

## BOOK OF RUTH – END TIMES PROPHECY

### INTRODUCTION

Ruth, Boaz, and Naomi were all real people who lived long ago. As Scripture, the Book of Ruth is a God-inspired account of the events of their lives. An important assumption of this paper is when the Holy Spirit sets forth historical records He also at the same time breaths prophetic meaning into the people and places.

The apostle Paul, who authored twelve letters of Scripture, can be safely trusted as an authority on Bible interpretation. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Paul writes in Galatians that two women in the Old Testament, Hagar and Sarah, were prophetic types of those under the Law and those who have experienced new birth in Christ respectively (Galatians 4:24). The Book of Genesis records the historical events in the lives of Hagar and Sarah. But it is clear from Paul that the Spirit of God intended those characters to have a prophetic symbolism as well. In the same way this paper will interpret the lives of Ruth, Boaz, and Naomi as prophetic types.

We will assume the reader is familiar with the story.

### THE COMMON INTERPRETATION OF BOOK OF RUTH

Most conservative theologians see Naomi as the Jewish religion, Ruth as the church, and Boaz as Jesus Christ, the redeemer of the church. There are elements of the story that seem to fit. Ruth is helpless and unable to save herself. Ruth is of noble character and exhibits Christian virtues of self-less service of others. Boaz comes on the scene and not only pays the price to redeem Naomi's land but marries Ruth as well.

This interpretation has major flaws. The Lord Jesus paid for our eternal redemption with the only payment acceptable to God: a blood sacrifice of a sinless lamb (himself). Boaz is merely shelling out some silver from his vast wealth to purchase a little piece of land and get a desirable woman out of the bargain. It is only a small sacrifice to Boaz but most importantly no blood is involved in the transaction, only lucre. Boaz is described as "גבור", a 'gibbor', a mighty man<sup>1</sup> (a man of war) and as "חיל", a 'chayil', a man of great wealth<sup>2</sup> (Ruth 2:10). Does this description fit Jesus? Scripture says of Jesus "He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces, we esteemed him not" (Isaiah 53:3). Let's take a closer look at Ruth. Her famous words to Boaz are "I am your servant Ruth" (Ruth 3:9). If Boaz is not Jesus, then Ruth cannot be the church because the obedience of the church is to Christ alone. Boaz seems delighted at the idea of having servants and he goes out and pays the money to buy another one. Does the relationship of servitude to a master describe the Christian life? Not according to our Savior. Jesus said "A slave has no permanent place in the family...if the son sets you free you will be free indeed." (John 8:35-36). Likewise Paul wrote "It is for freedom that Christ set us free. Stand firm then and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery" (Gal. 5:1).

<sup>1</sup> Strong's Number 1368 (Hebrew) "strong man, brave man, mighty man";

<sup>2</sup> Strong's Number 2428 (Hebrew) "wealth, power, riches"

## RELIGION VERSUS THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

Everyone loves Ruth. She is polite and respectful: “Please let me glean among the sheaves...” (Ruth 2:7). She works hard: “she worked steadily from morning till now...” (Ruth 2:7). She exerts self-control: “you have not run after younger men” (Ruth 3:10). She is obedient to her mother “So she...did everything her mother-in-law told her to do.” (Ruth 3:6). She shares what she has earned and donates it the needy: “Ruth brought out and gave [Naomi] what she had left over after she had eaten enough” (Ruth 2:18).

The problem with ‘good people’ who work hard, deal honestly with others, behave decently, and love their family is they are some of the hardest ones to convince of the depravity of their sin. Jesus visited a religious man named Nicodemus who was both a teacher and an esteemed elder of his religious community. Nicodemus was a model citizen, a virtuous clean living person, and one who was devoted to honor God and study Scriptures. Jesus plainly told him “I tell you the truth: unless a man is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3). In other words: you needed to be converted. Nicodemus answered “How can a man enter into his mother’s womb a second time?” Jesus said “I tell you the truth, unless a man is born of water [repentance of sin] and the Spirit [inner regeneration and in-dwelling of the Spirit of God in our heart] he cannot enter the kingdom of God. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit” (John 3:4-6).

