

Series: Influencers

Ruth: A Woman of Commitment

Ruth 1-4

Act I

Elimeleck & Naomi

Mahlon & Chilion

Ruth & Orpah



MOABITES

- descendants of Lot through his son Moab
- refused passage of Jephthah's army through their territory
- Balak was king of the Moabites
- snare to the Israelites

CHEMOSH

- name: fire
- chief deity of Moab
- child sacrifice was part of his worship

1:11-13, But Naomi said, “Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? ¹² Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons—¹³ would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD’s hand has turned against me!”

LEVIRATE MARRIAGE

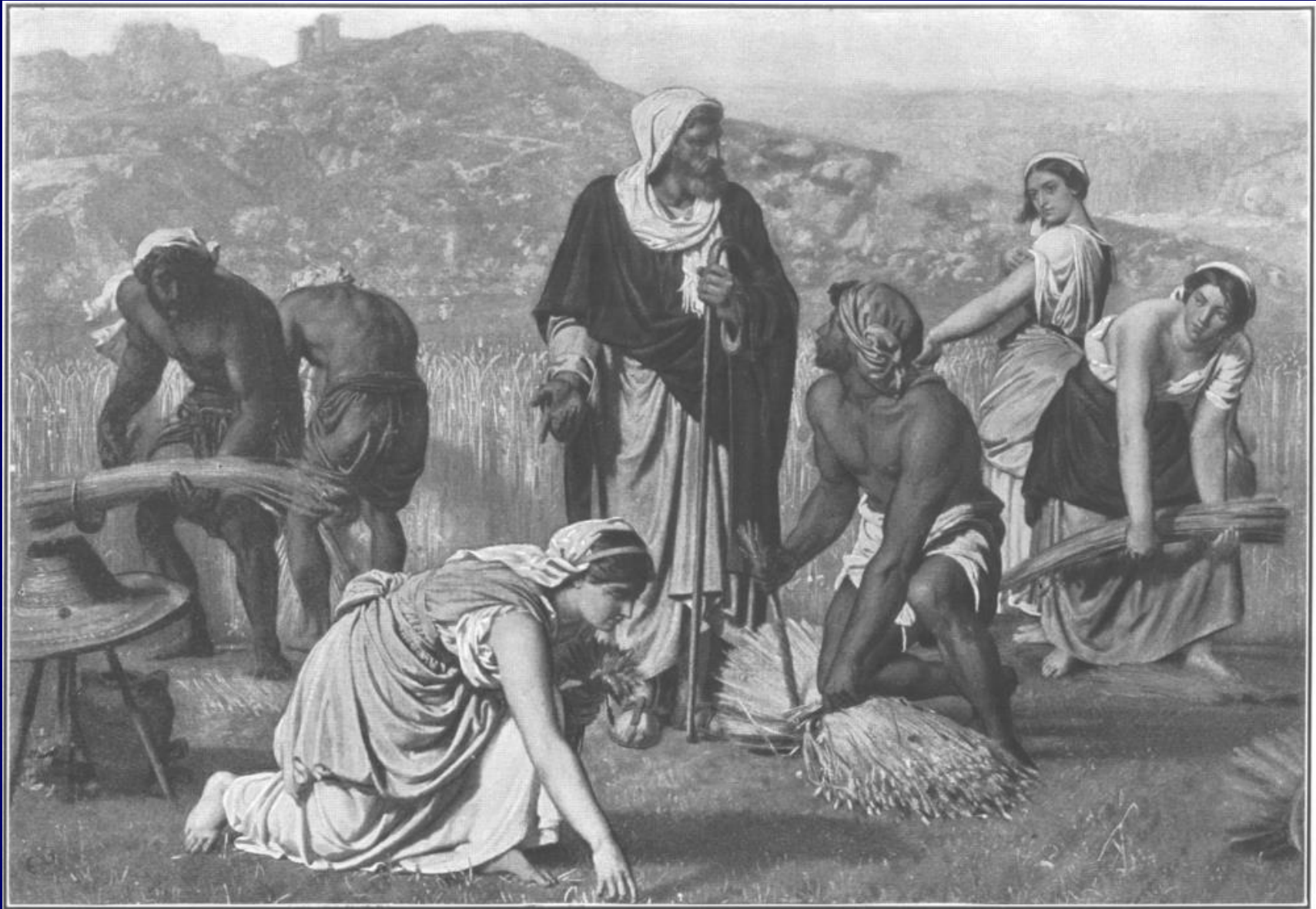
A form of marriage prescribed by the Law of Moses in which a man was required to marry the widow of a brother who died with no male heir. The term “levirate” means “husband’s brother.” The purpose of the law was to provide an heir for the dead brother, thereby preserving his name and estate. The law also was designed to provide for the welfare of widows.

1:16-17, But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. 17 Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.”

Act II

Gleaning

The corners of fields were not to be reaped, and the sheaf accidentally left behind was not to be taken away, according to the law of Moses. They were to be left for the poor to glean.



Kinsman-Redeemer

The relative who restores or preserves the full community rights of disadvantaged family members. The concept arises from God's covenant relationship with Israel.

Act III

Jesus as our Kinsman-Redeemer

1. The redeemer had to be a near relative.

Jn. 1:14, And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jesus as our Kinsman-Redeemer

2. The redeemer had to be willing to redeem the needy.

Jn. 10:17–18, The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

Jesus as our Kinsman-Redeemer

3. The redeemer had to have the resources to redeem.

1 Pet. 1:18–19, For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

Ruth