

## **Book of Ruth**

### **1. Purpose of the Book of Ruth**

- How three people remain strong in character and true to God even when society around them was collapsing.
- Author - unknown
- Key people: Ruth, Naomi, Boaz
- Key figure: Naomi
- Key places: Moab, Bethlehem

### **2. Major themes of Ruth**

- Faithfulness – Ruth’s faithfulness to Naomi as a daughter-in-law and friend is a great example of love and loyalty. Ruth Naomi and Boaz were faithful to God and his laws. Throughout the story we find God’s faithfulness to his people.
- Kindness – Ruth showed great kindness to Naomi, in turn Boaz showed great kindness to Ruth. God showed his kindness to Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz by bringing them together for His purposes.
- Integrity – Ruth shows high and moral character by her devotion to Naomi. Boaz showed integrity in his high moral standards.
- Protection – We see God’s care and protection over the lives of Naomi and Ruth.
- Prosperity and Blessing – Ruth and Naomi came to Bethlehem as poor widows but they soon became prosperous through Ruth’s marriage to Boaz. Ruth became the great grandmother of King David. The greatest blessing though was the quality of love and respect between Ruth, Boaz, and Naomi.

### **3. Outline of Ruth**

- Sometimes we wonder where God is during the tragedies in his the lives of his people. The story of Ruth answers that question. The message of Ruth is as timely as a daily newspaper.
- The key element in the story is the character of Naomi. Ruth and Boaz are important of course, but Naomi is the key figure.
- The book begins by introducing the family of Naomi and the tragedy that befell them. Naomi’s bitterness seems to make God’s presence very far from her. She felt God’s blessings were in the past and not in her future.
- Naomi was so bitter at life and at God because she had a great tragedy in life; she lost her husband and sons. That left her with her two daughter-in-laws to take care of.
- Ruth left her people, her, land, and her god to follow her mother-in-law.
- Through Boaz’s actions, God becomes the hero in the story.

#### **4. How Ruth applies to us today.**

- 1) Ruth gives us a realistic portrait of life's tragedies and frustrations. God is present in tragedies and struggles in life.
- 2) We can identify with Naomi's bitterness and Ruth's loneliness.
- 3) God is present in tragedies even if we are not aware of his presence.
- 4) God can use our enemies to fulfill his purpose for us.
- 5) God can be trusted in the darkest hour.
- 6) Despair may be our only response in tragedy but it is not the end of our faith. God will continue to bless us through our despair through faith and his redemption.

#### **5. Timeline of Ruth**

- 1) Circa 1100 B.C. – Story of Ruth takes place

#### **6. Key components in Ruth**

- Christian character
- Faithfulness
- Obedience
- Kinsmen Redeemer relationship compares to Christ

#### **NOTES:**

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