The only way to go to heaven is to admit we have transgressed, we have offended God. In such a state we merit serious punishment and must beg forgiveness. Even if we appear on the outside to others as noble and good hearted, God knows we have evil thoughts and sometimes act on them. The Christian is the one who beats his breast and says “God have mercy on me a sinner” [repentance] and “Father God, I pray to you, forgive me on the merits of Christ’s blood shed on the cross”. Those who do this experience an amazing thing: God’s spirit comes to dwell in their hearts. Like a newborn, they hear their mother’s words. God speaks to them and abides with them for the rest of their days in this life and into the next.

Ruth has not had the freeing spiritual experience of confessing sins to God that Jesus speaks of. She is ordered to sit down with the other workers and she meekly obeys. Boaz offers her some bread dipped in wine vinegar and some roasted grain to eat (Ruth 2:13-14). Ruth has sold her soul cheaply! Here she is slaving in the hot sun picking little cast kernels out of the dirt and all she receives is bread, water, and vinegar! The response of Ruth to all this is “Why have I found favor in your eyes, since I am a foreigner?” (Ruth 2:10). Really? Ruth seems to believe that rock bottom social status, poverty, slavery, and a limited diet is something to be thrilled about.

To those of us who have “tasted the heavenly gift” (Heb. 6:4) and breathed the fresh air of liberty in Christ religion is a horrible bondage with no redeeming qualities whatsoever. We don’t belong there because we are no longer slaves, we are heirs with Christ (Gal. 3:26-4:7). We enjoy the dignity that salvation in Christ has brought us. We have been enlightened to the hope with which we have been called: riches in heaven (Eph. 1:18).

Millions of people on earth follow in Ruth's footsteps. They are servants of religions of all descriptions. They meekly obey the precepts of their religion and ask nothing from their religion. They believe they are pleasing God, but in fact they are an abomination to God. The Lord says: "...who has asked this of you? This trampling of my courts? Stop bringing me meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons, Sabbaths, and convocations – I can't bear your assemblies. Your New Moon festivals and your appointed feasts my soul hates. You have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. When you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide my eyes from you;" (Isaiah 1:13-15)

Ruth was a delight to the religious people around her. They blessed her in the name of God and they cheered her devotion to religion and to them. Ruth lost her personal dignity, her cultural identity and became the property of a rich man. When she bears a child, even her child does not belong to her: "Naomi took the child, and laid him in her lap" (Ruth 4:16). Religion is slavery. Flee religion!

### PLACING RUTH IN PROPHECY

There are clues in the Book of Ruth as to what period of time the story speaks prophetically:

- The Book is set "In the days the Judges ruled..." (Ruth 1:1). Judges is the seventh book in the Bible. **The number seven** is strongly associated with **the last days**;<sup>3</sup>
- Elimelech, Naomi, and their two sons Mahlon and Kilion left Bethlehem to go to Moab. When they returned "...the barley harvest was beginning" (Ruth 1:22). The barley harvest may only begin after the priest waves the sheaf of first fruits (Lev.23:10)<sup>4</sup>. The Feast of First Fruits is prophetic of the resurrection of Christ from the dead.<sup>5</sup> Therefore the Book of Ruth speaks prophetically of a point in time after the cross.
- The Book of Ruth occurs at harvest time. Explaining a parable Jesus said: "The harvest is the end of the age.... As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age." (Matt. 13:39-40)

### BOAZ IS THE KEY

The name '**Boaz**' means '**Fleetness**'. He was a mighty warrior and greatly wealthy. Putting his name together with his description you might say Boaz was 'quick to the prey' or possibly 'quick to prey'. Isaiah uses the same root word in Hebrew concerning the prophecy of Immanuel:

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him **Immanuel**...before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, **the land** of the two kings you dread will be **laid waist**." (Isaiah 7:14,16) "Name him **Maher-Shalal-**

<sup>3</sup> The spiritual meaning of the number 7 is "The End". See our paper "The Feast of Tabernacles" where there is an extended discussion of the number 7 and its association with the Great Tribulation. See [www.biblenumbersforlife.com](http://www.biblenumbersforlife.com) page 4.0 PROPHECY.

