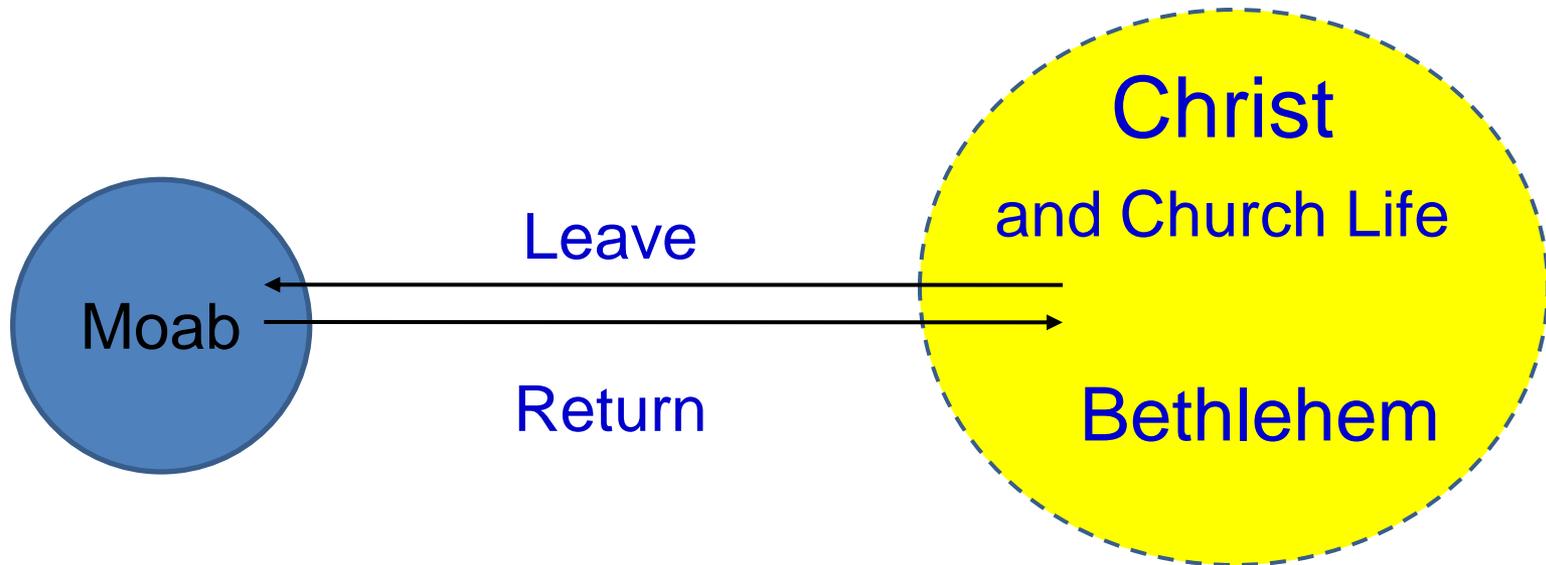


# Naomi

An example of a good shepherd

This homework focuses on Naomi's person and serving  
and not much on other persons

Please read brother Titus Chu's book "Ruth"



- The book of Ruth started (**Ruth 1:2**) and concluded with **Naomi (Ruth 4:16)**.

## Ruth 1

- 1 Now in the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. And a man **from Bethlehem in Judah** went down to dwell as a sojourner in the country of **Moab, he and his wife and his two sons.**
- 2 And the man's name was Elimelech, and his wife's name was **Naomi**, and the names of **his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion**, Ephrathites of Bethlehem in Judah. And **they went to the country of Moab and remained there.**

### Naomi was Elimelech's wife.

- **Naomi** means “pleasant”
- **Naomi** was married to Elimelech which means “God is my king”.
- They had two sons; Mahlon “mild” and Chilion “weak or withered”
- Bethlehem means “house of bread or storehouse of food”; Judah means “praised”.
- The people of Moab were related to God's people, for they were descendants of Abraham's nephew Lot. They knew Jehovah, but their origin was of incest, which was a terrible sin.

