

STOP 8: RUTH

PURPOSE:

To show the consequences of sin and the grace of God in redeeming sinners.

AUTHOR: Unknown. Some think it was Samuel, but internal evidence suggests that it was written after Samuel's death.

DATE WRITTEN: Sometime after the period of the judges (1375-1050 B.C.)

SETTING: A dark time in Israel's history when people lived to please themselves, not God (Judges 17:6)

KEY VERSE:

“And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:” (1:16)

KEY PEOPLE: Ruth, Naomi, Boaz

KEY PLACES: Moab, Bethlehem

OUTLINE:

1. Ruth remains _____ to Naomi (1:1-22)
2. Ruth _____ in Boaz's field (2: 1-23)
3. Ruth _____ Naomi's plan (3:1-18)
4. Ruth and Boaz are married (4:1-22)



CHRIST IN RUTH:

THE KINSMAN REDEEMER

The events in this book take place during the times of the Judges in Israel. It is a time when every man did "that which was right in his own eyes." Judges 17:6 and 21:25.

This book starts with the barrenness of famine and ends with the birth of a child. It begins with death and ends with life. This is a book of sorrow turned to joy. It is the story of cries of anguish to the cries of a newborn. This book is indeed sorrow to salvation told in the story of Ruth. This book is about Ruth, to be sure, but its main theme is the love and goodness of God in turning this terrible sad story to triumph.

It is the story of a Hebrew family and their heartaches, but it is also the story of forgiveness and redemption. We are also given a chronological link to the coming Messiah.

MEGATHEMES

THEME	EXPLANATION	IMPORTANCE
Faithfulness	Ruth's faithfulness to Naomi as a daughter-in-law and friend is a great example of love and loyalty. Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz are also faithful to God and his laws. Throughout the story we see God's faithfulness to his people.	Ruth's life was guided by faithfulness toward God and showed itself in loyalty toward the people she knew. To be loyal and loving in relationships, we must imitate God's faithfulness in our relationships with others.
Kindness	Ruth showed great kindness to Naomi. In turn, Boaz showed kindness to Ruth—a despised Moabite woman with no money. God showed his kindness to Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz by bringing them together for his purposes.	Just as Boaz showed his kindness by buying back land to guarantee Ruth and Naomi's inheritance, so Christ showed his kindness by dying for us to guarantee our eternal life. God's kindness should motivate us to love and honor him.
Integrity	Ruth showed high moral character by being loyal to Naomi, by her clean break from her former land and customs, and by her hard work in the fields. Boaz showed integrity in his moral standards, his honesty, and by following through on his commitments.	When we have experienced God's faithfulness and kindness, we should respond by showing integrity. Just as the values by which Ruth and Boaz lived were in sharp contrast to those of the culture portrayed in Judges, so our lives should stand out from the world around us.
Protection	We see God's care and protection over the lives of Naomi and Ruth. His supreme control over circumstances brings them safety and security. He guides the minds and activities of people to fulfill his purposes.	No matter how devastating our present situation may be, our hope is in God. His resources are infinite. We must believe that he can work in the life of any person—whether that person is a king or a stranger in a foreign land. Trust his protection.
Prosperity / Blessing	Ruth and Naomi came to Bethlehem as poor widows, but they soon became prosperous through Ruth's marriage to Boaz. Ruth became the great-grandmother of King David. Yet the greatest blessing was not the money, the marriage, or the child; it was the quality of love and respect between Ruth, Boaz, and Naomi.	We tend to think of blessings in terms of prosperity rather than the high-quality relationships God makes possible for us. No matter what our economic situation, we can love and respect the people God has brought into our lives. In so doing, we give and receive blessings. Love is the greatest blessing.

Ruth 4:13-14 “So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son. And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed *be* the LORD, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel.”

