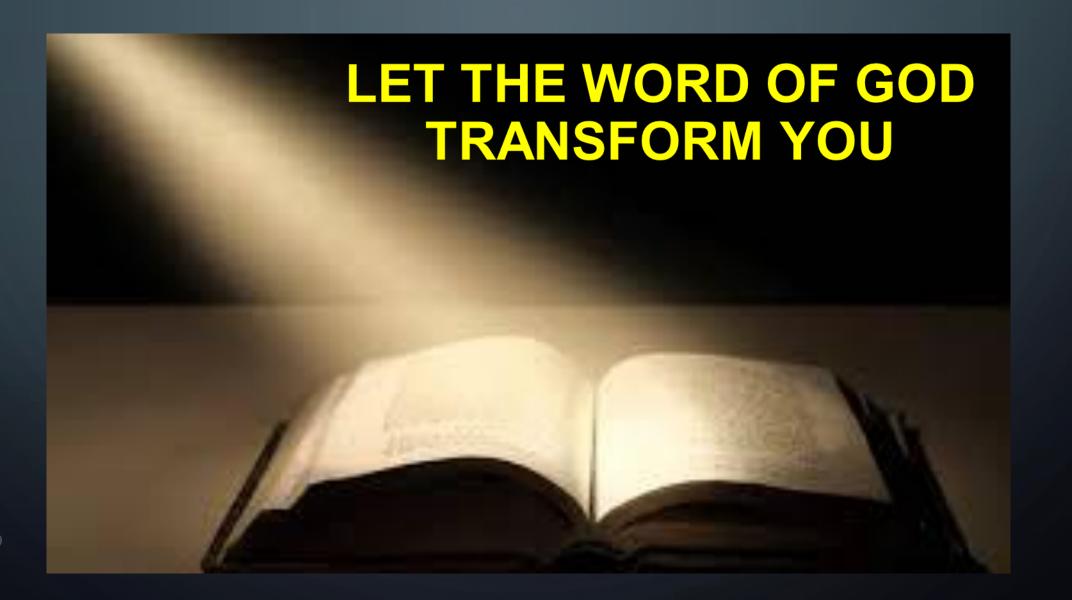
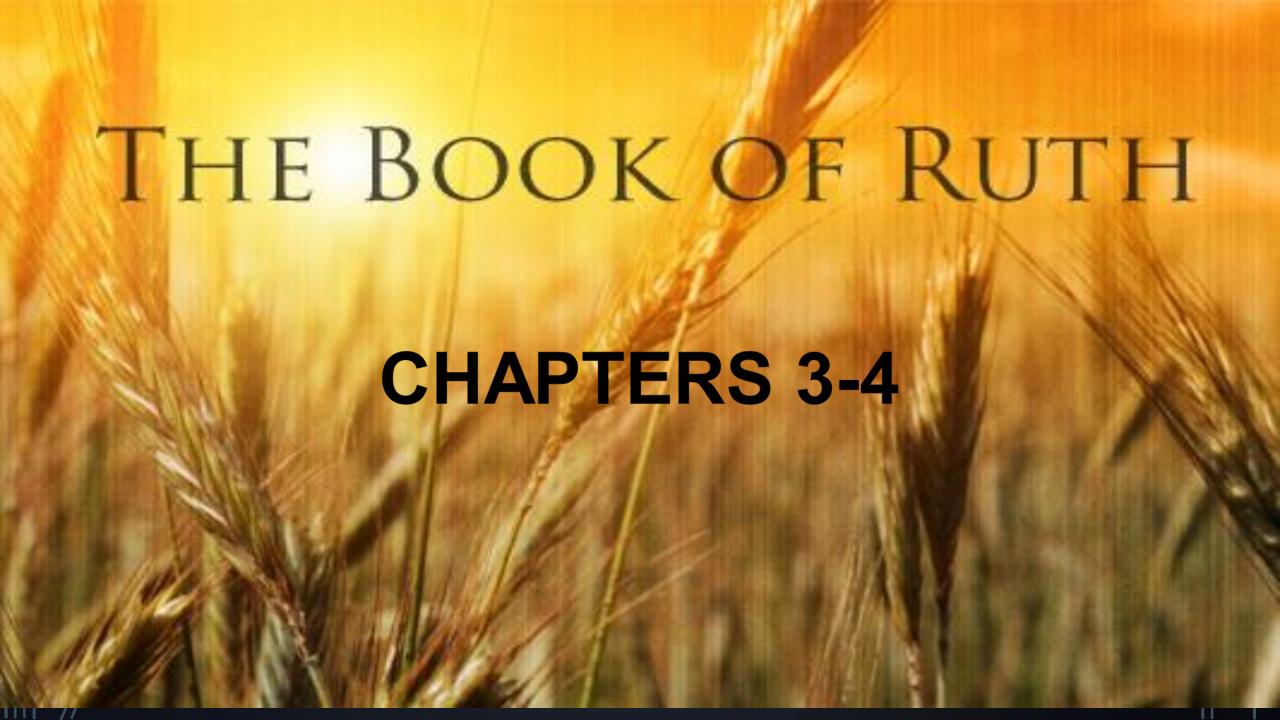
### HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE INDUCTIVELY BY MARK YANG





