

Sunday May 29th 2016
Ruth
Part Seventeen

Power Point – Slide 1

1). Ru 4:13 ¶ *So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son. 14 Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel! 15 "And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him."*

a). We had seen last time how the redemption of the inheritance by Boaz, which resulted in Ruth becoming his wife, immediately led to a time of blessing seen through the birth of a son.

b). And we had seen that the blessing that came from the birth of Obed belonged to Naomi as much as Ruth and Boaz. And as Naomi forms a type of the nation of Israel we see that there is a day coming, following the conclusion of the tribulation, when Christ's Bride becomes Christ's Wife, when Israel will be blessed through the One whom Obed typifies. In that day the Lord Jesus Christ will be 'famous in Israel', paralleling another type that teaches the same thing, the type concerning Joseph and his brothers – Ge 45:25 ¶ *Then they went up out of Egypt, and came to the land of Canaan to Jacob their father. 26 And they told him, saying, "Joseph is still alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt." And Jacob's heart stood still, because he did not believe them. 27 But when they told him all the words which Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the carts which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived. 28 Then Israel said, "It is enough. Joseph my son is still alive.*

c). The One pictured through Joseph and Boaz will be to Israel 'a restorer of life', bringing them out of the place of death through the judgments of the tribulation which bring them to national repentance and will be the One

who will be the 'nourisher' of Israel's 'old age' - Ge 50:20 *"But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. 21 "Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.*

Ho 6:1 ¶ *Come, and let us return to the LORD; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. 2 After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in His sight.*

d). According to - De 32:9 *For the LORD'S portion is His people; Jacob is the place of His inheritance. 10 "He found him in a desert land And in the wasteland, a howling wilderness; He encircled him, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple [Lit. pupil] of His eye.*

And that seen in these verses has never changed, God's chosen people are still His 'portion' and the 'pupil' of His eye and the plans and purposes He has had for them seen through the promises given to Abraham will be fulfilled. The earthly portion of the Kingdom covenanted to David will be theirs and they, like the repentant Jonah, will take the good news concerning Christ who rules over the world to the Gentile nations that still exist upon the earth during the Millennial Kingdom in fulfillment of that said to Abraham - Ge 22:18a *"In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed....*

e). And as God's firstborn son they will be the preeminent nation upon the earth, the head and no longer the tail, holding the scepter of rulership in the place of Gentile world power in existence today.

f). We had also seen Israel's future blessing through the picture of Ruth loving Naomi and being better to her than 7 sons, showing us the relationship between the Wife of Christ and Israel during the 7th Day.

g). Just as Christ's love for Israel is clearly demonstrated through the scriptures we have already looked at this morning, so will Christ's joint heirs display the same love towards Israel, their 'mother-in-law'.

2). Then if we look at the redemption of the inheritance with respect to those who will become Christ's Wife, the joint heirs, the many sons brought to glory

seen in - Re 19:7 *"Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."*

We will see that the redemption has to do with the domain over which Christ and His Wife are to rule from the heavens during the Millennial Kingdom – a domain clearly identified for us in the scriptures - Ro 4:13 *For the promise that he would be the **heir of the world** was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.*

Ga 3:9 *So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.*

Ga 3:29 *And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and **heirs** according to the promise. [through faith]*

The physical earth on which we live is the domain which is still presently ruled over from the heavens by Satan, God's appointed ruler, through Gentile world power, even though Satan has in time past disqualified himself as the earth's ruler.

a). And in that future day, through the redemption of the inheritance, the Church will realize the reason for her existence and occupy the Kingdom of the Heavens with Christ in order to rule in Satan's place - Re 2:26 *"And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations-- 27 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels' --as I also have received from My Father;*

b). And as we think about this it would be good to remind ourselves that the 'Church' was brought into existence for this very specific and clearly stated reason, which was given by the Lord immediately following the parable of the vineyard – Mt 21:43 *"Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God [the Heavens] will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.*

c). Christ was born 'King of the Jews' and the uproar seen in Jerusalem as a result of His birth, instigated by Satan through Herod, had to do with His Kingship rather than to do with Him also being - Joh 1:29b.....*The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*

