

Ruth

Introduction

1. Why Study Ruth

- a. Ruth: 4 ch. 85vs. 2,574 words (>Phi, Col, Tim), but why study a popular short story?
- b. To practice gleaning truth from OT historical narrative – Rom 15:4, 2 Tim 3:16
- c. To study an OT story of redemption to know the truth of Rom 16:25
- d. Glory of God is in Rom 16:27, Eph 3:21. Glory left Israel in Samuel, Ruth gives hope
- e. To learn what the law, prophets, and psalms wrote about salvation and Christ - Lk 24:44
- f. To dispel Christian fable and fantasy by studying the source material (Bible)

2. Popular Myths in Ruth

- a. *It is “God’s romance novel” for every woman to “find her Boaz”.*
 - i. If you think the wedding is the climax, you’ve missed the point.
 - ii. Hosea, Gen 24, 29, and Song of Solomon are much more romantic.
 - iii. Ruth calls an old man “lord” (2), sleeps at his feet (3), purchased w/property (4)
 - iv. The popular romantic Ruth 1:16-17 is not a wedding, there is no husband there.
 - v. Marriage advice? Ruth seeks (1), faith/service (2), virtue (3), marriage (4)
- b. *The kinsman redeemer redeemed Ruth.* It was Naomi’s inheritance - Ruth 4:10, 15-16
- c. *Naomi helped Ruth find her husband.* Ruth helped Naomi - Ruth 2:11
- d. *Orpah rejected Naomi.* Orpah loved Naomi, but was told to go back - Ruth 1:9-14
- e. *Ruth is a picture of the Body of Christ.* But everything she does is for Israel under law.

3. Context

- a. What: book of History, Jewish “Five scrolls” (Psalms in Lk 24:44) read at Pentecost.
- b. When: “*the days when the judges ruled*” Ruth 1:1, but written after David (4:22) 11th c.
 - i. Boaz is great grandfather to David and great grandson of Nashon (Exodus)
 - ii. A sequel to Judges (but with hope), a precursor to Samuel (a promised king)
- c. Who: Likely Samuel, Nathan, or another prophet who supported David.
- d. Why: There is no lineage of David in the books of Samuel. Ruth elegantly supplies it.
 - i. The lineage is found after Ruth in 1 Chronicles 2:11, Matt 1:5, Luke 3:32
 - ii. An example of faithful obedience reaping blessing in God’s purpose for Israel.
- e. Dispensational: Judges 17:26, 18:1, 19:1, 21:25 - under law, no king, disobedient, cursed
 - i. Boaz also the name of one of the two brass pillars of Israel’s temple 1 Kings 7:21

4. Popular Themes

- a. Kinsmen (13x) *redeemer* was a law in Israel pointing to Christ - Ruth 2:20, 3:9, 4:4-6
- b. Grace – “kindness” and “favour” in Ruth 2:2, 10, 13, 20, therefore a gospel theme.
 - i. A story of hope for salvation, restoration, and life – Ruth 4:15, Rom 11:15
 - ii. Law cannot save Ruth nor Naomi, gracious redemption is needed - Heb 9:12
 - iii. Written about hope in dark times for Israel to read later (et tu, Hebrew epistles?)
- c. Women - 1 of 2 books of women, both heroes. 1 of 4 women named in Jesus’ genealogy.
 - i. Women can be weak, but also birth restoration through faithfulness (e.g. 1Sam 1)
- d. Gentiles – Ruth is a Moabitess who follows a Jew to serve the God of Israel - Ruth 2:12
- e. A return to Bethlehem - departed in chapter 1, returned in ch. 2, restored in ch. 4.
- f. God’s Providence - Supposedly this is what Ruth teaches – but Ruth 1:13,20, 2:20, 4:11

5. Unpopular Themes

- a. Naomi – The book is truly about her being saved by Ruth and Boaz.
- b. Ruth - (along with Boaz) a type of Christ in commitment, obedience, sacrifice, blessing.
- c. Naomi /Boaz mentioned more than Ruth. Boaz shows LORD's love toward Israel.
- d. The Law – Every chapter has Ruth and Boaz obeying the law of God.
- e. The Remnant – Naomi is a remnant, Ruth is a remnant, who returns to the land, Lord, enduring the separation of the wheat and chaff waiting to the end for the fruit of the Redeemer to come.
- f. Israel in unbelief fell, a remnant remains, a Gentile is blessed by faith and love toward remnant Israel, and is received into the royal family tree through the redeemer.

6. Outline

- a. Chapter 1 - Naomi leaves and returns - (Ruth seeks her)
- b. Chapter 2 - Naomi has hope - (Ruth's faith and service)
- c. Chapter 3 – Naomi waiting until the end - (Ruth's virtue)
- d. Chapter 4 – Naomi redeemed - (Ruth's marriage)