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Ruth

The book of Ruth is a short story in the Old Testament of the Christian Bible. It is named after the main character, Ruth, who is a Moabite woman. The book is set during the time of the judges in Israel, which is a period of about 400 years after the Israelites' exodus from Egypt.

The book begins with a family from Bethlehem, Elimelech, his wife Naomi, and their two sons, who move to Moab because of a famine in Israel. While in Moab, Elimelech dies, and Naomi's two sons marry Moabite women, Ruth and Orpah. However, after about ten years, both of Naomi's sons also die, leaving Naomi, Ruth, and Orpah as widows.

Naomi decides to return to Bethlehem, and she encourages Ruth and Orpah to stay in Moab and find new husbands. Orpah decides to stay, but Ruth insists on going with Naomi, saying, "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." (Ruth 1:16)

When they arrive in Bethlehem, Ruth goes to work in the fields, gleaning leftover grain, as was the custom for poor people. She ends up working in the fields of a man named Boaz, who is a relative of Naomi's husband. Boaz is kind to Ruth, and he allows her to glean extra grain and protects her from harm.

Naomi realizes that Boaz is a potential husband for Ruth, and she encourages Ruth to approach him and ask him to marry her. Boaz is pleased with Ruth's request and agrees to marry her, but he first must follow the customs of the time and seek out another relative who has a claim to marry Ruth.

In the end, the other relative declines the opportunity to marry Ruth, and Boaz marries her instead. Ruth gives birth to a son, and Naomi becomes the child's caregiver, which restores her joy.

The book of Ruth has several important themes, including loyalty, faithfulness, and kindness. It also shows how God can work through ordinary people to accomplish His purposes. Finally, the book of Ruth is significant because Ruth is an ancestor of King David and ultimately of Jesus Christ, as outlined in the genealogy in Matthew 1:5.

A brief description of each chapter of the Book of Ruth in the Christian Bible:

Chapter 1: This chapter introduces the main characters of the book: Naomi, her husband Elimelech, and their two sons, Mahlon and Chilion. Due to a famine in Bethlehem, they move to Moab, where Elimelech dies and Mahlon and Chilion marry Moabite women, Ruth and Orpah. However, tragedy strikes when Mahlon and Chilion die, leaving Naomi with her daughters-in-law. Naomi decides to return to Bethlehem and urges her daughters-in-law to stay in Moab and remarry. Orpah decides to stay, but Ruth insists on staying with Naomi and returning to Bethlehem with her.

Chapter 2: Naomi and Ruth arrive in Bethlehem, where Ruth begins gleaning in the fields to provide for them. She ends up in the field of Boaz, a relative of Elimelech, who is kind to her and allows her to glean more than she needs. Naomi recognizes that Boaz is a potential kinsman-redeemer for Ruth and encourages her to pursue him.

Chapter 3: Naomi hatches a plan for Ruth to approach Boaz and ask him to be her kinsman-redeemer. Ruth follows Naomi's plan and Boaz agrees to redeem her, but explains that there is a closer relative who has the first right to do so. Boaz promises to take care of the matter and tells Ruth to wait.

Chapter 4: Boaz meets with the closer relative, who declines to redeem Ruth, allowing Boaz to do so. Boaz marries Ruth and they have a son named Obed. Obed becomes the father of Jesse, who becomes the father of King David, making Ruth an ancestor of Jesus Christ.

RUTH

CHAPTER 1

Ru. 1:1 In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab.

Ru. 1:2 The man's name was Elimelech, his wife's name Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there.

Ru. 1:3 Now Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons.

Ru. 1:4 They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years,

Ru. 1:5 both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

Ru. 1:6 When she heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, Naomi and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there.

Ru. 1:7 With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.

Ru. 1:8 Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the LORD show kindness to you, as you have shown to your dead and to me.

Ru. 1:9 May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband.” Then she kissed them and they wept aloud

Ru. 1:10 and said to her, “We will go back with you to your people.”
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Ru. 1:11 But Naomi said, “Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands?

Ru. 1:12 Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me — even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons —

Ru. 1:13 would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD’s hand has gone out against me!”

Ru. 1:14 At this they wept again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye, but Ruth clung to her.

Ru. 1:15 “Look,” said Naomi, “your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.”

Ru. 1:16 But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.

