

Ruth: Romance and Redemption

Introduction

Ruth complements the Book of Judges. It serves as another appendix. Ruth doesn't advance the history of Israel, but illustrates life in the days of the judges.

Ruth is one of the *Megilloth* or Festal Rolls that are read at Jewish festivals. Ruth is read at the Feast of Pentecost.

Dialogue is a major narrative device in the book. Fifty-nine of the eighty-five verses in Ruth contain dialogue beginning in 1:8.

I. The Author—Samuel wrote the book in about 1000 B.C.

II. The Audience—the nation of Israel during the beginning of David's reign.

III. The Aim—*Historical/Genealogical*: to show the divine origin of the Davidic dynasty and how God providentially guided the messianic line. *Moral*: to show that even during the dark ages of the Judges there were godly people who loved and obeyed the Lord. *Doctrinal*: to show the providence of God. *Typological*: to provide an illustration of Christ's redemption.

IV. The Arrangement

RUTH					
JUDGES TURBULENT TIMES	Ruth's Choice	Ruth's Service	Ruth's Claim	Ruth's Marriage	1 SAMUEL CHANGING TIMES
	NAOMI AND RUTH (Mutual grief)	RUTH AND NAOMI AND BOAZ (Mutual pursuit)		BOAZ AND RUTH (Mutual love)	
	"May the LORD grant that you may find rest." (1:9)	Naomi had a kinsman . . . whose name was Boaz. (2:1)	"Wait . . . until you know how the matter turns out." (3:18)	Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. (4:13)	"Blessed is the LORD who has not left you without a redeemer today." (4:14)
	CHAPTER 1	CHAPTER 2	CHAPTER 3	CHAPTER 4	
Setting	"Now it came about in the days when the judges governed, that there was a famine in the land" (1:1).				
Circumstance	Loss — deeper commitment		Gain — deeper love		
Emotion	Grief	Loneliness	Companionship	Rejoicing	
Theme	Redemption: God provides for those who trust Him in hard times.				
Key Verses	1:16; 3:11–12				
Christ in Ruth	Prefigured in the kinsman-redeemer				

Unfolds like a 4-act play. Romantic drama

Love's Resolve—Ruth's Determination (Ruth 1)

Love's Response—Ruth's Devotion (Ruth 2)

Love's Request—Boaz's Decision (Ruth 3)

Love's Reward—Family's Destiny (Ruth 4)

V. The Analysis

The first five verses of Ruth span a 10-year period, a decade of disobedience, while the main section of the book (1:6—4:12) covers a period of only a few months.

Levirate marriage (Deut 25:5-10) If a man died without children, the lineage of the deceased man was perpetuated through the widow's marriage with his next of kin.

Kinsman-redeemer (*go'el*) or **right of redemption** gave the next of kin the responsibility to buy back property that was sold because of foreclosure due to poverty. This kept the property within the family.

VI. The Application

1. Following our own way leads to emptiness in life.
2. God never leaves Himself without a witness.
3. God uses ordinary people to accomplish great things.

VII. The Assignment