## Ruth 1

- 1 Now in the days when the judges ruled, **there was a famine in the land**. And a man **from Bethlehem in Judah** went down to dwell as a sojourner **in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons**.
- 2 And the man's name was Elimelech, and **his wife's name was Naomi**, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehem in Judah. And they went to the country of Moab and remained there.

## Naomi's family moved from Bethlehem to Moab

- Famine here indicates that “the church life” Bethlehem is not of Elimelech's satisfaction.
- **Naomi's** submitted herself to her husband to move.
- **Naomi** cared for her family because of famine.

## Ruth 1

- 1 In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to **sojourn in the country of Moab**, he and his wife and his two sons.
  - 2 The name of the man *was* Elimelech, **the name of his wife was Naomi**, and the names of his two sons *were* Mahlon and Chilion—Ephrathites of Bethlehem, Judah. And **they went to the country of Moab and remained there**.
  - 3 Then Elimelech, **Naomi's** husband, died; and she was left, and her two sons.
  - 4 Now they took wives of the women of Moab: the name of the one *was* Orpah, and the name of the other **Ruth**. And **they dwelt there about ten years**.
- If someone decides to leave a short time (**Sojourn**: the intention is only to leave for a short duration of time) from the church life (Bethlehem), usually he or she will leave for many weeks or months or even more because of the lack of the (spiritual) food (supply of fresh Christ). **Eventually Naomi's family stayed at Moab about 10 years.**
  - Therefore **Naomi** shepherded Orpah and Ruth for about 10 years.

## Ruth 1

- 3 And **Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left with her two sons.**
  - 4 And they took wives for themselves from among the Moabite women. **One's name was Orpah, and the second's name was Ruth. And they dwelt there about ten years.**
  - 5 **And both Mahlon and Chilion died, and the woman was left without her two children and her husband.**
- After her husband's death (**typifying no increase of life in Christ**) **Naomi** let her sons take wives from Moabite women. **This happens often to be the weakness of a saint toward their close relatives (e.g. sons and daughters).**
  - Orpah means “freshness” and Ruth means “intimate company” and “to pasture, to feed and to shepherd”.
  - **Naomi** and her two sons and daughters-in-law dwelt at Moab for 10 years until the death of her two sons (**typifying no growth of life in Christ**).

## Ruth 1

- 6 Then **she rose up with her daughters-in-law** in order to return from the country of Moab, for **she had heard in the country of Moab that Jehovah had visited His people by giving them food.**
- 7 So she went forth from the place where she had been, along with her two daughters-in-law; and **they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.**

### Naomi's initiation to return to Bethlehem from Moab

- **Naomi** heard (**In the land of Moab, it would be difficult to hear Jehovah's speaking, but she heard it. It means that she often paid attention to Jehovah**) that Jehovah had visited His people by giving them food and initiated to return to Judah from Moab.
- **Naomi** desired to bring her two daughters-in-law to return to Bethlehem.

## Ruth 1

- 8 And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, Go and return, each of you, to your mother's house. May Jehovah deal kindly with you, just as you have dealt with the dead and with me.
- 9 May Jehovah grant you to find rest, each of you in the house of your husband. Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voice and wept.

## Naomi's virtuous humanity

- Naomi's virtuous humanity to ask her two daughters-in-law to return to their mother's house. **She knows that Orpah and Ruth would pay high price to leave their relatives, their land and their people and the possible situations they might face after their arriving at Bethlehem because they are Moabites (gentiles) and not Israelites.**
- In the name of Jehovah she blessed her daughters-in-law and may them find rest and new husband (true virtuous humanity).

## Ruth 1

**8** And **Naomi** said to her two daughters-in-law, “**Go, return each to her mother’s house. Jehovah** deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.