Ru. 1:17 Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me.”

Ru. 1:18 When Naomi realised that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

Ru. 1:19 So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, “Can this be Naomi?”

Ru. 1:20 “Don’t call me Naomi,” she told them. “Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter.

Ru. 1:21 I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The LORD has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me.”
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Ru. 1:22 So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning.

The Book of Ruth, Chapter 1, tells the story of Naomi, her husband Elimelech, and their two sons, who left Bethlehem during a famine and moved to Moab. While in Moab,

Elimelech died, leaving Naomi a widow. Her sons, Mahlon and Kilion, married Moabite women named Orpah and Ruth, but after about ten years, Mahlon and Kilion died as well.

Naomi, feeling alone and bereft, decided to return to Bethlehem, and urged her daughters-in-law to stay in Moab and remarry. Orpah ultimately decided to stay, but Ruth insisted on going with Naomi. Upon returning to Bethlehem, Naomi was greeted by the townspeople, who were surprised to see her without her husband and sons.

As the story unfolds, Ruth goes out to glean in the fields, hoping to find some food to support herself and Naomi. She ends up working in the field of Boaz, a wealthy landowner and relative of Naomi's. Boaz takes notice of Ruth and treats her kindly, instructing his workers to leave extra grain for her to collect.

In this chapter, we see themes of loss, grief, loyalty, and the importance of community. Naomi and Ruth are both widows, struggling to survive in a world where women had few options for supporting themselves. However, Ruth's loyalty to Naomi and her willingness to work hard in the fields ultimately leads her to the care and protection of Boaz, setting the stage for the rest of the story.

Here are some important verses from Ruth chapter 1:

- Ruth 1:16-17: "But Ruth replied, 'Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.'"
- Ruth 1:20-21: "Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The Lord has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me."
- Ruth 1:22: "So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning."

These verses show the strong bond between Ruth and Naomi, as well as Naomi's bitterness and struggle with the hardships she has faced. They also introduce the setting of Bethlehem and the beginning of the barley harvest, which becomes significant later in the story.

The book of Ruth in the Bible, specifically chapter 1, provides a powerful reflection on themes such as loyalty, faithfulness, and the providence of God. Let's delve into a summary and reflection on the key elements of Ruth chapter 1:

Chapter 1 begins by introducing the setting, which is during the time of the judges, a period of Israel's history marked by rebellion and idolatry. A famine strikes the land of Bethlehem, causing a man named Elimelech, along with his wife Naomi and their two sons, to migrate to the neighboring country of Moab.

While in Moab, tragedy strikes as Elimelech passes away, leaving Naomi a widow. Her two sons, Mahlon and Kilion, marry Moabite women named Orpah and Ruth. However,

after living in Moab for about ten years, both of Naomi's sons also die, leaving her without any male descendants.

Deeply grieving and feeling alone, Naomi decides to return to Bethlehem upon hearing that the Lord has provided food for His people. She encourages her daughters-in-law to stay in Moab and find new husbands, as their chances of remarriage would be greater among their own people.

This is where we witness the faithfulness and loyalty of Ruth. Despite Naomi's insistence, Ruth refuses to leave her side. She utters the famous words, "Where you go, I will go; where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God my God" (Ruth 1:16). Ruth's devotion and commitment to Naomi reflect her character and provide a powerful example of loyalty and selflessness.

As Ruth and Naomi arrive in Bethlehem, the city buzzes with excitement and recognition. Naomi's return stirs the people, and she shares her sorrow with them, adopting the name "Mara," meaning bitter. Naomi's perception of her situation reflects her internal struggle and sense of loss.

The chapter concludes with the arrival of Naomi and Ruth at the beginning of the barley harvest. The timing of their return to Bethlehem coincides with God's providence, as the harvest season ensures their provision and sustenance.

Reflection:

Ruth chapter 1 teaches us several valuable lessons. Firstly, it reveals the importance of loyalty and selflessness, as demonstrated by Ruth's unwavering commitment to Naomi. Ruth's loyalty serves as a beautiful example of the kind of devotion we should show to our loved ones and those in need.

Secondly, the chapter touches upon the theme of God's providence. Despite the tragic circumstances, God's timing is evident as Naomi and Ruth return to Bethlehem precisely during the harvest season. This emphasizes that even in the midst of difficult times, God remains faithful and provides for His people.

