

RUBIES FROM RUTH

by

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INTRODUCTION

THE BOOK OF RUTH is the eighth book of the Bible. The number “eight” is the number which signifies something new, a new beginning.

- Christ arose from the dead on the first day of the week, which is the eighth day.
- Noah was the eighth person (II Peter 2:5),
- Eight people were saved in the Ark.
- Jewish boys were circumcised on the eighth day.
- Christ revealed eight Beatitudes, which marked a definite new order.

The book of Ruth also reveals something new and something delightfully different.

Had it not been for the so-called “little” book of Jude we never would have known that Enoch was a prophet of the Lord. That Enoch was a prophet and that he prophesied of Christ’s Second Coming and that the Devil and an archangel contended for the body of Moses, is found only in the book of Jude.

Such little books as Obadiah, Philemon, Jude and Ruth become exceedingly important to us. They are full of fine flour, meat and fatness for the faithful followers of the Son of God. What an incalculable loss to the Church and to the cause of Christ had the book of Ruth been omitted from the sacred canon!

The book of Ruth is the book which reveals the calling and consecration of the Gentiles and the marriage of Boaz (the Lord of the harvest) to the redeemed and rejoicing Ruth.

The title of the book, Ruth, is taken from the name of the Moabitess whom Boaz married, and who became one of the ancestors of Christ the Messiah.

The author of the book was probably Samuel. It bears the stamp of genuineness. On its every page the finger of the Holy Spirit may be found.

The date of the book is uncertain. It records events which happened in the time of the Judges. The book is sandwiched between the books of Judges and Samuel. The adoption of Ruth into the assembly of God prefigured the future gathering of the Gentiles into the fold of Christ. The Gentile Ruth became the bride of the Jewish-born Boaz, the lord of the harvest.

The book of Ruth consists of less than one hundred verses, and yet it would be impossible to exhaust it during the lifetime of a minister preaching from it every Sunday.

It is a garden enclosed, a mine filled with the rarest and richest gems and rubies, a treasury of illuminating truths.

The book of Ruth is sandwiched between the books of Judges, which speaks of failure, and Samuel, which foreshadows the kingdom of Christ. The book of Genesis is the book of *beginnings*, setting forth the beginnings of the universe, sin, judgment, man, the Hebrew race from Abraham, the Israelitish race from Jacob and the Jewish race from Judah.

- Genesis is the book of *beginnings*.

- The book of Exodus is the book of *redemption*, setting forth redemption by power (the Plagues), blood (Passover), faith (the Exodus) and discipline (Shur, Marah, Elim, Sinai).

- Exodus is the book of *redemption*.

The book of Leviticus is the book of worship, setting forth the worship of the redeemed through a priest (Aaron), priests (Aaron's Sons), sacrifices (bulls, goats, lambs, etc.) and the Tabernacle.

- Leviticus is the book of *worship*.

- Numbers is the book of *walk and warfare*, setting forth the believer's walk and warfare after he has been redeemed and has become a worshiper of the true and living God. Numbers is the book of walk and warfare.

- Deuteronomy is the book of *obedience*, setting forth the necessity of obedience for all who have been redeemed. It is the spiritual book of the Pentateuch, insisting upon implicit obedience to the Lord, His Word and His laws. Deuteronomy is the book of obedience.

- Joshua is the book of *possession*, setting forth the exalted privilege of the obedient believer, of entrance into and possession of his inheritance in the land of Canaan. Across the Jordan of death to sin and self the happy and holy, redeemed, worshipful and obedient believer enters the Promised Land and then slowly but surely possesses his possessions. Joshua is the book of possession.

- The book of Judges is the book of *failure*, setting forth the miserable failure of God's people because of sin. Disobedience always brings distress, doubt and death. God raised up deliverers who were each a type of Christ. The book of fudges is a prophetic history of Christendom. Judges is the book of failure.

- The book of Samuel is the book of the *kingdom*, setting forth (1) the United Kingdom under Saul, David and Solomon and (2) the beginning of division which ended in the disruption and doom of Israel as a nation.

Between the book of failure (Christendom) and the books of the kingdom (Millennium) is the book of Ruth, which sets forth the marriage of Boaz (Christ) and Ruth (the bride).

- The message of Genesis is, "Begin with God";

- The message of Exodus is, "Be redeemed by the blood of the Lamb";

- The message of Leviticus is, "Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness";

- The message of Numbers is, "Walk by faith and not by sight, and fight the good fight of faith";

- The message of Deuteronomy is, "Keep spiritual and be obedient";

- The message of Joshua is, “Enter and possess your inheritance in the Promised Land of full salvation”;
- The message of Judges is, “When you fail, look to your Deliverer”;
- The message of Ruth is, “Abandon yourself to your Boaz”;
- The message of Samuel is, “Inherit the kingdom prepared for you.”

If we begin with God (Genesis), be redeemed by the blood of the Lamb (Exodus) and worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness (Leviticus), and fight the good fight of faith (Numbers), keep spiritual and obedient (Deuteronomy), get sanctified wholly (Joshua), in times of testing, trial and failure look to Christ the Deliverer (Judges), abandon ourselves to our Boaz and His will, Word and work, we shall become His happy bride (Ruth) and at last enter the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (Samuel).

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