

Review from last week: Ruth: 3:16-4:11

Ruth told Naomi about the results from the late-night meeting with Boaz.

Boaz waited at the town gate so he could speak with the closer kinsmen-redeemer.

At first the closer kinsmen-redeemer wanted to redeem the land but when Boaz explained that Naomi and Ruth were part of the transaction, the closer kinsmen said he would not redeem.

The elders and others at the town gate witnessed the transaction.

Read Ruth 4:11-12

¹¹ Then the elders and all those at the gate said, "We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. ¹² Through the offspring the LORD gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah." (NIV 84)

1. The elders mentioned a number of names in their blessing, discuss the significance of each.

Who is who leading up to Ruth and Boaz.

♥ Abraham and Sarah were unable to have children. God promised they would and in their old age, Sarah gave birth to a son, his name was Isaac.

♥ Abraham wanted Isaac to find a wife from his own bloodline. He finds Rebekah, who has a brother named Laban.

♥ Isaac and Rebekah had twin boys, Esau and Jacob.

Isaac wanted Jacob to find a wife. Genesis 28:2, *Take a wife for yourself there, from among the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother.*

Genesis 29:18, *Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel.*

♥ Jacob wanted Rachel to be his wife but Laban deceived Jacob and Leah was given to him as his wife. Later, Jacob would also take Rachel as his second wife.

See the "Family of Abraham"

Rachel = רַחֵל Ewe. A daughter of Laban, 2nd wife of Jacob, children: Joseph and Benjamin

Leah = לֵאָה Weary. A daughter of Laban, 1st wife of Jacob, children: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, and Dinah

Israel = יִשְׂרָאֵל God prevails. The name for the nation of the descendants of Jacob. The northern kingdom consisting of the 10 tribes under Jeroboam; the southern kingdom was known as Judah. The name of the nation after the return from exile was called Israel.

Ephrathah = אֶפְרַתָּה Fruitfulness. A place near Bethel where Rachel died/buried. Another name connected to Bethlehem.

Bethlehem = בֵּית לֶחֶם House of Bread. The location from where many promises of God were connected and important people in biblical history were from.

Perez = פְּרִיץ Break Forth. One of the twins born of Judah-Tamar

Tamar = תָּמָר Palm-tree. The widow of Er. Wife of Judah

Judah = יְהוּדָה Praised. 4th son of Jacob. Father of Er and Onan (God killed them) and Perez.

2. What reasons would the elders pray that Ruth and Boaz's lives and children be anything like the people they listed?

Read Ruth 4:13-15

¹³ So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. Then he went to her, and the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. ¹⁴ The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! ¹⁵ He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth." (NIV 84)

3. List the things for which the women gave thanks and praised the Lord:

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— — —

4. How did the local women honor the Moabite, Ruth?

Read Ruth 4:16-17

¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child, laid him in her lap and cared for him. ¹⁷ The women living there said, "Naomi has a son." And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David. (NIV 84)

5. In Ruth 1:20, we read, ²⁰ "Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. Describe how Grandma Naomi might be feeling now.

6. If Ruth gave birth to Obed, עֹבֵד meaning, a servant or worshiper, why did the women in the area say, "Naomi has a son?"

Read Ruth 4:18-22

¹⁸ This, then, is the family line of Perez: Perez was the father of Hezron, ¹⁹ Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, ²⁰ Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, ²¹ Salmon the father of Boaz, Boaz the father of Obed, ²² Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David. (NIV 84)

7. When we started reading the Book of Ruth, we were unclear as to who may have written the book or even the dates it may have written. How might these verses help us narrow the timeframe?

8. Think back on some of the women in the bloodline of Jesus, what words would you use to describe some of their actions?

Use some of these words: deceitful, conniving, loving, sad, joyful

Sarah, the wife of Abraham: Genesis 18:12...

Rebekah, the wife of Isaac: Genesis 27:5...

