

Ruth's Romance of Redemption

by Edward Boone

~ 1936 ~

Fifth Edition

The Boone Publishing Company

Des Moines

Iowa

STUDY EIGHT

RUTH ON THE ROAD OF REDEMPTION

In this study we shall consider Ruth as a type of a sinner in his progress from sin to salvation. Every sinner who is redeemed and eventually united in marriage to JESUS CHRIST will, in a measure, follow her footsteps. Note the following seven steps --

**AS A SINNER SHE FREQUENTED HIS HOUSE
AS A STRANGER SHE FOUND HIS GRACE
AS A DAUGHTER SHE FELT HIS LOVE
AS A GLEANER SHE FOLLOWED HIS WORD
AS A WORSHIPER SHE FELL AT HIS FEET
AS A HANDMAIDEN SHE FED AT HIS TABLE
AS A BRIDE SHE FINISHED HIS PLAN**

I. AS A SINNER SHE FREQUENTED HIS HOUSE

As Ruth came to the house of Boaz, chapter 2:7, and there communed with the reapers and the servant of Boaz, a type of the HOLY SPIRIT, so a sinner should attend the house of GOD that he might hear the Word preached. It was there Ruth became acquainted with Boaz and received instructions from him. There are very few people who are saved in their homes or in other places outside of the church. That is where the Gospel is preached, where, as a rule, a sinner can find GOD. If a person with an honest heart will frequently attend the services in the house of GOD, he will soon find the way of salvation. Special efforts in the nature of revival meetings and Bible conferences are often held in the house of GOD for the purpose of attracting the sinner to the place of worship where he can hear the truth, which, if accepted will make him free. The trouble with many people is that they attend one service and are so gripped with conviction that they refuse to come again, continuing carelessly in the old life of sin. Reader, if you are unsaved, frequently attend the house of GOD and learn for yourself the truth of salvation.

II. AS A STRANGER SHE FOUND HIS GRACE

It was not long after Ruth had visited the house of Boaz that she became a partaker of his grace and asked in astonishment, "**Why have I found grace in thine eyes?**" (2:10). There are three

items relative to grace in the Word of GOD, namely, the GOD of grace, the throne of grace, and the Spirit of grace.

(1) **It originated by the GOD of grace.** "**But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you**" (I Peter 5:10). Here GOD is called "*the GOD of all grace*," showing it originated by Him.

(2) **It is obtained from the throne of grace.** A new and living way has been opened whereby man can approach GOD at the throne of grace. Grace is not obtained from deacons, elders, preachers or priests but directly from GOD, Himself. We are urged to come boldly to the "*throne of grace*": "**Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need**" (Hebrews 4:16).

(3) **It is offered by the Spirit of grace.** In Hebrews 10:29 the HOLY SPIRIT is called the "*SPIRIT of grace*." That name is given to Him because when He comes to the sinner He offers to impart the wonderful grace of GOD into his heart and life that he might enjoy the benefits of the atonement.

The Trinity can be seen in these three items. The HOLY SPIRIT (SPIRIT of Grace) first comes to the sinner introducing to him the Gospel of grace. JESUS, the second person of the Trinity, Who is now occupying the "*Throne of Grace*," invites men to come boldly on the basis of atonement that He might plead their case. When the sinner has accepted this invitation, he has access by Him unto the Father: "**For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father**" (Ephesians 2:18). From this we see that the Trinity is involved in redemption for man: "**How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God**" (Hebrews 9:14). When Ruth found his grace it portrayed the sinner finding the *grace of GOD* manifested in His Son JESUS and brought to man by the HOLY GHOST.

III. AS A DAUGHTER SHE FELT HIS LOVE.

When Ruth said, "**Thou hast comforted me**" (2:13), it was equivalent to saying, "*I have felt your love*," for love brings comfort. Just what the love of Boaz was to Ruth, the love of CHRIST is to us. The term "*love of CHRIST*" is found three times in the Bible.

(1) **It is inconceivable in its estimation.** "**And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge**" (Ephesians 3:19). No man is able to conceive with his mental capacity the wonderful love of CHRIST, for it passes all knowledge. Men are able to estimate some things and to reason out other things, but the love of CHRIST, according to Paul's statement here, passes all knowledge and reason. It is beyond anything that man can comprehend. JESUS said, "**As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you.**" If you can imagine how GOD loved His only SON CHRIST, then you may know how CHRIST loves you.

