

Key to RUTH

1. STATISTICS:

Ruth, a pastoral idyl taking place in the time of the judges (approx. 1325 B.C.); time covered, about ten years; writer, Samuel, the prophet; key thought, "Redemption;" key verse 4:14.

2. THEME:

While the nation disobeyed GOD and was punished, still GOD was wonderfully faithful to individuals who called upon Him in their need. An "outsider" Ruth, who sought the LORD with her whole heart, illustrates the grace of GOD which not only made up the deficit caused by sin, but exalted her to an unbelievably high place of privilege and honor.

3. OUTLINE:

Ruth deciding (1) Ruth resting (3)
Ruth serving (2) Ruth rewarded (4)

4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Highly typical: Boaz typifies Christ, Ruth the Church, Moab the world, Bethlehem the fellowship of GOD, etc.

Moab, an idolatrous nation, worshiped Chemosh, sacrificing children.

Moab and Israel had slight physical relationship. Moabites were descendants of the incestuous union of Lot (Abraham's nephew) and his own daughter (Genesis 19:33-37).

The fields of Boaz were immediately adjacent to the shepherds' fields (Luke 2:8) of Bethlehem.

This little book was oftentimes read at the Feast of Pentecost as a picture of domestic life and love in a time of anarchy and trouble.

5. OUTSTANDING TEACHINGS:

The central lesson is that only trouble results from leaving the LORD's land (Bethlehem) and that blessing will not come again until there is repentance and return.

The Law completely shut out the Moabite from a participation in the blessing of Israel (Deuteronomy 23:3). Here, however, is the operation of the grace of GOD which transcends the curse, and lifts Ruth to immeasurable heights of privilege, placing her in the Messianic line (Matthew 1:5).

Boaz was the son of Rahab, the Jericho harlot (Joshua 2:1; Matthew 1:5). Thus David, the great-grandson of a Moabite and great great-grandson of a Canaanite, further demonstrated the grace

of GOD.

Ruth's lovely confession to Naomi (1:16, 17) is one of the grandest examples of literary jewels the world possesses. This fell from the lips of a heathen maiden who evidently saw in the family of her deceased husband the real goal of living.

The Levitical law known as the Kinsman-Redeemer, finds its most outstanding example here. The law had provided that when a man died, and there were no children, the brother should take the wife and raise up children for his deceased brother (Deuteronomy 25:5-10).

Also, if the property of the dead brother must be sold for any reason, it was to be redeemed by a near kinsman so as to preserve the inheritance. The redeemer must, of course, be a kinsman, and must be able to redeem, which meant paying the just demands in full. Boaz fulfilled this perfectly and became a type of Christ, our Kinsman-Redeemer, who rescued us from our lost condition by fully paying the price of our sin (I Peter 1:18, 19; Galatians 3:13).

6. INTERESTING FEATURES:

Note excellent labor relations between Boaz and his workmen (2:4). The incident (3:1-11) is not indelicate, but merely a custom of presenting the claims inherent in the kinsman problem.

7. KEY TO UNDERSTANDING:

You will understand this book more perfectly as you put yourself in the place of Ruth; see Boaz as CHRIST your Redeemer, and the marriage as your salvation.

~ end of Ruth ~

<http://www.baptistbiblebelievers.com/>
