



1

**Written: 1030-1010 B.C.**

**Possible Author: Samuel**

**Ultimate Author: God**

**1 of 2 Books of the Bible named for women.**

**Covers: 11-12 years of Ruth's life.**

**In Ruth we see a brave, bold woman, devoted to her mother-in-law, but also determined to establish for herself a new identity and to worship a new God for the rest of her life.**

2



## Themes in *Ruth*

*Faithfulness, **Loyalty**, Integrity, Obedience, Kindness, Diligence, REDEMPTION & HOPE*

*The Book of Ruth* is a crucial hinge in the story of Israel, marking the transition from the age of judges to the age of kings.

5

*Ruth* begins with the words, "*In the days when the judges ruled . . .*"

Let's look at the Book of Judges

Stories of six judges: Othniel, Ehud, Deborah

Gideon, Jephthah, Samson

A bleak and bloody story of Israel's descent into self-destruction. Tragic, disturbing, turbulent times as the Israelites forsake God and become indistinguishable from the Canaanites around them.

Judges provides a sobering look at the human condition and a warning. "*In those days there was no king in Israel; all the people did what was right in their own eyes.*" (Judges 21:25)

6

**She said to them, “Call me no longer Naomi, call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me. 21I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty; why call me Naomi when the Lord has dealt harshly with me, and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?” Ruth 1:20-21**

9

### **Ruth Chapter 2:**

**“Just so happens that . . . “ (God-incidents)**

**Ruth gleanes grain in the field of Boaz.**

**Boaz goes out into his field and discovers Ruth.**

**Boaz is generous/protective of Ruth.**

**Boaz has heard of her loyalty and praises her.**

**Boaz is one of Naomi’s nearest kinsmen.**

**Naomi has hope again.**

10



Her mother-in-law said to her, "Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you." So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, and said, "The name of the man with whom I worked today is Boaz."  
 20 Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "Blessed be he by the Lord, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!" Naomi also said to her, "The man is a relative of ours, one of our nearest kin."

Ruth 2:19-20

13

What is a "Kinsmen Redeemer"?

This was a Levirate custom/law created to ensure that lineage did not die out but was carried on.

See Deuteronomy 25:5-10

Obed would have been the son of Mashon, Ruth's deceased husband so that his line would carry on, Obed was the 'son' of Naomi, the son of Mahlon and the son of Boaz.

Jesus is our "kinsmen redeemer". He takes our sin upon himself, dies to pay the price of sin, and rises so that we may have life eternal. Jesus turns death into life, emptiness into fullness, lament into hope.

14

**So she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before one person could recognize another; for he said, "It must not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor." Ruth 3:14**

**for the man will not rest, but will settle the matter today." Ruth 3:18b**

17

#### **Ruth Chapter 4:**

**Boaz gathers 10 witnesses publicly.**

**Boaz offers land & Ruth to the nearest kinsmen, who refuses.**

**Boaz marries Ruth. God blesses their union with a son, Obed.**

**Ruth's faithfulness/loyalty to Naomi and to God is rewarded with a home, husband, son, and being part of the lineage of David & of Jesus.**

18



**He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him.” Ruth 4:15**

**“A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David. Ruth 4:17b**

21

**Interesting facts:**

The Israelites and Moabites were hostile to each other.

**Meaning of names:**

**Naomi – Delight**

**Mara – Bitter**

**Ruth – Companion**

**Boaz – Strength is within him.**

**Obed – Servant of God**

**Bethlehem means “House of Bread”**

**Naomi, Boaz, Ruth & Obed’s hometown is Bethlehem of Ephrathah**

***“But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.” Micah 5:2***

22

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. 12Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. 13When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, Jeremiah 29:11-13

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

God's plan of redemption unfolded as it should.

25

### Servant Leadership Qualities

- 1) Put other's first.
- 2) Protect & Provide
- 3) Extraordinary Kindness
- 4) Act Quickly
- 5) Integrity
- 6) Loving (Ruth 4:14-15)

Ultimate: Jesus - No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

(John 15:13)

26