(2) **It is imperative in its operation.** "**For the love of Christ constraineth us**" (II Corinthians 5:14). It was the love of CHRIST in Paul's life that caused him to so live that men thought he was beside himself or, in terms of today, insane. He was so endowed with the love of CHRIST

that he worked, toiled, and labored unceasingly night and day for lost men. The love of CHRIST surely is imperative (obligatory) in its operation. It was this love that forced Moffat to Africa, Hudson to India, and Taylor to China.

(3) **It is inseparable in its manifestation. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"** (Romans 8:35). The love of CHRIST is so great that it will cause men to endure tribulation or distress. It will take one through starvation and nakedness, through perils of all descriptions, **"In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perish in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren"** (II Corinthians 11:26), and, if necessary, through martyrdom by the sword. The love of CHRIST is so binding and uniting to His cause that untold numbers have laid down their lives in martyrdom for it.

Many people wonder what it is that makes tender the stern man's spirit, that revives the cruel man's love, that removes the grouchy man's hatred, that opens the stingy man's purse, that alters the worldly man's plan, that changes the selfish man's vision, and softens the rebellious man's heart. It is nothing but the *"love of CHRIST."* As Ruth felt the love of Boaz.

IV. AS A GLEANER SHE FOLLOWED HIS WORD

If we expect to continue in His fellowship and retain our relationship, we must be gleaners in His Word as Ruth was in the field of Boaz. Christian growth is impossible without the study of the Word. The Word of GOD has a great part in the Christian's life. Note the sevenfold admonition --

We should hearken to it **reverently**, for it is GOD's voice to us on the printed page.

We should read it **prayerfully**, for it will reveal our ruin, redemption, and restoration.

We should follow it **obediently**, for it will condemn or acquit us at the judgment bar of GOD.

We should practice it **earnestly**, for it is the true source of all pleasure and happiness in this life.

We should trust it **completely**, for the precepts and promises never fail.

We should proclaim it **faithfully**, for it is GOD's final revelation and warning to lost men.

We should search it **diligently**, for it contains practical, devotional, and inspirational truth for the child of GOD.

If we do this, our life will be wholesome, our love will be active, and our labour for Him will be a pleasure.

The preciousness and sweetness of the Word of GOD is portrayed in the experience that came to Ezekiel (3:1-3), when he was handed a roll (scroll) and was commanded to eat the contents of the roll. After he had obeyed the commands of the Lord, Ezekiel says, **"It was in my mouth as**

honey for sweetness." In like manner, the Word of GOD today has a sweet taste to the Christian. The seven following phrases are words of sweetness to the weary gleaner:

(1) **Words of Affection:** "**As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love**" (John 15:9). CHRIST is comparing the love that GOD had for Him with the love that He had for His disciples. As the gleaner studies the Word, he will see the greatness of the love of GOD for him.

(2) **Words of Forgiveness:** "**And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven**" (Luke 7:48). To the weeping woman who washed His feet with her tears and wiped them with the hairs of her head, JESUS said, "*Thy sins are forgiven.*" GOD not only gives man the assurance of his forgiveness through the inner consciousness of his being but also through the written pages of His Word.

(3) **Words of Cheer:** "**These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world**" (John 16:33). The last words of the discourses of JESUS to His disciples before the crucifixion were, "*be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*" The world, which is evil in its nature, contaminating in its influence, antagonistic in its spirit, and downward in its tendency, is the place through which we must pass. In the world CHRIST was crucified; against its evil we must testify; and by it we are hated. To the storm-tossed, persecuted pilgrim He speaks from His Word today and says, "*Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*"

(4) **Words of Grace:** "**She said, No man, Lord. And JESUS said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more**" (John 8:11). The Pharisees had brought to JESUS the woman who had been caught in the act of immorality. They stated that Moses in his law commanded that such should be stoned but requested that CHRIST give His opinion concerning the matter. After JESUS had revealed the Pharisees' sins by writing on the ground, they departed in haste, leaving the woman alone with JESUS. Her accusers had fled, and now there was no one to condemn her. Then JESUS spoke unto her saying, "*Neither do I condemn thee.*" The lesson is one of law and grace. Law that demanded death and stoning, in type, had passed away when the Pharisees were no longer there to condemn her, and grace reigned in its place when JESUS said, "*Neither do I condemn thee.*" So the gleaner in the Word will find that the law no longer condemns him who has heard these sweet words of grace, "*Neither do I condemn thee.*"

(5) **Words of Comfort.** "**Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also**" (John 14:1-3). In these verses we find that CHRIST speaks of His Father's house of many mansions and that He is going to prepare a place for those who believe in Him, but there is still a greater comfort than the preparing of the place, and that is that He will come again to receive us unto Himself that we may be with Him in His Father's house. These verses should be the cure for all heart trouble. What a comfort it is to the weary pilgrim to know that this wicked world with all of its sorrow, cares, and strife is not our eternal abiding place, but we, like Abraham, look for a city whose Builder and Maker is GOD. From that thought we receive our comfort.