**9 Jehovah** grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband.”

So **she** kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.

**10** And **they** said to her, “**Surely we will return with you to your people.**”

- **Naomi’s** living which must have shown a pattern to Orpah and Ruth, was that **Jehovah always exists and is her God.**
- During about 10 years **Naomi** must have shown great love and care (humanity) over Orpah and Ruth.
- **Naomi** gave very much room for Orpah and Ruth to consider their future **even she (an old woman) needed them.**

## Ruth 1

**10** And they said to her, No, we will return with you to your people.

**11** And Naomi said, Return, my daughters. Why should you go with me?  
Do I still have sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?

**12** Return, my daughters, go; for I am too old to have a husband. If I said, I have hope; even if I had a husband tonight and even bore sons;

**13** Would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from having a husband? No, my daughters; it has been far more bitter for me than it should be for you, **for the hand of Jehovah has gone forth against me.**

## Naomi's virtuous humanity

- **Two daughters-in-law did not want to leave Naomi due to her long care of them.**
- **Naomi** said that she would like them to have a family but there is little hope (not possible) for them if they go with her. **Because according to the law that time Naomi must have to bear new sons so that Orpah and Ruth can marry to.**
- **Like every Christian, Naomi, during her very difficult situations, she complained Jehovah her God at this moment. But she still firmly decided to go back to Bethlehem (to live a church life).**

## Ruth 1

**14** And they lifted up their voice and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

**15** And she said, Your sister-in-law has now returned to her people and to her gods; return with your sister-in-law.

### Naomi's virtuous humanity

- Two daughters-in-law did not want to leave Naomi because they loved each other so much.
- At the end Orpah (freshness) returned to her people but Ruth (intimate company, and to pasture, to feed and to shepherd ) clung to her.
- It also means that in the church life freshness may not last long, but the intimate companionship, mutual caring and shepherding will keep us continuously in the church life even during difficult situations.

## Ruth 1

- 16** But Ruth said, Do not entreat me to leave you and turn away from following after you. For wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you dwell, I will dwell; and your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.
- 17** Where you die, I will die; and there will I be buried. Jehovah do so to me, and more as well, if anything but death parts me from you.
- 18** And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she ceased speaking to her about it.
- **Because of Naomi's shepherding for about 10 years, at this juncture, Ruth became a firm believer of Jehovah and was willing to travel with Naomi to go back to Bethlehem knowing that she would meet much hash situations. And then Naomi accepted Ruth's decision.**

## Ruth 1

- 19 So the two of them traveled until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, all the city was stirred because of them; and the women said, Is this Naomi?
- 20 **And she said to them, Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara; for the All-sufficient One has dealt very bitterly with me.**
- 21 **I went out full, but Jehovah has brought me back empty. Why do you call me Naomi, when Jehovah has afflicted me and the All-sufficient One has dealt harshly with me?**
- 22 So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, with her, who returned from the country of Moab. **And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.**

- **When Naomi returned to Bethlehem, in the beginning after the long journey, again she complained what happened to her and family, however, she still knew that Jehovah her God is All-sufficient One .**
- **Naomi** means “pleasant”, and **Mara** means “bitter”.
- When **Naomi** and Ruth returned to Bethlehem, it was at the beginning of **the barley harvest season (typifying Lord’s resurrection), it means that Jehovah was in control and protected Naomi and Ruth.**

## Ruth 2

- 1 There was a relative of Naomi's husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech. His name *was* Boaz.
  - 2 So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after *him* in whose sight I may find favor."  
And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."
  - 3 Then she left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. **And she happened to** come to the part of the field *belonging* to Boaz, who *was* of the family of Elimelech.
- After Ruth returned to Bethlehem (enters into church life), **Naomi** still gave some room for Ruth to follow the Lord; **a.** she did not right away tell Ruth to glean in the field of Boaz; (means "In Him is strength") a relative of her husband (**Ruth 2:1**) (**This is normally difficult for the serving one to do. It means that Naomi would like Ruth to learn to depend on the Lord by herself at this moment**); **b.** she waited until Ruth decided to glean heads of grain in the field of whoever she found favor; once Ruth decided, **Naomi** blessed.
  - **Because of such shepherding of Naomi, Ruth could experience "She happened to"** which enabled her to know the Jehovah more subjectively.

