LESSON 20 "All the City...Doth Know That Thou Art A Virtuous Woman" Ruth, 1 Samuel 1

OVERVIEW:

The book of Ruth happens the same time as the Book of Judges. It was probably written by Samuel.

It serves as a transition between the period of the Judges and Israel's scattering by forecasting the scattering and gathering of Israel.

Ruth is an ancestor of David and Jesus.

It also shows how we should take care of new converts.

SCRIPTURES:

THE BOOK OF RUTH CHAPTER 1

Elimelech and family go to Moab because of famine—Marriages—Death of father and sons—Ruth the Moabitess, her husband having died, remains constant to Naomi—They come to Beth-lehem.

1 NOW it came to pass in the days when the ^ajudges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Beth-lehem-judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons. (Famine in the land. Why call the city Bethlehem-Judah? Because there also a Bethlehem in Zebulun. A family went to Moab. A man, his wife and two sons. Bethlehem means house of bread. The departure from Bethlehem was prophetic of the scattering of Israel. The original Moab was the son of Lot's oldest daughter, and thus the Moabites were akin to the Israelites, but represented a different way of life and religion. Latter-day Commentary on the Old Testament, p. 201.)

2 And the name of the man *was* ^aElimelech, (Heb my God is king) and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, ^bEphrathites of Beth-lehem-judah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there.

3 And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons.

4 And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one *was* Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years. (The two sons have wives, Orpah and Ruth and live there 10 years. During this time Ruth is converted to the Lord. She lives with a wonderfully religious family who teaches her the ways of Jehovah. Abraham alone is the father of us all, speaking after the manner of the flesh, and all who receive the blessings of the gospel are either natural or adopted sons in his everlasting family. Thus, also, Nephi says: As many of the Gentiles as will repent are the covenant people of the Lord; and as many of the Jews as will not repent shall be cast off; for the Lord covenanteth with none save it be with them that repent and believe in his Son, who is the Holy One of Israel, Bruce R. McConkie, The Millennial Messiah, p. 245)

5 And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband. (The two sons die leaving all three women widows.)

6 ¶ Then she arose with her daughters in law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the LORD had visited his people in giving them bread. 7 Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her; and

they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah. (Naomi hears that the famine is over and they decide to return to Bethlehem. Prophetic of the gathering of Israel and the restoration of the gospel in the latter days. Israel returning to the house of bread, or to the Bread of Life, or to the Savior.)

8 And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the LORD deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me.

9 The LORD grant you that ye may find rest, each *of you* in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept.

10 And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people.

11 And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? *are* there yet *any more* ^asons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?

12 Turn again, my daughters, go *your way;* for I am too old to have an husband. If I should say, I have hope, *if* I should have an husband also to night, and should also bear sons;

13 Would ye tarry for them till they were grown? would ye stay for them from having husbands? nay, my daughters; for it grieveth me much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD is gone out against me. (Naomi tells her daughters-in-law to return to their previous homes.)

14 And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth ^aclave unto (ie held fast to) her.

15 And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law. (Orpah leaves, but Ruth stays with Naomi.)

16 And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, *or* to return from ^afollowing after thee: for whither thou goest, I will ^bgo; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy ^cpeople *shall be* my people, and thy God my ^dGod: (Ruth has truly been converted to the Lord.)

17 Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, *if ought* but death part thee and me.

18 When she saw that she was ^astedfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her. (Ruth pleads that she remain with Naomi. Naomi relents and Ruth goes with her. The distance they travel is between 30 and 40 miles.)

19 ¶ So they two went until they came to Beth-lehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Beth-lehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, *Is* this Naomi?

20 And she said unto them, Call me not ^aNaomi, (ie pleasant) call me ^bMara: (ie a name given to Naomi by herself, which means "bitter," or "very sad.") for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me.

21 I went out full, and the LORD hath brought me home again empty: why *then* call ye me Naomi, seeing the LORD hath ^atestified against me (or humbled me (so also in the Septuagint and the Latin Vulgate), and the Almighty hath afflicted me?

22 So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Beth-lehem in the beginning of barley harvest. (They return to Bethlehem around the harvest time, April or May.)

CHAPTER 2

Ruth gleans in fields of Boaz, a near kinsman of Naomi—He treats Ruth kindly.

1 AND Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name *was* ^aBoaz. (Heb in him is strength, swiftness, quickness) (Naomi had a relative named Boaz. Her husband's relative.)

2 And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and ^aglean ears of ^bcorn (or grain) after *him* in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter.

3 And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her ^ahap (or chance, good fortune) was to light on a part of the field *belonging* unto Boaz, who *was* of the kindred of Elimelech.

(Ruth gleans in Boaz' field. Landowners were expected to leave the "corners" of the fields for the less fortunate members of the community to glean from. Leviticus 23:22 reads: "And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleaning of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger.")

4 ¶ And, behold, Boaz came from Beth-lehem, and said unto the reapers, The LORD *be* with you. And they answered him, The LORD bless thee.

5 Then said Boaz unto his servant that was set over the reapers, Whose damsel is this?

6 And the servant that was set over the reapers answered and said, It *is* the Moabitish damsel that came back with Naomi out of the country of Moab:

7 And she said, I pray you, let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves: so she came, and hath continued even from the morning until now, that she tarried a little in the house.

8 Then said Boaz unto Ruth, Hearest thou not, my daughter? Go not to ^aglean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here ^bfast (or close) by my maidens:

9 *Let* thine eyes *be* on the field that they do reap, and go thou after them: have I not charged the young men that they shall not touch thee? and when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of *that* which the young men have drawn. (Boaz treats Ruth with great generosity. He asks her to glean only in his field.)

10 Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take ^aknowledge (or notice) of me, seeing I *am* a stranger? 11 And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy

mother in law since the death of thine husband: and *how* thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore.

12 The LORD recompense thy work, and a full ^areward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose ^bwings thou art come to trust. (Ruth bows to Boaz acknowledging his great kindness toward her, even though she is a stranger to him. Boaz speaks to Ruth and mentions he has heard of her and that she has been converted to Jehovah.)

13 Then she said, Let me find favour in thy sight, my lord; for that thou hast comforted me, and for that thou hast spoken ^afriendly unto thine handmaid, though I be not like unto one of thine handmaidens. 14 And Boaz said unto her, At mealtime come thou hither, and eat of the bread, and dip thy morsel in

the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers: and he reached her parched ^acorn, (or grain) and she did eat, and was sufficed, and ^bleft. (ie left some food) (Boaz asks her to dinner.)

15 And when she was risen up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not:

16 And let fall also *some* of the handfuls of purpose for her, and leave *them*, that she may glean *them*, and rebuke her not.

17 So she gleaned in the field until even, and beat out that she had gleaned: and it was about an ephah (29-50 pounds) of barley. (Boaz tells his reapers to leave what they cut to Ruth so she can glean it.) 18 ¶ And she took *it* up, and went into the city: and her mother in law saw what she had gleaned: and she

brought forth, and gave to her that she had reserved after she was sufficed.

19 And her mother in law said unto her, Where hast thou gleaned to day? and where wroughtest thou? blessed be he that did take knowledge of thee. And she ^ashewed (or told) her mother in law with whom she had ^bwrought, (or worked) and said, The man's name with whom I wrought to day *is* Boaz.

20 And Naomi said unto her daughter in law, Blessed *be* he of the LORD, who hath not ^aleft (or ceased) off his kindness to the living and to the dead. And Naomi said unto her, The man *is* near of kin unto us, one of our ^bnext (or redeemers; one of those having the right to redeem) ^ckinsmen. (Ruth returns to Naomi. She gleans in the fields all through the harvest. About two months. Boaz is capable of redeeming Naomi and her property.)

21 And Ruth the Moabitess said, He said unto me also, Thou shalt keep ^afast (or close) by my young

men, until they have ended all my harvest.

22 And Naomi said unto Ruth her daughter in law, *It is* good, my daughter, that thou go out with his maidens, that they ^ameet (or find) thee not in any other field.

23 So she kept fast by the maidens of Boaz to glean unto the end of barley harvest and of wheat harvest; and dwelt with her mother in law.

CHAPTER 3

By Naomi's instruction, Ruth lies at feet of Boaz—He promises, as a kinsman, to seek her to wife.

1 THEN Naomi her mother in law said unto her, My daughter, shall I not seek ^arest for thee (implying marriage), that it may be well with thee?

2 And now *is* not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley to night in the threshingfloor.

3 Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the ^afloor: (ie threshing floor) *but* make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking.

4 And it shall be, when he lieth down, that thou shalt mark the place where he shall lie, and thou shalt go in, and uncover his feet, and lay thee down; and he will tell thee what thou shalt do.

5 And she said unto her, All that thou sayest unto me I will do. (To seek rest meant to be married. Naomi tells Ruth to lie at the feet of Boaz while he sleeps. He is guarding the harvest.)

6 ¶ And she went down unto the floor, and did according to all that her mother in law bade her. 7 And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of ^acorn: (or grain) and she came softly, and uncovered his feet, and laid her down. (She uncovers Boaz's feet and lies down at his feet.)

