

RUTH

Page 1

INTRODUCTION

A. CHARACTERS:

1. Ruth, the outstanding character, as the name of book indicates.
 - a. She was a Moabitess, not Jewish.
 - b. She married Mahlon, son of Elimeleck and Naomi, and was thereby introduced into the nation of Israel and the worship of Jehovah.
2. Naomi, the mother-in-law of Ruth.
3. Boaz, an outstanding man in Israel, and the man who became the husband of Ruth.

B. SETTING:

1. Some time during the rule of Judges.
2. There was a famine in the land.
3. Elimelech and family left Bethlehem journeyed to land of Moab.

C. IN LAND OF MOAB.

1. Elimelech's two sons married heathen wives.
 2. This could have been disastrous.
 3. But in this case the opposite happened.
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Ancient Customs in Ruth

- A. Ruth is better understood if one is acquainted with ancient customs in book.
 - B. **GLEANNING**: The poor were supported by the law of gleaning. Harvesters were told to leave some of the crop in the field for the poor. This accounts for Ruth going to the fields of Boaz.
 - C. **LEVIRATE LAW**; Deut. 25:5-10, teaches that if a man dies leaving no son, it is the duty of his brother to go in to the widow and have a son by her. This son would legally be the son of the deceased. He would carry on the name of the deceased and also inherit the property of the deceased. The name LEVIRATE LAW has nothing to do with the tribe of Levi; it is derived from levir, the Latin word for brother-in-law.
 - D. **THE COURT ACTION**: Business was transacted at the gate of the city. Selection of ten men made transaction official. Exchanging a shoe to close the deal 4:7 is a custom not mentioned elsewhere in O.T.
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RUTH

Page 2

CHARACTERS:

A. NAOMI - MARA:

1. Naomi =The word means “Pleasant.
2. Mara = The word means “bitter”.
 - a. “I went out full, and Jehovah hath brought me home again empty.
 - b. This was as she could see it.
 - c. Had Naomi, and her husband found riches and prosperity in the land of Moab, and had Elimelech lived, probably neither she nor Ruth would have been blessed with the distinction which they now enjoy.
 - d. Truly, Naomi returned home empty in order that she might be made full of the Lord.

B. RUTH - BLESSED OF THE LORD.

1. Ruth became a widow in order that she might become a mother in Israel
And in the lineage of Jesus, the Son of God.

C. BOAZ: A man of Stature:

1. We find another suitable to the use of the Lord and again see God’s providence at work.
 2. He was a near kinsman of Ruth’s deceased husband, but one was nearer.
 3. He very carefully went through all of the right ways to make sure that the law was observed, the nearer kinsman had first opportunity to fulfill part.
 4. Boaz yielded in order that he might triumph lawfully.
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God Rules In The Affairs of Man

A. All of this gives us an insight into the working of our Heavenly Father.
God’s providence.

1. He is not an unconcerned bystander.
2. It is unreasonable to suppose that Jehovah should be powerful enough to create yet not concerned enough to regulate the affairs of His Creation.

B. Another lesson of God is that God is **No Respector of Persons.**

1. By the acceptance of Ruth into the lineage of the Christ.
2. To the Jews just a few generations removed from the time of Ruth she would have been reckoned as just another Gentile and on the level with the beast of the field.
3. The tragedy is that man today is not much improved.

RUTH

Page 3

- C. GOD'S STANDARD OF JUDGMENT COMPARED TO MAN'S:
- A. Man is prone to judge by what he thinks he sees. Man looks on the outward appearance.
 - B. God however looks upon the heart of man (I Sam. 16:7). He considers "the hidden man of the heart".
- D. BUT IN EVERY NATION.....Not our wealth, nationality, color, etc....
- E. **BUT:**
- 1. He that feareth Him....
 - B. Worketh Righteousness....
 - C. Is acceptable to Him"
 - D. Acts 10:35..
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Book Preserved Because

- A. Gives us an insight into the life and customs of the Jews.
- 1. How they lived, worked and cared for one another.
 - 2. God's interest and care in their life.
- B. **The lineage of David and of Jesus.**
- 1. "And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it. And the women her neighbors gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David."
 - 2. Ruth is listed in the genealogy of Jesus found in Matthew chapter one.
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