#### DIVIDE INTO PARAGRAPHS AND GIVE TITLES

- 3:1-6. Naomi instructed Ruth to propose to Boaz.
- 3:7-13. Boaz promised to redeem Ruth and her family honorably.
- 3:14-15 Boaz protected Ruth by sending her at dawn with abundant grain.
- 3:16-18 Naomi counsels Ruth to wait and see what happens.
- 4:1-8 Boaz fulfilled his responsivity as a guardian redeemer.
- 4:9-12. Elders and all people blessed Ruth
- 4:13-17 The marriage of Boaz and Ruth, the birth of Obed.
- 4:18-22 The genealogy of David.

### BASIC OBSERVATION BASED ON 5 W'S AND ONE H.

- Who appears?
  - Main characters: Naomi, Boaz and Ruth
  - Supporting cast: another guardian-redeemer, ten elders of the town, all the people at the gate, the women
  - Director and Producer: the LORD

### • What is happening?

- Naomi persuades Ruth to propose to Boaz according to Israelite law and custom, and Ruth obeys Naomi
- Boaz accepts with a condition that he give first chance to the closer guardian-redeemer.
- How Boaz took Ruth as his wife legally and how Obed was born, and became the grandfather of King David

### When does this take place?

- One day (1). After the barley crop was harvested and was brought to the threshing floor.
- While winnowing barley.
- During the night and early morning.
- After Ruth proposed, Boaz promised to respond appropriately;
   Ruth and Naomi sat tight
- At least 9 months pass by from the marriage to the birth of Obed
- Obed became the grandfather of King David, perhaps around 40 years later

• Where does this take place?

- Naomi's house (3:1-5).
- Boaz's threshing floor (3:6-15).
- Naomi's house (3:16-18).
- The town gate, a public meeting place (4:1-12; Dt 21:19). They decided important things as a community at this place.
- Boaz and Ruth's house (4:13-17).

### FURTHER OBSERVATION BASED ON FIVE FINGERS METHOD

- Repeated words
  - "Guardian-redeemer," or "redeem" 14 times (2:20;3:9,12,13[2]; 4:1,3,4[2]6[3],8,14). Hebrew "ga'al"
    - The guardian-redeemer was responsible for protecting the interests of needy members of the extended family in several ways:
      - to provide for a brother who had died (Dt 25:5-10),
      - to redeem land that a poor relative had sold outside the family (Lev 25:25-28),
      - to redeem a relative who had been sold into slavery (Lev 25:47-49),
      - and to avenge the killing of a relative (Nu 35:19-21).

- The establishment of the guardian-redeemer was God's way
  of protecting the twelve tribes so that each one could
  maintain their family line and property.
- God promised to send the Messiah through the tribe of Judah. The purity and existence of this tribe had to be maintained for God to keep his promise.

Repeated words

• "Do," 10 times (3:4,5,6,11,13 [2],16; 4:4[2],6). It requires action and obedience.

- Ruth did what Naomi instructed in obedience.
- Boaz was ready to do what Ruth asked; it was his promise. Boaz acted according to his promise Action is important, not just words.

