

RUTH, A SERVANT OF GOD

I. THE BOOK OF RUTH

The story takes place during the time of the Judges, probably around 1100 BC.

It is a time of moral decline among the Jews, yet here is this inspiring story about Ruth, a picture of her faith in God, her love for Naomi, and of God's mercy and sovereignty.

II. THE FAMILY TRAGEDY IN MOAB

A. Naomi's husband and two sons die, and this is an extremely difficult trial. But God is sovereign, and has a plan to work this out for good. Ruth 1:1-5

B. Naomi is embittered by the tragedy, and thinks God is against her, but her attitude is wrong. Once the famine is over, she decides to go back to Bethlehem. Ruth 1:6-13

C. Ruth, her daughter-in-law, decides to go with Ruth. This is God working in her heart, and is part of God's eternal and wise plan. Ruth 1:14-18, Philippians 2:12-13

D. The people in Bethlehem hear of Naomi's tragedies. Ruth 1:19-22, Isaiah 38:12-15a

III. GOD IS WORKING, FOR RUTH MEETS BOAZ, HER KINSMAN REDEEMER

A. Ruth, committed to serving Naomi, just happens to glean in the field of Boaz, a relative of Naomi. Ruth is noticed by Boaz, a godly and righteous man. Ruth 2:1-7

B. Boaz had heard about Ruth, and is kind to her, and protective of her. He sees her character, that she is loyal, kind, thankful and a servant. Ruth 2:8-13

C. Naomi discovers that Ruth had gleaned in Boaz' field. She was very happy, and had hope, for she could see the working of God in all this. Naomi encourages Ruth to continue to glean in Boaz' field. Ruth 2:14-23

IV. THE PLAN FOR REDEMPTION, AND ARRANGING THE MARRIAGE

A. Naomi, the matchmaker, has Biblical grounds for this marriage. A widow's closest male relative had the responsibility to marry her. Ruth 3:1-5, Luke 20:27-33

B. Ruth gets all cleaned up and goes to the threshing floor at night, and lies near Boaz. Ruth's actions were to be seen as a request for marriage, and Boaz knew this. He also knew he wasn't the closest relative, and that to redeem Ruth, he had to go through the right process. He promises to redeem her, if he can. Ruth 3:6-13

C. Ruth tells Naomi everything that had happened. Naomi is very hopeful. Ruth 3:14

V. THE REDEMPTION OF RUTH - GOD'S PLAN IS CARRIED OUT

A. Boaz diligently goes through the redemption process, and learns that he can purchase Ruth and Naomi's land. Ruth 4:1-6

B. Boaz redeems Ruth and the land because it is the right thing to do, and also the loving thing to do. The amazing and prophetic blessing of the witnesses. Ruth 4:7-12, Deuteronomy 25:5-11

C. Ruth and Boaz get married and have a child. The women see God's work in all this, and also believe this son will become famous. Through Obed, would come the most important Redeemer of all time. We are to always trust the Lord through difficult times, knowing the blessing often comes in the end. Ruth 4:13-15, Deuteronomy 8:16

VI. SEEING THE BIG PICTURE FOR NAOMI AND RUTH, AND FOR YOURSELF

A. Boaz and Ruth are great-grandparents of David, and therefore are in the ancestral line of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Ruth 4:16-22, Matthew 1:5-6

B. You never know how God will use your life. Keep being faithful, and God will use your life to have a powerful effect on others, and be used for His eternal purposes.

**GOD CAUSES ALL THINGS TO WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD
TO THOSE WHO LOVE GOD, TO THOSE WHO ARE CALLED
ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.**

Romans 8:28

SOME QUESTIONS TO ANSWER:

1. What is the main thing that you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. How have you responded to tragedy in your life and the lives of others?
3. What does this story teach you about God's working in the lives of His people?
4. What is the character of Ruth like?
5. What does the word redemption mean? Why is this the theme of this book?
6. Why does God focus on the lives of two women in this book of Ruth?
7. Do you see God's sovereign working in your own life? Give examples.