8 ¶ And it came to pass at midnight, that the man was afraid, and turned himself: and, behold, a woman lay at his feet.

9 And he said, Who *art* thou? And she answered, I *am* Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou *art* a near ^akinsman. (This idiom means, be my protector, or husband.)
10 And he said, Blessed *be* thou of the LORD, my daughter: *for* thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich.
11 And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou *art* a ^avirtuous woman.

12 And now it is true that I am thy anear kinsman: howbeit there is a kinsman nearer than I.

13 Tarry this night, and it shall be in the morning, *that* if he will perform unto thee the ^apart of a kinsman, well; let him do the kinsman's part: but if he will not do the part of a kinsman to thee, then will I do the part of a kinsman to thee, *as* the LORD liveth: lie down until the morning. (Boaz awakes, because of the cool night air on his feet, and discovers Ruth. He talks to her and asks her to stay with him through the night. She tells him to spread his skirt over her. This was a proposal of marriage to Boaz. Boaz is flattered that she is interested in marrying him, an old man, and that she is not interested in the young men. Ruth has a reputation of being a virtuous woman. Boaz says there is a kinsman nearer than he that he must talk to first. If the near kinsman will not do his obligation, then Boaz will do it.) 14 ¶ And she lay at his feet until the morning: and she rose up before one could know another. (meaning it was still dark outside.) And he said, Let it not be known that a woman came into the floor.

15 Also he said, Bring the ^avail (or cloak, mantle; a square piece of cloth used as an outer robe.) that *thou hast* upon thee, and hold it. And when she held it, he measured six *measures* of barley, and laid *it* on her: and she went into the city.

16 And when she came to her mother in law, she said, Who *art* thou, my daughter? And she told her all that the man had done to her.

17 And she said, These six *measures* of barley gave he me; for he said to me, Go not empty unto thy mother in law.

18 Then said she, Sit still, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall: for the man will not be in rest, until he have finished the thing this day. (Boaz gives Ruth 6 measures of Barley and she returns to Naomi.)

CHAPTER 4

Next kinsman declining, Boaz takes Ruth to wife—Ruth bears Obed, through whom came David the king.

1 THEN went Boaz up to the ^agate, and sat him down there: and, behold, the ^bkinsman of whom Boaz spake came by; unto whom he said, ^cHo, (Heb, a manner of address to a certain unnamed person as "Mr So & So.") such a one! turn aside, sit down here. And he turned aside, and sat down.

2 And he took ten men of the ^aelders of the city, and said, Sit ye down here. And they sat down. 3 And he said unto the kinsman, Naomi, that is come again out of the country of Moab, selleth a parcel of land, which *was* our brother Elimelech's:

4 And I thought to advertise thee, saying, ^aBuy *it* before the inhabitants, and before the elders of my people. If thou wilt ^bredeem *it*, redeem *it*: but if thou wilt not redeem *it*, *then* tell me, that I may know: for *there is* none to redeem *it* beside thee; and I *am* after thee. And he said, I will redeem *it*.

5 Then said Boaz, What day thou buyest the field of the hand of Naomi, thou must buy *it* also of Ruth the Moabitess, the ^awife of the dead, to raise up the ^bname of the dead upon his inheritance.

6 ¶ And the kinsman said, I cannot ^aredeem *it* for myself, lest I ^bmar mine own inheritance: redeem thou my right to thyself; for I cannot redeem *it*.

7 Now this *was the manner* in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning ^achanging, (or exchanging, doing business) for to confirm all things; a man plucked off his ^bshoe, and gave *it* to his neighbour: and this *was* a testimony in Israel.

8 Therefore the kinsman said unto Boaz, Buy *it* for thee. So he drew off his shoe. (The gate of the city was where men went to transact business. The ten men are legal witnesses of the transaction. Boaz meets with the man who is the next of kin to Naomi offering him Naomi's land and Ruth. He agrees to buy the land, but then finds out there are strings attached. He refuses to buy the land and marry Ruth. He gives his shoe as token of the sale.)

9 ¶ And Boaz said unto the elders, and *unto* all the people, Ye *are* witnesses this day, that I have bought all that *was* Elimelech's, and all that *was* Chilion's and Mahlon's, of the hand of Naomi.

10 Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the ^aname of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place: ye *are* witnesses this day.

11 And all the people that *were* in the gate, and the elders, said, *We are* witnesses. The LORD make the woman that is come into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel: and ^ado thou worthily (or may you do well) in Ephratah, and be famous in Beth-lehem:

12 And let thy house be like the house of Pharez, whom Tamar bare unto Judah, of the seed which the LORD shall give thee of this young woman. (Boaz purchases the land and agrees to marry Ruth.)

13 ¶ So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son.

