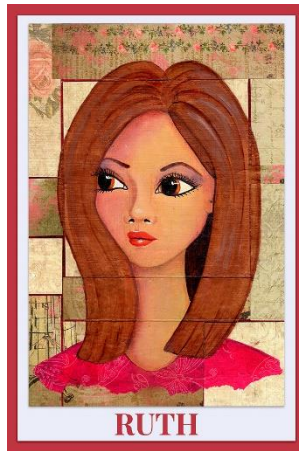




Ruth



Details of Artwork:

Dated: February 2021

Author: Yobeth Puckett, Artist

Media: Mixed Media Acrylic

Based on Ruth 1-4

Characteristics: Loyalty, Hardworking, Wise

Synopsis: More than a story of two women, Ruth and Naomi, it's a love story between Ruth and Boaz. The paintings were created as a set. Although each can stand alone their lives and stories are intertwined. Ruth the Moabite, leaves her country, family, friends, and strange gods and winds up married to the richest man in Bethlehem. She becomes the great grandmother to King David and an ancestor of Jesus Christ.

Story: Ruth is a Moabite living in the land of Moab when she meets Mahlon, the son of Elimelech and Naomi. Elimelech brought his wife and two sons to Moab from their home in Bethlehem-Judah because there was a famine in their land.

They settled in Moab even though they knew God had told them not to mingle with the heathen. I imagine Naomi was especially concerned about settling in Moab knowing that in due course her sons would grow up and want to marry but they wouldn't find a proper wife among the Moabites.

Even after Naomi's husband died, she continued to live in Moab with her two sons. They both eventually married Moabitesses, Ruth and Orpah. Naomi grew to love both daughters-in-law and they loved her. They dwelled there about 10 years and both sons died.

After her husband and both sons died Naomi heard that the famine was over. She decided to return to her homeland. She told both of her daughters-in-law to return to their mothers where they could be with their kinsmen and gods and find husbands of their own people.

Both girls protested. They wanted to go with Naomi. Eventually Orpah agreed to return to her people but Ruth clung to Naomi.

Chapter 1 verses 15-17 tells of the conversation between Naomi and Ruth. Naomi said, "Behold, thy sister-in-law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law. And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried;"

Apparently, even in Naomi's backslidden state, she was still witnessing and teaching her daughters-in-law about God. Ruth turned away from the strange gods the Moabites worshipped and accepted the one true God and His people became her people.

When Naomi saw that her mind was made up, she stopped trying to convince Ruth and the two went until they came to Bethlehem. There Ruth worked in the fields to glean ears of corn for her and Naomi. She was noticed by Boaz who asked his servant about her. He recognized her good character and took extra care of her.

When Ruth told Naomi about meeting Boaz, Naomi recognized him as a near kinsman. She counseled Ruth on how to behave with Boaz. In Ruth 4:1-12, Boaz purchases Ruth as is his right being the near kinsman of Elimelech. In verses 13-22 they were married and she bore a son. They named him Obed. And Obed begat Jesse, and Jesse begat David.

History: The book of Ruth is one of only two books in the Bible named after a woman. It's an important book because it traces the genealogy of the Messiah. Ruth is one of four Gentile women in the Messianic line.

Bethlehem means "the house of bread" and Judah means "praising God".

Deuteronomy 7:3 "Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son."

Deuteronomy 23:3 "An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the Lord; even to their tenth generation shall they not enter into the congregation of the Lord for ever."

Naomi is a type (picture) of a backslider. Even death doesn't teach her to return to "the house of bread" to "praise God". She didn't leave the heathen country after the death of her husband or when her sons married heathen women, or even when both sons died. She didn't go back until she finds out "the Lord had visited his people in giving them bread." (vs 6)

Genesis 8:8 & Deuteronomy 25:5-8 speaks of the kinsman redeemer.

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 6:19b-20 You are not your own; you were bought at a price.

Another Story: The story of Ruth is a picture of Gentile Redemption.