

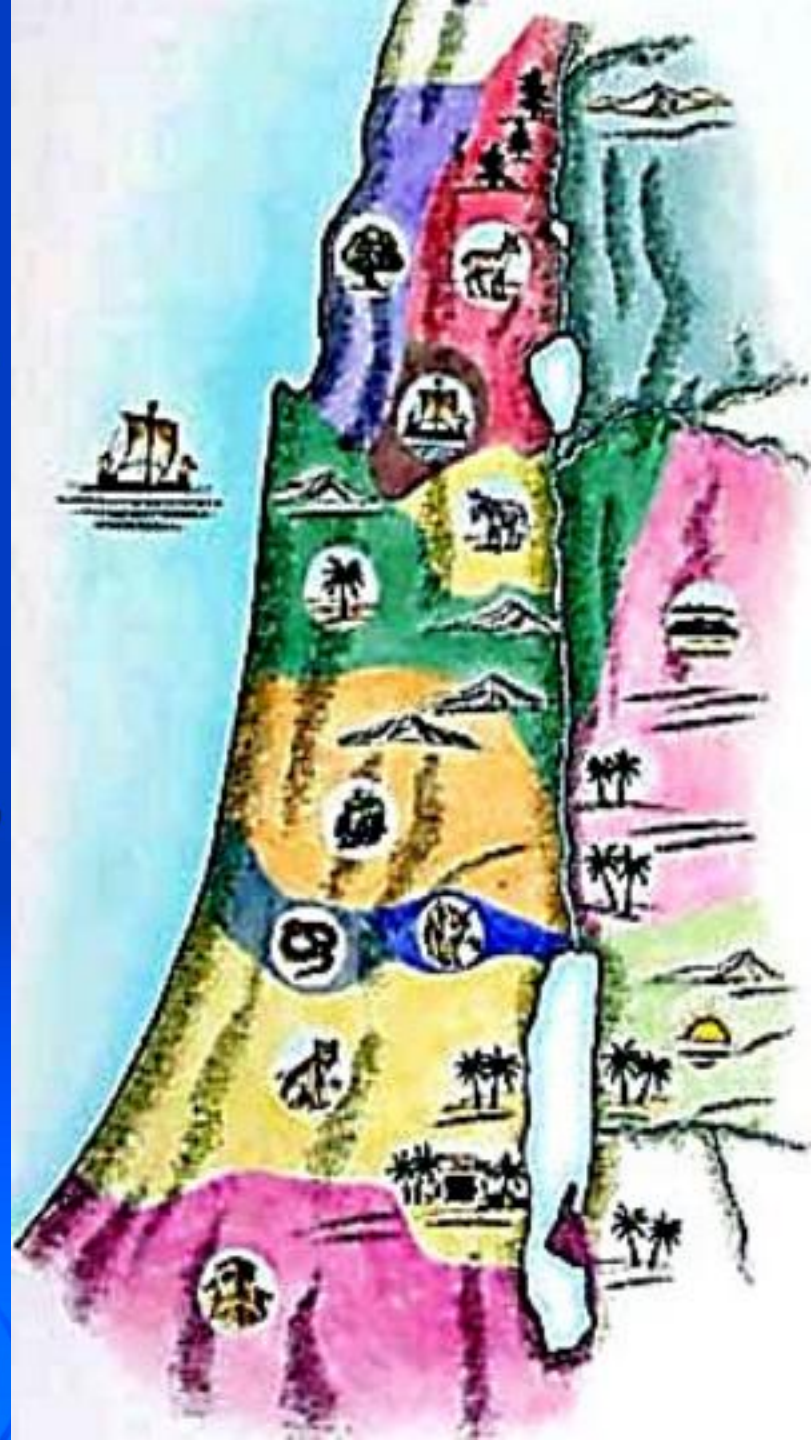
RUTH CHAPTER 3



- 2nd theological principle: The Kinsman Redeemer
- Na'omi instructs Ruth to go to Boaz and propose marriage
- Boaz agrees but reports there is a NEARER family *go'el* than himself
- Ruth told to go home and await the negotiations that Boaz would have with the other family redeemer

YHWH THE TRUE LAND OWNER

- Israel's inheritance was for the USE of the land, not ownership
- Use of the land allotted by Moses and Joshua
- It was divided not only by tribe, but by clan
- Tribe > Clan > Family
- Family could NOT sell or dispose of ANY land as it was to remain in the original tribe, clan, family FOREVER!



REDEEMING THE LAND

- If financial disaster caused the land to be sold, the family *go'el* was to redeem it
- If land was NOT redeemed, in the year of Jubilee it was automatically returned to the original owner (NO payment required)
- Redeemed land bought back for the value of what was PRODUCED on the land
- No sale of the land had technically ever occurred



Israel Jubilee

THE INSTITUTION OF LEVIRATE MARRIAGE



- Levirate Marriage was part of the Law of Moses
- Brother-in-law must marry widowed sister-in-law IF that widow was without a son as an heir
- A son produced by Levirate Marriage bears the name of the deceased brother
- Levirate Marriage and the duties of the *Go'el* are NOT legally connected!
- It became a TRADITION for a *go'el* to marry a family widow

ELIMELECH AND HIS SONS DIED, SO THE LAND FELL TO NA'OMI



- No sons produced from the marriages, so no heir to inherit
- Na'omi hoped that Boaz would accept the obligations of the family go'el
- Boaz marrying Ruth would:
- 1) Give Ruth a good life
- 2) Land would stay in family
- 3) Ruth would have a son to carry on Machlon's line
- 4) That same son would be the heir for Elimelech's clan

NA'OMI SEEKS SECURITY FOR RUTH

- A few weeks pass between chapters 2 and 3
- ***“Shall I not seek rest for you?”***
- ***Manoach*** = rest, or better, PLACE of rest
- Ruth 1:8 ***“May Adonai grant you security in the home of a new husband”***
- God works in concert with His followers
- Sometimes prayers are answered LONG after they are prayed



THE THRESHING FLOOR



- Threshing floor usually only a flat spot where a breeze blew
- Wind speed had to be not too strong to blow away grain, not too light so there was no separation of chaff and grain
- Late afternoon was the ideal time, but at dark the winds stopped

NA'OMI DEVICES A PLAN

- Na'omi instructs Ruth to:
Bathe, anoint herself, and put on “good” clothes
- There is NO religious ritual taking place
- This is a standard bath
- The “anointing” is simply oil with fragrance (perfume)
- **Simlah** = a blanket-like wrap often translated as cape, mantle, robe, cloak
- Ruth was to put away her widow's clothing for usual clothing



“Uncover his feet and lie down..”

- Boaz ate and drank (wine) and went to sleep at the threshing floor
- ***“He will tell you what to do.....”***
- The procedure was intended for Ruth to propose marriage to Boaz
- Na’omi and Boaz understood the rules and customs of a ***go’el***, but Ruth was a Moabite



BOAZ GETS A PLEASANT SURPRISE!



- Ruth quietly steals in and lays down by Boaz's "feet"
- Boaz asks who's there and Ruth says it is she
- "uncovering feet"
- "Feet" in the Bible often refers to the genitals
- *Margeloth* = legs
- *Regel* = feet
- In this use "feet ought to be "legs"

SEXUAL OVERTONES? YES, BUT ONLY TO A DEGREE



- What man wouldn't get a little excited by this situation!
- There is NO objectionable sexual action happening
- Ruth and Boaz have shown themselves to be exemplary people
- Ruth would have been considered a prostitute had she "exposed" Boaz