

## NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

### LESSON SEVENTY-TWO: RUTH 4:13b

**"And when he went in unto her, the Lord gave her conception, and she bare a son."**

Verse 13 states quite clearly that it was God Who enabled Ruth to conceive. The Bible tells us that "children are an heritage from the Lord" (Ps. 127:3). Literally, a child is an inheritance bestowed by God.

This was His plan for mankind from the beginning. God only created two human beings: one male and one female (Gen. 1:27). But He created within them the ability to reproduce. And this was His first command to them: "be fruitful and multiply, and replenish (i.e. fill) the earth" (Gen. 1:28). God could have created a few million people and populated the earth Himself. But, then, we would never have known the joy of bringing that newborn home and watching him/her grow to adulthood. And, then, welcoming into the family that new grandchild as the cycle God set in motion continued to turn.

Psalm 127:3 tells us that children are a reward. A reward that we did not earn. A reward that is bestowed upon mankind by a gracious and loving God. Children are a continual blessing. Each child is living, breathing proof that God loves us, and that His purposes for us are benevolent.

We don't need the Bible to tell us that Ruth and Boaz were estatic at the birth of their son. No doubt the whole town rejoiced at the news. The ladies would have paid Ruth a visit, hoping to get a peek at the sleeping infant. The men would have congratulated Boaz and raised a toast to his firborn son, assuring him that there would be many more to follow. The blessing that the witnesses at the city gate had bestowed upon the happy couple was coming true.

Childbirth is not easy. Because of sin, God pronounced a curse upon the birthing process: "I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children" (Gen. 3:16). Delivery can be a long and painful - sometimes, even dangerous - experience. But that is all forgotten when a woman holds her baby for the first time.

Sometimes, God will allow us to experience a long and painful process in our lives in order to receive the reward at the end. Chastening works like that: it is an unpleasant process but it produces beneficial results (Heb. 12:11). We learn to lean on Him when times are tough. We grow spiritually through trials (James 1:2-4). We gain wisdom, knowledge, and experience that we can pass on to others. What have you gained from your own trials and tribulations?

*"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." James 1:12*