

# Book of Ruth

## Introduction

Lenny D'Ambrosia

## Contents of the Book of Ruth

1. A picture of the great crises of life and the need for Redemption (Deliverance, Rescue). 1: 1 – 2: 23

### **A story of loyalty and love.**

A. **1: 1 – 7** Loss of Naomi's husband and sons; a decision to return home

B. **1: 16 – 22** Ruth's decision to stay with Naomi

C. **2: 1 – 23** The kindness of Boaz; Naomi's reaction

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2. A picture of Redemption, God's amazing deliverance from tragedy and crises. 3: 1 – 4: 22

## **Boaz and Ruth.**

- A. **3: 1 – 18**      Naomi's concern; Ruth's obedience; Boaz's response
- B. **4: 1 – 13**      Boaz prepares way to marry Ruth; the marriage
- C. **4: 14 – 22**      The genealogy of David

# Contents of the Book of Ruth

Ruth:

1. Arrived in Bethlehem as a foreigner (2:10)
2. Became a maidservant (2:13)
3. Married wealthy Boaz (4:13)
4. Was included in the physical lineage of Christ (Matt. 1:5).

There are 4 chapters and a total of 85 verses.

# Contents of the Book of Ruth

The Book of Ruth contains:

## A. Relationships

1. The greatest bond is Faith in God
2. A strong mutual commitment to others
3. Putting the best interests of others before your own.

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B. Faithfulness

F. Integrity

C. Loyalty

G. Protection

D. Love

H. Prosperity

E. Kindness

I. Blessing

# Contents of the Book of Ruth

**Author:** unknown (some people credit Samuel - he did not die (1 Sam. 25:1), until after he had anointed David as God's chosen king (1 Sam. 16: 6-13)).

**Time of writing:** This story most likely appeared shortly before or during David's reign in Israel (1011 – 971 B.C.), since David is mentioned (4:17, 22), but not Solomon.

# Contents of the Book of Ruth

**Historical Setting:** The opening verse places the book in the era of the judges, at a time of a great famine. Such a condition existed in the days of the Midianite oppression (Judges 6:1-6).



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## Judges 6:1-6

<sup>1</sup> Then the sons of **Israel** did what was **evil in the sight of the LORD**; and the LORD gave them into the hands of Midian seven years.

<sup>2</sup> The power of Midian prevailed against Israel. Because of Midian the sons of Israel made for themselves the dens which were in the mountains and the caves and the strongholds.

<sup>3</sup> For it was when Israel had sown, that the Midianites would come up with the Amalekites and the sons of the east and go against them.

<sup>4</sup> So they would camp against them and destroy the produce of the earth as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance in Israel as well as no sheep, ox, or donkey.

<sup>5</sup> For they would come up with their livestock and their tents, they would come in like locusts for number, both they and their camels were innumerable; and they came into the land to devastate it.

<sup>6</sup> So Israel was brought very low because of Midian, and the sons of Israel cried to the LORD.

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## Judges 2:16-19

<sup>16</sup> Then the LORD raised up judges who delivered them from the hands of those who plundered them.

<sup>17</sup> **Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they played the harlot after other gods and bowed themselves down to them. They turned aside quickly from the way in which their fathers had walked in obeying the commandments of the LORD; they did not do as *their fathers*.**

<sup>18</sup> When the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge and delivered them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who oppressed and afflicted them.

<sup>19</sup> **But it came about when the judge died, that they would turn back and act more corruptly than their fathers,** in following other gods to serve them and bow down to them; they did not abandon their practices or their stubborn ways.

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## Themes in the Book of Ruth

1. Ruth the Moabitess illustrates that God's redemptive plan extended beyond the Jews to Gentiles (2:12).
2. Ruth demonstrates that women are co-heirs with men of God's salvation grace (Gal. 3:28).
3. Ruth portrays the virtuous woman (3:11) (Prov. 31:10).

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4. Ruth describes God's sovereign (1:6; 4:13), and providential care (2:3) is essential in accomplishing God's will.

