

# INTRODUCTION TO Ruth

## READ ALONG

05/25-28 Ruth 1-4

## WHERE IS IT IN THE BIBLE?

- 6. JOSHUA
- 7. JUDGES
- 8. **RUTH**
- 9. 1 SAMUEL
- 10. 2 SAMUEL

## KEY THEMES

- **God’s providence on display.** In the Bible, God works in both miraculous and providential ways. While the miraculous is often the most noticeable, God’s providential work is more common. Books like Ruth remind us that God is at work even when it is in subtle and unnoticeable ways.
- **The value of kindness.** Kindness is mentioned over and over in this story. Kindness reflects the character of God, and the book of Ruth reminds us that God uses acts of kindness to bless others.
- **God’s compassion toward the poor.** Ruth is able to glean from Boaz’ field. Gleaning was commanded by God in the law. It allowed the poor to provide for their needs and experience the dignity of work.
- **God’s heart for the nations.** Ruth was not part of the people of Israel. She was a Moabitess. In the Old Testament Moabites were generally considered to be the enemies of Israel. And yet, in this story a Moabite shows compassion to Naomi, and is described as a virtuous woman (Prov. 31). God allowed Ruth to know Him, and allows her to be a part of his redemptive plan.
- **The need for redemption.** Boaz redeemed Ruth, which means he committed to protect her, and provide for her at great cost to himself. The actions of Boaz changed Ruth’s status: she went from poor to rich, a widow to a wife, an outcast to being accepted, and childless to being a mother. Ruth’s redemption reminds us of our own need for redemption. A need that can only be met through Jesus.

## BOOK BASICS



### DATE

Circa 1010 B.C.



### TYPE

Narrative



### AUTHOR

Unknown

The book of Ruth is set “during the time of the judges” (1:1). The book of Judges details a dark time in Israel’s history, in which “everyone did whatever seemed right in to him” (Judges 17:6). The book of Ruth stands as a contrast to the darkness of Judges. It is a beautifully simple love story, that demonstrates God’s faithfulness to keep His promises even in the midst of uncertain times. The book of Ruth serves as a bridge between the chaos of the time of the Judges, and the beginning of Israel’s monarchy.

In the time of the Judges, God providentially works through seemingly unimportant events to continue His plan of redemption and prepare the way for the coming Messiah.

## BASIC STRUCTURE

4 CHAPTERS

