

Background Information

What might look like a stroke of good luck to the casual observer, reveals God's providence to the student of His Word. Ruth has left the land of her family and has chosen to follow the God of her mother-in-law back to the Land of Promise. God's first act toward His Gentile daughter is to show her that He had a plan for her life that was much greater than she could have ever imagined.

Ruth didn't intentionally seek out the field of Boaz, but God providentially directed her steps. Boaz's favor fell on Ruth when he learned of her loyalty to her mother in law. Naomi's faith revived as she realized that God had not abandoned her but instead had gone before Ruth and faithfully provided for their needs.

God's law lovingly provided for the poor, widows and orphans in requiring the land owner to leave the corners of his land untouched to be left for those who were in need. Israel did not always follow this practice, but Boaz shows his godly character in following the law. The men usually did the cutting and the women followed behind and gathered and bound the freshly cut crop. Boaz offered Ruth not only a place to glean but his protection throughout the harvest. Barley, though sown at the same time as wheat was harvested a month early as it matured more quickly. The barley harvest ended in May and blended into the wheat harvest, which continued into June.



LOOKING FOR GOLD - WHAT DOES IT SAY?

The first step in mining for gold is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

Setting the scene: You may want to begin your reading with Lev. 19:9-10, Lev. 25:23-25, Deut. 24:19, Deut. 25:5-10, Rom. 5:1-5

Ruth 2:1-7

1 There was a relative of Naomi's husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech. His name was Boaz. 2 So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor."

And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."

3 Then she left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. And she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech.

4 Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, "The Lord be with you!" And they answered him, "The Lord bless you!" 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."

Ruth 2:8-16

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." **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. **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."

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."

Ruth 2:17-23

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. 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." 21 Ruth the Moabitess said, "He also said to me, 'You shall stay close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.'" 22 And Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, "It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, and that people do not meet you in any other field." 23 So she stayed close by the young women of Boaz, to glean until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest; and she dwelt with her mother-in-law.



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BOILING IT DOWN – WHAT DOES IT MEAN?



What **lesson** can I draw from my observations?

State each lesson in a simple sentence (aim for 10 words or less).

Ruth 2:1–7 _____

Ruth 2:8-16 _____

Ruth 2:17-23 _____



REFINED AS GOLD - HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

How should it change me? Ask yourself, “What **course of action** do I need to take to apply each lesson?” (aim for 10 words or less)

Ruth 2:1–7 _____

Ruth 2:8-16 _____

Ruth 2:17–23 _____

CHALLENGE: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.



STORING UP YOUR TREASURE . . .

What did God say? Deut. 10:18 NIV if you have it

How did Boaz's favor affect Ruth?

How did Boaz's favor for Ruth affect Naomi? v 20

How did seeing God's blessing restore Naomi's hope?

What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main points.

CHECKING FOR CLARITY: See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

Ruth 2:1-7 _____
Ruth 2:8-16 _____
Ruth 2:17-23 _____

BARS OF GOLD: State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

FLEX YOUR MUSCLES: Can you discover an N.T. example of this O.T. truth?



HIDE YOUR TREASURE IN YOUR HEART

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jer. 29:11

Radiating His Truth . . .

To be *under His wings* means to be in the place of security and fellowship with God. - Warren Wiersbe

