

The Book of Ruth--Introduction

In the book of Ruth, we're going to see how God _____ for us in hard times and in good times, how He can take _____ circumstances and turn them to joy.

The book of Ruth is a story of _____ and _____, which points, over and over again to God's _____ for us, despite the way _____ look, and how He looks for _____ to bless us, as we return to Him.

Who's who

- a. Authors:
 - i. The _____
 - ii. Human Author unknown--likely the prophet _____ (who also likely wrote Judges).
- b. Audience: Written to the _____ as a historical narrative of how God had worked in the lineage of King David long before he was born.
- c. Main persons in the Narrative
 - iii. God—Mentioned, and working _____ in the narrative.
 - iv. Naomi—"_____ one"—a Jewish former resident of Bethlehem, wife of Elimilech, and mother of two sons, Mahlon and Chilion.
 - v. Orpah—"_____"—wife and widow of Chilion
 - vi. Ruth—"_____"—widow of Mahlon, who later marries Boaz
 - vii. Boaz "In him is _____"—a wealthy Bethlehemite land-owner, who was a distant relative of Mahlon, and marries Ruth.
 - viii. Unnamed Nearest Kinsman
- d. Place in God—are they Jews, Gentiles, Saved-Church, Unsaved, Mixed?
 - ix. All are _____, except Ruth and Orpah.
- e. Passions—what are they excited about. What are their motivations?
 - x. Naomi is passionate about _____—it's the continuing of her family that is put in jeopardy at the beginning of the book, and is resolved at the end.
 - xi. Ruth—wants to serve _____ and serve _____, and she wants a husband and a family.
 - xii. Boaz is passionate about helping _____ and _____, and loves and marries Ruth by the end of the story.
- f. Perplexities—what are they struggling with?
 - xiii. Should Ruth _____ with Naomi, or stay with her own people?
 - xiv. Should Ruth continue to worship the gods of the Moabites, like Chamoth, or should she worship the One _____ God?
 - xv. What will Ruth and Naomi do to live, since they have no _____?
 - xvi. How to make Boaz _____ Naomi

- g. Problems—what are their stated problems?
 - xvii. Famine—nothing to _____ in Israel
 - xviii. Barren--lost _____ two sons
 - xix. Death of sons/husbands of Naomi and Orpah
 - xx. How is Ruth going to provide for Naomi and herself?
 - xxi. _____ relation wants to redeem the land

2. **Where?** Places

- a. Where written—Likely either Ramah, Samuel’s hometown if written by him, or in Jerusalem, if written by one of the scribes.
- b. Location of audience written to: _____
- c. Places mentioned
 - i. Moab- Moab was located on a high geographical plateau directly _____ of the Dead Sea, between Edom and Ammon. Moab was known for its rich pastureland for sheep and other _____ (Numbers 32:1; 2 Kings 3:4).
 - ii. Judges 3:12–31 gives an account of the 18-year oppression of Israel under King Eglon of Moab until God raised Ehud to deliver the people.
- d. The city of _____ located about six miles southwest of Jerusalem, is the birthplace of our Savior Jesus Christ. Meaning "house of bread," Bethlehem was also the City of David. It was there in young David's _____ that the prophet Samuel anointed him to be king over Israel (1 Samuel 16:1-13).

3. **When** was it written?

- a. Years
 - i. Ruth was likely written just before the _____ of King David (1011 to 971 B.C.).
- b. Historical background. What else was going on in their world at that time?
 - i. The book is written from the perspective of looking _____ to events during the last part of the time of the judges, so about 1,100 BC or so.
 - ii. We’re going to learn that this was not the brightest of times for the nation of Israel. The book begins in a time of _____.

4. **Why?** What was (H)his Purpose

Inferred purpose. What is accomplished, in spiritual terms, by the book of Ruth?

1. David was _____ to be King in Israel—Samuel had been sent by God to _____ David King. He also knew that _____ wasn’t relinquishing the throne to him as God had intended.

2. Nowhere else in the Bible is the concept of the kinsman-redeemer illustrated so beautifully. This concept of a relative who buys back what we could not is used by God in the Old Testament to point us to Jesus as our Kinsman Redeemer.

5. **What?** Genre/Structure

a. Themes

- i. At its heart, the book of Ruth is a love story
 1. A story of _____ supportive love between Ruth and Naomi
 2. A story of _____ love between Ruth and Boaz
 3. Most of all, a story of God's _____ in graciously rescuing of Elimelech's family from starvation, and from extinction, by providing them an heir.
- ii. Famine to fullness/darkness to light
 1. To the way the ancient Hebrews thought of things, _____ comes first, then the light.
- iii. The revelation of God working in the background, _____.
- iv. There are a lot of problems to overcome in this short 4-chapter book.
- v. God rewards those who seek _____ under His wings.
- vi. Elevation of Ruth from lowly Moabitess foreigner.
- vii. The Kinsman Redeemer. The book of Ruth is a story of _____; of buying back what was lost, of restoration, and future glorification. It presents a picture of Jesus, our Kinsman Redeemer in the person of Boaz.
- viii. Ruth, the Gentile bride—the Church
 1. This story presents Ruth, the _____ Bride as a picture of the Bride of Christ, the Church.
 2. Ruth, is not only the courageous _____ who won over the people of Bethlehem because of her Hesed
- ix. Naomi—as a type of Israel
 1. Naomi was the closest relative, and so had a prior claim upon the go-el redeemer to redeem the land for her, but gave it up in favor of Ruth.
- x. Answered prayer—Every _____ in the book is answered during the course of these 4 chapters

b. Genre—Hebrew historical short narrative.

6. **How?** Structure—how is Ruth organized?

a. Four chapters

- i. Naomi is bereaved of loved ones in chapter one, helps Ruth in chapters 2 and 3 and rejoices over Obed in chapter 4.

- ii. Ruth Chooses to follow Naomi back to Israel in chapter 1, seeks a way to help Naomi in chapters 2 and 3 and receives a husband and the inheritance in chapter 4.
 - iii. Boaz seeks Ruth in chapter 2, loves Ruth in chapter 3 and Marries Ruth in chapter 4.
- b. Main ideas/themes
- c. Repeated words, phrases
- i. Return—shoob—to turn back, to return. Occurs 12 times in the first chapter.
 - ii. Travel—to go, to walk
 - iii. Kinsman--
 - iv. Redeemer--
 - v. Rest--
 - vi. Glean Hebrew Laqat—2:2. 2:7, 2:15, 2:17-19, 2:23—means “to gather together” or “to pick up”.

Interesting facts:

1. This book is the only one in the Old-Testament named for a Non-Jewish person.
2. This book is the only book in the Old Testament named after an ancestor of Jesus.
3. This book is one of only two books, together with the Book of Esther, named after a woman, and in each case, they are the central person in the narrative.