

## Ruth; Faithful, Chosen, Redeemed, Bride

The story of Ruth in the bible is well known and accepted as completely historical and authentic. There is no other Ruth mentioned in the bible which makes the account non-ambiguous. Ruth, a Moabite, was adopted into the Jewish lineage thru marriage to a son of Elimilich and Naomi and later by her marriage to Boaz thru whom Jesus was born. In addition to this narrative there seems to be another picture worth considering. If not for its certain historicity, this picture might be considered only as a parable.

When Jesus told his disciples "Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest" <sup>1</sup>. The message here is that it is needful to spread the good new of salvation; i.e., to begin harvesting believers for the future kingdom of God. Urgency is in view. Implicit also is that the time of harvest will come to an end. This is not a harvest limited to Israel and the Jews but, as Paul makes clear in Romans 11, to the Gentiles who are grafted in as well. Salvation is open to every nation, tribe, people and language. <sup>2</sup>

Ruth, then, being a Moabite and having told Naomi that "Your people will be my people and your God my God." <sup>3</sup> is an illustration for our day in which she had a choice to make; perhaps not an easy choice but the right choice. Then willingly gleaned the fields to salvage the remaining fit yield and, having faithfully concluded the harvest, her reward was to be the chosen redeemed bride of the master and placed literally into the family of Jesus.

The time of harvest illustrated here is consistent with the seriousness and urgency expressed elsewhere: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." <sup>4</sup> For mankind only one season ending in a harvest is shown in the bible and is expressed by Jesus as "behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." <sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> John 4:34,35

<sup>2</sup> Rev. 7:9

<sup>3</sup> Ruth 1:16

<sup>4</sup> Jer. 8:20

<sup>5</sup> I Cor. 6:2