5. Ruth along with Tamar (Gen. Chapter 38), Rahab (Joshua chapter 2), and Bathsheba (2 Sam. chapters 11 and 12), stand in the genealogy(4: 17, 22) of the messianic line (Matt. 1:5).

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6. Boaz, as a type of Christ, becomes Ruth's kinsman-redeemer (4:1-12).
7. David's right (and thus Christ's right), to the throne of Israel (4: 18- 22) is traced back to Judah (Gen. 49: 8-12).

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1. Ruth provides instruction in practical living in such things as personal morality, a genuine concern for the needs of others, and the necessity for personal godliness in the face of testing and adversity.
2. Ruth as an example for Christian women to increase in virtues of godliness, purity, humility, honesty, fidelity and thoughtfulness remains an exemplary standard for all.
3. Boaz becomes for the Christian man a model of God-given strength, honor, graciousness, courtesy and compassion; that is an encouragement for becoming a believing gentleman.

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Ruth	CH 1	CH 2	CH 3	CH 4
<b><u>Plot</u></b>	God moves Ruth to Israel	God introduces Ruth to Boaz	God arranges details for marriage proposal	God culminates marriage of Ruth & Boaz
<b><u>Place</u></b>	Moab	Barley Field in Bethlehem	Threshing Floor in Bethlehem	City Gate in Bethlehem
<b><u>People</u></b>	Elimelech & sons, Naomi, Ruth, Orpah	Boaz, Ruth Cares for Naomi	Boaz Cares for Ruth	Boaz, Nearest Kinsman, Ruth, Naomi
<b><u>Direction</u></b>	Ruth's Decision	Ruth's Devotion	Ruth's Request for Redemption	Ruth's Reward of Redemption
<b><u>Result</u></b>	Death & Despair in Moab	Hope Dawning in Bethlehem	Hope Growing in Bethlehem	Life & Joy Birthed

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## **The Kinsman Redeemer in the Old Testament**

### **The duties of a kinsman:**

1. Redeem inheritance of his poor kinsman (Lev. 25:25)
2. Redeem person of his poor kinsman (Lev. 25:47-49)
3. Raise seed to his dead kinsman (Deut. 25:5,6)

### **A kinsman must be:**

1. Able to redeem
2. Willing to redeem



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## **Christ as our Kinsman Redeemer today**

1. Able (2 Cor. 8:9; Gal. 3:13; Eph. 1:7;  
Heb. 7:25; 1 Peter 1:18- 20)
2. Willing (John 10:15,18; Heb. 10:9)

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Life and Death

Elimilech and his sons all die. Death is said to be a separating force. Death is also the beginning of the problem and the answer can only come from the living.

Families

A central theme in the entire book. The story of one family's struggle with life's difficult circumstances.

Hunger and Famine

The lack of food causes people to do things that they would not normally do.

Widowhood

The separation of the wife from her husband.

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The Law

The rules of God based upon the wisdom of God to help man learn what to do.

Faith and Faithfulness

Faith is believing in something even when it looks like it is not true. Faithfulness is remaining loyal to someone or something even though it does not look like the best choice at the time.

Humility

The opposite of pride. A humble person always obtains the favor and the grace of God.

Wheat Harvests

A crop of intentionally planted seeds.

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Passover

A specific time of the season for remembrance and the partaking of a covenant meal.

Near Kinsman

A relative that is living who is legally qualified to become your redeemer.

Love

The central theme of all the Bible.

Grace

That which is given to us freely, even though we do not deserve it. We partake of God's grace by our faith.

Redemption

The act of restoring one's possessions back into his or her legal ownership.

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Marriage	A covenant between a man and a woman. The two shall become one flesh!
Children	The reason for redemption. To raise up an heir and a name for the dead.
Elimilech	God of the King
Naomi	Pleasant
Mahlon	Sick
Chilion	Finishing in complete destruction
Ruth	Friend
Orpah	Stubborn

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Boaz	Strength
Obed	Servant
Mara	Bitter
Bethlehem	House of Bread
Moab	The Mother's Father