Furthermore, the chapter explores the concept of grief and loss. Naomi's sorrow is understandable, and she openly expresses her bitterness and sense of emptiness. This allows us to recognize the reality of pain and grief, reminding us that it is essential to process and acknowledge our emotions, seeking solace in God and the support of others.

Overall, Ruth chapter 1 encourages us to embrace loyalty, remain faithful in challenging times, trust in God's providence, and find comfort in community. It sets the stage for a remarkable story of redemption and love that unfolds throughout the book of Ruth.

CHAPTER 2

Ru. 2:1 Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, from the

clan of Elimelech, a man of standing, whose name was Boaz.

Ru. 2:2 And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, “Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favour.” Naomi said to her, “Go ahead, my daughter.”

Ru. 2:3 So she went out and began to glean in the fields behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she found herself working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelech.

Ru. 2:4 Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, “The LORD be with you!” “The LORD bless you!” they called back.

Ru. 2:5 Boaz asked the foreman of his harvesters, “Whose young woman is that?”

Ru. 2:6 The foreman replied, “She is the Moabitess who came back from Moab with Naomi.

Ru. 2:7 She said, ‘Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the harvesters.’ She went into the field and has worked steadily from morning till now, except for a short rest in the shelter.”

Ru. 2:8 So Boaz said to Ruth, “My daughter, listen to me. Don’t go and glean in another field and don’t go away from here. Stay here with my servant girls.

Ru. 2:9 Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the girls. I have told the men not to touch you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled.”

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Ru. 2:10 At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She exclaimed, “Why have I found such favour in your eyes that you notice me — a foreigner?”

Ru. 2:11 Boaz replied, “I’ve been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband — how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before.

Ru. 2:12 May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.”

Ru. 2:13 “May I continue to find favour in your eyes, my lord,” she said. “You have given me comfort and have spoken kindly to your servant — though I do not have the standing of one of your servant girls.”

Ru. 2:14 At mealtime Boaz said to her, “Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar.” When she sat down with the harvesters, he offered her some roasted grain. She ate all she wanted and had some left over.

Ru. 2:15 As she got up to glean, Boaz gave orders to his men, “Even if

she gathers among the sheaves, don't embarrass her.

Ru. 2:16 Rather, pull out some stalks for her from the bundles and leave them for her to pick up, and don't rebuke her."

Ru. 2:17 So Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. Then she threshed the barley she had gathered, and it amounted to about an ephah.

Ru. 2:18 She carried it back to town, and her mother-in-law saw how much she had gathered. Ruth also brought out and gave her what she had left over after she had eaten enough.

Ru. 2:19 Her mother-in-law asked her, "Where did you glean today? Where did you work? Blessed be the man who took notice of you!" Then Ruth told her mother-in-law about the one at whose place she had been working. "The name of the man I worked with today is Boaz," she said.

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Ru. 2:20 "The LORD bless him!" Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. "He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead." She added, "That man is our close relative; he is one of our kinsman-redeemers."

Ru. 2:21 Then Ruth the Moabitess said, "He even said to me, 'Stay with my workers until they finish harvesting all my grain.'"

Ru. 2:22 Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, "It will be good for you, my daughter, to go with his girls, because in someone else's field you might be harmed."

Ru. 2:23 So Ruth stayed close to the servant girls of Boaz to glean until the barley and wheat harvests were finished. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

The Book of Ruth, Chapter 2, tells the story of Ruth's first encounter with Boaz and the beginning of their relationship.

Ruth continues to glean in Boaz's fields, and he notices her hard work and kindness towards Naomi. He asks his workers about her and learns that she is Naomi's daughter-in-law and a widow. Boaz shows her kindness and generosity, allowing her to glean among his workers and instructing them to leave extra grain for her.

Ruth is surprised and grateful for Boaz's kindness and asks him why he is showing her favor. Boaz replies that he has heard of her loyalty to Naomi and her decision to leave her own family to come with Naomi to Bethlehem. He blesses her and encourages her to continue gleaning in his fields for the rest of the harvest season.

Naomi is overjoyed when Ruth returns with a large amount of grain from Boaz's fields. She tells Ruth that Boaz is a close relative of Elimelech, and thus a potential "redeemer," who could marry Ruth and continue the family line. Naomi encourages Ruth to continue gleaning in Boaz's fields, hoping that their relationship will continue to grow.

