

The Book of Ruth Chapters One and Two

Background

Ruth was written during the time of the Judges. A period between Joshua (conquered the land) and before Israel had a King (monarchy – Saul replaces Samuel).

- Ruth and Esther are the only books in the bible named after women.
- The main events take place in Bethlehem – significant history to David and Jesus
- We learn a great deal about the practices of ancient Israel and the surrounding inhabitants
 1. Law of Gleaning
 2. Law of Levirate Marriage
 3. Law of Redemption

Outline of the Book would look like this

- Love's Resolve – Ruth to stay with Naomi
- Love's Response – Ruth's Gleaning
- Love's Request – The Threshing Floor Scene
- Love's Reward – Redemption of the Land and the Bride

Moab

- Moab was the son of Lot through incest with his older daughter (Genesis 19: 30-38)
- The younger daughter had a son through incest with Lot which was Ammon.
- Moab worshiped Chemosh through child sacrifice.
- Moab hired Balaam to curse Israel (Numbers 22:1-8)
- Moabites excluded from the assembly of Israel for ten generations (Duet 23:3)

The Moabite Stone (1868) – 4 foot high, thirty-four lines of text confirms biblical accounts of battle (2 Kings 3:4-27) and mentions fifteen sites mentioned in the OT. In the Louvre Museum in Paris.

Chapter One

VS 1 Famine – a result of God's Judgment against sin and Israel's failure to obey the Law

Lev 26: 18-20

And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. I will break the pride of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze.

Duet 28: 23-24

And your heavens which *are* over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you *shall be* iron. ²⁴The LORD will change the rain of your land to powder and dust; from the heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed.

Local famine – Moab was about seventy-five miles away across the Dead Sea

VS 2 Elimelech – God is my King
Naomi – Pleasant
Chilion – wasting
Machlon – sickly or unhealthy

VS 3 – Elimelech dies, sons marry Orpah (fawn) and Ruth (desirable) – Duet 7:2,3

VS 5 – Sons die

VS 6-13 – Ruth’s discourse with daughters-in-law and Ruth’s conclusion “Lord is against me”.

VS 14-17 Ruth’s Sevenfold Decision

1. Where you go, I will go
2. Where you stay, I will stay
3. Your people will be my people
4. Your God will be my God – uses the word Jehovah
5. Where you die, I will die
6. There I will be buried
7. Nothing but death shall part me from you

Ruth’s resolve will be something Boaz recognizes when they meet. He is impressed with her “character” and well as her beauty.

How does Ruth enter the assembly of Israel and into the genealogy of Jesus?

Duet 23:3 - An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter the assembly of the LORD; even to the tenth generation.

Grace vs. the Law

David – murder and adultery – pardoned by God’s grace

Five women in Genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1)

1. Tamar – committed incest with father-in-law Judah (Gen 38:3)
2. Rahab – Gentile prostitute in Jericho (Joshua 2:5)
3. Ruth – Moabite
4. Wife of Uriah – Bathsheba (Solomon’s name not mentioned) Adulteress (2 Sam 11:6)
5. ?

VS 18 – 22

- Mara – bitter
- Left full; returned empty
- Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest

Chapter Two – Loves Response

VS 1 – Kinsman Redeemer – Boaz

- Name means strengths -Boaz was wealth, might man of war and a man of law
- Relative of Elimelech (not Naomi)
- Boaz I the hero of the story
- Boaz mother was Rahab the harlot of Jericho

VS 2 – The Law of Gleaning

Leviticus 23:22 –

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field when you reap, nor shall you gather any gleaning from your harvest. You shall leave them for the **poor and for the stranger**: I am the LORD your God.’

Deuteronomy 24: 19 –

When you reap your harvest in your field, and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be for **the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow**, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

VS 3 – Ruth “happens” on glean on Boaz field – coincidence?

VS 4 – 9 Boaz and Ruth Meet

- Foreman’s report
- Ruth’s work
- Boaz’s instructions
- Boaz provision – Barley harvest March – April; Wheat harvest May – June
- Boaz protection – do not let anyone touch her

VS 10 Ruth’s response

VS 11 - 14 – Boaz’s response

- I have heard of your loss and your love for Naomi and your coming here leaving your home
- These wages are from the Lord as you have sought refuge in Him here with us
- Boaz serves her himself

VS 15 – 18 Boaz instructs the servants

- Let her glean close to you
- Leave her extra on purpose
- Do not insult her or rebuke her
- Ruth gleaned an ephah – about a bushel – enough for 5 days for both to live on

VS 19 – 23 Ruth and Naomi

- Boaz is a kinsman
- This is a blessing from the Lord
- She works both the Barley and Wheat harvest – 4 months.

Next week we will look at the:

The Kingsman Redeemer

Law of Redemption

Law of Levirate Marriage