(6) **Words of Hope.** "**Behold, I come quickly**" (Revelation 22:7). The hope of the Church

through all ages has been the second Coming of CHRIST. For that reason Peter called it a "**living hope**" because it continued to live from one generation to another. Paul called it a "**blessed hope**" meaning a happy hope -- a hope that fills the heart with joy and anticipation. John called it a "**purifying hope**," for everyone that has the hope of CHRIST, the second return, purifies himself by walking in the light of full salvation and practical holiness.

(7) **Words of Victory.** "**I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death**" (Revelation 1:18). In this chapter He Who was crucified exclaims "*I am alive for evermore.*" Here, we have a CHRIST, victorious over death, hell, and the grave. If the reader will glean in the Word, he will find sweet words of affection, forgiveness, cheer, grace, comfort, hope, and victory as we have just reviewed.

V. AS A WORSHIPER SHE FELL AT HIS FEET

As Ruth fell at the feet of Boaz so others came to the feet of JESUS.

(1) Mary Magdalene **stood** at His feet weeping. "**And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment**" (Luke 7:38). She, (like Ruth), was a Gentile, as can be seen by the words of Simon: "**This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is.**" In the word "*who*," it gives her nationality. She was an outcast, a Gentile. "*What manner*" describes her character, for she was a sinner. However, she left His feet justified in the eyes of the onlookers and justified with GOD.

(2) The demoniac **sat** at His feet. "**Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid**" (Luke 8:35). Another Gentile, who had been delivered from the power of Satan, now was sitting, clothed and in his right mind, at the feet of the Master of all circumstances.

(3) The Syrophenician woman, (a Gentile), **worshiped** at His feet, "**For a certain woman, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at his feet**" (Mark 7:25). There she received mercy as she had requested, and her daughter was gloriously healed. As the Syrophenician woman worshiped at the feet of CHRIST so we can do likewise in this age and acknowledge that He is all and in all. These three Gentiles presented themselves at the feet of JESUS as Ruth, the Gentile, did at the feet of Boaz. Here we see the forecast and typical teaching concerning the Gentiles in the little book of Ruth.

VI. AS A HANDMAIDEN SHE FED AT HIS TABLE

The fact that she fed at his table gives the thought of fellowship and communion, for the table of shewbread in the Tabernacle was typical of the same, while the golden altar represented intercession and the candlestick was figurative of testimony. As Mephibosheth sat at David's table, "**So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem: for he did eat continually at the king's table; and was lame on both his feet**" (II Samuel 9:13), Pharaoh's daughter sat at Solomon's table, "**While the king sitteth at his table, my spikenard sendeth forth the smell thereof... As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under**

his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love" (Song of Solomon 1:12; 2:3-4), and Ruth sat at the table of Boaz, so we can, in the same manner, enjoy fellowship and communion with JESUS CHRIST around the Lord's table. These Old Testament lessons not only point forward to this dispensation in which we are now living, but also to the time when another table shall be made ready. CHRIST spoke of this when He said, **"And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom"** (Luke 22:29-30). There we shall sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and enjoy constant and eternal fellowship.

VII. AS A BRIDE SHE FINISHED HIS PLAN

In a previous study I told how Boaz hinted to Ruth of his plan of marrying her. He did this by urging her to remain with his maidens until the end of the harvest (2:21). At last *"She finished his plan"* by uniting with him in marriage. When the bride of CHRIST finishes His plan (which was started before the foundations of the world, Ephesians 1:4), He shall see the travail of His soul and be satisfied, as was predicted by Isaiah **"Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities"** (Isaiah 53:10-11). Then His comfort and satisfaction will be complete. There will be seven things with which He shall be satisfied:

1. He shall be satisfied with the accomplishments of His death. After the fall of Adam and Eve, three curses were pronounced.

First, the punishment meted to the woman was a multiplication of sorrow. **"Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee"** (Genesis 3:16).

JESUS, in the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah, is called the Man of Sorrows. **"He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not"** (Isaiah 53:3).

In the Garden of Gethsemane He said, **"My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even until death."** From this we see that on the Cross He bore the sorrows of mankind.

Second, to Adam it was said, **"In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread"** (Genesis 3:19). This curse has been resting on mankind ever since that time, and truly it has been fulfilled. In the hours of the atonement, CHRIST sweat great drops of blood that in the coming age this curse, **("In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread")**, might be lifted from mankind.