In this chapter, we see themes of kindness, generosity, loyalty, and the importance of community. Boaz's kindness towards Ruth reflects his willingness to fulfill the laws of gleaning and help those in need, while Ruth's loyalty towards Naomi demonstrates her

strong character and her desire to provide for her family. The growing relationship between Ruth and Boaz sets the stage for the rest of the story, as their actions eventually lead to redemption and restoration for Naomi and her family.

Here are some important verses from Ruth chapter 2:

- Ruth 2:2: "And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, 'Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor.' Naomi said to her, 'Go ahead, my daughter.'"
- Ruth 2:11-12: "Boaz replied, 'I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.'"
- Ruth 2:20: "The Lord bless him!" Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. "He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead." She added, "That man is our close relative; he is one of our guardian-redeemers."

These verses show Ruth's initiative in gleaning in the fields to provide for herself and Naomi, as well as her hard work and character, which leads to Boaz taking notice of her. Boaz's blessing of Ruth and recognition of her faithfulness to Naomi highlights the theme of loyalty and kindness throughout the book. Naomi's identification of Boaz as a guardian-redeemer introduces the concept of redemption and foreshadows the events of chapter 4.

In Ruth chapter 2, we witness the unfolding of God's providence and His care for the vulnerable. The chapter centers around Ruth's encounter with Boaz, a man who proves to be instrumental in her life.

After Naomi and Ruth's return to Bethlehem, Ruth takes it upon herself to gather leftover grain from the fields in order to provide for her and Naomi. This act demonstrates her determination and work ethic, as well as her willingness to take initiative in caring for her family.

As Ruth begins gleaning in the fields, she coincidentally ends up in Boaz's field, who is a close relative of Naomi's deceased husband. Boaz takes notice of Ruth and inquires about her, and his servants inform him of her story and her dedication to Naomi.

Boaz approaches Ruth and offers her protection, instructing her to stay in his fields where she will be safe and well-provided for. He encourages her to glean among his female servants and even orders his workers to intentionally leave extra grain for her to collect. Boaz's generosity and kindness towards Ruth are evident, reflecting his character and integrity.

Ruth is taken aback by Boaz's favor and asks why he is showing her such kindness, to which Boaz responds by acknowledging her loyalty to Naomi and the reputation of her

character. He blesses her and prays for her well-being, recognizing her as a foreigner who has sought refuge under the wings of God.

This chapter of Ruth provides several reflections for us. Firstly, it highlights the importance of diligently and faithfully working in the circumstances we find ourselves in. Ruth's willingness to labor in the fields demonstrates her commitment to providing for her family and her determination to make the most of her situation.

Secondly, Ruth's encounter with Boaz showcases God's providential care for the vulnerable and marginalized. Boaz, as a representative of God's goodness, goes above and beyond to ensure Ruth's safety and well-being. This reminds us of God's compassion and how He often works through the kindness of others to bring about His purposes.

Furthermore, Ruth chapter 2 emphasizes the significance of character and integrity. Boaz recognizes and praises Ruth's reputation and her loyalty to Naomi. It serves as a reminder that our actions and attitudes can speak volumes about our character and have a lasting impact on those around us.

Lastly, the chapter underscores the concept of divine favor and blessing. Ruth, a foreigner in a foreign land, finds herself in a position of receiving unexpected favor from Boaz. This reminds us that God's favor is not limited by our circumstances or background. When we walk in obedience and align ourselves with His will, He can bring forth blessings and opportunities that surpass our expectations.

Overall, Ruth chapter 2 teaches us the importance of diligent work, God's providential care, the significance of character, and the experience of divine favor. It sets the stage for the continuing story of Ruth and Boaz, revealing the redemptive power of love and God's faithfulness to His people.

CHAPTER 3

Ru. 3:1 One day Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, should I not try to find a home for you, where you will be well provided for?"

Ru. 3:2 Is not Boaz, with whose servant girls you have been, a kinsman of ours? Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing-floor.

Ru. 3:3 Wash and perfume yourself, and put on your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing-floor, but don't let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking.

Ru. 3:4 When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do."