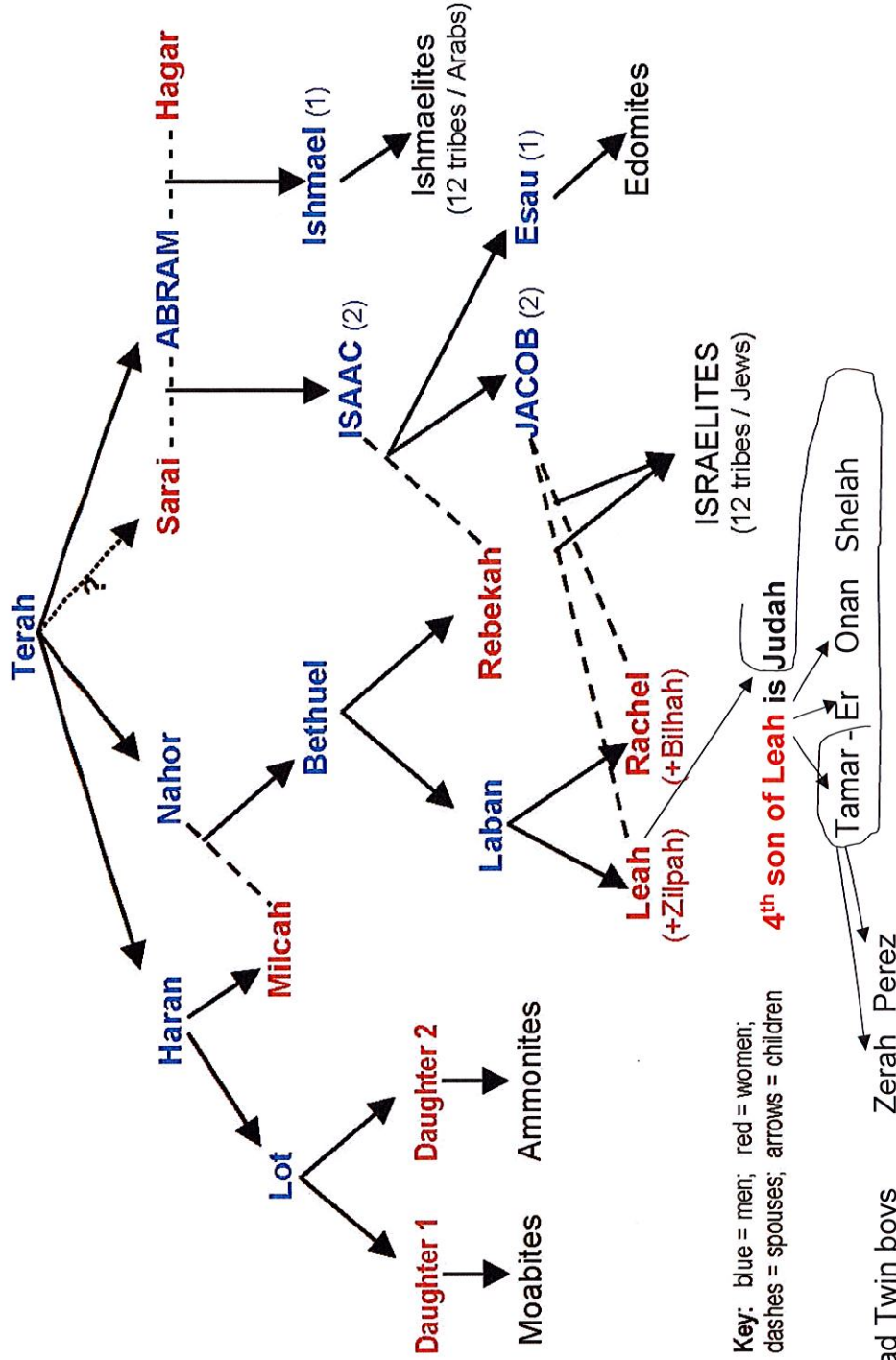
Leah, the first wife of Jacob: Genesis 29:31...

Tamar, the wife of Judah: Genesis 38:13...

Ruth, the wife of Boaz

9. What lessons did you gain from reading the Book of Ruth?

Family of Abraham



Matthew 1:3-4

³ Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram,

⁴ Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon,