

The Book of Ruth

Introduction

The book of Ruth is a powerful story of faith, love, and redemption. Ruth was faithful to her mother-in-law Naomi, and more importantly to God. The book of Ruth dispelled the rumor that mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law can't have a productive relationship. Ruth and Naomi's faith in God teaches gives us a bright future.

The book of Ruth is also a story of God's amazing grace in the midst of some very difficult circumstances. It's the story of a Moabite widow, who forsakes her past and unites with the people of God. Due to Ruth's faithfulness, God rewards her by giving her a new husband (Boaz), a son (Obed), and she became the great-grandmother of David who became the king of Israel.

The Christ-type in the book of Ruth

The concept of the kinsman redeemer (Goel) is an important reference to the work of Jesus Christ. The kinsman redeemer must be able to fulfill four (4) criteria if redemption is to take place.

- Be related by blood those who need redemption.
- Be able to pay the price of redemption.
- Be willing to redeem.
- Be free himself.

Personalities in the book of Ruth

Ruth- her name means friend.

Naomi- pleasant/ **Mara**-bitter

Boaz- In Him is Strength.

Elimelech- My God is King.

Mahlon- sick.

Chilion- to pine, anguish, or grief.

Orpah- stubborn.

Survey of the book of Ruth

The story begins with a famine in Israel, and Elimelech, Naomi's husband, and their two sons Mahlon, and Chilion leave Bethlehem and travel to Moab. Mahlon and Chilion marry women from Moab Orpah and Ruth; but after ten years both Mahlon and Chilion die in Moab. In addition Elimelech dies, and now three women are left as widows.

Naomi encourages her two daughters-in-law to go back to their families, and Orpah returns but Ruth decides to stay with Naomi. Both Ruth and Naomi return to Bethlehem, and God blesses their faithfulness. In time Ruth meets Boaz and she is redeemed, and a godly line is established out of which not only King David; also Jesus the Christ.

Outline of the book of Ruth

- | | | |
|-------------|---|------------------|
| I. | Ruth's Decision to Remain with Naomi. | 1:1-18 |
| | A. Ruth's desire 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 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 |
| III. | Ruth's Request for Redemption. | 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 |
| IV. | Ruth's Reward of Redemption. | 4:1-22 |
| | A. Boaz marries Ruth. | 4:1-12 |
| | B. Ruth bears a son. | 4:13-15 |
| | C. Naomi receives a new life. | 4:16 |
| | D. Ruth is the great grandmother of King David. | 4:17-22 |