<sup>4</sup> The instructions in the Law refer to grain, but we know barley is the earliest maturing grain.

<sup>5</sup> See our paper "The Feast of First Fruits". [www.biblenumbersforlife.com](http://www.biblenumbersforlife.com) page 4.0 PROPHECY.

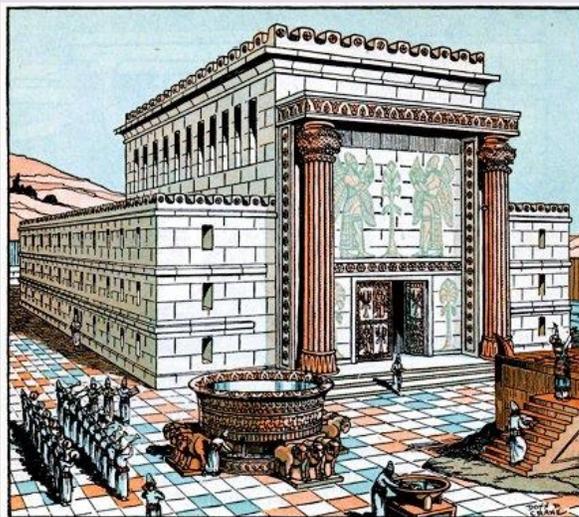
**Hash-Baz.** Before the boy knows how to say 'my father' or 'my mother', **the wealth** of Damascus and the **plunder** of Samaria **will be carried off** by the king of Assyria." (Isaiah 8:3-4)

The words: 'Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz' mean 'Quick to plunder' or 'Swift to spoil'. The '**Baz**' part of the name means '**Quick**' or '**Swift**' and that word is related to the name **Boaz**.

The child spoken of is to be miraculously born of a virgin prophetess (Isaiah 8:3). Jesus was born of a virgin. Yet, the description of the child born to the virgin in this passage does not fit the ministry of Jesus on earth. **Jesus came as a lamb to the slaughter.** The fulfillment of this prophecy concerns **another one who comes to do the slaughtering.** He comes to conquer by military might and gains worldly wealth from it.

The child has the most impressive name **Immanuel**: meaning '**God with us**'. Being begotten of the Holy Spirit we understand Jesus is the most deserving person that could possibly ever bear the name 'God with us'. Yet, the one spoken of in the Isaiah prophecy will also bear that name. At first the people will reason that God is responsible for giving this man his military victories and great wealth. Later the people will believe the mighty conqueror himself is none other than God in the flesh, the long awaited Messiah. But, **he will not be the Messiah, he will be the imposter, the Anti-Christ.**<sup>6</sup>

**Solomon's temple** is described for us in the Book of 1 Kings **chapter 7**. Behold, in front of the house of the Lord stand two great pillars: **the pillar on the right of the entrance is named Boaz** and **the pillar on the left is named Jakin**. The tabernacle in the desert did not have any pillars standing in front of the doorway to the Tent of the Meeting. Why were these great pillars added to the design? What do they mean prophetically?



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The two pillars stand on **a porch** which has a set of stairs. At the back of the porch is the door to the sanctuary. In front of the porch is the altar of sacrifice. To the left is the great laver held up by twelve bulls.

<sup>6</sup> The first reference to Immanuel occurs in **Isaiah chapter 7** v. 14. The connection between **the last days** and **the number 7** is one of the strongest associations in prophetic Scripture. It is like a pealing bell announcing 'The time of the end!', 'The time of the end!'.

