



Book of Ruth: Introduction

Key questions

- **Why would someone write the Story of Ruth?**
- **Is it just a story, or is there an idea they were trying to communicate?**
- **Does the Story of Ruth mean anything to us?**

Why would someone write the story of Ruth?

- **In the days when the judges ruled (1:1). Approximately 1360 BC to 1040 BC.**
- **"... famine in the land...." Seems to be in all Israel, but apparently not in Moab.**
- **Famine is gone after about ten years.**
- **Ruth's son is David's grandfather. Probably around 110 to 140 years before David is king (1000 BC).**
- **Best guess: at time of Gideon & invasion of Midianites (Judges 6). This would be about 1140 BC.**

Why would someone write the story of Ruth?

- **(4:7) An old custom has to be explained. Shows that some time passed between the occurrence and the writing.**
- **Genealogy at end of book terminates with David. Indicates that book was written at this time.**
- **Jewish tradition says that Judges-Ruth was written by the prophet Samuel to validate David's kingship.**

Why would someone write the story of Ruth?

- **Genealogy at end (compare with Mt. 1):**
 - **Begins with Pharez - not Judah or Abraham. Pharez' mother is Tamar (a Canaanite).**
 - **Includes Salmon, who married Rahab (a Canaanite - see Matthew 1:5) and had Boaz. Rahab is Boaz' mother (or grandmother?).**
 - **Includes Boaz, who marries Ruth (a Moabite).**
 - **Ends with David - who later takes Bathsheba (who is a Hittite).**

Why would someone write the story of Ruth?

- **If David is king by God's appointment, where is the evidence of God's working to make him a king?**
- **The Story of Ruth is recorded to show God's marvelous sovereign power.**
- **The whole lineage of David many times shows God's grace and sovereign power to orchestrate human events.**

What is the central idea/theme of Ruth?

- **Since the overall theme is God's sovereignty over history, then the central theme must be related to that.**
- **Therefore, the Book of Ruth shows us how God's sovereignty worked to bring all things about according to His plan.**
- **Q: What events in the Story of Ruth show God's unique and detailed providence? What details must have occurred as they did in order for the story to end as it does?**

What does the story of Ruth mean to us?

- **God is sovereign over all things. He is not sovereign in a general way, but over all events, choices, and actions. Everything interconnects.**
- **** In heaven, if we can grasp God's marvelous tapestry, we will gasp in awe at His work ****
- **God is good in His sovereignty. Ruth isn't just about the doctrine of God's sovereignty; but also about how people respond to His sovereign providences. Do we have faith to believe in His goodness despite circumstances?**
- **God still brings good despite our unbelief, bitterness, or sin. (2Timothy 2:13)**