



Introduction to Ruth

- Author:** Unknown, maybe Samuel?
- Date:** Approximately 1000 BC, the time of David, but detailing events that took place somewhat earlier than that.
- Theme:** A Story of Redemption in the Days of the Judges

A Very Quick Outline

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| I. | Ruth's Background and Decision | Chapter 1 |
| II. | Ruth and Boaz Meet for the First Time | Chapter 2 |
| III. | Ruth's Request for Redemption | Chapter 3 |
| IV. | Boaz Fulfills the Role of the Kinsman-Redeemer | Chapter 4 |

What's in Ruth?

- The story of Ruth takes place in the period of the Judges, which we have seen was a fairly chaotic time. This book, however, shows that there still were some who remained faithful to the Lord. Among those was Ruth, who was not even an Israelite herself, but the daughter-in-law of Naomi, whose son had died.
- This book also introduces us to the concept of the kinsman-redeemer, a near relative who volunteers to buy back a family's land that had been sold. (See Leviticus 25:23-28.)
- It was also the responsibility of a near relative to marry the childless wife of a brother who had died. In this way, the woman would be provided for and might still have children who stayed within her original husband's family. (See Deuteronomy 25:5-10.)
- By means of the above provisions, Ruth marries Boaz and, though a foreigner, finds her way into the genealogy of David, and therefore, of Jesus Christ. (See Ruth 4:18-22 and Matthew 1:1-16.)