At this point it was the birth of Christ, the Seed of the Woman, the One who could rule instead of Satan that was the issue, hence the attempt to kill Him - Mt 2:16 ¶ *Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.*

d). And that which is prophetically spoken by Simeon in the Temple in Jerusalem shortly after the Lord's birth as he waited for 'the Consolation of Israel', also speaks of Christ as King within a restored Theocracy - Lu 2:30 *For my eyes have seen Your salvation 31 Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, 32 A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel."*

Simeon's words here can only be fulfilled within a restored Theocracy with God's Son in the nation's midst exercising His role as "king of the Jews". It is then with a view to the coming Kingdom that Simeon prophesies.

e). And then, before the Lord's public ministry He met Satan face to face in the wilderness, a confrontation that had rulership over the earth as its sole focus.

f). Because the first man, the first Adam, through Satan's confrontation with Eve had been disqualified to rule it was necessary that the second Man, the last Adam should experience a similar confrontation to show that He was fully qualified to redeem that forfeited by the first Adam in the fall.

g). The first Adam we will remember had been created to rule the earth in the place of Satan, who through sin had previously disqualified himself; however, also because of sin, the first Adam was also disqualified, allowing Satan to continue as the earth's ruler. And so the confrontation between Christ and Satan was all about rulership of the earth, rulership that would be preceded by the events of Calvary - Mt 4:8 *Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"*

h). Christ's confrontation with Satan proved that He was fully qualified to redeem that which the first Adam had forfeited and anticipated not only the

cross, but also events beyond the cross. It was on the cross that Christ paid the price for man's redemption, thereby making it possible for man to ultimately be brought back into the position for which he had been created, through events that would take place beyond the cross itself.

i). We will also see that Christ's earthly ministry in its entirety was centered on His coming Kingdom - Mt 4:17 *From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

Lu 4:43 *but He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God [the Heavens] to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent."*

j). And His present ministry as High Priest on behalf of the eternally saved is centered on exactly the same thing, His coming Kingdom - Joh 13:8 *Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." [no part in the Kingdom]*

Joh 18:36 *Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world [Lit. 'age']. If My kingdom were of this world [age], My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."*

k). As we have already seen from Matthew 4:17 and Luke 4:43 Christ's ministry to Israel at His first advent was centered on His coming Kingdom, with the offer of rulership from the Kingdom of the Heavens [not the earthly Kingdom already covenanted to David] contingent upon national repentance, but as we know Israel, nationally because of their religious leaders, rejected both the offer of rulership with respect to the Kingdom of the Heavens and the One who is their King. Hence the 'Church' was called into existence to receive that which Israel had rejected, the offer of the Kingdom of the Heavens, rulership with Christ in His coming Kingdom from the heavens over the earth.

l). And just as with Israel, so the Christian's participation in rulership with Christ in the Millennial Kingdom is conditional, contingent upon faithful obedience beyond the moment of his eternal salvation - 2Ti 2:12 *If we [patiently] endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny [to patiently endure] Him, [the word 'Him' does not appear in the original manuscripts] He also will deny us. [a position of rulership]*

It is only once a person has passed from death to life that faithfulness, obedience and patient endurance are possible.

m). Then following the Lord's death and resurrection, He did not return to the heavens to sit on His own throne and nor has He yet sat on His father David's throne, rather He is sitting with the Father on the Father's throne waiting for that coming day when He will rule from His own throne in the New Jerusalem with His joint heirs in the heavens and rule from David's throne in the midst of Israel in the earthly Jerusalem - Heb 10:12 *But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, 13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.*

n). In the meantime an entire dispensation has been set aside during which the Holy Spirit has been sent into the world to procure a Bride for the Son from amongst the family of God, predominantly coming out of the Gentile nations - Ac 15:14 *"Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name.*

Ac 28:28 *"Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!"*

Col 1:27 *To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

o). And while the Spirit searches for the Bride throughout this dispensation so the Lord in a parallel work is ministering on the Christian's behalf as High Priest in the heavenly tabernacle on the basis of His blood shed on the cross - Heb 4:11 ¶ *Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. 12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. 14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us*

therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

1Jo 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 ¶ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

