verse helps with the setting of the book of Ruth. We very often emphasize the last part of the verse - but – lets discuss the first part of the verse - “There was no king in Israel.” What had happened to “The King?” Now connect this with the last part of the verse.

**CHAPTER 1 – THE PURPOSE OF GOD**

1. Discuss “**the famine in the land**” in the light of the above verse in Judges 21.
2. What does Bethlehem-Judah mean?
3. What do Elimelech and Naomi’s names mean? How about their sons? What might I learn of their spiritual condition while living in Bethlehem from the names given to their sons?
4. What was the actual PLAN that Elimelech had in mind? How did this plan differ from their EXPERIENCE? – Discuss.
5. At the time that Elimelech and Naomi were going through their exercises, who else do you know who was going through the same testing?

6. What do we learn of Naomi's testimony in verse 6? Why did her daughters in law accompany with her? What motivated Naomi to arise and go back to Bethlehem Judah – **The sorrows or Moab** or **the good news of** "the Lord visiting His people in giving them bread". Discuss
7. If we see our God as a **God of Government** in Elimelech – what do we see in His dealings with Naomi?
8. While one may wonder about Naomi's advice to her daughters in law in Verses 8 to 13 - let's look beyond this and see how God used these very words as a test for both Orpah and for Ruth.
9. Lets look at two areas describing the actions of Orpah. Verse 14 says she "kissed" – and verse 15 says "***gone back – her people – her gods.***"
10. Now lets dwell on verses 14 to 19 in reference to Ruth!! If we have our God as a God of Government in Elimelech, and a God of Restoration in Naomi, what do we see in Ruth? What a wonderful dialogue – "Intreat me not to leave thee or to return", "Whither thou goest, I will go, where thou lodgest, I will lodge, thy people shall be my people and thy God my God." Also vs 17 & 18 Discuss also - "She was stedfastly minded".
11. Discuss the reception given to them and the change of heart of Naomi. Where had God brought Naomi and in what condition? Verse 21
12. Lets look at God's timing in verse 22.

## **CHAPTER 2 – THE PROVISION OF GOD**

1. What does Boaz mean? Discuss the provision of God for him during the famine.
2. Who motivates Ruth to go to the field and glean? What was she counting on. Verse 2
3. Discuss the relationship that Boaz had with the reapers as seen in vs 4.
4. Discuss the nameless servant of verse 5. He seemed to know quite a bit about Ruth! Who is he a type of? Discuss
5. Discuss Gods provision for Ruth in verses 8 & 9.
6. Discuss verse 10 – Can you think of someone else in the Old Testament who had a similar response to "grace"?
7. We see from verse 11 that Ruth had a testimony – and Boaz could say "It hath been fully shewed to me". We later hear him say – "All the city doth know that thou art a virtuous woman". We learn from this and her attitude toward Boaz that she was a pure and godly woman. Discuss

8. Discuss the provisions of grace as shown to Ruth by Boaz in verses 13 thru 16. ie – “**Handfuls of purpose – for her**”.
9. Vs 18 thru 23. Naomi is quite occupied with “**Where**” Ruth had gleaned - what is Ruth occupied with? Discuss. How closely did Ruth follow the instructions given by Boaz? Discuss

### **CHAPTER 3 - THE PLAN OF GOD**

1. Chapter 3 is quite different from Chapter 2. In Chapter 2, Boaz had approached Ruth. In Chapter 3, Ruth seeks Boaz. In Chapter 2, Ruth had been nourished by the hand of Boaz but in Chapter 3, she seeks rest at the feet of Boaz. In Chapter 2, she had enjoyed the blessings of Boaz but now in Chapter 3, she seeks the fellowship of the blesser himself!
2. In Chapter 1, we learned that Naomi really loved her daughters in law and desired that they might find a suitable husband. She now says in Chapter 3 - verse 2 - “**That it may be well with thee**”. Their care for one another was genuine! Ruth gleaned and brought the provision home for Naomi in Chapter 2. Now Naomi seeks blessing for Ruth in Chapter 3.
3. Naomi realizes that Boaz had the right to “redeem” Ruth and gives this virtuous woman guidance much like is presented in Titus – Chapter 2. She also knows where Boaz is and what he is doing. Three things are mentioned in particular:
  1. **Wash thyself** - John 13 – Remove defilement to enjoy communion with Him – Negative in a sense
  2. **Anoint thyself** - Positive – Spending time with the things of Christ that there may be the sweet odor of Christ about us.
  3. **Put on proper raiment**. - the “Fine Linen” or the practical righteousness of the saint.  
Perhaps this could mean there should be suitable moral conditions that should prevail – and then encourages her to “get the down to the floor” and encourages her in this happy situation. Discuss
4. Ruth displays the confidence she has in this restored saint and follows her instruction precisely – verse 6. Discuss
5. When presenting herself to Boaz – she no longer identifies herself as “Ruth the Moabitess” but is in entire subjection to Boaz - “I am Ruth thine handmaid”. What does this word signify?
6. Verses 10 & 11 – show the heart of Boaz – his Godly desire for this “Woman of worth” as seen in Proverbs 31 and then he says “Fear not”. Discuss

7. Discuss the instructions of verse 18 - “*Sit still my daughter*”. Do you think this was a test for Ruth? Discuss – “*Wait I say on the Lord*”

Before starting Chapter 4, perhaps we should reflect a little on our own lives. Am I – a young brother – prepared to live a godly life and willing to trust my God to provide for me in every area of my life as Boaz did? The wonderful ending of this book is not “pie in the sky” but is the promise of our God as his title of “El Shaddai” – “The Almighty – the All Sufficient One” would indicate.

Perhaps a word also to the young sisters is also in order here. Ruth was not the *typical* sister in her day and if our goal in life is to honor him – as Ruth did – then we will not be typical either – even among those with whom we walk in fellowship with.

#### CHAPTER 4 - THE WEDDING

1. Having said “*fear not*” to Ruth in Chapter 3 – we now embark on Chapter 4 where Boaz is seeking his bride. He is a beautiful type of our Lord Jesus in this. Discuss
2. As he takes ten (10) men aside (responsibility – perhaps man under the Law) – to witness two (2) things. Discuss
4. What Grace is seen in Verse 10 - “Ruth *the Moabitess. . . have I Purchased – to be my wife*” Discuss
5. In verse thirteen (13) – something in reference to Ruth is missing. Discuss
6. Discuss the blessing – joy – happiness for Naomi as seen in verses 14 thru 16. Discuss
  1. His name may be famous in Israel
  2. A *restorer* of thy life
  3. A *nourisher* in thine old age
  4. Thy daughter in law – *which loveth thee!*
  5. Naomi took the child – laid it in her bosom – and became nurse unto it.
  6. What is the name of the child and what does it mean?
- 7/ We could not finish this wonderful subject without reading Matthew Chapter 1 – Verse 5 “ And Boaz begat Obed of Ruth – *not the Moabitess* – but just Ruth. Discuss