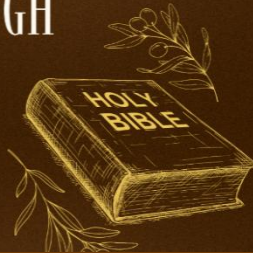


STEP BY STEP THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT

LED BY DR. WAYLON BAILEY



WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

LESSON 25

First Baptist Church | Covington, Louisiana

Waylon Bailey, Pastor

Theological Insight from Ruth

Author: Anonymous

The Jewish Talmud, a Jewish Commentary on the Old Testament, names Samuel as the author.

Date: Unknown, but obviously written sometime after the time of David the King

Ruth 4:17 *And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They named him Obed; he was the father of Jesse, the father of David.*

Some people believe it was written late in Jewish history to combat the teaching of Ezra and Nehemiah which called for Jews to put away their foreign wives.

Setting: During the time of the Judges when "Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." – Judges 17:6

Ruth 1:1 *In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons*

Title: The Book of Ruth gets its name from one of the principal characters. Ruth was a Moabite woman who was an ancestor of David and Jesus.

Matthew 1:1-18 *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. ²Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and **Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶and Jesse the father of David the king.** And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah ...*

¹⁶and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. ¹⁷So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. ¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit.

Message: The Book of Ruth is one of the five scrolls read at the Jewish festivals, particularly at the Festival of Weeks (Pentecost)

The book emphasizes “chesed” a major Hebrew word meaning “loving kindness,” faithfulness, “loyalty.” This is the key word in the book.

Ruth 1:8 *But Na'omi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.*

Ruth 2:20 *And Na'omi said to her daughter-in-law, “Blessed be he by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!”*

Ruth 3:10 *And he said, “May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter; you have made this last kindness greater than the first, in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich.*

Outline:

Scene I: Moab vv.1:1-22

1. Elimelech's departure vv.1-5
2. Naomi's despair vv.6-13
3. Ruth's decision vv.14-22

1:14 *Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵ And she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” ¹⁶ But Ruth said, “Entreat me not to leave you or to return from following you; **for where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God; ¹⁷ where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if even death parts me from you.” ¹⁸ And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.***

¹⁹ *So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said, “Is this Naomi?” ²⁰ She said to them, “Do not call me Na'omi, call me Mara for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. ²¹ I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Na'omi, when the LORD has afflicted me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?”*

Scene II: Fields of Bethlehem vv.2:1-23

1. Ruth meets Boaz vv.2:1-14
2. Boaz provides for Naomi and Ruth vv.2:15-23

Scene III: Boaz threshing floor vv.3:1-18

1. Boaz's desire to marry Ruth vv.3:1-11
2. Marriage delayed vv.3:12-18

Scene IV: Bethlehem vv.4:1-22

1. Boaz marries Ruth vv.4:1-12
2. Ruth gives birth to Obed vv.4:13-15
3. Naomi blessed with a new family v.4:16
4. Ruth is an ancestor of David vv.4:17-22

4:13 So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and he went in to her, and the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son. ¹⁴ Then the women said to Na'omi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without next of kin; and may his name be renowned in Israel! ¹⁵ He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him." ¹⁶ Then Na'omi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. ¹⁷ And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They named him Obed; he was the father of Jesse, the father of David.