<sup>7</sup> Source: <http://www.templemount.org/solomon.html>

Consider carefully what Jesus says happens in the porch area: the place between the altar and the sanctuary:

“Jesus replied, ‘And you **experts in the law [Priests]**, woe to you, because **you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry [Ruth]**, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them. Woe to you, because you build tombs for **the prophets**, and **it was your forefathers who killed them**. So you testify that you approve of what your forefathers did; they killed the prophets, and you built their tombs. Because of this God in his wisdom said ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and others they will persecute.’ Therefore this generation will be held responsible for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the beginning of the world, from the blood of righteous Abel to **the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary [the porch]**. Yes I tell you this generation will be held responsible for it all.’” (Matt. 11:46-52)

We interpret the two pillars to be the **Anti-Christ [Boaz]** and the **False Prophet [Jakin]**. They will be responsible for killing God’s prophets, the Two Witnesses, in the Great Tribulation (Rev. 11:7). The prophet Zechariah mentioned by Jesus in the passage above received revelations which describe events in the last days. It is no co-incidence Jesus mentions him in this context. **The porch is symbolic of the last days.**

The gematria, or numerical value of the Hebrew letters, of the key words we are interested in: (1 Kings 7)

- “**Boaz**” is **79**. The spiritual number **79** means “**martyrs**”. The Anti-Christ will make many of them.
- “**Jakin**” is **90**. The spiritual number **90** means “**church sifted**” or “**persecution**”. His job description.
- “**portico**” is **77**. The spiritual number **77** means “**false prophet**”. This is how God sees Jakin.
- “**pillars**” is **120**. The spiritual number **120** means “**man of peace**”. This is how the world sees Boaz.

The two pillars are in the shape of rods. The rod is the symbol of an absolute ruler. The fact there are two pillars of identical size and shape suggest world rule in the last days is shared, which is precisely the teaching in Revelations (ch.13 v.12).

The measurements of the two pillars in the Book of 1 Kings provide more insight:

“He cast **two bronze pillars**, each **eighteen cubits high** and **twelve cubits around**, by line. He also made **two capitals of cast bronze** to set on the tops of the pillars: **each capital was five cubits high**. **A network of interwoven chains festooned the capitals on top of the pillars, seven for each capital**. He made **pomegranates in two rows** encircling each network to decorate the capitals on top of the pillars. He did the same for each capital. The capitals on top of the pillars in the portico [**porch**] were in the shape of **lilies, four cubits high**. On the capitals of both pillars, above the bowl-shaped part next to the network, were **two hundred pomegranates in rows all around**. He erected the pillars at **the portico of the temple**. The pillar to the South he named **Jakin** and the one to the north he named **Boaz**. The capitals on top were in the shape of lilies. And so the work on the pillars was completed.” (1 Kings 7:13-22)

The spiritual significance of the measurements of the pillars and capitals:

- The height of a pillar is **18** cubits. The spiritual meaning of **18** is "**bondage**" or "**slavery**".
- The circumference of a pillar is **12** cubits. The spiritual meaning of the number **12** is "**government**".
- The height of a pillar plus capital is **23** cubits. The spiritual meaning of **23** is "**death**".
- The capitals are festooned with **chains!** More imagery of **slavery**.
- There are **seven sets of chains**. This indicates means **slavery (chains) in the last days (7)**.
- The pillars are cast of **bronze**. Bronze is the symbol in the Bible of **judgment, destruction** and **war**.<sup>8</sup>
- Each capital has **two rows** of **one hundred pomegranates per row**. Two is the number of "**Division**" and one hundred is the number of "**Holy Flock**". This implies **persecution** or division of the believers.
- The **juice of the pomegranate is blood red**. Further imagery of **persecution** and **martyrdom**.
- The **lilies** are **four** cubits high. The number four means "**Message**" or "**World**".
- The **lily** is a flower with **three petals** and **three sepals** (a sepal is the leaf of the plant that supports the flower. In lilies the sepal has color like a petal but it is not a petal.)

The implications of these measurements regarding Boaz and Jakin are: (1) they will rule the world; (2) they will accomplish this feat through a series of decisive military conflicts; (3) all people will be in slavery and servitude under them; and (4) they will conduct merciless persecution of the genuine believers in God.