Ru. 3:5 "I will do whatever you say," Ruth answered.

Ru. 3:6 So she went down to the threshing-floor and did everything her mother-in-law told her to do.

Ru. 3:7 When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile.

Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down.

Ru. 3:8 In the middle of the night something startled the man, and he turned and discovered a woman lying at his feet.

Ru. 3:9 “Who are you?” he asked. “I am your servant Ruth,” she said. “Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman-redeemer.”

Ru. 3:10 “The LORD bless you, my daughter,” he replied. “This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor.

Ru. 3:11 And now, my daughter, don’t be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All my fellow townsmen know that you are a woman of noble character.

Ru. 3:12 Although it is true that I am near of kin, there is a kinsman redeemer nearer than I.

Ru. 3:13 Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to redeem, good; let him redeem. But if he is not willing, as surely as the LORD lives I will do it. Lie here until morning.”

Ru. 3:14 So she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before anyone could be recognised; and he said, “Don’t let it be known that a woman came to the threshing-floor.”

Ru. 3:15 He also said, “Bring me the shawl you are wearing and hold it out.” When she did so, he poured into it six measures of barley and put it on her. Then he went back to town.

Ru. 3:16 When Ruth came to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, “How did it go, my daughter?” Then she told her everything Boaz had done for her

Ru. 3:17 and added, “He gave me these six measures of barley, saying, ‘Don’t go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.’”

Ru. 3:18 Then Naomi said, “Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today.”

The Book of Ruth, Chapter 3, tells the story of Naomi's plan for Ruth to approach Boaz as a potential redeemer.

Naomi recognizes the potential for Boaz to become Ruth's kinsman-redeemer, a relative who would marry Ruth and continue Elimelech's family line. Naomi advises Ruth to wash and anoint herself and then go to Boaz at the threshing floor where he will be working that night. Ruth is to wait until Boaz has finished eating and drinking, then to uncover his feet and lie down next to him.

Ruth obeys Naomi and goes to the threshing floor. Boaz wakes up in the middle of the night to find Ruth lying next to him. She explains her situation to Boaz and asks him to

spread his garment over her, a symbol of his willingness to become her kinsman-redeemer. Boaz is touched by Ruth's loyalty and agrees to help her. However, Boaz also acknowledges that there is another relative who is a closer kinsman-redeemer than he is, and he must give that person the opportunity to redeem Ruth first. Boaz promises Ruth that he will take care of the matter and ensure that she is redeemed. In this chapter, we see themes of loyalty, faith, and trust. Ruth's willingness to follow Naomi's plan shows her faith in God's provision and her trust in Naomi's wisdom. Boaz's willingness to help Ruth reflects his own loyalty to the family and his faith in God's plan. The concept of the kinsman-redeemer demonstrates the importance of family and community in ancient Israel, and foreshadows the ultimate redemption that God will provide through Jesus Christ.

Here are some important verses from Ruth chapter 3:

- Ruth 3:1: "One day Ruth's mother-in-law Naomi said to her, 'My daughter, I must find a home for you, where you will be well provided for.'"
- Ruth 3:9: "Who are you?" he [Boaz] asked. "I am your servant Ruth," she said. "Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a guardian-redeemer of our family."
- Ruth 3:11: "And now, my daughter, don't be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All the people of my town know that you are a woman of noble character."

These verses show Naomi's concern for Ruth's well-being and her plan for Ruth to approach Boaz as a potential kinsman-redeemer. Ruth's request for Boaz to spread his garment over her is a symbolic act of seeking his protection and care. Boaz's affirmation of Ruth's character and his willingness to fulfill his role as a guardian-redeemer foreshadows the resolution of the story in chapter 4.

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[Ruth chapter 3 presents a pivotal moment in the story as Naomi devises a plan to secure a future for Ruth. The chapter explores themes of trust, faith, and the pursuit of redemption.](#)

Naomi, recognizing Boaz's role as a close relative who could potentially act as a kinsman-redeemer, advises Ruth on how to approach him. She instructs Ruth to prepare herself and go to the threshing floor where Boaz would be working and sleeping.

In the cover of night, Ruth approaches Boaz while he rests. She uncovers his feet and lies down, symbolically positioning herself at his feet. When Boaz wakes up startled, Ruth expresses her desire for him to redeem her, highlighting his role as a near kinsman.