#### Relationships

- Ruth, the Moabite, the dead man's widow (5,10) became Boaz's of wife and the mother of Obed.
- Ten elders and the people at the gate became witnesses of the marriage of Boaz and Ruth.
- The women say, "Naomi has a son," and named his Obed, which means "worshiper."
- Naomi became the "nanny Grandma" of Obed (the word
- "cared for him" means "nanny" or "babysitter").
- Obed became the grandfather of King David

# Comparisons Ruth is blessed in the same way as Rachel and Leah who built up the family of Israel (11). Boaz and Ruth's family may be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah (12).

#### Contrasts

- Two guardian-redeemers.
  - One was willing to take the land, but not to marry the widow because it would endanger his own estate. This probably means that if he had a son by Ruth, that son would inherit part or all of his own estate and it would be considered Mahlon's, not his own.
  - Boaz faced the same situation as a guardian-redeemer. But he was more concerned about Ruth than his property and inheritance. Boaz had God's mindset of compassion toward Ruth. He was mindful of a marginalized, poor, Gentile widow.

#### Contrasts

- Ruth was better to Naomi than seven sons
- Naomi came back to Bethlehem empty (1:21), but the LORD filled her with a good son-in-law, and a very special grandson through Ruth; God renewed her life

#### Emphasis

 The repetition of the word "redeem" in various forms indicates that redemption is a significant theme in the book of Ruth.2. God blessed Ruth's faith abundantly, and she became a source of blessing.

#### INTERPRETATION

- a key word in this passage is "redeem."
- Naomi realized that Boaz was one of her guardian-redeemers.
- Deuteronomy 25:5-6 say, "If brothers are living together and one of them dies without a son, his widow must not marry outside the family. Her husband's brother shall take her and marry her and fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to her. The first son she bears shall carry on the name of the dead brother so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel."

- Why did Naomi give a strange instruction (3:1-4)?
- How could Ruth obey clearly without hesitation (3:5-6)?
- Why did Boaz regard Ruth's act as greater kindness (3:10)?
- How did Boaz carry out his responsibility, and how did God bless Ruth (4:1-22)?
- In what respect is Boaz a guardian-redeemer, a type of Christ?

### A. WHY DID NAOMI GIVE A STRANGE INSTRUCTION (3:1-4)?

- There was a risk involved in sending Ruth to Boaz in this way.
- Naomi's faith in God had been revived as she experienced God's leading upon Ruth step by step.
- Still we have some question in our heart about why Naomi chose such a risky way.
- She saw God's opportunity which required her full commitment and courageous action. So she took it by faith without hesitation. It was her act of faith in God and the expression of her genuine love for her daughter-in-law.



## B. HOW COULD RUTH OBEY CLEARLY WITHOUT HESITATION (3:5-6)?

- Ruth clearly knew how risky it was to follow Naomi's instruction. If she was misunderstood, she could be stoned to death, not to mention cast out of society.
- It was shameful for a woman servant to approach a noble master in this way.

- Ruth trusted her mother-in-law fully. She understood the meaning of her mentor's instructions.
- She sensed God's grace at work in her life and the restoration of her mother-in-law's family.
- Fundamentally, Ruth trusted in God.
- Ruth already determined to follow Naomi even to death (1:18).
- She had to deny herself to obey. She obeyed Naomi to build up her family line, risking her life and future (9). This was her self-sacrificing love for her mother-in-law.

### C. WHY DID BOAZ REGARD RUTH'S ACT AS GREATER KINDNESS (3:10)?

- The word "kindness" means "loyalty." Her first act was to pledge to follow Naomi and her God even to death (1:16). That was a great act of loyalty. But this one was even greater.
- She was willing to marry an older man to restore Elimelech's family line. She did not follow her own desire to remarry for her own benefit and well-being. She sacrificed herself for the sake of her family line.

# D. HOW DID BOAZ CARRY OUT HIS RESPONSIBILITY, AND HOW DID GOD BLESS RUTH (4:1-22)?

- Boaz was responsible toward God and his law, toward the family of Naomi, and toward Ruth. He took action in response to Ruth's proposal. He acted in accordance with the law.
- He was transparent and legally valid in all his actions so that everyone could understand and accept and bless his action, and no one could raise an issue about it later.
- We can learn his honesty, transparency and integrity as a man of God when we must do something.



