

# Ruth 4:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

## Analysis

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Naming and genealogy: **'And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed'**. The community names the child 'Obed' (Oved, עֹבֵד, meaning 'servant' or 'worshiper'), perhaps indicating 'servant of God' or noting his future service to family line. The statement 'son born to Naomi' legally establishes him as heir to Elimelech/Mahlon, not Boaz's primary heir. **'He is the father of Jesse, the father of David'**—this genealogical note reveals the story's cosmic significance. Ruth's faithfulness positioned her as great-grandmother of Israel's greatest king and ancestress of Christ (Matthew 1:5).

## Historical Context

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The naming by neighbors rather than parents was unusual but emphasized community involvement in this redemptive act. The name Obed's meaning suggests dedication to divine service, fitting given his role in providential plan. The genealogical connection to David reveals why Ruth's story was preserved—it explains David's ancestry and validates his kingship despite Moabite heritage (normally disqualifying—Deuteronomy 23:3). That Scripture includes Ruth the Moabitess in Messiah's genealogy demonstrates God's grace transcending ethnic boundaries and incorporating Gentiles into redemptive history.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does Obed's genealogical significance demonstrate that our faithfulness impacts generations beyond our knowledge?
2. What does Ruth's inclusion in messianic lineage teach about God's redemptive plan including Gentiles?

## Interlinear Text

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וַתִּקְרָא אֹנָה	ל ו	הַשְׂכֵּנֹת	שְׁמוֹ	לֵאמֹר	יָלֵד
and they called	H0	And the women her neighbours	his name	saying	born
H7121		H7934	H8034	H559	H3205
כִּי	לְנַעֲמָה י	וַתִּקְרָא אֹנָה	שְׁמוֹ	עֹבֵד	ה וַא
There is a son	to Naomi	and they called	his name	Obed	H1931
H1121	H5281	H7121	H8034	H5744	
אָב י	יֵשׁ י	אָב י	דָּוִד:		
he is the father	of Jesse	he is the father	of David		
H1	H3448	H1	H1732		