

The Book of Ruth

Author - Probably **Samuel** the prophet

- Ruth 1:1 indicates that it was written after the time of judges looking back

Date - The events of this book cover a period of **10-12** years during the time of the judges (approx. **1300** B.C.)

Theme - **“REDEEMING GRACE”**

This is a beautiful story of God’s redeeming grace in the life of a family. The story centers around the role of the kinsman — “one who redeems”

Three Qualifications of a Kinsman-Redeemer : (see Lev. 25, Num. 35)

1. He must have the right to redeem by **Relationship** (2: 1, 3 :9)
2. He must have the **Power** to redeem (3:11, 4:9)
3. He must be **Willing** to redeem (3:13)

*We can know God’s redeeming grace through Jesus Christ, who meets all these qualifications!

This is a love story — it shows us that God’s redeeming grace is not extended out of duty, but out of His great love for us.

Outline:

I. Love’s Resolve (ch. 1)

*Ruth’s noble choice

II. Love’s Response (ch. 2)

*Ruth’s lowly service

III. Love’s Request (ch. 3)

*Ruth’s tender appeal

IV. Love’s Reward (ch. 4)

*Ruth’s marital joys

Key Words:

“redeem”

“kinsman”

Key Verse:

Ruth 4:14 And the **women** said unto **Naomi**, Blessed *be* the **LORD**, which hath not left thee this day without a **kinsman**, that his name may be **famous** in **Israel**.

Special Features:

Lessons learned from this story . . .

1. **Elimelech** — Refused to come back to God
2. **Naomi** — Returned to the will of God
3. **Mahlon/Chilion** — Reaped what their father had sown
4. **Orpah** — Rejected the true God
5. **Ruth** — Received salvation and all its benefits

Vs. 1:1-2 The beautiful romance of Ruth is set against the dark background of the apostasy and foreign oppression of the period of the judges. Because of a local famine, **Elimelech** (= my God is King) took his wife **Naomi** (= pleasant, lovely) and his two sons, appropriately named **Mahlon** ("puny") and **Chilion** ("pining"), to visit temporarily in nearby Moab. The country of Moab was about 50 mi (80 km) from Bethlehem on the E side of the Dead Sea. Moab was the son of Lot by an incestuous union with his older daughter.(Gen. 19:31-38). Ephrathites. A designation for inhabitants of Bethlehem (1 Sam. 17:12).

How far can you go on grace?

...out of Moab, into the house of bread (Bethlehem), into the harvest of Boaz, up to the table of fellowship, down to the threshingfloor, and into the family!

...from being the wife of Mahlon to being a Woman in Messiah's line

Christ In The Book

Boaz ("*in him is strength*") is a picture of Christ:

1. He is the one who shows **grace** to strangers. (2:10)
2. He paid the redemption **price** in full.
3. He did what the nearer kinsman (the law) would not & could not do.
4. He is the Lord of the **harvest**.
5. He is the bridegroom.
6. He took a **Gentile** bride.
7. He is the famous one from **Bethlehem**. (4:11,14)