

RUTH: MYSTERIOUS RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JEW AND GENTILE



- When a gentile accepts the God of Israel he is also to accept the Israelites
- Ruth made 1 statement of faith (Your God will be my God”
- Ruth made 5 promises of action
- We have a promise from Ruth to God, and from Ruth to Na’omi

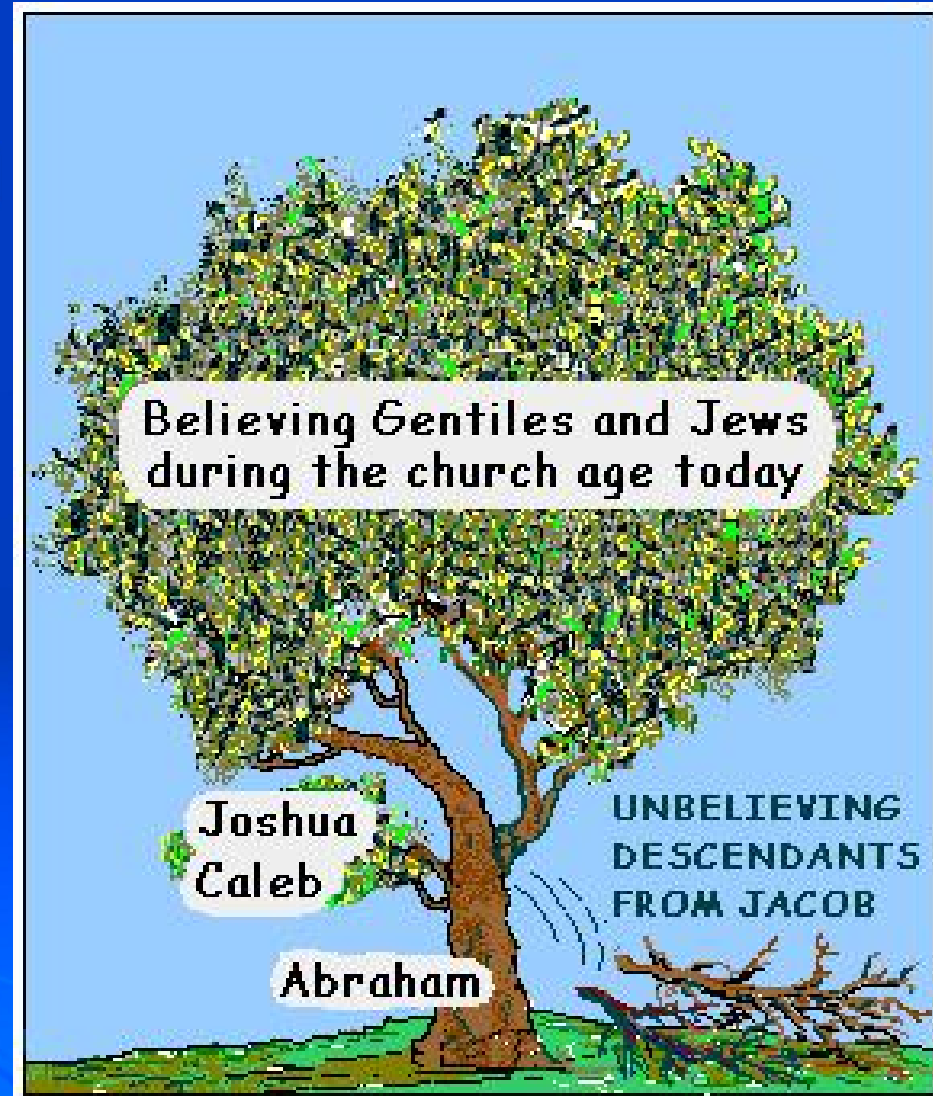
RUTH THE GENTILE



- Locals of Bethlehem are aware of Ruth's switch of allegiance
- Ruth is NOT a Jew, but she does have a Jewish heart
- How does a gentile Christian identify once we accept the God of Israel?
- Romans 2:25 – 29 ***“...the real Jew is one inwardly...spiritual not literal....”***

DIVINELY PERFORMED CIRCUMCISION OF THE HEART

- If we're the SAME spiritually, does a Jew and gentile become the same PHYSICALLY?
- Romans 3:1 “*The what advantage has the Jew?...Much in every way!*”
- Replacement Theology is not just WRONG it is IMPOSSIBLE
- Ruth is a model for the church to follow



RUTH CHAPTER 2



- Na'omi is NOT blood related to Boaz
- Boaz is related to Elimelech, Na'omi's deceased husband
- Boaz is a wealthy man
- **Ephrath** = abundance, fruitful
- **Moda** = acquaintance, familial association
- NO assumption of family obligation upon Boaz at this point in the story
- No certain meaning of Boaz's name

GLEANING WAS A RIGHT, NOT A PRIVILEGE

- Ruth and Na'omi were the poor of Bethlehem
- Gleaning happened simultaneously with the harvesting
- Gleaners need to gather enough to store up for the non-harvesting seasons
- Ruth could CHOOSE where to glean

