

## The Story of Ruth

In the land of Moab, there lived a young girl. Moab was a land where they worshipped a god named Shimshone. She lived there with her family but she was different than other girls. She sensed a lack inside of herself. She was lonely. Her name means Friend, but she didn't have anyone to be a friend to. She couldn't find any true friends. So she grew up feeling lonely. And then a new family moved into her area. Two boys and an abba and immah. She became friends with the boys, especially one of them. They were different. They were from Israel. They had a different God. She liked them.

But then their abba died. And that boy grew up and wanted to marry her and she married right into that family that she liked. And the best thing about this family was the immah — Naomi. She was really pleasant. And they had a different God than her people and the people all around that area. And He had a wonderful Law and Ruth loved it. She loved to hear all about the laws of their God. And the other son married another girl from the area. Her name was Ophra. But then one day both of the sons died. So Naomi's husband was dead and now the two sons were dead.

The reason that family had moved to Moab was because of a famine in their land. But now the abba and both sons were dead and one day a message came. "There's no famine in Israel anymore. It's better there now."

"Oh," Naomi thought, "I should go back to my land. I lost my husband and my sons. I have these two nice girls here. I should go back. Let's go back to my land where my God is. Let's go back."

So they got everything ready. But Naomi thought about it. She liked the girls very much, but they were from here, from this land. Ruth was so excited to be going back to Naomi's land. She had heard so many stories, she heard about how they came out of Egypt, about the judges who ruled in the land and about the Law of Moses. But

then on the road Naomi said, "May YHWH show you faithful love as you have done to those who have died and to me and may you find happiness with a husband. Go back."

They cried. "No, no." But even so, she kissed them goodbye. They cried louder. "No, we're going with you."

"Go home," Naomi said, "I'm so old that even if I had more sons you would have to wait 20 years until they grew up. No. I am bitterly sorry for your sakes that the hand of YHWH has been raised up against me. Are you ready to wait 20 years?"

Ruth said, "I'm ready."

"No," Naomi replied, "go, for your sake, I say you should go back because the God of Israel, YHWH's hand has been against me."

They said, "No, no I don't want to go back." But Ophra kissed Naomi. She was crying but she said, "Well, I'll go." She was crying, but she started walking back.

Naomi said, "Look Ruth, she's going. You go too. Go. Go on. Go back to your father's house."

"NO! DON'T TELL ME TO LEAVE YOU AND STOP FOLLOWING YOU. FOR WHEREVER YOU GO, I SHALL GO, WHEREVER YOU LIVE, I SHALL LIVE, YOUR PEOPLE WILL BE MY PEOPLE AND YOUR GOD WILL BE MY GOD. Where you die, I shall die and there I will be buried. Let YHWH bring a curse on me if anything but death parts you from me."

Wow. What a covenant! Ruth had love. True love makes a covenant. Somehow this little Moabite girl had been connected to the source of true love. You know it was true because she made a covenant. It just came right out of her. It just pushed right out through her lips. She had true love.

"Hmmm," Naomi thought, "Ruth is determined. She loves me. She loves me. I told her to go but she refuses."

Ruth was disobedient, wasn't she? She had covenant love. Naomi didn't say anything else. Ruth had something. She loved her. Really loved her.

Well, now Naomi's going to Israel and she's stuck with this Moabite girl with her. No one in Israel likes foreigners.

Naomi was from Bethlehem. She talked about her hometown on the dusty road to Bethlehem. When they came over the hill they were all dusty and dirty and they saw Bethlehem. Naomi was so sad. She remembered leaving with her husband and two sons and now she was going back with nothing. Well, not nothing — she had this Moabite girl who loved her.

"Is that Naomi? Is it you Naomi?"

"No, don't call me Naomi anymore. Call me Mara now. Life's been bitter to me. Call me bitter."

Ruth was trying to encourage Naomi. She said, "I'm with you. I'm with you."

Everyone was looking at this Moabite girl thinking, "Who is this girl? What's she going to be like?"

