

The scepter will not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes, And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples. So we know that Shiloh, or Messiah, would come through the line of Judah.

RABBINIC CONFIRMATION

From the Targum Pseudo-Jonathan we read:
How beautiful is the King Messiah who is destined to arise from the house of Judah! He has girded his loins and gone down to battle against his enemies, destroying kings and their power, and there is neither king nor power that can withstand him. He reddens the mountains with the blood of their slain. His garments are saturated with blood, like those of him who presses the grapes.

HE WOULD BE BORN IN BETHLEHEM: WHERE BOAZ AND RUTH MET AND MARRIED

Here is another remarkable connection. Ruth and Boaz's story takes place in Bethlehem, the same town where the prophet Micah (5:2) foresaw the birth of the Messiah. *"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me the one to be ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."*

RABBINIC CONFIRMATION

Rabbi David Kimchi renders this verse: "... out of thee shall come forth unto me a Judge to be Ruler in Israel, and this is the King Messiah." The Western Targum renders the verse like this: "Out of thee Bethlehem shall Messiah go forth before me to exercise dominion over Israel."

In attempting to clearly identify the Messiah, prophecies we must study prophecies concerning his life, nature and the purpose for his coming. Most rabbis over the centuries rejected Yeshua (Jesus). Many said that Jesus cannot be the Messiah because he died and no long-lasting peace came at that time. How might we explain this? One pivotal point not to be missed is that the Messiah came the first time to be our **Kinsman Redeemer**, the one who bought us out of slavery to sin. He is the Passover (Paschal) Lamb, the sacrifice we need to cover (or make *Kapparah* for) our sins. He is the **Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53**. He would be rejected and despised, just as prophesied. But He will come back and rule as King of Kings in glory, and that time is soon approaching. Find out more so that you will not miss out on the

**THE GREATEST LOVE STORY EVER TOLD.
YOU CAN BE THE BRIDE OF THE MESSIAH
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released by the Bank of Israel, 2020

The Greatest Love Story Ever Told

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THE BOOK OF RUTH

מגילת רות

How many love stories have you read where you were left hoping that one day, you could be on the receiving end of that remarkable gift called true and unconditional love? It might take you by surprise, but the Tanakh, the Jewish Bible, has that kind of a story just for you.

COUNTING ON GOD'S LOVE

Do you like to count? One of the first things we are taught to do as kids is to count. And today, many of us still continue to count our calories on a daily basis. With that in mind, did you realize that between **Passover** and **Shavuot** there are 49 days? Each day is counted, until the seven weeks are completed, and the wheat harvest, Shavuot is celebrated.

When we think of Shavuot, we think of traditions, don't we? We think of the giving of the Law, the studying of the Torah and all the dairy products that are typically eaten at this time. But do we take into account the story of Ruth, reading through this book, just like they do at synagogue? Let's discover more of this incredible love story, one that is not only between a man and woman, but between **God and His people Israel**. As we learn more, we will reap joy in this harvest of love!

WHO IS RUTH?

Ruth is a moving story of devotion, faithfulness, and genuine kindness. It happened at a time when Israel was going through one of its lowest points in history, spiritually speaking. And here comes a foreign woman marrying into the faith and into the family of God.

Ruth's genuine *chesed* (lovingkindness) pays off when she becomes the **great-grandmother of our beloved King David**. How Jewish is that for a Moabite woman!

After tragedy and setback, Ruth could have made her way back to Moab, but instead she chose to stay close to her mother-in-law, the widowed Naomi, supporting and faithfully caring for her every need.

WHERE YOU DIE, I WILL DIE

Naomi had left Israel ten years earlier because famine plagued that land. She had a husband and two sons at that time. All three of them died while in Moab, and so Naomi now returns to reclaim the parcel of land that was left to her deceased husband. And Ruth, her daughter-in-law, demonstrates her unwavering love by vowing never to leave Naomi, saying:

For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me."



BOAZ, THE KINSMAN REDEEMER

We might be happily ending our love story right here but there is so much more as Boaz, the Jewish landowner, enters the scene. He will redeem, that is, buy back the parcel of land for Naomi and fall in love with Ruth's qualities and marry her. Boaz is the *Kinsman Redeemer* (Hebrew: *go-el*) as we read in Ruth 3:9. He is *Kinsman* because he is family and *Redeemer* because he took on the responsibility to negotiate and redeem Naomi's parcel of land. This would also include acquiring Ruth as his bride. Did you know that you can have your own, personal Kinsman Redeemer?

Reading on we see that Boaz marries Ruth and then bears him a son. But check out the genealogical line; Boaz and Ruth then became the great-grandparents of King David. **If King David was the offspring of their marriage, so was the Messiah**. Let us not forget the Messiah comes through the line (or ancestry) of David.

IF GIVEN THE CHALLENGE,

HOW MIGHT WE IDENTIFY THE MESSIAH, SON OF DAVID?

HE WOULD BE FROM THE TRIBE OF JUDAH: JUST LIKE BOAZ

Check out Genesis 49:10 when the patriarch Jacob is blessing his 12 children. This is what he foretold concerning his fourth son Judah.

