

“Devotion rewarded”

Ruth 2:1-23 & 1 Peter 1:17-21.

Situation awareness

Verses 1:22 and 2:1

Morning to midday

God provides – even when we’re not expecting it.

Verses 2 and 3.

Going before us determining events and opportunities.

God provides – even when we are not aware of it.

Verses 4 to 7

Through the faithfulness of his people.

God provides - for all who take refuge in him.

Verses 8 to 13

Through the protection of his people.

Midday to early evening

God provides – abundantly more than we imagine.

Verses 14 to 17

Through the generosity of his people.

At the end of the day

Hope renewed

Verses 18 to 22

Bitterness turns to blessing.

Fears relieved and hope for the future.

Scene set for God to keep on lovingly providing.

Verse 23

A Bible Study

No:2

Pray: To begin with, pray. Ask God to teach you of Himself from his word.

Background: Having left Judah fleeing famine with husband and sons for Moab, some ten years or more earlier, Naomi hears that “God had come to the aid of his people back in Judah and provided food” (1:6). She returns from Moab to Judah. However, she is without husband and sons who’ve died in Moab. She is “bitter” with God, and “empty” (1:20,21). But she has Ruth, her daughter in law who has chosen to stay and return with her. Naomi appears to underestimate the goodness of God in Ruth. The people are surprised to see her back and with Ruth a Moabite woman. But Ruth, a foreigner, has realised how blessed one is to live for God, to belong to him and His people even though she is a foreigner (1:16,17). We pick up the story just as the barley harvest was beginning and we’re introduced to Boaz, a family relative. The events of chapter 2 verses 3 to 22 occur in one day – verses 3 to 13 the morning to the middle of the day; verses 14 to 17 from the middle of the day until evening; verses 18 to 22 back home with Naomi.

Read the passage: Ruth 1:22-2:1-23

Questions:

1. What are we told about Boaz in verse 1? What’s his connection with Naomi?
2. Ruth takes the initiative and asks Naomi for permission to do what? (Verse 2) Why would she ask to do that? (See also Leviticus 19:9,10) What do you learn about God from this law? By this law what do you think God desires for his people to be? Should Ruth then have taken the initiative or Naomi? In Naomi agreeing, do you think she is becoming less “bitter”? Why?
3. What happens in Chapter 1 verse 22 and Chapter 2 verses 3 and 4? Coincidence?
4. What more do we learn about Boaz from verses 4 to 16? In a word or two what kind of man would you describe him to be? How does Ruth respond to Boaz’s care? What could we learn from their example?
5. Read verses 17 to 23. In a word or two describe the women’s reaction to the generosity of Boaz. (An ephah is about 13kilograms)
6. What have you learnt about God from this chapter? (See also Psalm 107:9; Ephesians 3:20,21)

Conclude with prayer:

In preparation for next week’s Bible Study read ahead Ruth Chapter 3