The lily is a particularly apt symbol in this circumstance. The lily has **three** (3) petals. Three is the number of "**Truth**" and "**God**". However, the three sepals of the lily looks like petals so the number of colored petals and sepals combined is **six** (6). The number six has the spiritual meaning "**Man**". The lily is **four** (4) cubits high. Four means "**Message**" or "**World**". The Anti-Christ and the False Prophet will present the **Message** to the **World** that they come to conquest in the name of **God** and **Truth**. The Anti-Christ will even **claim to be God**. But, he is not God, **he is only a Man**. In many cultures the lily is the symbol of sorrow and death. There will be a lot of that around in the last days.

In the story of Ruth, Boaz greets the harvesters "**The Lord be with you!**" (ch.2 v.4). On another occasion he pronounces a blessing on Ruth: "**May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have taken refuge.**" (ch.2 v.12). How subtle the Serpent is! How easily deceived people can be! The Scripture warns us our most wicked enemy will not appear as a warty witch stewing a brew or as a brazen warlock spitting out curses. No: "**...for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.**" (2 Cor. 11:14). Boaz will appear righteous but in truth he will be the Man of Lawlessness.

<sup>8</sup> The thighs and waist of the statue of Nebuchadnezzar were fashioned of **bronze**. They correspond prophetically to the Age of Greece when the **young Alexander conquered the world** through **warfare** in a series of **quick decisive conflicts**. The waist of a man is the place we find the phallus, which connects this part of the statue to Nimrod another mighty warrior who fought with cheetahs (the fastest animal). Both Alexander and Nimrod built empires on idol worship, another connection to the Anti-Christ.

The gematria of the name '**Boaz**' is **79**. There are exactly **94** words in the Bible with the gematria **79**. The spiritual meaning of the number **94** is "**Proud Humbled**". So it will be with the Anti-Christ. When the real Messiah returns at the end of the Great Tribulation he shall overthrow the Beast and his kingdom Babylon the Great with the breath of his mouth.

Words in the Bible with a gematria of **79** have strong associations with the Anti-Christ / Boaz:

- The Hebrew word '**Come**', which is pronounced "**Bow**". Occurs **six times**. Is this word not a pun on the name **Bo'az**? In Revelations we have this description of the Anti-Christ: "**Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder 'Come!' I looked and there before me was a white horse** [appears to be righteous]! **Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown** [world rule], **and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest** [warfare]." (Rev. 6:1-2) Is not the bow the weapon of the hunter who shoots fast running game? How did it come to get the name 'bow'? Another association.
- The Hebrew word '**Porch**'! Occurs twice (two pillars on the porch) (1 Kings 7:19 & Eze. 40:39)
- The Hebrew word '**Garment**'! Occurs twice (Num. 31:24 & Eze. 16:16)
- The Hebrew word '**Show**' (i.e. to explain the dream/prophesy) Occurs twice (Dan. 2:6 & Dan. 2:11)
- The Hebrew word '**Glutton**' (gorge on flesh – what a picture of a killer!) Occurs twice (Prov. 23:20,21)
- The Hebrew word '**Adah**' (one of the two daughters of the false prophet Lamech, who sought vengeance through the death of innocents) Occurs once (Gen. 4:24)
- The Hebrew word '**Babylon**'! Occurs once (Jer. 27:16)
- The Hebrew word '**Moab**'! Occurs once (Num. 22:4) {See Numbers 21 to 25 for a full understanding of Israel's dealings with Moab. Moab is associated with a **False Prophet** (Balak) who deceives Israel into marrying Moabite women. These women invite their husbands to sacrifice to false gods.}
- The Hebrew word '**Og**' (King of Bashan – a giant.<sup>9</sup> If Moab is symbolic of the False Prophet, then Og is symbolic of the military might in that unholy alliance. He is a type of the **Anti-Christ**) Occurs twice (Num. 21:33 & 1 Kings 4:19)
- The Hebrew word '**Idol**'! Occurs once (Eze. 8:10) The False Prophet will set up an idol in the temple.
- The Hebrew word '**Harlot**'! Occurs once (Judg. 8:27) We will come to this later in this paper.
- The Hebrew word '**Migdol**' ('tower' – a pillar? tower of Babel?). Occurs once (Jer. 44:1)

At this point we will take as settled that Boaz is not prophetic of Jesus in either his first or his second coming. Boaz is prophetic of the Anti-Christ.

