

Ruth 2:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Ruth the Moabitess said, He said unto me also, Thou shalt keep fast by my young men, until they have ended all my harvest.

Analysis

Ruth adds detail: '**He said unto me also, Thou shalt keep fast by my young men, until they have ended all my harvest**'. Ruth reports Boaz's invitation to remain in his fields throughout the harvest season, ensuring sustained provision for weeks. This detail shows Boaz's commitment to Ruth's welfare extended beyond one day to comprehensive care through the entire harvest period. The provision demonstrates the security believers find in Christ—not momentary help but sustained, reliable care throughout life's seasons.

Historical Context

Barley and wheat harvests together lasted approximately seven weeks from Passover to Pentecost. Boaz's invitation to remain throughout this period provided economic security for Ruth and Naomi during this crucial time, allowing them to gather stores for the year. This sustained provision demonstrated covenant commitment, not mere charitable impulse. Ancient agricultural economies required intense labor during harvest but left workers unemployed afterward—Boaz's provision through harvest addressed their most immediate need.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Boaz's sustained provision illustrate God's faithful care through different life seasons?
2. What does this teach about Christian commitment to others' welfare beyond momentary gestures?

Interlinear Text

עִם אֶלְעָם רַוֵּת אֶמְרָת רְוָתְבָתְהָיָה
He said And Ruth the Moabitess H1571 H3588 He said H413 H5973
H559 H7327 H4125 H559

אֶמְעָד תְּדַבֵּר יְמִינְךָ יְמִינְךָ
by my young men H834 H0 unto me also Thou shalt keep fast H1692 H5704 H518
H5288 H1692

לֵי אֶשְׁר כָּל אֵת כָּל יְמִינְךָ
until they have ended H853 H3605 all my harvest H834 H0
H3615 H7105

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