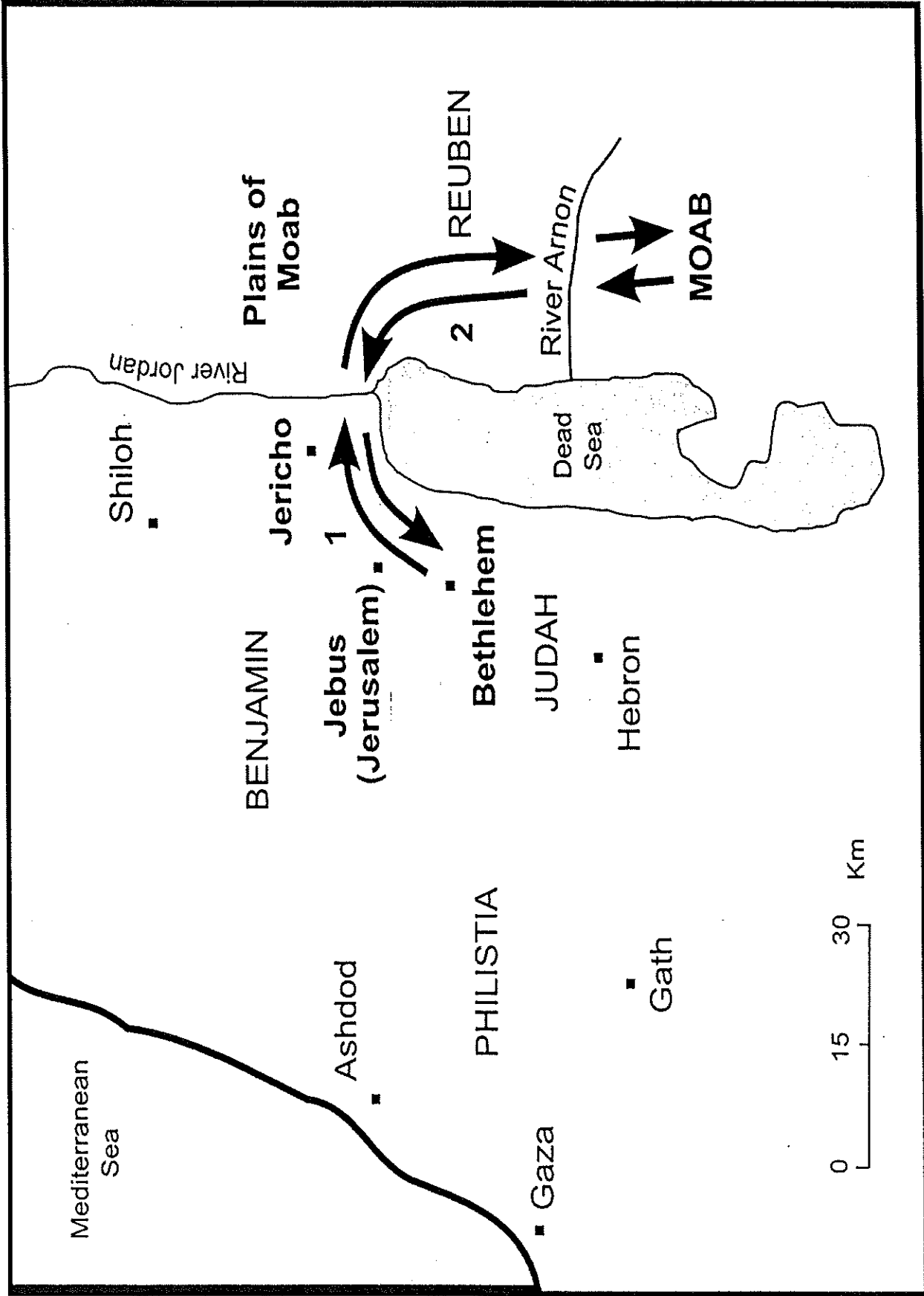


RUTH

Redemption for all



Ruth – Lesson 3

“Be still, and know that I am God” (Ps 46:10) is a wonderful antidote for a restless spirit. The Hebrew word translated as “be still” means “take our hands off, relax.” It’s so easy for us to get impatient with the Lord and start meddling in matters that we ought to leave alone. He is God, and His hands can accomplish the impossible. Our hands may get in the way and make matters worse. In our story of Ruth we see that God was present in Ruth’s life and showed His sovereignty as Ruth gleaned in Boaz’s fields. Now as they had to learn to wait on God to reveal Boaz as her Kinsman Redeemer, may we wait and be overjoyed as we recognize our Kinsman Redeemer this week also.