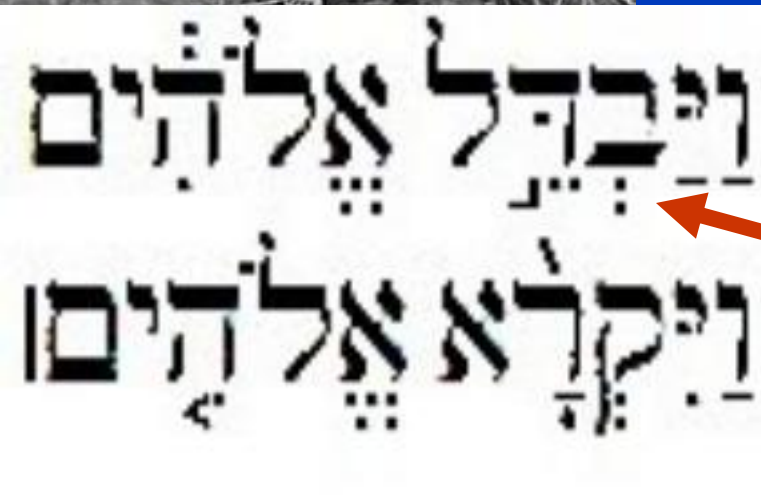


GOD'S HAND OF PROVIDENCE

- Ruth finding Boaz's field was NOT LUCK!
- Hebrews did not believe in luck
- "Part of the field" Fields were common fields, shared by several farmers
- No hedgerows or fences
- *Na'arah* = young girl, unmarried



RUTH: ARROGANT OR HUMBLE?

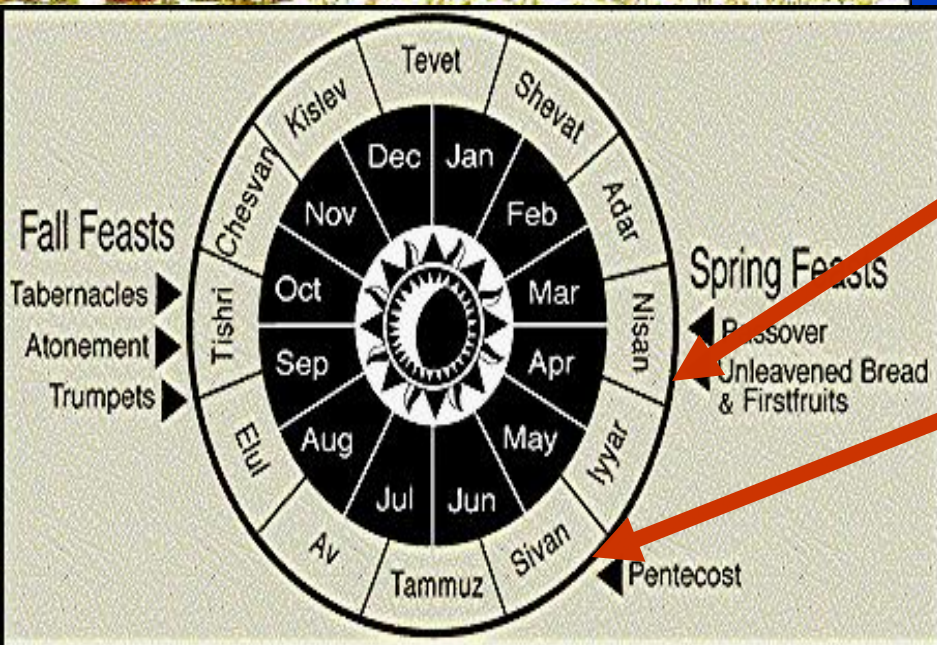


- Vs. 7 Ruth gleaning “among the sheaves”?
- M-y-m
- *Miryam or marym*? Stalks or bundled Sheaves?
- Hebrew alphabet is all consonants (no vowels)
- Jewish scholars invented system of symbols to denote vowel sounds
- Masoretic system



***“Did you hear that,
my daughter?”***

- “My daughter” is an expression of affection by an older person to a younger
- Boaz invites Ruth to glean his field full-time
- Barley harvest at Firstfruits
- Wheat harvest during Shavuot



RUTH IS MYSTIFIED AT BOAZ'S KINDNESS TO A GENTILE

- Boaz instructs his reapers to give Ruth full freedom to do her gleaning
- Ruth allowed to drink from workers' water jug to save time
- Boaz says it's her CHARACTER that he admires
- The entire first part of the story of Ruth is about a gentile's relationship with the people of Israel
- It's the second part of the story that is about the gentile church's relationship with our Jewish Savior



“Under God’s wings”

- ***Kanaph*** = wings
- Ruth 3:6 – 9 **“Spread your robe over your handmaid.....”**
- **“Spread your kanaph over your handmaid”**
- First use of kanaph is for God’s wings to offer Ruth HEAVENLY well-being
- Second use of kanaph is for Boaz’s wings to offer Ruth EARTHLY well-being
- Ruth **INSISTED** on joining Na’omi
- Ruth **INSISTED** on Boaz being her Kinsman-Redeemer



BOAZ DISPLAYS CHESED



- Vs 13: Intent is: “You are a Jewish man, yet you have comforted and encouraged me (a gentile)”
- Boaz invites Ruth to his dining table, showing great ***chesed*** (kindness)
- ***Chometz*** = a sour sauce for dipping dry bread
- Boaz tells his harvest supervisor to let Ruth actually glean from the bundled SHEAVES (***marym***)