We will now turn back to the interpretation of the rest of the characters in the Book of Ruth.

<sup>9</sup> Giants were a genetic perversion that occurred when the sons of God (fallen angels) came into the daughters of men (Gen. 6:2-4). Now we know how the virgin prophetess conceives the child!

## THE FALSE PROPHET

Boaz tells Ruth “**Although it is true I am near of kin, there is a kinsman-redeemer nearer than I**”. This individual is never named in the Book of Ruth but we can deduce who he is. When Boaz sits down with this individual, whom he refers to as “**friend**” (Ruth 4:1), they have a chat about redeeming Ruth:

“Boaz says ‘On the day you buy the land from Naomi and from **Ruth the Moabitess you acquire the dead man’s widow**, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property’. At this the kinsman-redeemer said ‘Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it. **I can’t do it.**” (Ruth 4:5-6)

The Law of Moses has very clear laws regarding marriage:

“When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations – **the Hittites, the Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizites, Hivites, and Jebusites**, seven nations larger and stronger than you – and when the LORD your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally. Make no treaty with them, and show them no mercy. **Do not inter-marry with them**. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons...” (Deut. 7:1-4)

“**No one born of a forbidden marriage** [see Deut. 7:1-4 above] **nor any of his descendants may enter the assembly of the LORD, even down to the tenth generation.**” (Deut. 23:2)

“When you go to war against your enemies [that would include enemies that are not Canaanites]...and you take captives, if you notice among the captives a beautiful woman and are attracted to her, you may take her as your wife.” (Deut. 21:10-11)

“**No Ammonite or Moabite or any of his descendants may enter the assembly of the LORD, even down to the tenth generation.**” (Deut. 23:3)

“The high priest, the among his brothers who has had the anointing oil poured on his head and who has been ordained to wear the priestly garments, must not let his hair become unkempt or tear his clothes. ... **The woman he marries must be a virgin. He must not marry a widow**, a divorced woman, or a woman defiled by prostitution, but **only a virgin from his own people**, so he will not defile his offspring among his people. I am the LORD, who makes him holy.” (Lev. 21:10-15)

To put this simply:

- **Marriage with any original inhabitant of the land of Canaan is forbidden to all Jews;**
- **Marriage with a Moabite** or an Ammonite is **permitted** but the descendants of that marriage can’t enter the assembly of the LORD even down to the tenth generation [i.e. for roughly 300 to 400 years];
- **The high priest must marry a virgin Israelite girl. Any other marriage is forbidden.**

This provides us with precisely the information to identify the ‘friend’. First, it was legally permitted for Mahlon to marry Ruth, albeit highly inadvisable. Second, it would have been legal for a Jew to marry Ruth, the Moabitess widow, although most would not want to because of the exclusion of ten generations of their children from the assembly of the LORD. However, the ‘friend’ did not say “I don’t want to do it” or “I think it inadvisable to do it”, he explicitly said: **“I can’t do it.”** There is **only one person** in all Israel **who could not marry Ruth**, and that would be **the high priest**.

The Book of Ruth suggests the nearest kinsman-redeemer to Ruth, was the high priest. According to our typology of Boaz as the Anti-Christ, that makes the High Priest of Israel the False Prophet.

This is not such a far out idea as it first seems. Other evidence in God’s revelation suggests this is indeed the identity of the False Prophet during the Great Tribulation. Those who would seek further confirmation are invited to read “The Feast of Trumpets” on page 4.0 PROPHECY, and “Gemini – The Two Witnesses” and “Cancer – End Times Harvest” on page 7.0 STARS of [www.biblenumbersforlife.com](http://www.biblenumbersforlife.com)

We can also look back at recorded history in the gospels concerning the death of Jesus Christ. Who was the single person most directly responsible for the trial, the verdict, and the death sentence upon Jesus Christ? It was the High Priest of Israel. We note that the High Priest brought accusations against Jesus to the Roman governor and also put pressure on him by threatening political consequences if the result of the trial was anything less than the death penalty.

