

# **THE BOOK OF RUTH**

(Kinsman-Redeemer)

## **Summary Overview:**

**RUTH** is a beautiful “interlude of love” set in the period of the Judges in Israel – an era marked by immorality, idolatry, and war. [See *Judges 21:25*]. This heartwarming story of devotion and faithfulness records the life of Ruth, a Moabite widow who leaves her homeland to live with her widowed Jewish mother-in-law in Bethlehem [in Judah]. God honors her commitment by guiding her to the field of Boaz (a near kinsman) where she gathers grain and eventually finds a husband! The book closes with a brief genealogy in which Boaz’s name is prominent as the great-grandfather of King David, through whom would come Jesus the Christ. (TTTB)

The book of Ruth has often been discussed only as to the story of Ruth finding a husband, after losing the one she had. But there is MUCH more in this book that can speak to us about love, devotion, loyalty, *hesed/chesed* relationships (Heb. lovingkindness), trauma, restoration, promise and hope. It also demonstrates that God is present even in our difficult times, and God is working things out for our good! **FACT:** Ruth is one of the only two Bible books named after a woman. Ruth is one of only three women mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus Christ (Matt. 1:5).

<b>Author:</b>	<b>Unknown</b> (some say the “Prophet Samuel”)
<b>Audience:</b>	<b>Israelites</b>
<b>Time Written:</b>	<b>Uncertain</b> (some believe between 1011 and 931 B.C.)
<b>Location of Events:</b>	<b>Moab; Bethlehem</b> (estimated 30 year time span)
<b>Genre/Type of Writing:</b>	<b>History</b>
<b>Key Word:</b>	<b>Kinsman-Redeemer</b> (Heb. <i>goel</i> - close relative who redeems, vindicates or defends a person who is in trouble or need - TTTB -p. 67) (See <b>Leviticus 25:25-34</b> - Law on Redemption of Property; <b>Deuteronomy 25:5-10</b> Brother’s duty to raise up seed (children))
<b>Key Verse:</b>	“But Ruth said: Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.” ( <b>1:16</b> ); 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. ( <b>3:11</b> )
<b>Key Chapter:</b>	<b>Chapter 4</b> – Moabite woman brought into the family line of David
<b>Theme and Purpose:</b>	Illustrates godliness in a time of unrighteousness (Judges); real faith and obedience; also teaches that a Gentile (Moabite) can love the God of the Jews.)

## Outline of the Book of RUTH

### Part One: Ruth's Love is Demonstrated (1:1-2:23)

- I. **Ruth's Decision to Remain with Naomi**..... 1:1-18
  - A. Ruth's Need to Remain with Naomi..... 1:1-5
  - B. Ruth's Opportunity to Leave Naomi..... 1:6-15
  - C. Ruth's Choice to Remain with Naomi..... 1:16-18
  
- II. **Ruth's Devotion to Care for Naomi**..... 1:19-2:23
  - A. Ruth and Naomi Return to Bethlehem..... 1:19-22
  - B. Ruth Gleans for Food..... 2:1-23
    - 1. Boaz Meets Ruth..... 2:1-7
    - 2. Boaz Protects Ruth..... 2:8-16
    - 3. Boaz Provides for Ruth..... 2:17-23

### Part Two: Ruth's Love is Rewarded (3:1-4:22)

- I. **Naomi Seeks Redemption for Ruth**..... 3:1-18
  - A. Naomi Seeks Redemption for Ruth..... 3:1-5
  - B. Ruth Obeys Naomi..... 3:6-9
  - C. Boaz Desires to Redeem Ruth..... 3:10-18
  
- II. **Ruth's Reward of Redemption by Boaz**..... 4:1-22
  - A. Boaz Marries Ruth..... 4:1-12
  - B. Ruth Bears a Son, Obed..... 4:13-15
  - C. Naomi Receives a New Family..... 4:16
  - D. Ruth Is the Great-Grandmother of David..... 4:17-22