

Ruth – The Beautiful Pearl
Wednesday Noon Bible Study
Good Shepherd Baptist Church
Pastor Walter L. Ratcliffe, Senior Pastor
Pastor Henry Wallace, Guest Instructor



Lesson Eight God Has A Plan

The barley has come to an end. So, two questions will arise.

- *What's next for Ruth and Naomi?*
- *Where is there hope?*

If you remember that we left off in last week's lesson talking about the barley harvest coming to an end in **Ruth 2:23**.

1st Point The Saint's Hope

It's one of the "great" words in Scripture. We need to study words like "Faith", "Love", "Grace" "Mercy" "Peace" & "Hope".

- The saint's hope is the same as Ruth and Naomi's hope.
- It's in the God who has an eternal plan for our lives.
- It's in the faithful, and loving God.
- Saints, our hope is not a "hope-so feeling" generated by optimistic fantasies.

Here's how to define the saint's hope: Dr. Warren Wiersbe states it so clearly; It is an inner sense of joyful assurance and confidence as we trust God's promises and face the future with HIS help.

- Saints, let's not worry about an uncertain future. Rather let's come to **Romans 15:13** and consider what the Word of God tells the saint of God.
- This hope is God's gift to HIS children. Notice who gives it, the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus Christ is our hope (**Colossians 1:27**)
- Through faith in Christ, we have been born again into a "**living hope**" (**1 Peter 1:3**)
- Now saints let's get ready to **SHOUT!** Because it is a living hope, it grows stronger each day and produces fruit.
- The hopes that this world clings to are dead hopes, but ours is a living hope because it is rooted in the living Christ.

2nd Point The Plan Of Redemption (3:1-5)

- Here is the turning point in the story of Ruth.
- Ruth's mother-in-law is now resolved to seek rest and security for her daughter-in-law through marriage.
- That's one of the great purposes of why God created the institution called marriage.
- You see Ruth had given up on the idea of marriage in order to care for her aging mother-in-law.
- Here's a very important point.
- Unlike today, it was customary for Hebrew parents during this time to arrange marriages for their children.
- Remember we studied this in **Judges 14:1-10** with Samson requesting that his parents arrange the marriage of this woman from Timnath.

3rd Point Typology In Scriptures

- At this point in our study of the Book of Ruth, I needed to talk about this word “**Typology**”.
- I have mentioned it before in our study of this Book, but now I need to address it in greater detail, because as we look at Naomi, Ruth and Boaz, we will see that they are a **types**. So let me explain.
- A **type** in Scripture is a person or thing in the Old Testament that foreshadows a person or thing in the New Testament.
- When we say that **someone** is a **type** of Christ, we are saying that a person in the Old Testament behaves in a way that corresponds to Jesus' character or actions in the New Testament.
- When we say that **something** is a type of Christ, we are saying that an object or event in the Old Testament can be viewed as representative of some quality of Jesus.
- Let me now provide two examples:
 - * According to **1 Corinthians 5:7**, the Passover is a type of Christ. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us
 - When we read **Hebrews 9:19-26**, we see that the whole sacrificial is seen as a **type**. The Old Testament sacrifices typify Christ's final sacrifice for the sins of the world.
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4th Point Only Christ And Christ Alone (3:10)

- This verse teaches us “THE” Great Truth of Scripture.
- Here's what I mean.
There were other men who would have married Ruth, but they could not have redeemed her.
- Only a relative could do that, and Boaz was that relative.
- Saints, only Jesus Christ, The Son of God, The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world could save, redeem us.
- What does **Acts 4:12** teach us?