



The Book of Ruth - Part 1 (Ruth and Orpah)

The Book of Ruth is one of the most profound books in the scriptures and a key to understanding the One New Man, the union between Jew and Gentile. I don't think there's a better book in the Bible that points to the grafting in of the Gentiles and the oneness (*Jew and Gentile*) of the Bride of Christ, than the Book of Ruth. It is a glorious revelation of the love of Yeshua (*in the person of Boaz*) and His end time Bride (*in the person of Ruth*). It is also a picture of the "marriage" and passionate love union between Jews and Gentiles whom God has called to be one Body, one Bride, especially in these last days.

Orpah and Ruth, the two daughters-in-law of Naomi, the Jewess, were both Moabitesses. There is a picture here of the heart condition of the End Time Ekklesia. There are two faces, two hearts and at first, they look and behave exactly the same. After the death of Elimelech, Naomi's husband and their two sons in the land of Moab, both daughters-in-law go with Naomi to the border to enter into the promised land. Both are crying. Both are clinging and both are saying, "I will not leave you. I am going with you."

Ruth means friend in Hebrew and Orpah has to do with the back of the neck which could have to do with being stiff-necked. God begins to test their two hearts through Naomi. I believe right now there's a test going on from heaven in the Body of Christ: Who is going to enter into the promised land alongside the God's people, even in their brokenness and emptiness? Who is going to enter into this oneness? Just like Israel's heart was tested by God in the desert, there's a similar present test of the heart going on. Is our love pure? Is it steadfast? Is it genuine as tested by fire? God is going to test us in this last day to see whether we are going to walk in bridal love unto death.

At the end of the test when Naomi says to her two daughters-in-law, "I have nothing else to give you! My husband has died. My two sons have died. Are you going to wait until I have another husband and sons and wait until they grow up? I have absolutely nothing to give you. The Lord's hand has come out against me." Hard times will come, hard times for Israel, hard times for the whole world and there may be absolutely nothing left except what is going on between our heart and God's.

Orpah reaches the point where she perceives that there remains nothing for her, no hope. So, she kisses her mother-in-law goodbye and goes back to her people and her gods. Naomi says to Ruth, "You go back also! Go back... Go back to your people!" God is speaking through Naomi. He is testing our hearts. "Go back like your sister-in-law. I have nothing left to give you. Go back to your gods. Go back to your family, your people!"

Are you going to go back or are you going to go forward into the promised land because of love?

At this juncture, there is the great declaration that Ruth makes that I believe God is calling the Bride of Christ to make in these last days, in relation to God and to Israel. She says, "Don't tell me to leave you. Where you go, I will

go. Where you die, I will die. Your God is my God. Your people are my people. Where you die and are buried, that's where I will die and be buried. Nothing but death will separate us!" *Ruth 1:16-17*

At that confession, Beloved, Naomi understands: Ruth is ready! She doesn't try to stop her anymore. She sees that Ruth has the courage (*ometz: heb.*), the boldness to stand. This is what God is setting before us in this hour. Are you going to be an Orpah? When you get to that cross in the road, and it's a real cross, Beloved, are you going to be an Orpah or out of your deep heart, will you declare like Ruth, "Where you die, I will die...."

We were crucified with Yeshua on Calvary. This is a picture of the Bride being crucified with her Beloved. Where you die, I will die. Where you are buried, I will be buried. This is the cross in the road and it's a literal cross. Will you be co-crucified? Yeshua said, "If you love family, land, mother, father, even your own life more than me, you cannot follow me, you cannot be my disciple!" This is what is happening in the end times. The test that Ruth passed is the test that we too must pass.

Who knows whether Orpah would have had the same destiny as Ruth? Perhaps she might have married Boaz, her kinsmen Redeemer as well! Perhaps she would have been grafted into the line of Yeshua. Look what happens, Beloved, when, like Ruth, you go with your heart, rather than, like Orpah, with your logic, thinking, "This is too hard! You have nothing to offer me. I have to glean in the fields. I'm going to be rejected. I can't even go into the congregation. I am a Moabite."

Are we going to follow our head with its reasonings or are we going to follow our heart of love into the unknown? Ruth entered in with her HEART for she loved her mother-in-law and the God of Israel. I believe she became a believer because Naomi expressed the God of Israel. She declared the God of Israel! I believe she served her daughter-in-law as an evangelist because Ruth declares, "Your God (is) my God!"

Ruth entered the promised land as a Moabitess, a people hated by the Jews. She humbled herself and went into the fields to glean. God is calling us, Beloved! Are we going to go into the fields? If you go with your HEART, you are going to find yourself on the ROAD TO DESTINY, just like Ruth did. She found herself in the center of the destiny of God.

This is where we are today, Beloved. This is where the nations are today in relation to God and to Israel. Are we going to cling to the God of Israel and to His people when everything gets hard, when we must believe in spite of all the challenging circumstances, when we have to stand, when it's going to cost us something? Ruth passes the test, crosses over and she finds herself in the field of the Bridegroom and Redeemer!

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