

RUTH
THE SUPER SEASONS
OF GOD

Every one of us at “times” in our lives has had to endure through hardship, trials, and tribulations. We all have had to deal with death, debt, finances, relationships and the cares of this life. What do we need to know as believers that can help us endure through these difficult seasons? Are there divinely appointed seasons that we are to be aware of? Are there seasons in the Kingdom of God where the Lord is looking to see who is faithful to Him? If so, what are they and how do they help us endure? How do the divinely appointed seasons of the Lord help us endure through difficult times, trials and tribulations? Ruth had just come out of a terrible season of trial and tribulation. This was a **period of 10** years where she had lost her husband, two sons, and had to endure through a famine. We need to prepare in our lives in order to stand firm in the days of adversity, trials and tribulations. **Preparation places us in proper position. This is where we receive power, peace, and provision from God.** In Life we are coming out of a trial, we are presently in one, or we will be going into one. Failure to prepare, prepares us for failure. Many people are never taught how to endure through difficult times. We think if we do not address these issues they will never come. Stick our heads in the sand and the boogie man will leave is alone. We are in a battle and if we do not know how to fight we will lose. In these four chapters we will see hidden keys to unlock the mysteries of the Kingdom of God in our lives. We will see how we get into bad positions or seasons in our lives. We will learn what to do while in these seasons. **Most importantly we will learn how to overcome in them.** How did Naomi get into such a bad situation? Naomi left her position. She left full and **returned empty** (Ruth 1:20). See sometimes we have to hit rock bottom before the Lord can really use us. Trials and tribulations often get us to the place that God can finally use us. It is an interesting thought to consider that we need to be broken before we can be used by God. He cannot use us when we are full of ourselves and pride abounds in us. Until Naomi was empty

she would not leave. Until we are empty God cannot use us. Naomi had just lost everything; she went through a **ten year period** of death, separation, and famine. What did she do to get out of this terrible position? She repented and returned. We are to stay in our divinely destined position in the Kingdom of God. Naomi returned to BETHLEHEM. Who came out of Bethlehem? Jesus. Did Naomi and Ruth know this? Was there any way for them to know that the Messiah would come out of Bethlehem and come through this lineage? NO. The Messiah would eventually become a part of this blood line. See we do not see the end from the beginning until the process is completely over. This is why we are not to look at the things that are seen, but we are to look at the things that are unseen. Those things that are seen are only temporal, but the things that are unseen are eternal. Our faith is the only thing that will carry us through the difficult times in our lives. We must have the faith to see that the lord God that we serve will see us through. **By faith we do not look at the difficult situation we are in.** We are to focus on the God we serve and where He is going to take us. The three men that were thrown into the fiery furnace said even if our God does not deliver us, we will still NOT serve other Gods. We do not serve HIM just because HE delivers us. We serve HIM because God has a divine will and purpose in everything that we do. This is seen through the relationship of Ruth and Naomi. Next we will look at the hidden mystery that shows why she returned when she did.

***The beginning of the process Ruth 1:22.** They arrived at Bethlehem at the **beginning of the Barley season.** When was the beginning of the barley season? The three main feast days of Israel are each associated with a different harvest (Duet 16:16, Exodus 23:14) two of them are included here. The barley ripens first around the time of Passover; the wheat ripens next around the time of Pentecost. What importance does this have in this lesson of preparing and overcoming trials and tribulations? This was the exact

season of the Passover, First Fruit, and Pentecost. This is exactly when all the leaders of the house hold were to return to Jerusalem to honor and remember the lord their God. (Leviticus 23:4-37) These were the Lords divine holy feasts. By honoring Him through these feasts Naomi and Ruth put themselves in position to be blessed and receive divine favor from God. The three feasts of Israel, Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles represent the three stages of salvation from justification to sanctification to glorification. Naomi and Ruth positioned themselves to be blessed by God. I live in Pennsylvania and we put out anti skid on the roads to prevent people from skidding in bad weather. If I put this anti skid out in June or July it will cause people to skid and slide all over the road. So same substance or materials, but used in different seasons. Our actions displayed in different seasons will produce different results. We must know what to do and do it in these divinely appointed seasons of God. **Ask yourself how many times have you given or honored God through these three divinely appointed seasons of God?** Ruth shows this positioning by her dedication and obedience. She gleaned in a certain way. Ruth 2:2 she asked to go into the fields and reap the fallen grain. According to the law the rich or owners of the fields left barley or grain for the poor. **They also would not glean the edges of the fields or the corners of their fields so the poor would have provision.** Leviticus 23: 22 when you reap the harvest of your land, you are not to reap all the way to the edges of the fields or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and foreign residents; I am the Lord thy God. **See there is a way out of difficulties.** We must know what do according to the Word of God, and we are to do it. Ruth shows this by her dedication, commitment, and integrity. We see over and over through these chapters how she served and was a woman of integrity. Honor God when and how He says, and He will honor you. There are **specific times and seasons** where we are to honor God.

