

Ruth Chapter 2

Study by Jason Labonte

I. Background

A. Literary Outline

1. Introduction — Naomi's Emptying (1:1-5; **71** Hebrew words)
2. Body
 - i. Part I (1:6-22)
 - ii. Part II (2)
 - iii. Turning Point (2:20; **Exact Middle Verse** in Hebrew)
 - iv. Part III (3)
 - v. Part IV (4:1-12)
3. Conclusion — Naomi's Filling (4:13-17; **71** Hebrew words)
4. Epilogue — Genealogy (4:18-22)

B. Threshing Background (See Handout)

C. Kinsman-Redeemer (גֹּאֵל, *Goel*)

1. Provide Heirs (Deut 25:5-10)
2. Redeem Land (Lev 25:25-28)
3. Free Slaves (Lev 25:47-49)
4. Avenge Murder (Num 35:19-21)

II. Chapter 2 — God Is Moving

A. A Glimpse of Hope (1:22)

B. Divine Providence at Work (2:3)

1. Literally, "...her chance chanced upon...."
2. Prov 16:33

C. Ruth as a Picture of Us (2:11) — She left everything to come to God. (See Matt 19:29)

D. Ruth's Refuge (2:12)

1. She faced possible insult as a foreigner. (2:10, 15-16)
2. She faced possible danger from rape. (2:9, 22)

E. Boaz Goes Above and Beyond (2:8-16)

F. Was Naomi consistent? (Compare 1:21 to 2:20)

1. Living and Dead?
2. **חסד**, *hesedh* — “...refers to a strongly bonded relationship where one party continues to be faithfully involved with another because it is the character of the first party to do so.” (Larry Crabb, *Shattered Dreams*)

G. Link to Part III (2:23)

1. “till end of harvest” — about two months

III. Application

- A. Do we look for glimpses of hope in times of distress? Or do we focus only on our sufferings?**
- B. Do we acknowledge that God has control of the good things (2:3, 20) and the bad things (1:21)?**
- C. Are we willing to leave our past lives, as Ruth did, to come to Christ?**
- D. Do we take refuge in God, as Ruth did, when we seek to do good?**
- E. In what ways is Boaz a picture of Christ in this chapter?**