

Ruth

How God Can Use

People in Dark Times

By Timothy Sparks

TimothySparks.com

Theme of Ruth

- Occurs “in the days when the judges ruled” (1:1), covering about ten years (1:4)
- Ruth becomes the godly great grandmother of David and factors into the lineage of Christ (4:18-22; Mt. 1:5-6)
- Ruth's faith is rewarded with rest (1:9; 3:1), marriage and conception (4:13) and allowed to participate in bringing Christ into the world

Key Words

- “Close relative”=“kinsman redeemer”
- Other key words: love, faith, rest, redemption

Verses to Remember

- 1:16-17—Beautiful expression of love; often used at weddings, but here used by a daughter-in-law to her mother-in-law
- 2:12—“The Lord repay your work”
- 3:11—“All the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman”

Overview of Ruth

- Chs. 1 & 2: Ruth's love for God and for God's people
- Chs. 3 & 4: Ruth's love rewarded

Brief Outline

- Sojourn in Moab (1:1-5)
- Sad return home (1:6-22)
- Ruth gleanes in the fields of Boaz (ch. 2)
- Ruth follows Naomi's counsel (ch. 3)
- Boaz marries Ruth (4:13)
- Birth of Obed, David's grandfather (4:13-16)
- Genealogy from Perez to David (4:18-22)

Background to “Kinsman Redeemer”

- Ruth 3:12-13
- Deut. 25:5-10

Ruth and Naomi Contrasted

- Ruth's name means “companion” or “friend”
- Naomi's name means “pleasant” or “beautiful” yet she was bitter—“Mara” (1:20)

Meaning of Names

- Bethlehem—“house of bread”; yet famine
- Elimelech—“my God is king”
- Mahlon—“song”
- Chilion—“perfection”
- Boaz—“strength”

Trivia

- What was Ruth's deceased husband's name?
- Answer: Found in 4:10

Memory Verse Review for Judges

- 17:6; 21:25

Memory Verse for Ruth

2:12

“The Lord repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge”