

Overview of Ruth

Key Thought: The book of Ruth describes the story of a woman of Moab who married a Jewish man and when tragedy strikes the family, this gentile woman chooses to stay with her mother-in-law and her people. The primary significance is the picture it presents of the “kinsman-redeemer” (Lev. 25:25-34, 47-55 and ultimately the redemption we have in Jesus Christ. As a secondary purpose, the book provides detail for the line of Christ, which includes two gentile women (Rahab and Ruth) – showing that the Messiah, though Hebrew, is a Savior for all people.

Book Name: The book is named after the main character, Ruth.

Author: Unknown-Written during the reign of David since David is mentioned, but not Solomon.

Key Passages: **Ruth 1:16** “...for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people *shall be* my people and your God, my God.”
Ruth 2:12 "The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge."
Ruth 3:11 "And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you *are* a virtuous woman.

Basic Outline of Ruth

- I. Naomi and Ruth Return from Moab (Chapters 1)
- II. Ruth Meets Boaz (Chapter 2) Deliverance by Various Judges (chapters 3-16)
- III. Ruth requests that Boaz be her kinsman-redeemer (Chapter 3)
- IV. Boaz marries Ruth (Chapter 4)

Questions:

1. The story of Ruth occurs during the period of the Judges (Ruth 1:1) and is often viewed as a “third” appendix to the book of Judges. Compare the story of Ruth with the other two appendices (Religious Failure in Judges 17:1-18:31 and Moral Failure in Judges 19:1-21:25)
2. The people of Moab are related to the Israelites through Abraham’s nephew Lot (Gen 19:37). Moab is also the nation who hired Balaam to “curse” Israel as they came into the promised land (Joshua 24:9) and were over Israel at some periods during the time of the Judges (Judges 3:12). Moab also worshipped false god’s that caused Israel to stumble (Judges 10:6). In light of all of this, contrast the reaction of Ruth to her plight from 1:16-17 with that of Naomi in Ruth 1:20-21. In light of the circumstances, can we relate more to Ruth or Naomi?
3. Boaz and Ruth meet in Ruth 2:5-13.
 - a. What do Ruth’s responses say about her position and attitude at this point?
 - b. Why does Boaz take notice of Ruth and why do you think he specifically asked her to stay in his field?
4. How was Ruth “showing more kindness” through seeking Boaz as the kinsman-redeemer? (Ruth 3:10-11)
5. What insight does the story of Ruth give us into the redemption offered by Christ?