*** Importance of the Lords Feasts His Holy Days.** The devil tries everything that he can to deter, or cause us to celebrate anything that we can instead of the Feast days of the Lord. These days are appointed by God. We are to honor and proclaim them. This means preach, teach, and instruct men in them. These are also Divine Holy convocations. These are divine dress rehearsals of God. As we honor

God He will honor us. We have a season here that begins with the Passover and First Fruits where God is looking to bless, honor and show favor on those who honor Him. Passover is on the 14th day of the first month, Abib or Nissan. This is our April. What is the distraction? Everyone celebrates Easter (please search the origins of Easter) and proclaims one another as April fools for the month. The other month that the Lord commands us to honor him is the month of Tishri. What is the distraction? This is our October where many celebrate all saints day. The celebration of death, dead people, and evil spirits. Please remember there is a second Passover that is to be celebrated by those who miss the first Passover. This is found in 2 chronicles 30:1-22 where Hezekiah tells the people the priests were not consecrated and could not honor God on the first month so they honored God by celebrating the Passover on the 14th day of the second month. 2 Chronicles 30:26 look at the joy and celebration. We celebrate mother's day during this season of May. I am not against honoring our mothers. I am just saying let us honor God first, then all these other things will be added unto us Mathew 6:33. June we are to honor and celebrate Pentecost. What is the distraction? Father's day. I am not going into Christmas and the comparison between holy days and holidays. **Let's all agree we are just "a little of on the days we are to celebrate and honor God.** Jesus said for this reason many among you are sick, weak, and others sleep because they do not know how to rightly judge their bodies.

***The end of the process, the wheat harvest.** The process began at the beginning of the barley harvest, but did not **end until the wheat harvest was finished.** How do we know this? There is a hidden mystery that lies in Ruth 2:23 Ruth stayed close to Boaz young woman and **gathered grain until the barley and wheat harvest were finished.** In order to be an over comer you must never quit. In order to qualify for Gods purpose in your life, when you are in the middle

of the process, you cannot quit. In any competition, and sport if you quit before the end of the game you will never win. We are called to finish the race, fight the good fight. Naomi and Ruth had to endure through this season and process in order to qualify for the greatness God wanted to bless them with. This reveals to us a season or a period of great importance. According to the feasts of the Lord, this would be from the season of First Fruits, through the season of Pentecost. On our calendar this would be from Feast of First Fruits April 18th- June 14 Pentecost. **This is a period of 50 days, a divinely appointed time on Gods calendar.** Feast of First fruits is when Jesus presented Himself to the Father. This happened exactly after the weekly Sabbath, Sunday. Pentecost is when the Holy Spirit was sent to the earth exactly 50 days after.

*How do we get from the beginning to the end? How do we get from the barley harvest in our lives to the wheat harvest? **Obedience, Ruth 3:5 I will do everything that you say.** She was obedient in all she was told. In Ruth 3:3 we see where Ruth received instructions regarding what she was to do. Wash, put on your perfume oil, wear your best clothes go down to the threshing floor, but do not let the man know you are there until he finished eating and drinking. When he lies down, go in and uncover his feet and lie down. Then he will explain what you should do. This entire lesson we see the obedience of Ruth. Ruth was a woman of integrity. She did exactly what she was told. This was a test; we all must all **Remain faithful to God!** Ruth passed the test, and remained faithful to Naomi, and the God she served. Ruth 3:10 Once she passed the test look how Boaz responds to her. **May the Lord bless you,** my daughter. Boaz declared who the real provider is. **Jehovah Jira is our Provider.** God will bless us however He chooses .You have shown more kindness now than before because you have not pursued other young men, wether rich or poor. Boaz saw the integrity and faithfulness of Ruth. She could

have gone after the bigger or better things of this world and would have completely missed the divine direction and calling of God. Ruth once again passed the test. No sexual fornication, no perversion, no immorality Ruth kept her integrity. Ruth 3:12 all the people of the town knew she was a woman of noble character.

***Faith and obedience are needed in the middle of the process. I have purposely held this part of the lesson until now.** Remember you cannot see the end of the process until it is completely finished. Faith gives us the power to see the end from the beginning. Faith found in the end of what God has destined us to do is what keeps us going, striving until the end. Obedience is what allows us to continue and qualify for the end results. Please do not forget the faithfulness of Boaz. He also remained faithful to the Lord through this entire process. He was a man of integrity and character. **Ruth 2:1 he was a prominent man of noble character. Ruth 3:2 he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor.** The threshing floor is not glamorous. The threshing floor takes commitment, dedication, and hard work. Many of the characteristics that we need to overcome are found at the threshing floor of life. The threshing floor was the place where the wind blew strong, and the chaff and the barley were separated. This was the place that separation and sanctification took place. He would throw the crushed barley into the air and the wind would separate the good from the bad. We can see the work of the Holy Spirit here, not the devil. God is the One at work in us, He is preparing us for battle He is the One building character and strength through tough times. The threshing floor is that place where God takes us to remove the chaff. **God wants to purify us in order to promote us.** He causes all things to work together for the good to them that love Him and are the called according to His purpose Romans 8:28.

The final results of the Preparation Process; Ruth 4:13-17. Boaz took Ruth to be his wife. When he was intimate with her, the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. the woman said a son has been born to Naomi. They named him Obed. He was the Father of Jesse, the father of King David. This was and is the very lineage, blood line that the Messiah Jesus Christ came out of. We never know what is going to come out of the trials and tribulations of life. We must never quit. We must always believe in the faithfulness of the Lord. He will never leave us nor forsake us. Trust and obey Him. Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz had no idea that their commitment, dedication, and integrity would be written about in the Word of God. They had no idea that thousands upon thousands would benefit from this process they endured through. This holds true to us also, we have no idea how many people our lives affected. We are a living witness; our lives are a testimony of the faithfulness of God. In order for others to see this we must remain faithful, obedient, and we must always endure to the end.