

# 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, עֹבֶד, 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

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

## 1 John 4:8 – God is love

## Study Questions

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

לְאָמֶר שְׁמוֹ לְאָמֶר יְלִד  
וַיֹּאמֶר אֲתָּה  
בְּשָׁכֶן וֹתְּהַ  
וְתַּקְרַב אֲתָּה  
וְתַּקְרַב  
and they called H7121 And the women her neighbours H7934 his name H8034 saying H559 born H3205

וְאֵת	עֹבֶד	שָׁמוֹן	וַיְהִי	אָתָה	לְנַעֲמָם	וְאֵת
<b>There is a son</b>	<b>to Naomi</b>	<b>and they called</b>	<b>his name</b>	<b>Obed</b>		H1931
H1121	H5281	H7121	H8034	H5744		

אָבֶן	אָבֶן	אָבֶן	אָבֶן
he is the father	of Jesse	he is the father	of David

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