



Pain, Plans and God's Purpose

0113Ru3.1-5(9)

Ruth 3:1-5



¹ THEN Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you?”² “And now is not Boaz our kinsman, with whose maids you were? Behold, he winnows barley at the threshing floor tonight.”³ “Wash yourself therefore, and anoint yourself and put on your *best* clothes, and go down to the threshing floor; *but* do not make yourself known

to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.”⁴ “And it shall be when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies, and you shall go and uncover his feet and lie down; then he will tell you what you shall do.”⁵ And she said to her, “All that you say I will do.”

– Ruth 3:1-5, NASB

The Passage is Also Found on Page 199 of the Old Testament Section of the Pew Bibles

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| I. Act One: The Royal Line with Hope in Ruin (1:1-22)
II. Act Two: The Royal Line with Hope Renewed (2:1-23)
III. Act Three: The Royal Line with Hope at Risk (3:1-18)
IV. Act Four: The Royal Line with Hope Restored (4:1-17) |
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Providence is . . .

The continuing and often unseen activity of God in sustaining his universe, providing for the needs of every creature, and preparing for the completion of his eternal purposes.

[Manser, M. H. (1999). *Dictionary of Bible Themes: The Accessible and Comprehensive Tool for Topical Studies*. London: Martin Manser]

Hope in the book of Ruth, and for us, is an unmoving trust in that God of providential goodness.

III. Act Three: The Royal Line with Hope at Risk (3:1-18)

A. Scene One: Remedy Proposed (vv. 1-5) **or** *Naomi Proposes: A Husband for Ruth*

1. *The Beauty of God's Invisible Hand* (1-5)

<i>Naomi proposes a plan to get Boaz to propose marriage.</i>

a. Beauty in the selfless actions of others (1)
Am I selfless or selfish?

b. Beauty in Orchestrated circumstances (2)
Do I see God at work?

c. Beauty in Providence greater than our plans (3-4)

Do I trust God to work?

(1) Ruth's Preparation

(a) Washing up

(b) Smelling good

(c) Looking good

(2) Naomi's Plan

(a) Go

(b) Wait

(c) Act

(d) Listen

d. Beauty in simple decisions (5)

Do I trust God with the future?

The mind of man plans his way, but the
LORD directs his steps. – Proverbs 16:9