

Summer Shorts: Book of Ruth - 2

Darrell Buchanan, June 20, 2021

Have you ever described something as “a God-thing”? If so, what was it?

Ruth 2

Ruth 2 highlights the meeting of Ruth and Boaz and climaxes with Naomi’s reaction to that event. Although it is a unified whole, the chapter is made up of three main scenes with several sub-parts. The first scene involves Ruth and Naomi; this is followed by a scene involving Ruth and Boaz and a final scene again featuring Ruth and Naomi.

2:1-2

Ruth proposes to Naomi that she go out to **glean**. Gleaning was a primary means of support for the destitute prescribed in OT law (see [Leviticus 19:9-10, 23:22](#) and [Deuteronomy 24:19-22](#)).

2:3

Ruth’s choice of a barley field, while completely random to her, was certainly no accident.

- Do you tend to speak of things as “coincidental” or “providential”?

Providence:

God is at work behind the scenes to keep things moving toward God’s ultimate goal for us as individuals and for this world.

- How does God’s providence work out in the Book of Ruth?

God’s hesed [loving-kindness] is the centerpiece of the Ruth story, as it should be. The entire book zeros in on the weighty question of whether God’s hesed has run out for Naomi. It’s a question that sooner or later all of us will have to face for ourselves or for someone we love. And the story addresses this question, not by a spectacular vision or a divine voice speaking out of the heavens, but by God’s people engaged in simple yet extraordinary acts of hesed.

Carolyn Custis James, *The Gospel of Ruth: Loving God Enough to Break the Rules*

BACK