



Date: October 13, 2019

Scripture: Ruth 2

1. Why do you think that the foreman repeatedly emphasized that Ruth was a Moabite?
2. Why would Boaz need to charge the men not to touch Ruth? What was she in danger of? [Think time period of the Judges when everyone did whatever they wanted and see Judges 19:22 ff]
3. Was Naomi aware of this danger when she permitted Ruth to go out to glean? (Ruth 2:22)?
4. What does this say of Naomi's regard or lack thereof for Ruth?
5. Chapter two emphasizes the character of Boaz as being a *gibbôr hayil* – a man of noble character.
 - a. What are some of the positive traits you observed about Boaz in this chapter?
 - b. What are the first words upon his lips?
 - c. What is he like?
 - d. How does he give dignity to Ruth?
 - e. How can we men be more like Boaz?
6. Do you think these character traits are limited to men? (See the last words of Ruth 3:11)?
7. Can you think of any other women in the Bible who are said to have found "Favor" (Luke 1:26-28)?
8. What type of woman finds favor in God's sight?
9. How can we women be more like Ruth?



Please read the following section on the “Protection of the Prairie Chicken.” How does that inform your understanding of **Ruth 2:12**?

What does it tell us about God and His love?

Protection of the Prairie Chicken!

In 2:12 the expression “*To seek refuge under his wings*” is a figure of speech. That figure is a metaphor. It is a declaration that one thing represents another. Use of the same metaphor is common among Biblical writers, especially in the Psalms (Ps 17:8, 36:7, 57:1, 61:4, 63:7, 91:4). and Matt. 23:37. A metaphor conveys one thing in terms of another. In this instance the mother prairie chicken is to her chicks what Yahweh is to his children. In the dry Mediterranean climate, range fires were frequent. If a mother hen saw a fire coming from which she could not escape with her chicks she would gather her chicks under her wings. The fast-moving, lower temperature grass fire would then move over them leaving the mother scoured unto death and the chicks alive. This same self-sacrificial and protectionistic love is the one that Yahweh has for his children and his newly adopted daughter Ruth.

It is interesting that in the latter section of the book “The same root word appears when Ruth encounters Boaz at midnight on the threshing floor and urges him to claim her in marriage: “Spread your wing over your maid servant.” It may be a double entendre of metaphor that the reader is supposed to recognize. That is, as the chicken and Yahweh are to their children, so Boaz is to Ruth.¹

Ruth 2:12 (ESV)

¹² The LORD repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!”

Psalms 36:7 (ESV)

How precious is your **steadfast love** (Hesed), O God!

The children of mankind take refuge in the **shadow of your wings**.

¹ *Word In Life Study Bible*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1996). 971



Despite all of our sin and unfaithfulness we can always run to our Loving Heavenly Father to hide beneath the shadow of his wings.

Shadow of your wings.

Psalm 17:8 (ESV)

⁸ Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings,

Psalm 36:7 (ESV)

⁷ How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

Psalm 57:1 (ESV)

¹ Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by.

Psalm 61:4 (ESV)

⁴ Let me dwell in your tent forever! Let me take refuge under the shelter of your wings! *Selah*

Psalm 63:7 (ESV)

⁷ for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.

Psalm 91:4 (ESV)

⁴ He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.



ⁱ Judges 19:22–30 (ESV)

Gibeah's Crime

²² As they were making their hearts merry, behold, the men of the city, worthless fellows, surrounded the house, beating on the door. And they said to the old man, the master of the house, "Bring out the man who came into your house, that we may know him." ²³ And the man, the master of the house, went out to them and said to them, "No, my brothers, do not act so wickedly; since this man has come into my house, do not do this vile thing. ²⁴ Behold, here are my virgin daughter and his concubine. Let me bring them out now. Violate them and do with them what seems good to you, but against this man do not do this outrageous thing." ²⁵ But the men would not listen to him. So the man seized his concubine and made her go out to them. And they knew her and abused her all night until the morning. And as the dawn began to break, they let her go. ²⁶ And as morning appeared, the woman came and fell down at the door of the man's house where her master was, until it was light.

²⁷ And her master rose up in the morning, and when he opened the doors of the house and went out to go on his way, behold, there was his concubine lying at the door of the house, with her hands on the threshold. ²⁸ He said to her, "Get up, let us be going." But there was no answer. Then he put her on the donkey, and the man rose up and went away to his home. ²⁹ And when he entered his house, he took a knife, and taking hold of his concubine he divided her, limb by limb, into twelve pieces, and sent her throughout all the territory of Israel. ³⁰ And all who saw it said, "Such a thing has never happened or been seen from the day that the people of Israel came up out of the land of Egypt until this day; consider it, take counsel, and speak."