## Ruth 2

4 Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, “**Jehovah** *be* with you!”

And they answered him, “**Jehovah** bless you!”

- In a healthy church life, Jehovah is always the center, the first and the source of all blessings and be manifested in all fellowship among the saints. At Bethlehem where **Naomi** and Ruth returned, **Boaz typifying Christ and the reapers typifying the saints are living together in a healthy church life loving Jehovah and one another.**

## Ruth 2

- 5 Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, “Whose young woman *is* this?”
  - 6 So the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered and said, “It *is* the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab.
  - 7 And she said, ‘Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.’ So she came and has continued from morning until now, though she rested a little in the house.”
- God always tests the servants of the Lord that do they know the saints? In Ruth 2:5-7 this servant did know Naomi and Ruth well and he is our pattern.
  - Ruth was a very humble and diligent person.

## Ruth 2

- 8 **And Boaz said to Ruth, Listen,** my daughter. Do not go to glean in another field, and also do not pass from here **but stay close to my young women.**
- 9 Keep your eyes on the field that they reap; follow after them. I have charged my young men not to touch you. And when you are thirsty, you shall go to the vessels and drink of what the young men have drawn.
- 10 And she fell upon her face and bowed herself to the ground, and she said to him, Why have I found favor in your sight that you regard me, though I am a foreigner?
- 11 And Boaz answered and said to her, **All that you have done for your mother- in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told me, as well as how you left your father and mother and the land of your birth, and came to a people whom you did not know before.**
- 12 May Jehovah recompense your work, and may you have a full reward from Jehovah the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.
- 13 And she said, Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me and have spoken kindly to your servant girl, though I am not like even one of your servant girls.

- Boaz (typifying our Lord was very kind to Ruth (us)). But this was the first time that Boaz met Ruth (in the church life). **His (Our Lord's) speaking was quite straight to Ruth** and asked her to glean the grains in his field (**stay in the healthy church life**) and **be close to sisters because Ruth was a sister.**
- Boaz also knew that Ruth paid a high price to leave Moab, her parents, her land of birth to come to Bethlehem with **Naomi** (to know Jehovah in the church life).

## Ruth 2

- 14** And Boaz said to her at mealtime, Come here and eat some food; and dip your morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers, and he extended some parched grain to her. And **she ate and was satisfied, and she had some left.**
- 15** And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, “Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her.
- 16** Also let *grain* from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave *it* that she may glean, and do not rebuke her.”
- 17** So she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned, and **it was about an ephah of barley.**
- 18** Then she took *it* up and went into the city, and her **mother-in-law** saw what she had gleaned. **So she brought out and gave to her what she had kept back after she had been satisfied.**
- Ruth kept some parched grains for **Naomi that was a virtuous humanity.**
  - Ruth gleaned about an ephah of barley and this must be also for **Naomi.**

## Ruth 2

- 19 And her **mother-in-law** said to her, **“Where have you gleaned today? And where did you work? Blessed be the one who took notice of you.”**
- 20 And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, **Blessed be he of Jehovah, whose loving kindness has not failed for the living and for the dead. And Naomi said to her, The man is close to us; he is one of our kinsmen.**
- **Naomi** cared for Ruth and **asked her daily experience**, and blessed whoever took care of Ruth.
  - **Naomi was a person knowing, relying and trusting the Lord** “Blessed be He of Jehovah, whose loving kindness has not failed for the living and for the dead.”
  - **Until now Naomi told Ruth that Boaz was one of their kinsmen. That was her way of shepherding Ruth and let herself experience firstly to find the leading of the Lord to guide her to the grain field to glean (Ruth 2:2) and rather not to instruct her to go to Boaz’s field to glean in the beginning.**

## Ruth 2

**21** Ruth the Moabitess said, “He also said to me, ‘You shall stay close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.’”