And Christ's present ministry as High priest is all with a view to the coming Kingdom, just as we have seen pictured through the teaching accompanying the washing of the disciples' feet on the night of the last supper recorded in John Chapter 13.

p). Just as the Levitical priests were contaminated by the death, blood and grime of the sacrifices in the outer court of the Tabernacle and had to wash at the bronze laver before entering the Holy Place so the Christian, who has already availed himself of Christ's finished work at Calvary, becomes contaminated through his contact with the world and as we have previously seen with Satan and Adam, sin is responsible for bringing about disqualification from rulership and so unless those destined to be 'kings and priests' in the Millennial Kingdom deal with their sin through the ministry of our High Priest and allow Him to cleanse them they would be disqualified also. This is the reason for what Paul writes in - 1Co 9:27 *But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*

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3). As we look at all of this we cannot help but see that all of scripture moves towards that coming day when the Kingdom will be realized, not eternity. The Church, as we have now seen, has been called into existence in order to have a part in Christ's Kingdom, her eternal destiny already being secure and the whole of the matter, with respect to the Church and Israel and the coming Kingdom, had been prophetically set out in the Book of Ruth a thousand years or so before the Church began.

a). So if we take what we are given in the Book of Ruth and add it to what we see in Genesis Chapter 24, the Matthew 13 parables and the parables

in the first half of Matthew Chapter 25 we will have all that we should know about the Church, her calling, her history with respect to the teaching of the Kingdom and her ultimate conclusion in the 7th Day. And as we put all of this together we should find ourselves in no doubt as to our purpose and our present activity with regards to that purpose.

b) We are engaged in a present preparation in anticipation of that preparation being evaluated at the Judgment Seat for the purpose of being granted a position of rulership with Christ in His Kingdom or being denied that position of rulership and as we have seen many times before if we take Ruth as our example our position with Christ in His Kingdom will be certain – 2Pe 1:10 *Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 12 ¶ For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. 13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,*

c). And finally if we take that which we call the NT as a whole we will see that its structure corresponds to the Book of Ruth - Ru 1:1 ¶ *Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons.*

This is the spiritual condition of Israel as we find in the Gospel accounts and also in the Gospels we find the death of a ‘husband’ and resurrection.

d). The Book of Acts, which is a transitional book, finds the introduction of a predominantly Gentile Bride as a result of that death and here in this Book we can also determine the beginning of the journey for the Church which takes us from the land of our birth to the land of our calling – Ru 1:16 *But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever 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. The LORD do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me."*

e). Ru 2:17 ¶ *So she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.*

And if we want to know how to access the good works prepared beforehand for us to walk in them, how to work in the Lord's field, how to beat out the grain and how we are to prepare ourselves for appearing at Christ's Judgment Seat then we will find all we need to know in the scriptures from the Book of Romans to Jude.

f). And in the last Book of the NT, the Revelation of Jesus Christ, we find the events of the Judgment Seat, the redemption of the inheritance and Kingdom rule – the very place where the Book of Ruth ends.

Power Point – Slide 7

g). We have been given everything we need in order to be successful in this race of the faith and it is our own personal responsibility to make sure we both know and understand and then do that which is necessary.

h). This is why the scripture admonishes us - 2Ti 2:15 *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

Just as we have seen pictured through the experience of Ruth, this is a process towards spiritual maturity that is a life-long pursuit. If the Lord does not return before our physical death this process encompasses all of our Christian life and this is why so many falter because to be successful in this race requires determination and stamina and these can be difficult to sustain.

i). Jas 1:12 *Blessed is the man who [patiently] endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.*

j). Let's be encouraged though - Heb 12:1 ¶ *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and*

discouraged in your souls. 4 ¶ You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. 5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; 6 For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."

And let us have the same mindset as Paul - Php 3:12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 ¶ Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. 16 Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind. 17 ¶ Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

And keep our focus on Jesus and the joy set before us which will be realized in that day just as the scriptures have said - 1Pe 1:3 ¶ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 ¶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith--the salvation of your souls.