

Handout Ruth Lesson 2

*his two months are [olive] his two months are
grain planting his two months are late planting
his month is hoeing up of flax
his month is barley harvest
his month is harvest and festivity
his two months are vine-tending
his month is summer-fruit*

This is the inscription on the 10th century BC “Gezer Calendar”

The process of the harvest involved eight basic steps:

1. The stalks of ripened grain were cut with hand sickles and laid on the ground by men (Dt 16:9; 23:25; Jer 50:16; Joel 3:13).
2. The cut stalks were gathered into bundles and tied into sheaves (Gen 37:7; Job 24:10; Ps 126:6) which were then set upright to prevent moisture from causing mold or mildew. Ancient art depicts men, women and children involved in this activity (Rt 2:7, 15), which Scripture describes as a joyous occasion (Ps 126:6; 129:7-8). The corners of the field and any stalks of grain that happened to fall were to be left for the “gleaners,” the poor who under the Law had the right to gather the gleanings (Lev 19:9-10; 23:22). Some sheaves were also deliberately left behind for the poor (Dt 24:19; Job 24:10; Rt 2:7, 15).
3. The bundled and dried sheaves were then transported to the threshing site (Rt 3:6-7; Amos 2:13; Mic 4:12). The “threshing floor” was a flat elevated area with a smooth surface, usually on a hill top where afternoon winds would help in the winnowing process.
4. At the threshing floor the grain was loosed from the straw and chaff by “threshing.” This part of the process was usually accomplished by oxen treading on the stalks (Dt 25:4; Hos 10:11) or by using the wheels of carts (Is 28:28) or by oxen drawing wooden sleds with notched rims (Dt 25:4; Is 28:27; 41:15; Amos 1:3; 1 Cor 9:9).
5. At this point the process of “winnowing” began. The grain was tossed into the air with winnowing forks (Is 30:24; Jer 15:7). Hopefully, the wind cooperated by blowing away the chaff while the heavier grain fell to the ground (Ps 1:4), but in the absence of wind, winnowing fans were used to create a breeze.
6. The grain was gathered and sifted (Am 9:9) to remove any foreign debris like stones, dirt particles or manure.
7. The clean grain was bagged and transported either for storage in a silo or to the market for sale (Gen 41:35-36, 47-49).
8. The chaff was burned in bonfires and the community celebrated with singing, dancing and feasting (Rt 3:7; Is 5:24; 9:2/3; Mt 3:12; Lk 3:17).

The Qualifications for a <i>Go'el Haddam</i> (Blood Redeemer)	Scripture Passages
1. He must be related by blood to those he redeems.	Lev 25:23-25, 48-49; Dt 25:5, 7-10
2. He must have the necessary resources to pay the price of redemption.	Lev 25:25-26; Rt 2:1
3. He must be willing to redeem.	Dt 25:7, 9; Rt 3:11
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KINSMAN-REDEEMER

He offered himself for us in order to ransom us from all our faults and to purify a people to be his very own and eager to do good
 Titus 2:14

OLD TESTAMENT QUALIFICATION	JESUS OF NAZARETH'S FULFILLMENT AS THE NEW COVENANT KINSMAN-REDEEMER
Blood relationship Deuteronomy 25:5, 7-10; Leviticus 25:25; Ruth 2:1	Galatians 4:4, 5 ~ ...but when the completion of the time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law, so that we could receive adoption as sons. Hebrews 2:16, 17 ~ For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself the line of Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way be made completely like his brothers so that he could become a compassionate and trustworthy high priest for their relationship to God, able to expiate the sins of the people. Also see John 1:14; Romans 1:3; Philippians 2:5-8
Necessary Resources Leviticus 25:25-26; Ruth 2:1	1 Corinthians 6:20 ~ Are you not your own property, then; you have been bought at a price. So use your body for the glory of God. 1 Peter 1:18, 19 ~ For you know that the price of your ransom from the futile way of life handed down from your ancestors was paid, not in anything perishable like silver or gold, but in precious blood as of a blameless and spotless lamb, Christ. Also see 1 Corinthians 6:20
Willingness to Buy Deuteronomy 25:7, 9; Ruth 3:11	John 10:15-18 ~ ...just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and I must lead these too. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock, one shepherd. The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as I have power to lay it down, so I have power to take it up again; and this is the command I have received from my Father. 1 John 3:16 ~ This is the proof of love that he laid down his life for us and we too ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. Also see Matthew 20:28; Hebrews 10:7; Titus 2:14

See CCC # 607-8; 802.

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