Based on the actions of a High Priest of Israel in the past, it ought not to shock anyone that a High Priest of Israel in the future, who will share world rule alongside the Anti-Christ, might consent yea even promote the world-wide persecution and martyrdom of the followers of Jesus Christ.

### **WARNING AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM**

A word of warning to the reader. Our interpretation of the Book of Ruth under no circumstances justifies hatred toward the Jewish people. Our interpretation suggests at some time in the future a High Priest of Israel will have tremendous influence and power in world affairs, and our interpretation suggests that power will be wielded in a way that will do harm to many people, of both Christian and Jewish faiths. However, this does not mean that members of the Jewish priesthood are all of this nefarious character. It does not even mean that all Jewish High Priests are evil. Most of all, our interpretation does not mean that every-day peace-loving and devout Jews around the world are in any way implicated or complicit in the crimes of one future High Priest of Israel. Hitler was a madman. Stalin was a megalomaniac. Pol Pot was guilty of genocide. Nero was a blood thirsty mass murderer of Christians. Yet, we can all agree that Germans, Russians, Cambodians, and Italians are not guilty of the crimes of those absolute dictators. Those men are guilty of the crimes they perpetrated not the people who share their ethnicity or religion. In the same way we must have compassion and love towards the Jewish people. Anti-semitism is not justified in any case. The conclusions of this paper most certainly provide no basis of support for it.

We continue with our interpretation of the Book of Ruth.

## **RUTH**

Naomi gives Ruth careful instructions to follow to show Boaz that she desires him to redeem her. Ruth goes to Boaz at night when **all the workers at the threshing floor are sleeping**. (The coming of the Anti-Christ will be at a time when all the earth is at peace and rest [Zechariah 1:11]). Boaz is sleeping at the end of a great heap of barley. Washed, perfumed, and adorned in her best clothes Ruth lays at his feet. Exactly at mid-night Boaz awakes from his sleep and asks 'Who are you?' Ruth replies to Boaz:

**"I am your servant Ruth...Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman-redeemer"** (Ruth 3:9)

The threshing floor is usually situated on a flat hilltop. The process of threshing grain involves oxen pulling a sledge over the grain to break the husks. Workers then throw the grain into the air. The wind blows the husks away and the grain falls to the ground. This is repeated until the grain is completely winnowed. The workers then gather the grain into a pile. As a precaution against thieves, at night the workers sleep near to the pile, usually with their heads toward the pile and their feet away from the pile. Ruth uncovers the feet of Boaz (which after a day's work must have been horribly smelly) and waits. She doesn't wait long because the cool wind of the evening causes discomfort and Boaz awakes from his sleep.

Ruth is making Boaz an offer. She is willing to marry him, come under his authority, in return for him buying her land. As his wife, she would enjoy the use of the land, but not own the land. Does she love him? No. The smelly feet are an important clue. The whole process of engagement outlined in this story is highly undignified and grossly objectionable to a self-respecting Israelite woman. This would be especially true of an Israelite who knows the difference between 'enjoying' the land and having sovereign rule over the land. Ruth is playing along because she is told to do so by her frail elders [Naomi]. The elders are instructing Ruth to do this because it is a compromise they might hate, but they would rather live than die. The Bible says the time before the end will be dangerous for every living person on earth: **"nation shall rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginnings of birth pangs."** (Matt. 24:7-8)

Boaz appears as a perfect gentleman and his words are smooth like oil. Yet, he doesn't love Ruth - he loves absolute power. He also delights in possessing property that rightfully he ought never to own.

The prophetic interpretation here is straightforward: **Ruth represents expatriate Jews of diluted ethnic purity but of genuine religious conviction who migrate from every part of the globe and return to Israel in the last days**. Boaz is the prophetic type of the all-mighty all-wealthy one-world ruler. At the time in history when the Jews return they are in great distress (Elimelech, Mahlon, and Kilion are dead). They make a bargain with the Anti-Christ: he will permit them to 'enjoy their land', in other words to return to the Holy Land, and in return

they will grant him all power and authority over them. This is symbolized by the servant role of the wife in marriage. In Israelite law she was the property of the husband.