- Boaz was in a position of power in his society and Ruth was very vulnerable. However, Boaz did not treat with a condescending attitude. Rather, he was loving, generous, compassionate, kind and understanding and treated her like a princess.
- He shows us how to use power and privilege in a way that saves and blesses the needy.

- The elders and the people at the gate not only became witnesses, but they also blessed Ruth to become like Rachel and Leah and Tamar (11-12).
- The women blessed Naomi and recognized that Ruth was better than seven sons.
- Through the witnesses we can see how Ruth was fully accepted and honored among the people of Israel.

### E. IN WHAT RESPECT IS BOAZ A GUARDIAN-REDEEMER, A TYPE OF CHRIST?

- Why was Naomi in desperate of a guardian-redeemer?
  - When Naomi's family moved to Moab they gave up the right to manage their property.
  - To survive, she had to glean fields as one of the marginalized people.
  - Her situation was quite desperate. Without a guardianredeemer there was no way for her to restore her family name and property.

- The first guardian-redeemer was unwilling to redeem Naomi's family when he found he would have to marry Ruth. This would endanger his own estate.
- If he had a male heir by Ruth, the first son would be considered the heir of Elimetech. If Ruth had only one son, the status of the guardian-redeemer's own estate would become unclear. It was a risk.

- Boaz's first concern was Ruth, not the property. He was willing to redeem Naomi's family line by accepting Ruth as his wife. It meant that his heir born through Ruth would be counted as Elimechs and not his.
- Boaz puts his own family line at risk. His announcement tells us that his motive of redemption was very pure; he was self-sacrificing (10).
- When a son was born to Boaz<sup>7</sup> and Ruth, people recognized that Naomi had a son (17; Dt 25:6).
- When Boaz sacrificed himself to redeem Elimelech's family line, God blessed him to be included in the genealogy of David, who was the shadow of the Messiah (4:21-22; Mt 1:5-6).

- Boaz is a type of the Messiah in terms of redemption. He became the grandfather of King David, a shadow of the Messiah. Jesus is the Son of David.
- As the Messiah, Jesus had all authority in heaven and on earth.
   But he did not use this authority to crush weak people. He used it to save people from the power of sin and death and to raise them as children of God.
- He had a compassionate heart toward sinners and was willing to sacrifice himself to save them. He did this publicly, and in the way that God ordained, fully satisfying the requirement of the law.

- As Boaz sacrificed himself to redeem Naomi's family line, so the Messiah gave up himself to redeem us from the curse of the law and our sins.
- Galatians 3:13a says, "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us."
- Titus 2:14 says, "(Jesus Christ)...who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people who are his very own, eager to do what is good."

 The Messiah, Jesus, redeems us from the power of Satan, sin and death and makes us his pure and beloved bride, washing us by his precious blood (Gal 4:5; 1Pe 1:18-19).

#### V. WHAT CAN WE LEARN ABOUT GOD?

- A. God renews our lives.
- 4:15a: "He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age."
- In chapter 1, Naomi's life was miserable. She lost everything. It seemed that her life was over.
- Ruth was a Moabite. She was also a young widow. She could have no hope of acceptance in Israel, not to mention having a hope of marriage.

- It was not easy for Naomi and Ruth to make decisions of faith. But when they did so God blessed them abundantly.
- God works for the good of those who love him (Ro 8:28). God renews those who hope in him (Isa 40:31).
- •In God there is hope. God is the source and sustainer of life.

- Like Naomi, we were dead in our transgressions and sins (Eph 2:1). Like Ruth, we were foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world (Eph 2:12).
- But when we believed in Jesus, God made us alive and saved us from our sins (Eph 2:5).
- He changes our status to be his beloved children, members of God's household and heirs of his kingdom (Ro 8:16-17; Eph 2:19; 3:6). In this way God renews our lives.

- B. God uses those who live by faith.
- 1. God uses those who live by faith, even poor widows and Gentiles. God does not show favoritism, nor is he prejudiced. God blesses anyone who comes to him by faith and uses them in his redemptive history.
- 2. In the time of Judges, everyone did as they saw fit in their own eyes. It was a time of lawlessness and moral chaos. The book of Ruth focuses on a few people who live by faith in God during dark times. Even though times were dark, God worked through a few people who lived by faith in him and accomplished his great salvation plan. God changes the course of history through a few people who live by faith. Those who live by faith can be world changers!

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