It was the time of the harvest and right away Ruth wanted to work. "How are we going to eat?" Ruth was full of energy. She was going to help because she had covenant love. So right away she had an idea. In Israel they have this law that the poor could follow after the harvesters and glean the fields. She loved the laws in Israel because they took care of everything. "Naomi, I'm going to go, can I? Can I go?"

"Go and look for someone who will show you favor," because the people in the area didn't usually treat foreigners very nice. Some people might just shoo her away.

Ruth had her veil on. She went behind the people harvesting in the field. She worked really hard, didn't stop for a minute. She didn't sit down or start playing around. She made a sack out of her veil and started to fill it. Then someone came up and all the people looked.

"YHWH BE WITH YOU," he called out. "YHWH BLESS YOU, BOAZ," the people replied to him. That was the owner. Ruth could see he must be a good owner, a good master because all the people called to him like that. She liked him right away.

"Who does that girl belong to?"

"She's a foreigner, a Moabite."

"Well, I haven't heard much good about Moabites."

"But she's the one who came back with Naomi."

"Ah, yes, I heard about Naomi coming back with that girl."

"She asked us if she could please pick up behind the sheaves. She was so nice when she asked. She's been working so hard from the morning until now."

Boaz looked at her and said, "Come here. Now listen, don't go away from here, and don't go to any other place to gather. You stay here and follow close behind the reapers. Just stay with my men because the other men might cause you troubles. And if you're thirsty, you can go to our water bottles to drink."

Wow, he was so nice to her. He was so nice that she just fell right down on her face in front of him. "Why are you so nice to me? I'm only a foreigner," said Ruth.

"I've heard about you, how you were so faithful to Naomi and her God and how you left your father and mother and people to come with her. May YHWH repay you Ruth for what you have done. May YHWH, the God of Israel, give you a great reward because you fled to come under His wings for refuge. You fled to YHWH to hide under His wings."

That's the best place to go, isn't it?

"Oh my master, I hope you will always look on me with favor. You have comforted and encouraged me even though I'm not even the equal of one of your servants." She was so humble. What happens to humble people in front of YHWH? Do you know? Do they receive good or bad things from His hand? Good. Something good is going to happen to Ruth. So she continued working and then at lunchtime, Boaz called Ruth over.

"Here, have some of this. Here, take some of that."

Wow. He was giving her from his own table. "Oh, I'm full, but I'll take some home to Naomi." So, she made a package to bring home to Naomi and then said, "I will go follow the reapers now."

"Follow my men." Then he told his men, "Make sure you drop some extra for that girl. Make sure she gets a lot of good grain."

Ruth could hardly walk home with her grain because there was so much of it. Plus She had Naomi's lunch. When Naomi saw her she said, "Where did you get all that?"

"Listen to what happened." And Ruth told her all about her day. "This man is named Boaz."

BOAZ? Naomi smiled. "I know Boaz," she said. "Blessed be he by YHWH, who does not withhold his faithful love from the living or the dead. You know who he is? He's our closest kin."

Ruth knew the Law. She loved the laws in Israel. Ruth loved all the laws of YHWH. They covered everything. You know there's a law that if a man dies, his closest relative could marry the wife of the dead man and raise children for him. Here she was with all that grain and now she found out that Boaz was their closest relative.

"Oh, I won't even think about that," Naomi thought, "after all, he'd have to want her and she's a foreigner, not even from Israel."

Our Father knows how to take care of His people. He picks out the ones He wants. And you know who this Boaz is? You remember the lady with the tikvah, Rahab? She married one of the spies, Salmah, and she'd been brought into Israel because she had hope. And they had a baby — BOAZ. Rahab had been a good immah. She wasn't from the land there, she was a foreigner, but she received the God of Israel and she was a good immah. And Boaz, he looked at this Moabite girl and he liked her. And things worked out and Boaz took Ruth to be his wife. Naomi was so happy. YHWH had blessed her.

This Moabite girl had come into Israel. She was a part of Israel. And she had a child with Boaz. And Naomi was right there with her and Naomi was so happy. "Look at Naomi now," the people said, "Now Ruth is married with Boaz and they have a child."

