

**Program:** SS Panel 2025 2 Q

**Quarterly title:** Allusions, Images, Symbols: How to Study Bible Prophecy

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**Lesson Title:** #11 Ruth and Esther

**For Lesson Dates:** *June 7-13, 2025*

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Question:

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Lesson 11

\*June 7–13

## Ruth and Esther

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### SABBATH AFTERNOON

**Read for This Week's Study:** *Ruth 1:1–5; Ruth 2:5–20; Job 1:6–11; Matt. 4:8, 9; Esther 3:1–14; Rev. 12:14–17.*

**Memory Text:** “So it was, when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, that she found favor in his sight, and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. Then Esther went near and touched the top of the scepter” (*Esther 5:2, NKJV*).

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MONDAY

June 9

## Ruth and Boaz

### \*\*\*READ\*\*\*

Naomi asked that her name be changed to *Mara*, because of the bitterness that had fallen over her life (see *Ruth 1:20*). **Our relationship with our Creator has been irreparably damaged by sin, forcing us into spiritual poverty.** Our prospects are dim, and we spend our lives gleaning what we can from the edges of the field, living on the scraps of joy that can still be found in a broken world. But it all changes the moment we make a remarkable discovery: God has not forgotten us.

**Read Ruth 2:5–20. Why is this such a pivotal moment in the story? Why do you think Naomi's discovery of their benefactor's identity was such good news?**

### Background to the story - Ruth 1:1-5 Covered in Sun. Lesson

**REFR: > > > Ruth 1:1** 1 Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. 2 The name of the man *was* Elimelech, the name of his wife *was* Naomi, and the names of his two sons *were* Mahlon and Chilion—Ephrathites of Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to the country of Moab and remained there.

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

4 Now they took wives of the women of Moab: the name of the one *was* Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth. And they dwelt there about ten years.

5 Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband.

### Naomi Returns with Ruth

**Ruth 1:6** 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 that the Lord had visited His people by giving them bread.

7 Therefore she went out from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.

**Ruth 1:8** And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go, return each to her mother’s house. The Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.

**9** The Lord grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband.” So she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.

**10** And they said to her, “**Surely we will return with you to your people.**”

**11** But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? *Are* there still sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?

**12** Turn back, my daughters, go—for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, *if* I should have a husband tonight and should also bear sons,

**13** would you wait for them till they were grown? Would you restrain yourselves from having husbands? No, my daughters; for it grieves me very much for your sakes that the hand of the Lord has gone out against me!”

### **Orpah leaves - tearful goodbye**

**Ruth 1:14** Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

**15** And she said, “Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.”

### **Ruth - Your people *shall be* my people,**

**Ruth 1:16** But Ruth said: “Entreat me not to leave you, *Or to* turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people *shall be* my people, And your God, my God.

**17** **Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, If *anything but* death parts you and me.**”

**18** When she saw that she was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her.

### **call me Mara**

**Ruth 1:19** Now the two of them went until they came to Bethlehem. And it happened, when they had come to Bethlehem, that all the city was excited because of them; and the women said, “*Is* this Naomi?”

**20** But she said to them, “Do not call me Naomi; **call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.**

### **\*\*\*READ\*\*\***

Never a prayer is offered, however faltering, never a tear is shed, however secret, never a sincere desire after God is cherished, however feeble, but the Spirit of God

goes forth to meet it. Even before the prayer is uttered or the yearning of the heart made known, grace from Christ goes forth to meet the grace that is working upon the human soul. . COL 206.1

**Ruth 1:21** I went out full, and the Lord has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the Lord has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?”

**22** So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. Now they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

**Naomi:** The gracious, my delight, pleasant

**Naomi:** [H5281](#) ([Brown-Driver-Briggs](#)) נַעֲמִי no'ômîy

**BDB Definition:**

Naomi = “my delight”

1) wife of Elimelech, mother of Mahlon and Chilion, and mother-in-law of Ruth and Orpah

**Part of Speech:** noun proper feminine

**A Related Word by BDB/Strong's Number:** from [H5278](#)

**Naomi:** [H5281](#) ([Strong](#)) נַעֲמִי no'ômîy, *pleasant*

*no-om-ee'*

From [H5278](#); *pleasant*; *Noomi*, an Israelitess: - Naomi.

[Psa 34:18](#) The LORD *is* nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

**Boaz notices Naomi - enquires about her**

**Ruth 2:5–20** **5** Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, “Whose young woman *is* this?”

**6** So the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered and said, “**It is the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab.**

**7** And she said, ‘Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.’ So she came and has continued from morning until now, though she rested a little in the house.”

**8** Then Boaz said to Ruth, “You will listen, my daughter, will you not? **Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women.**

**9** Let your eyes *be* on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? And **when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn.**”

**Ruth 2:10** So she fell on her face, bowed down to the ground, and said to him, “Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I *am* a foreigner?”

**11** And Boaz answered and said to her, “**It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband,** and *how* you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before.

**Boaz is a believer in God -**

**12** The Lord repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the Lord God of Israel, **under whose wings you have come for refuge.**”

**13** Then she said, “Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants.”

**Your time of need is over (hunger) is over**

**Ruth 2:14** Now Boaz said to her at mealtime, “Come here, and eat of the bread, and dip your piece of bread in the vinegar.” So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed parched *grain* to her; and she ate and was satisfied, and kept some back.

**15** And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, “Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her.

**16** Also **let *grain* from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave *it* that she may glean, and do not rebuke her.**”

**17** So she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.

**18** Then she took *it* up and went into the city, and her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. So she brought out and gave to her what she had kept back after she had been satisfied.

**Naomi praises the LORD & mentions near kinsman**

**19** And her mother-in-law said to her, “Where have you gleaned today? And where did you work? Blessed be the one who took notice of you.” So she told her

mother-in-law with whom she had worked, and said, “The man’s name with whom I worked today is Boaz.”

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.”

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\*\*\*READ\*\*\*

Naomi had been dispossessed, and she likely came back to sell her land in order to pay off debts before they moved to Moab. God had made provision in Israel for dispossessed individuals to reclaim their inheritance in the Promised Land: a close relative could redeem the land for them. **Boaz was not just a kind farmer; he was a kinsman. If you were not able to pay your debts and reclaim your stake in the inheritance of Israel, a close relative could do it for you: “ ‘If one of your brethren becomes poor, and has sold some of his possession, and if his redeeming relative comes to redeem it, then he may redeem what his brother sold’ ” (Lev. 25:25, NKJV).**

The discovery that Boaz was not only kind-hearted and generous but a *relative* was the best possible news: the poverty in which these two women existed did not have to last forever.

\*\*\*READ\*\*\*

Christians have long understood Boaz to be a type of Christ, who is not only our Creator, but chose to become our kinsman—a real, flesh-and-blood human being, one of the reasons why over and over He called Himself “the Son of man” (Matt. 12:8, Mark 8:31, Luke 22:22, John 3:14).

Far too many people think of God in harsh terms: perhaps He will let us into heaven if we check all the correct boxes on a moral inventory, but He will do so grudgingly because we have scraped by on a technicality. The picture of Christ revealed in Boaz completely displaces such notions. **God not only notices us; in spite of our deep spiritual poverty, He wants us as His bride.**

**Try to wrap your mind around not only the Creator’s becoming part of His own creation but then dying for it. How should this astonishing truth impact how we view our own existence?**