

Ruth

Introduction:

1. The context of the book of Ruth is the book of Judges.
2. Approximately 1282 – 1271 BC – during the reigns of Ehud and Deborah as judges.
3. In the midst of the wickedness of the period of the judges, the story of Ruth shines as a light in the darkness.

I. Ruth in Love (Ruth 3:1-18)

A. The Context

1. Knowledge of the Law of Moses (Deuteronomy 25:5-10).
2. Knowledge of the character of Boaz.
3. Knowledge of the character of Ruth.

B. The Care (3:1)

1. Naomi wanted Ruth to be happy and, therefore, married.
2. What Naomi could not provide, God could (cf. 1:11-12; Rom. 8:28).

C. The Customs (3:2-9)

1. Winnowing at evening took advantage of the evening breeze to separate the grain from the chaff.
2. Because it was night, someone would stay to guard the grain.
3. This would provide an opportunity for Ruth to inform Boaz of her wish to marry him.
 - a. She did not interfere with his work or dining.
 - b. She prepared herself for the occasion.
4. Thus, Ruth lay at the feet of Boaz.
 - a. The word “merry” in verse 7 does not mean drunken.
 - b. Ruth uncovered his feet so when he awoke she could ask him to “spread his skirt” over her.
 - i. Literally, this is to “spread thy wing” over.
 - ii. It is symbolic of protection (cf. Matt. 23:37).
 - iii. It is also symbolic of entering into a covenant, usually marriage (Eze. 16:8).

5. There was no immodesty or illicitness in these events.

D. The Concern (3:10-18)

1. Boaz’s kindness to Ruth had been indicative of his care for her (v 10).
2. He cared about and for her character (vs. 11, 14).
3. He cared about faithfulness to the Law of God (vs. 12).
4. He cared about prompt obedience (vs. 13).
5. He cared about family (vs. 14-18).

II. Ruth in Marriage (Ruth 4:1-22)

A. The Deal (4:1-10)

1. Boaz was faithful to the Law of Moses (Lev. 25:25) in spite of the risk of loss.

2. This was done before many witnesses.
- B. The Desire (4:11-12)
 1. The wish of the neighbors of Boaz is that his marriage may prosper and many children be born to this noble couple.
 2. Little did they know the importance of the descendants of Boaz...
- C. The Descendants (4:13-22)
 1. Notice that God's hand was involved (vs. 13).
 2. The name Obed means "serving, servant or worshipper."
 3. The grandson of Obed was David – Israel's greatest king.
 4. The descendant of Boaz, Ruth, Obed and David was Jesus!

Conclusion: Faithfulness to God and His Word brings about blessings in our lives.

The Story of Ruth & The Story of Christ

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ruth was a Gentile. 2. Ruth came to Bethlehem. 3. Ruth sought redemption. 4. Ruth could only be redeemed by a blood relative. 5. Ruth was submissive to Boaz. 6. Boaz had the opportunity to redeem Ruth. 7. Boaz had the desire (love) to redeem Ruth. 8. Boaz had the means to redeem Ruth. 9. Boaz obeyed God to redeem Ruth. 10. Boaz made Ruth to be his bride. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We are separated from God by sin (Rom. 1:16; 3:23). 2. We must come to Bethlehem and Calvary to meet our Redeemer (Matt. 2:1; Luke 23:33). 3. We must seek redemption (1 Cor. 6:20; 1 Pet. 1:18-19). 4. Jesus is our blood relative (Rom. 8:3; Phil. 2:7-8; Heb. 2:11, 14-18). 5. We must submit to Christ (Matt. 5:3; Jam. 4:10). 6. Christ had the opportunity to redeem man (Gal. 4:4). 7. Christ had the desire (love) to redeem man (John 10:17-18; 15:13). 8. Christ had the means (power) to redeem man (Heb. 9:22; 10:12). 9. Christ obeyed God to redeem man (Matt. 26:36-44). 10. Christ makes us His bride (Eph. 5:25; Rev. 19:7-9). |
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