



The Book of Ruth





Overview of the Book of Ruth

Setting:

- Ruth, a Moabite widow, follows her mother-in-law Naomi back to Bethlehem after the death of her husband and sons. She eventually marries Boaz, a relative of Naomi, and becomes part of the lineage of King David.

Key Events:

- **Ruth's Loyalty (Ruth 1):** Ruth decides to stay with Naomi despite Naomi's urging to return to her family. This decision highlights her loyalty and faith.
- **Gleaning in the Fields (Ruth 2):** Ruth works in Boaz's fields, showing God's provision for the poor and the widow.
- **Boaz's Redemption (Ruth 3):** Ruth approaches Boaz as her kinsman-redeemer, asking him to marry her and redeem her family's land.
- **Marriage and Lineage (Ruth 4):** Boaz marries Ruth, and they have a son, Obed, who becomes the grandfather of David.

Key Facts About the Book

Author:

- Anonymous (possibly Nathan)

Recipients:

- Israelites

Date:

- 1020–1000 BC

Key Word:

- Redeemer (Hebrew: *go'el*)

Key Verse:

- Ruth 4:11b - “May you be powerful in Ephrathah and famous in Bethlehem.”

Background Information

- The Moabites were enemies of Israel.
- The concept of *go'el* (redeemer) and the Levirate marriage.
- A Moabite was barred from Israel's public assembly (Deut 23:3).
- Ruth's unlikely role in David's genealogy.



Outline of the Book

1

Love's Resolve:
Ruth's
Determination
(1:1–22)

2

Love's Response:
Ruth's Devotion
(2:1–23)

3

Love's Request:
Boaz's Decision
(3:1–18)

4

Love's Reward:
Family's Destiny
(4:1–22)



Key Themes in the Book of Ruth

- Redemption and God's Providence.
- Faith and commitment, regardless of background.
- God's inclusion of the Gentiles in His plan.
- The sovereignty of God in difficult times.

Chapter Breakdown



Chapter 1 - Ruth's Determination

- Ruth chooses to stay with Naomi after her husband's death.
- Ruth's commitment to Naomi and her God (1:16–17).
- A model of loyalty and faith.

Chapter 2 - Ruth's Devotion

- Ruth gleans in the fields of Boaz.
- Boaz's kindness and protection of Ruth.
- God's providential guidance in Ruth's life.

Chapter 3 - Ruth's Request

- Naomi advises Ruth to propose to Boaz.
- Ruth's bold move to claim Boaz as her redeemer.
- Boaz agrees to take action.

Chapter 4 - Love's Reward

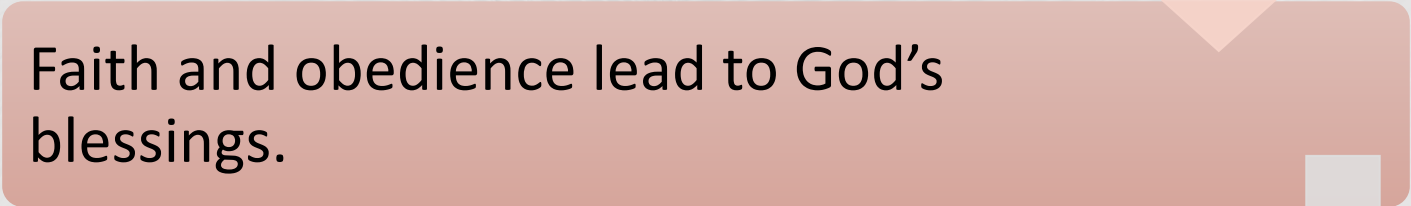
- Boaz marries Ruth, and they have a son, Obed.
- Obed is the grandfather of David, securing Ruth's place in the Davidic line.
- God's grace extends to the Gentiles.

Practical Application


God uses unlikely people to fulfill His plan.

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Faith and obedience lead to God's blessings.

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We are all called to be lights in the darkness.

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Key Takeaways

Judges:

- We learn the importance of godly leadership, the danger of sin and spiritual complacency, and the reminder that God is always faithful—even when we are not.

Ruth:

- We see God's providence in action, how loyalty and faithfulness lead to blessings, and the beautiful story of redemption that points to Christ.