14 And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed *be* the LORD, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel.

15 And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine ^aold age: for thy daughter in law, which loveth thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him.

16 And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it.

17 And the women her neighbours gave it 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. (Boaz marries Ruth. They have a son named Obed, who was the father of Jesse, the father of David. Boaz is a restorer. This was where one could restore one's property as though it had not been lost. (Deuteronomy 25:5-6 talks about the Levirate law of marrying one's deceased brother's childless wife to raise up an heir to his name.))

18 ¶ Now these are the generations of ^aPharez: Pharez begat Hezron,

19 And Hezron begat Ram, and Ram begat Amminadab,

20 And Amminadab begat Nahshon, and Nahshon begat Salmon,

21 And Salmon begat ^aBoaz, and Boaz begat Obed,

22 And Obed begat Jesse, and Jesse begat David. (The genealogy of David. Who was married to Salmon? Rahab. Why include Ruth? In the entire story, there is no king, no royalty, no priests, Levites, judges, or prophets. All the characters in the story were ordinary people who lived in a town far removed from the centers of power, intrigue, and violence. It is a story of loyalty, love, and generosity. It shows an example of how one family truly lived their religion. The story is a reminder that converts to the church and kingdom of God are welcome from all kindreds, nations, tongues, and peoples. The marriage of Boaz and Ruth is symbolic. It typifies the process by which Israel and gentiles receive the promised blessings of the gospel. Boaz is a redeemer. Christ is often called the bridegroom and the church the bride. Only through the power of his redemption can both Naomi and Ruth receive the blessings of inheritance for themselves and posterity.)

THE FIRST BOOK OF SAMUEL OTHERWISE CALLED THE FIRST BOOK OF THE KINGS CHAPTER 1

Hannah prays for a son, and vows to give him to the Lord—Eli the priest blesses her—Samuel is born—Hannah loans him to the Lord.

1 NOW there was a certain man of ^aRamathaim-zophim, of mount Ephraim, and his name *was* ^bElkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephrathite:

2 And he had two wives; the name of the one *was* Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah: and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had ^ano children.

3 And this man went up out of his city ^ayearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in ^bShiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, *were* there. (Elkanah had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. Hannah had no children. Elkanah went to the temple yearly.)

4 ¶ And when the time was that Elkanah offered, he gave to Peninnah his wife, and to all her sons and her daughters, portions:

5 But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but the LORD had shut up her womb.

6 And her adversary also ^aprovoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb.

7 And *as* he did so year by year, when she went up to the ^ahouse of the LORD, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat.

8 Then said Elkanah her husband to her, Hannah, why weepest thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? *am* not I better to thee than ten sons? (Hannah went to the temple annually.)

9 ¶ So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a ^aseat by a post of the temple of the LORD.

10 And she *was* in ^abitterness of soul (or sadness, grief), and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore. 11 And she ^avowed a ^bvow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine ^chandmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no ^drazor come upon his head. (Hannah had in mind a lifelong Nazarite vow for Samuel.)

12 And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli ^amarked (ie saw) her mouth. 13 Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken.

14 And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee.

15 And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I *am* a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have ^apoured out my soul before the LORD.

16 Count not thine handmaid for a ^adaughter of ^bBelial: (Heb worthlessness; good-for-nothing, base wickedness) for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto.

17 Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant *thee* thy petition that thou hast asked of him.

18 And she said, Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight. So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more *sad*. (Hannah prays and promises that if she has a son, she will give him to the Lord and cause him to be a Nazarite. While Hannah prays, her lips move and Eli thinks she is drunk. Eli promises that her prayers will be answered.)

19 ¶ And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to ^aRamah: and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD ^bremembered her.

20 Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a ^ason, and called his name Samuel, *saying*, Because I have asked him of the LORD. (Hannah has a son named Samuel.)

21 And the man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer unto the LORD the ^ayearly sacrifice, and his vow.

22 But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, *I will not go up* until the child be weaned, and *then* I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide for ever.

23 And Elkanah her husband said unto her, Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the LORD establish his word. So the woman abode, and gave her son suck until she weaned him. (Elkanah goes to the temple, but Hannah stays behind and says that when Samuel is weaned, then she will take him to the temple to live. Weaning usually lasted until the child was three.)

24 ¶ And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shiloh: and the child *was* young.

25 And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli.

26 And she said, O my lord, *as* thy soul liveth, my lord, I *am* the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD.

27 For this ^achild I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him:

28 Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be ^alent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there. (Hannah brings Samuel to Eli in the temple and gives Samuel to him to be the Lord's.)

This document was created with Win2PDF available at http://www.daneprairie.com. The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.