**22** And Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, “**It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women**, lest in another field you be assaulted.”

**23** So she stayed close by the young women of Boaz, **to glean until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest**; and **she dwelt with her mother-in-law**.

- Ruth daily fellowshiped with **Naomi** (her serving one).
- **Naomi directly told Ruth that sisters must go out with sisters and not brothers just like what Boaz told Ruth.**
- (In the church life) Ruth continues to live close to **Naomi**.
- Ruth and **Naomi** must have stayed in the such a health church life for at least one year or more (**the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest**).

## Ruth 3

- 1 Then **Naomi her mother-in-law** said to her, “My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you?”
  - 2 Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, *is he* not our relative? In fact, **he is winnowing barley** tonight at the threshing floor.
  - 3 Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your *best* garment and go down to the threshing floor; *but* do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.
  - 4 Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; **and he will tell you what you should do.**”
  - 5 And she said to her, “**All that you say to me I will do.**”
- Since Ruth had grown in the church life for more than at least one year, now **Naomi directly instructed her what she needs to do** (married to Boaz; our Lord). It was not like what **Naomi** told Ruth in Chapter 1:20 and Chapter 2:2. It means that **our speaking to the saints depending on their life level.**
  - **Ruth was very submissive to Naomi’s teachings.**

## Ruth 3

- 6 And she went down to the threshing floor and did according to **all that her mother-in-law had charged her.**
- 7 And Boaz ate and drank, and his heart was merry. And he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. And she came in secretly and uncovered his feet and lay down.
- 8 Then at midnight the man was startled; and he turned over, and a woman was there, lying at his feet.
- 9 And he said, Who are you? And she said, I am Ruth, your female servant. Spread your cloak over your female servant, for **you are a kinsman.**
- 10 And he said, Blessed be you of Jehovah, my daughter. You have shown your latter kindness to be better than your first by not going after the choice young men, whether poor or rich.
- 11 And now, my daughter, do not fear. All that you say, I will do for you; for all the assembly of my people know that you are a worthy woman.
- 12 And **now it is true that I am a kinsman, yet there is a kinsman closer than I.**

- Due to Ruth's completely trust **Naomi** she did exactly what Naomi advised her to do.
- Boaz did confirm what **Naomi** told Ruth that Boaz is a kinsman of **Naomi** and Ruth.
- **Again, we need to appreciate that in the beginning Naomi did not directly tell Ruth to glean the grains in the field of Boaz.**

## Ruth 3

- 13 Stay for the night; and in the morning if he will do the kinsman's duty, fine; let him do it. But if he is not willing to do the kinsman's duty for you, I will do it for you, as Jehovah lives. Lie down until morning.
- 14 And she lay at his feet until morning, then **rose up before one could recognize another; for he said, Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor.**
- 15 And he said, **Bring the cloak that is on you, and hold it open. And she held it open, and he measured out six measures of barley and laid it on her. And he went into the city.**
- 16 And when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, **How are you, my daughter? And she told her all that the man had done for her.**
- 17 And she said, **These six measures of barley he gave me, for he said, Do not go to your mother-in-law empty-handed.**
- 18 And she said, **Stay here, my daughter, until you know how the matter will fall; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter today.**
- Ruth did exactly what Boaz (typifying our Lord; whom **Naomi** introduced to her) told her to do.
  - Boaz asked Ruth to bring back six measures of barley because he cared for Ruth and **Naomi (family member).**
  - **Naomi typified a good and wise shepherd who cared for and fellowshipped with Ruth in details. This time Naomi asked Ruth to wait for the Boaz's decision.**