Boaz acknowledges Ruth's noble character and commends her for not pursuing younger men. He expresses his willingness to fulfill the role of a kinsman-redeemer but explains that there is a relative who has a closer claim and must be given the opportunity first. However, Boaz promises to resolve the matter the following day.

This chapter of Ruth provides several reflections for us. Firstly, it demonstrates Ruth's unwavering trust in Naomi's guidance. Ruth shows courage and vulnerability in following Naomi's unconventional plan, trusting that it will lead to a favorable outcome. Her obedience and faith serve as an example of how we should trust in God's guidance, even when the path seems uncertain.

Secondly, the chapter explores the theme of redemption. Ruth's actions can be seen as a symbolic representation of her seeking redemption, not just for herself but also for Naomi's family. Ruth's request for Boaz to redeem her highlights the biblical concept of the kinsman-redeemer, who was responsible for protecting and providing for the family of a deceased relative. It foreshadows the ultimate redemption found in Christ, who serves as our ultimate Redeemer.

Furthermore, Ruth chapter 3 emphasizes the importance of patience and proper order. Boaz, although willing to redeem Ruth, follows the cultural protocol by addressing the closer relative first. This highlights the significance of honoring established systems and patiently waiting for the proper time and opportunity.

Lastly, the chapter underscores the virtue of integrity. Boaz commends Ruth for not pursuing younger men, demonstrating her commitment to honoring God's commandments and acting with moral integrity. It serves as a reminder that upholding godly values and maintaining purity of heart and action are essential in our pursuit of God's plans for our lives.

Overall, Ruth chapter 3 teaches us about trust, faith, redemption, patience, and integrity. It sets the stage for the culmination of the story in the next chapter, revealing the beauty of God's providence and the power of His redemptive plan.

CHAPTER 4

Ru. 4:1 Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat there. When the kinsman-redeemer he had mentioned came along, Boaz said, "Come over here, my friend, and sit down." So he

went over and sat down.

Ru. 4:2 Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, "Sit here," and they did so.

Ru. 4:3 Then he said to the kinsman-redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our brother Elimelech.

Ru. 4:4 I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no-one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line." "I will redeem it," he said.

Ru. 4:5 Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the land from Naomi and from Ruth the Moabitess, you acquire the dead man's widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property."

Ru. 4:6 At this, the kinsman-redeemer said, "Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it."

Ru. 4:7 (Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalising transactions in Israel.)

Ru. 4:8 So the kinsman-redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it yourself." And he removed his sandal.

Ru. 4:9 Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, "Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelech, Kilion and Mahlon.

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Ru. 4:10 I have also acquired Ruth the Moabitess, Mahlon's widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from the town records. Today you are witnesses!"

Ru. 4:11 Then the elders and all those at the gate said, "We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem.

Ru. 4:12 Through the offspring the LORD gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah."

Ru. 4:13 So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. Then he went to her, and the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son.

Ru. 4:14 The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he

become famous throughout Israel!

Ru. 4:15 He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth.”

Ru. 4:16 Then Naomi took the child, laid him in her lap and cared for him.

Ru. 4:17 The women living there said, “Naomi has a son.” And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Ru. 4:18 This, then, is the family line of Perez: Perez was the father of Hezron,

Ru. 4:19 Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab,

Ru. 4:20 Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon,

Ru. 4:21 Salmon the father of Boaz, Boaz the father of Obed,

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Ru. 4:22 Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David

The Book of Ruth, Chapter 4, tells the story of Boaz's redemption of Ruth and the restoration of Naomi's family.

Boaz goes to the gate of the town, where the elders of the community gathered, and calls the closer relative who has the first right to redeem Ruth. Boaz presents the case to him, telling him that he has the right to redeem the property of Elimelech and take Ruth as his wife. However, the relative declines the offer because it would jeopardize his own inheritance, allowing Boaz to take Ruth as his wife.

Boaz publicly declares his intention to redeem Ruth and marry her. The elders and people of the community witness the transaction and bless the couple. Boaz and Ruth have a son named Obed, who becomes the grandfather of King David.

