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A Biographical Study of Boaz

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Boaz

CHRONOLOGICAL SYMMARY

I. His meetings with Ruth
   A. First meeting: In a wheat field
      1. Boaz was a close relative of the widow Naomi on her husband Elimelech’s side (Ruth 2:1).
      2. He was a wealthy bachelor from the tribe of Judah (Ruth 2:1).
      3. He met Ruth in a field owned by him near Bethlehem (Ruth 2:4-8).
      4. He commended her for the kindly treatment she showed toward her mother-in-law Naomi (Ruth 2:5-13).
      5. He instructed his harvesters to make it easier for her to glean the grain in his field (Ruth 2:15-16).
      6. He provided this service for Ruth during the entire harvest season (Ruth 2:23).
   B. Second meeting: By a threshing floor
      1. Acting upon Naomi’s instructions, Ruth proposed marriage to Boaz (Ruth 3:1-11).
      2. Boaz was more than willing, but told Ruth that permission had to be secured from a relative who was even closer to Elimelech than he was (Ruth 3:12—4:6).

II. His marriage to Ruth
   A. After Boaz received this permission, the marriage contract was ratified by the exchanging of shoes (Ruth 4:7-12).
   B. Boaz fathered a boy through Ruth named Obed (Ruth 4:13-17).
   C. He thus became the great-grandfather of King David (Ruth 4:18-22).

STATISTICS

Father: Salmon (Ruth 4:21)
Mother: Rahab (Matt. 1:5)
Spouse: Ruth (Ruth 4:13)
Son: Obed (Ruth 4:13, 17)
Significant ancestor: Abraham (Matt. 1:2, 5)
Significant descendants: David, Joseph, Mary, and Jesus (Ruth 4:22; Matt. 1:16)
First mention: Ruth 2:1
Final mention: Luke 3:32
Meaning of his name: “Fleetness, strength”
Frequency of his name: Referred to 23 times
Biblical books mentioning him: Four books (Ruth, 1 Chronicles, Matthew, Luke)
Occupation: Wealthy farmer (Ruth 2:1, 3)
Place of birth: Probably Bethlehem
Important fact about his life: He married Ruth and became an ancestor of Jesus through David’s line (Ruth 4:13, 21-22; Matt. 1:5-16)