This girl — her covenant love brought her into Israel. She would never leave. She wasn't going to run out on Naomi. She wasn't going to run out on the God of Israel. And there Naomi was with the baby on her lap. "Blessed be YHWH who has not left you today without anyone to redeem you. May His name be praised in Israel. This child will be a comfort to you. This child was born to you by that girl, Ruth, who loves you and she's better to you than seven sons."

This was because she loved with covenant love. And Naomi picked up the child and took care of him and the people of the town gave him his name — OBED. And Obed became the father of Jesse and Jesse became the father of David. Ruth's grandson was King David himself! What a heart she had — a covenant love that was even passed on to her grandson King David.

That's the story of Ruth. She was a lonely woman in a lonely land who fell in love with the God of Israel. Since it was a true love she made a covenant. Then from her grandson came King David, and from David came our Master YAHSHUA.

**Yoneq:** That story is so full of meaning, of our heritage, of our history, of our nation. It tells us where our Master YAHSHUA came from. He came from two foreigners — Rahab and Ruth in that line. How wonderful Boaz was. Such a wonderful master he was — all his servants loved him. They even said "Bless you in YHWH's name." They were like a big family the way they worked together. They had eternal life. Ruth chose eternal life. When you come into Israel, you come into eternal life. She came into the twelve tribes of Israel. She'll be in the Holy City.

The other girl didn't choose to go to Israel. She was persuaded to go back. But Naomi gave her the blessing of YHWH. She'll be in the nations. She won't lose her reward. Anyone who does kindness to Abraham's seed won't lose their reward.

You'll see Ruth someday. You'll see everyone who believed and trusted in YHWH, the God of Israel. It's so wonderful she chose Him. I'm thankful I'm with Him, and to know Boaz, how he was chosen worthy to bring about the line to our Master YAHSHUA. Everything is full of meaning to us — all the stories in the Old Testament. Revelation pours out upon us with thankfulness and gratitude that we are part of this holy nation and that we have the same God as Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. We say, "Where you go, I will go." Only love can make a covenant.

Boaz was a good master. There was no strife of servants wanting to be master. You could see how he said, "Bless you," and they said, "Bless you Boaz." He brought them alongside of him, didn't suppress them, and didn't take advantage of them. They would be starving if it weren't for him. They didn't have the intelligence to lead the way he did. What would they do if they didn't have a good master to employ their skills? He was a good master. If they were on their own they wouldn't be able to make it. The servants who served throughout history in this way are going to be in the nations, as well as their good masters. But cruel masters are going to the Lake of Fire.

**Manoah:** Love makes a covenant. If we love our Master, something is going to come up in our heart like it came up in Ruth's heart — making a covenant.

**ha-emeq:** When Ruth was there on that deserted desert road and that big scene of Naomi telling her to go back and them crying and our Father was watching that like He sees everything and He saw that thing rise up in Ruth's heart to make a covenant with Naomi. And our Father notices everything that happens. He notices things all over the face of the earth. He took notice of that woman and He chose her to be who she was to be in the line of our Master. But our Father notices and is waiting for a human being to respond. Then if He sees something that He could get a hold of in us, He pulls us out of the situation we are in. Our Father saw

each one of you and waited until He had something He could get a hold of and He pulled you out. He's not blind to what's going on. There's not one person like Ruth who He is not going to pull in. He chose us. Like He chose Ruth. He's not going to miss anybody.

**Shachar:** We were all foreigners (Eph 2:12). She was lonely, a total stranger to the real God. She didn't know anything about the real God or His laws — how His laws are for His people. Our Father sent that family to Moab just to get her. He loved her. He sent people to come and get me out of the confusion I was in. Ruth came to know the God of Israel by hearing about Him and so did I. Heb 13:5 — He will never forsake her. That's why she could make a covenant with Him and our Father blessed her. He blessed her for that.

**Deborah:** Ruth and Boaz were David's grandparents. The 144,000 are going to be pure. Purity begins with the grandparents — us. We were strangers, but we were brought into this covenant. Part of this covenant is to raise our children and I know that David would not have been the way he was if it hadn't have been passed on to him. The knowledge of what it meant to make and keep a covenant was the most important thing passed on to him by his parents and grandparents. We need to give everything we have to doing this. Everyone in history has failed to pass on this life.