In this chapter, we see themes of redemption, family, and faithfulness. The story of Boaz's redemption of Ruth and his willingness to marry her demonstrates his faithfulness to God and his desire to preserve Naomi's family line. The importance of community is highlighted by the public transaction at the gate of the town. The birth of Obed, the ancestor of David, foreshadows the ultimate redemption that God will provide through Jesus Christ, who will also come from David's line.

Here are some important verses from Ruth chapter 4:

- Ruth 4:4-6: "I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line." "I will redeem it," he said. Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the dead man's widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property."

- Ruth 4:9-10: "Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, 'Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelek, Kilion and Mahlon. I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, Mahlon's widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from his hometown. Today you are witnesses!'"
- Ruth 4:13-14: "So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he made love to her, the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. The women said to Naomi: 'Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel!'"

These verses show the resolution of the story, with Boaz fulfilling his role as a kinsman-redeemer by redeeming the land and taking Ruth as his wife to carry on the family line of Elimelek. The birth of their son emphasizes the theme of redemption and highlights God's provision for Ruth and Naomi. The women's words of praise acknowledge Boaz as a guardian-redeemer and anticipate his continued legacy.

Ruth chapter 4 brings the beautiful story of Ruth and Naomi to its resolution, highlighting themes of redemption, restoration, and God's faithfulness.

In this chapter, Boaz takes decisive action to secure both Ruth's future and the preservation of Naomi's family lineage. Boaz gathers ten elders of the city as witnesses and approaches the closer relative who had the first right to redeem Ruth. Boaz presents the opportunity to him, but when he realizes that acquiring Ruth would endanger his own inheritance, he relinquishes his right, allowing Boaz to take on the role of the kinsman-redeemer.

Boaz then publicly declares his intention to redeem Ruth, marry her, and redeem the property that belonged to Naomi's family. The people of the city witness and bless the union, acknowledging that Ruth's character and faithfulness are worthy of praise. Boaz and Ruth marry, and they have a son named Obed.

This chapter of Ruth offers several reflections for us. Firstly, it highlights the concept of redemption. Boaz's role as the kinsman-redeemer is fulfilled as he willingly steps forward to redeem Ruth and secure her future. This redemption mirrors God's desire to redeem and restore His people, providing hope and a future for those who trust in Him.

Secondly, the chapter emphasizes the theme of restoration. Through Ruth and Boaz's union, the family lineage of Naomi is preserved, and their descendants become part of the lineage leading to King David and ultimately Jesus Christ. This highlights God's ability to restore what was broken, turning despair into joy and bringing about His redemptive purposes.

Furthermore, Ruth chapter 4 underscores the faithfulness of God. Throughout the story, we see God's providence at work, orchestrating events and leading Ruth and Naomi to a place of blessing. God's faithfulness is evident in Boaz's willingness to fulfill his role as

the kinsman-redeemer, the support and blessing of the witnesses and people of the city, and the birth of Obed, who becomes an ancestor of Jesus.

Lastly, the chapter celebrates the virtue of character and the faithfulness of Ruth. The witnesses and the people of the city acknowledge Ruth's noble character, recognizing her faithfulness, devotion, and the blessing she brings to Boaz and Naomi's family. It serves as a reminder that God honors those who walk in integrity and live out their faith with perseverance.

Overall, Ruth chapter 4 teaches us about redemption, restoration, God's faithfulness, and the importance of character. It brings the story of Ruth and Naomi to a beautiful conclusion, showcasing the power of God's redemptive plan in the lives of His people. The chapter also serves as a reminder of God's ability to restore what is broken and His faithfulness to fulfill His promises.

Notes:

While the Book of Ruth is relatively short and straightforward, there are still some questions that remain unanswered or debated among scholars and readers. Some of these difficult questions include:

1. Who is the author of the Book of Ruth?
2. What is the historical context of the story? When did it take place?
3. Why did Naomi encourage Ruth and Orpah to return to Moab?
4. Was Ruth's decision to stay with Naomi purely out of loyalty and love, or were there other factors at play?
5. Why did Boaz wait until the morning to address the issue of redeeming Ruth's family line, rather than taking action immediately?
6. What was the significance of the "shoe exchange" in Ruth 4:7-8?
7. What is the meaning of the genealogy at the end of the book, tracing the lineage from Perez to King David?
8. Why was the story of Ruth included in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament)?

While some of these questions have possible answers or interpretations, others remain a mystery or subject of debate among scholars and readers.