Third, the ground too was cursed for man's sin -- **"Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth"** (Genesis 3:18). However, the day is coming when, instead of thorns and briars, the fir and the myrtle trees will be growing in abundance **"Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off"** (Isaiah 55:13). The warning to Adam

was "**in the day that thou eatest thereof** (the forbidden fruit) **thou shalt surely die**" (Genesis 2:17). The prediction has come true, and in every class, climate, and country we find death striking its fatal blow, but JESUS entered death's domain, tasted its sting, endured its agony and conquered its destiny that we might be free from its claims. He shall be satisfied to know that the punishment and penalty of sin has been fully met by Himself.

2. He shall be satisfied with the Church which He has redeemed. This Church, His body, will come forth without "**spot, or wrinkle . . . holy and without blemish.**" Here we have the character of this body whom He has redeemed -- a holy people for a holy Heaven. A sanctifying and cleansing work of redemption has been accomplished in their lives "**that he might present it** (the church) **to himself.**" When He has received the Church unto Himself, He shall be satisfied with it.

3. He shall be satisfied with His work of intercession. For nearly two thousand years He has been engaged in the work of intercession for the salvation of lost men and the cleansing and keeping of the believer. The answer to His prayer is seen in the innumerable multitude found in Revelation 5:11. This multitude will consist "**of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.**" This shows that His life of intercession has gone to the uttermost parts of the earth. Men in all states and conditions, some in the lowest depths of degradation, are included in this multitude. When He sees the accomplishment of His intercession, He shall be satisfied.

4. He shall be satisfied with His thousand years of reign, which He is to have on earth. This reign will be one of righteousness. "**Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment**" (Isaiah 32:1). It will be a perfect reign with no political corruptness, dishonest financiers, and immoral society; righteousness shall go from shore to shore. It is at this time that GOD shall give Him the heathen for His inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth as His possession. He shall then rule with a rod of iron, and the disobedient shall be broken as a potter's vessel (Psalm 2:8-9). No doubt the conversion of the heathen will be a comfort to His heart; it will be His satisfaction.

5. He shall be satisfied with the restoration of the Heavens and the earth. The heavens and earth will be renovated and restored to their original order. Every particle of sin, in act or principle, will be completely destroyed with no possibility of it ever re-entering the universe. This means that atonement will never again be necessary. His triumph over sin will thus be determined. There will be no heaven with a darkening cloud nor atmosphere that breeds tornadoes. The earth will never again be rocked by a quake, covered by darkness, flooded by water, nor purged by fire. When this is restored, it will be His satisfaction.

6. He shall be satisfied with the punishment of Satan and the wicked. Satan, the Antichrist, and the false prophet will be cast into the lake of fire. He who polluted the universe, deceived the nations, wrecked homes, and robbed many of their Heavenly hope will be sentenced to his eternal doom to the satisfaction of CHRIST. The records of the wicked will reveal that great opportunity has been offered them to be saved. The love of GOD, the blood of CHRIST, the conviction of the Spirit, the preaching of the Gospel and the services of the Church will be the evidence that no stone was left unturned that men might be redeemed. It will be revealed that man's destiny was settled by his own choice and that by his own volition he sought his own place. As a man who refuses to escape from a burning building, that he might reclaim some of

his hoarded treasures to be spent upon himself, must perish in the flames, so those who reject CHRIST must suffer eternal punishment. CHRIST will rest assured that everything possible has been done to redeem those who will have their portion in the lake of fire. This will be His satisfaction.

7. He shall be satisfied with His bride, of which Ruth is a type. Just as Ruth finishes the plan of Boaz so the bride of CHRIST will complete the plan of the ages when she becomes His wife. It will comfort and satisfy the heart of CHRIST to know that this bloodbought bride is His eternally. He shall find His delight in her whom He so dearly loves. As Abraham sent Eliezer to get a bride for Isaac so the Spirit of GOD is calling men to repentance and salvation that eventually the plan of GOD may be completed, in having a bride for His SON JESUS, as portrayed in the romance of Ruth and Boaz. The Scriptures state that Rebecca, the wife of Isaac, comforted him after the death of his mother, Sarah (Genesis 24:67). It will be remembered that JESUS wept over Jerusalem, the mother of Israel, but after His death and resurrection, He was comforted by the thought of having a new bride, who, in a measure, was to take the place of Israel. Thus we see that CHRIST will have a sevenfold satisfaction in His eternal home.

~ end of chapter 9 ~

<http://www.baptistbiblebelievers.com/>