Among the key words you marked in the book of Ruth were, redeem/redeemer/redemption and close/closest relative. The noun for “close relative” (kinsman redeemer) in Hebrew is *gaal*. The verb *gaal* means to redeem, avenge, revenge, ransom, and do the part of a kinsman.

1. Read Exodus 6:1-8 and look for each reference to *God*, *them* (the Israelites), and *redeem*.
2. According to what you observed, answer the following questions:
 - a. Who is going to redeem whom?
 - b. From where or what are they going to be redeemed?
 - c. How are they going to be redeemed?
 - d. Look at verses 7 and 8. Then what will happen?
 - e. Take note of any references to the word *land* or *covenant* and list anything that seems relevant.

The account of the children of Israel taking possession of the land is found in the book of Joshua. The land was of primary importance to God and to Israel. It was divided by tribes and then allotted to the families within the tribes.

3. Read Leviticus 25:1-23 and mark every reference to the land, property, and jubilee. Take note of the pronouns. List everything you learn about the land from marking it.

4. According to verse 23, the land cannot be sold permanently. How does God intend for the land to be redeemed (bought for a price) once a man sold it to pay off his debt? Read Leviticus 25:23-28.

5. Let's look at three other passages that deal with the inheritance of the land by tribes and families. Look up each one and note what it teaches and how it concurs with what you observed in Leviticus 25.

a. Numbers 27:8-11

b. Numbers 36:7-9

c. Joshua 18:1-10

6. Finally, do you see any relationship between these passages and what transpires in Ruth Chapter 4 with respect to the land? What role according to Leviticus was the kinsman to play with respect to the family's land and why?

Now think about what you have just learned in light of the long-standing conflicts in the Middle East over Israel. What is Israel's responsibility before God with respect to the land and who should live on it?

7. Read Leviticus 25:47-55. What did you learn about the redemption of a person who becomes poor and sells himself to another? Who can redeem him? Is there a price to be paid? By whom?
8. What have you learned about the role of kinsman with respect to redemption? What were his two duties, the two situations in which he was to act as a redeemer?
9. In Exodus 6, God was the first one set forth in the role of a redeemer. He said He would redeem His people Israel from their slavery under Pharaoh and take them to the land He promised them in a covenant oath. Let's examine how He brought about this redemption. Read Exodus 12:1-14. Describe what you learn about the lamb and blood.

10. Read Exodus 13:11-16 mark every occurrence of *redeem* and *slavery*. The word "redeem" in this passage is *padah*, which means to ransom, release. The emphasis in this word is the transfer of ownership from one to another, while *gaal* stresses acting as a kinsman. Now list what was to be redeemed and why.

11. The redemption of the firstborn animals and sons would remind the people of the night in which the Lord killed every firstborn male, man or animal. What preserved the people of God?

This was the beginning of God's redemption of His chosen people, Israel. What does this mean to us? This is all a beautiful picture of the redemption that was to come for you, for all of us if we simply believe!

12. Read John 1:28-29.

a. What do you learn?

b. Who is speaking?

c. About whom is he speaking, and how is He described?

13. Read the following verses and note about Christ and redemption:

a. Romans 3:23-24

b. Ephesians 1:7

c. Colossians 1:13-14

14. What does John 8:34 say sin does to a person?

15. What does 1 Corinthians 5:7 say about Christ?

Can you see any parallels between God's redemption of Israel from Egypt and our redemption in the New Testament?

Doesn't it make you feel so very loved and valued that Jesus would leave heaven where He is worshiped night and day, and come to earth as a man? Doesn't it make you marvel that he was willing to be despised and rejected of men, blasphemed as men took His name in vain, crucified, and jeered just so you could have a kinsman redeemer? Just think, He did it all because He wants to redeem you as His own!!! Aren't you rejoicing as you recognize that He did this for YOU!!

Questions to Ponder

- 1. Just as Ruth couldn't redeem herself, we can't either. Why can't we come into God's presence clothed in our own righteousness? What do we need instead?*
- 2. How does God give us assurance of redemption?*
- 3. How did God obey His own law when He accomplished our salvation in Christ?*
- 4. Ruth had to wait to see God's plan unfold, do you have trouble waiting for God to work? How do you control your impatience?*
- 5. What does Psalm 46:10 mean to you?*
- 6. Do you believe that Jesus is working unceasingly for you? How is He working in you?*