## Ruth 4

- 1 Then Boaz went up to the gate and sat there. And just then the kinsman of whom Boaz had spoken came by. And Boaz said, Turn aside and sit here, friend. And he turned aside and sat down.
  - 2 And he took ten men from among the elders of the city and said, Sit here. And they sat down.
  - 3 And he said to the kinsman, Naomi, who has returned from the country of Moab, has put up for sale the portion of the field that belonged to our brother Elimelech.
  - 4 So I thought that I should disclose this to you and say, Buy it in the presence of those sitting here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you can redeem it, redeem it; but if you cannot redeem it, tell me so that I will know; for there is no one to redeem it ahead of you, and I am after you. And he said, I will redeem it.
  - 5 Then Boaz said, On the day you buy the field from Naomi's hand, you must also acquire Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead man, in order to raise up the dead man's name upon his inheritance.
  - 6 And **the kinsman said, I cannot redeem it for myself, or else I will mar my own inheritance.** You redeem for yourself what I should redeem, for I cannot redeem it.
- **These verses confirmed that Naomi must have prayed much and trusted Jehovah to lead Ruth to glean the grains in someone's field (Ruth 2:2). At least two kinsmen who she knew: one was Boaz who was a great person and another one who was selfish.**

## Ruth 4

- 7 Now such was the custom formerly in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging that to establish any matter a man would draw off his sandal and give it to his neighbor; this was the way of attesting it in Israel.
  - 8 So when the kinsman said to Boaz, Buy it for yourself, he drew off his sandal.
  - 9 And **Boaz said to the elders and all the people, You are witnesses today, that I buy** from Naomi's hand all that was Elimelech's and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's.
  - 10 Furthermore **Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, I acquire as my own wife** so that I may raise up the dead man's name upon his inheritance and the dead man's name may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his place. You are witnesses today.
- Ruth (typifying us; the sinners) will be Boaz's (typifying our Lord) **wife** after Boaz redeems us.

## Ruth 4

- 11 And all the people who were in the gate and the elders said, We are witnesses. May **Jehovah make the woman who has come into your house like Rachel and like Leah, the two who built the house of Israel.** And prosper in Ephrathah, and gain a name in Bethlehem.
- 12 And may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, through the seed that **Jehovah gives you by this young woman.**
- 13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife; and he went in unto her, and **Jehovah made her conceive; and she bore a son.**
- 14 And the women said to Naomi, Blessed be Jehovah, who has not left you today without a kinsman; and may his name be famous in Israel.
- 15 And **he will be to you as a restorer of life and a sustainer in your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you** and is better to you than seven sons, has borne him.
- God's purpose is to build up the body of Christ, the church, His testimony. The story of **Naomi**, Ruth and others is not for that generation only but also for us to know **that the building up of the church is God's heart desire.**
  - **God is always in control**, **Naomi's** daughter-in-law Ruth bore a son who was king David's grand father. And Jesus was descended from David according to the flesh **(Rom. 1:3)**

## Ruth 4

**16 And Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and she became his nurse.**

**17** And the women neighbors gave him a name, saying, A son has been born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

- **A good shepherd in the Lord (Naomi) never retires from the church life**, continues to shepherd and love people.
- The book of Ruth started **(Ruth 1:2)** and concluded with **Naomi (Ruth 4:16)**.

## Ruth 4

**18** Now these are the generations of Perez: Perez begot Hezron,

**19** And Hezron begot Ram, and Ram begot Amminadab,

**20** And Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon,

**21** And Salmon begot Boaz, and **Boaz begot Obed,**

**22** **And Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David.**

- **God is always in control and for His purposes,** Naomi's daughter-in-law Ruth bore a son who was king David's grand father. And Jesus was descended from David according to the flesh (**Rom. 1:3**)
- Boaz means "In Him is strength". Obed means "to serve or to worship". Jesse means "Jehovah exists", David means "beloved".