

Ruth

Breakdown

- The book's name comes from one of its main characters. Ruth, a young woman of Moab, is the great-grandmother of David and is one of four women in the genealogy of Jesus.
- The book of Ruth is traditionally believed to have been written by Samuel after David was anointed as Israel's king.
- Ruth takes place during the time of the Judges of Israel and shows us a glimpse of something positive that happened during the dark period of the book of Judges.

Main Points

- Ruth is often considered to be a love story, but it is not a love story in the traditional sense of a man and woman who love each other. It is a story about the love of God for His people. God goes to great lengths to make a way for us to be redeemed and bought back. He loves us so much that He changes history so He could give us an opportunity to be reconnected with Him and to experience His overflowing, never-ending love.
- All through the book of Ruth, we see signs that point us to Jesus. Boaz's sacrifice to become the family redeemer shows us a picture of Jesus who would become our ultimate redeemer, paying the costly price to buy us back, bring us into the family of God, provide for us, and live with us forevermore.

Did you know?

- Ruth was not a native of Israel. In fact, she was born in another tribe who were sworn enemies of the Israelites. Where was Ruth from?
 - Bonus question: Why was Ruth's native tribe enemies of Israel? (The answer can be found in previous books.)
- Naomi was deeply distraught over her husband and sons' deaths. Yes, she missed them greatly, but that wasn't the only reason. Why else was she so upset?
- Ruth provided for Naomi and herself by gathering leftover barley from a nearby field. How did Ruth know she would be allowed to do this? (See Leviticus 23)
- Boaz was one of Naomi's family's redeemers. What does it mean for someone to be a family redeemer?
- There was another family redeemer who was more closely related to Naomi's family than Boaz. Boaz gave him the first opportunity for redemption, but he declined. Why?
- The book of Ruth is actually an origin story for King David. How do we know this?

Further Thought

- In most Bible stories, when an Israelite marries someone from a pagan nation, the Israelite ends up worshipping false gods, but that wasn't the case with Naomi's son. Why?
- Even though Ruth was from an enemy nation, God not only accepted her into His chosen people, but He also protected her and gave her a privileged position in the genealogy of King David and Jesus. What can we learn from that?
- Boaz fulfilled his duty as outlined in the Law to redeem a relative from her unfortunate circumstances (Leviticus 25:47-49). How does that point to our true Redeemer - Jesus?