What does the Lord God of Israel think of this arrangement? To him who is the rightful husband, and who is indeed not dead, this marriage of convenience is nothing but **harlotry**. His beloved is being married off to become the servant to a foreign ruler. All through her history Israel made alliances with the rulers of Gentile nations. God denounced them in the strongest possible terms:

**“This is what the Sovereign LORD says to Jerusalem...I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness. I gave you my solemn oath and entered into a covenant with you...and you became mine...I clothed you with an embroidered dress and put leather sandals on you...So you were adorned with gold and silver...your food was fine flour, honey and olive oil. You became beautiful and rose to be a queen...fame spread among the nations because of your beauty.”** (Ezekiel 16:2-14)

**“But you trusted in your beauty and used your fame to become a prostitute<sup>10</sup>. You lavished favors on anyone that passed by and your beauty became his...You engaged in prostitution with the Assyrians too, because you were insatiable...You adulterous wife! You prefer strangers to your own husband!”** (Ezekiel 16: 15-32)

## WHEN IS MID-NIGHT?

The engagement of Ruth to Boaz occurs at **the mid-night hour**. What time is this in prophetic history?

Boaz is resting his head on a pile of grain. We know it is barley because he places six measures of barley in the shawl of Ruth. The resurrection of Christ is symbolized by the waving of the first sheaf of barley that is harvested. If Christ's death and resurrection is the first harvest of barley, then isn't it logical to infer the bulk of the barley harvest pertains to the death (martyrdom) of Christians and their resurrection from the dead **just before the Great Tribulation begins?**

Naomi is a symbol of the frail and not-so-spiritually minded elders of Israel at this point in history. When Ruth returns bearing a shawl heavy with harvested barley Naomi appears barely interested. Her comment to Ruth is **“Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today.”** The elders of Israel are not mindful under these circumstances that millions of Christians are dying from the persecution of the Anti-Christ. The gift to Naomi of the six measures of barley could be seen as the depraved invitation from Boaz for Naomi to celebrate with him the fall of his enemy, the Christian church. But Naomi is not thinking of the fate of the Christians and we assume she takes no consolation whatsoever in their suffering. Neither will the elders of the Jews at this future time in history be joyful that Christians are

<sup>10</sup> When God married Israel he washed her, clothed her, perfumed her, and arrayed her with jewels. Boaz does not do this for Naomi. Instead, Ruth washes, perfumes, and adorns herself to woo the wealthy man she does not love. This is how a prostitute captures the attention of a man with money to buy her favors. Ruth in her nature is noble, but the calamitous time in which she lives has reduced her to the lowest level of dignity. Pity the poor Jews in the last days!

being exterminated. Naomi's focus is only on what she believes she must have: which is for Boaz to buy the land and redeem Ruth. Likewise, in those perilous future days, the elders of the Jews will have utmost concern first and foremost for the safety of their own people. This is an important reminder not to extract from this paper ill will between Christians and Jews. **Our enemy will be the absolute corruption of world power at the highest level and the evil supernatural power that fills the world rulers and controls them.** Christians and Jews: We must prepare for the events of the last days cherishing one another and praying for each other. Neither of us is the enemy.

**The engagement of Ruth occurs at mid-night, in utter darkness.** The Sun is a symbol of the Holy Spirit<sup>11</sup>. Here is a clear connection of the rapture of the saints and the engagement of Ruth. The Bible clearly states that the Man of Lawlessness (the Anti-Christ) will not be revealed until the One who restrains him, the Holy Spirit, is taken out of the way. When the Christians that are left and alive are raptured and those who have fallen asleep in Christ are resurrected they all go to heaven and the Holy Spirit goes with them. The ministry of God during the Great Tribulation is conducted by angels, much as in Old Testament times. **The Holy Spirit is gone.** The world will be in spiritual darkness.

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<sup>11</sup> We invite you to read our paper "The Sun – 1<sup>st</sup> Witness of God, the Holy Spirit" on Page 7.0 STARS on [www.biblenumbersforlife.com](http://www.biblenumbersforlife.com)