



The Bible Challenge

A daily guide to reading the Bible in a year

Ruth

Ruth 1-4

The Purpose of the Book of Ruth

The events in Ruth take place during the period of the judges. o establish the legitimacy of David's kingship despite his Moabite ancestress.

Structure:²⁷

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| I. Naomi's Bitterness | (1:1-22) |
| II. Ruth Discovers Potential Kinsman Redeemer | (2:1-23) |
| III. Boaz Agrees to be Kinsman Redeemer | (3:1-18) |
| IV. Boaz Acquires Right to be Kinsman Redeemer | (4:1-12) |
| V. Naomi's Blessing | (4:13-17) |
| Genealogical Appendix | (4:18-21) |

God's plan of redemption includes other people besides members of Israel. The messiah is Lord and Savior of all people.

The story illustrates that the Kingly line in Judah was preserved through the faithfulness of women seeking after the Lord. Boaz in becoming a kinsman redeemer for Naomi, redeems his own line as a heir of Judah and a father of the kings of Israel--even the Messiah!

One of the most important lessons for Israel and us from the Book of Ruth is that the outsider can demonstrate more faithfulness to YHWH than the insider. Ruth is a foreigner, but she demonstrates to Israel that covenant keeping is to be a function of character and not pedigree.

The genealogy of Jesus in Matthew contains the names of three faithful foreign wives of the men of Judah: Tamar, Rahab, and Ruth. Their inclusion in the royal lineage of King David hints at a larger plan of salvation for all the peoples of the world who would say with Ruth:

"Your people shall be my people, and your God my God." --Ruth 1:16

²⁷ Outlines & Purpose statements are taken from Richard Pratt, He Gave Us Stories, P&R Pub. 1990.