

# RUTH

Ruth – The name of the book of Ruth is obviously derived from the Moabitess woman mentioned by name 12 times in the book. Only 2 Old Testament Books receive their name from Women (Ruth and ). The Old Testament does not refer to Ruth again, but she is mentioned once in the New Testament, in the context of the genealogy of  (Matthew 1:5) The story of Ruth is a love story of grace in the mist of wickedness and judgement.

Authorship – The Author of the Book of Ruth is believed by the Jews to be , the last of the Judges, and the first Prophet. The book was written before King David ruled in Israel, and Samuel did not die until after he had anointed David king. Samuel is not named in the book, but the dates of the book would indicate the possibility of his authorship.

Date - Ruth was written "**in the days when the judges ruled**" (Ruth 1:1), so we see that its history spans the gap in history from the Judges to Israel's Monarchy.

Ruth covers a period of 11 to 12 years according its contents:

- Ruth 1:1-18: Ten years in Moab
- Ruth 1:19-2:23 Several Months in Boaz Field (Believed to be mid-April to mid-June)
- Ruth 3:1-18 One day in Bethlehem and one night on the Threshing Floor of Boaz
- Ruth 4:1-22: About one year in Bethlehem

The story begins with a \_\_\_\_\_, which pushes Elimelech and his family into \_\_\_\_\_.

### **The history of Moab:**

- Country was born from incestuous encounter between \_\_\_\_\_ and one of his daughters

**Gen 19:37** And the firstborn bare a son, and called his name Moab: the same *is* the father of the Moabites unto this day.

- Later, they would \_\_\_\_\_ the Jews under Balak their king

Num 22-25

- For \_\_\_\_\_ they oppressed Israel during the days of the judges.

Judges 3:12-30

King Saul would later \_\_\_\_\_ them & David would make \_\_\_\_\_ with them. Because of Moabs worship of Chemosh and it's opposition to Israel, God eventually \_\_\_\_\_ them.

The sons of Elimelech married \_\_\_\_\_ women, after the death of their father. Then they both also died!

The \_\_\_\_\_ in her homeland had ended and she decided to go home. Her daughter in laws were going to accompany her, but she advised them not to.

### **Ruth 1:7-14**

Orpah was eventually convinced to follow her mother in laws advise and move on in her life. Ruth on the other hand, did not want to leave her mother in laws side, so she followed her back to her \_\_\_\_\_.

## Ruth 1:15-18

Ruth's pledge to Naomi was to stay by her side until death. Which included embracing the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Jews.

## Ruth 1:19-22

Naomi left with her family during a famine, under hardship. Yet she returned in worse shape than when she left. She was broken, the name she requested to be called; Mara means \_\_\_\_\_. It represented the current state of her life.

## Ruth 2:1

Here we are introduced to another key figure in the book, Boaz. It's clear that he's from the family of Naomi's husband, he was called her kinsman. This would be a major factor in how the book plays out because of the cultural implications. In their culture, a near kinsman had the following \_\_\_\_\_ in the event of the death of a male family member.

- He could buy back property that the family had \_\_\_\_\_
- He was to provide an heir for the deceased by marrying the \_\_\_\_\_ and having a child
- He was to buy back family members who were \_\_\_\_\_ into slavery because of poverty
- He was to \_\_\_\_\_ a relative who had been murdered, by killing the murderer.

This kinsman was often referred to as a kinsman redeemer for these reasons, his actions would bring \_\_\_\_\_ in many ways to the deceased man's family.

This came about as law established under Moses:

Deut 25:5-10

## Ruth 2:2-3

Now, back in Bethlehem during the time of the barley harvest, we find Ruth taking advantage of \_\_\_\_\_ law. God had devised a system to care for the needy, for strangers, for the fatherless and for the widows.

## Lev 19:9

## Lev 23:22

## Deut 24:19

The gleanings or corners of the fields were left for the poor and needy. It was their form of \_\_\_\_\_.

## Ruth 2:4-12

Here you find a Jew (Boaz) showing what seemed like unmerited favor to a gentile (Ruth). However Boaz did have a reason for this act of kindness. He had heard of how Ruth, stood with her mother in law Naomi after her husband had died. It almost seems like this act could have been a fulfillment of the \_\_\_\_\_ covenant.

Gen 12:3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

## Ruth 2:13-18

Boaz made sure that Ruth walked away with a very handsome bounty from her gleanings. So much so, that her mother-in-law wanted the details because a bounty like this was not \_\_\_\_\_.

## Ruth 2:19-23

Naomi \_\_\_\_\_ Ruth to let this play out, don't go elsewhere. Boaz had extended his hospitality to Ruth and she should see where it goes.

## Ruth 3:1-5

Since Ruth was a gentile, she did not understand how to carry out the custom of the Jews, so Naomi instructed her. The custom was this: presenting herself to Boaz in this manner would be to \_\_\_\_\_ him to serve as her redeemer. To play the role that the law required him to play. Ruth's husband had died, leaving her childless and a next of kin was required to marry her and raise up children in the name of her late husband.

## Ruth 3:6-11

The verdict was in, Boaz was \_\_\_\_\_ to do his part to fulfill the custom. But wait a minute, there's a twist to the story.

## Ruth 3:12-18

## Ruth 4:1-6

Here Boaz approaches the kinsman who is in line to have the first opportunity to play the role of redeemer to Naomi. Boaz informs him that the first order of business is to buy a parcel of land that Naomi wanted to sell. The second order of business would be to \_\_\_\_\_ Naomi's daughter in law Ruth and raise up seed to her dead husband.

The kinsman redeemer who was first in line \_\_\_\_\_ his opportunity, so now it legally fell to Boaz. There was an official ceremony for this to take place as we see next:

## Ruth 4:7-17

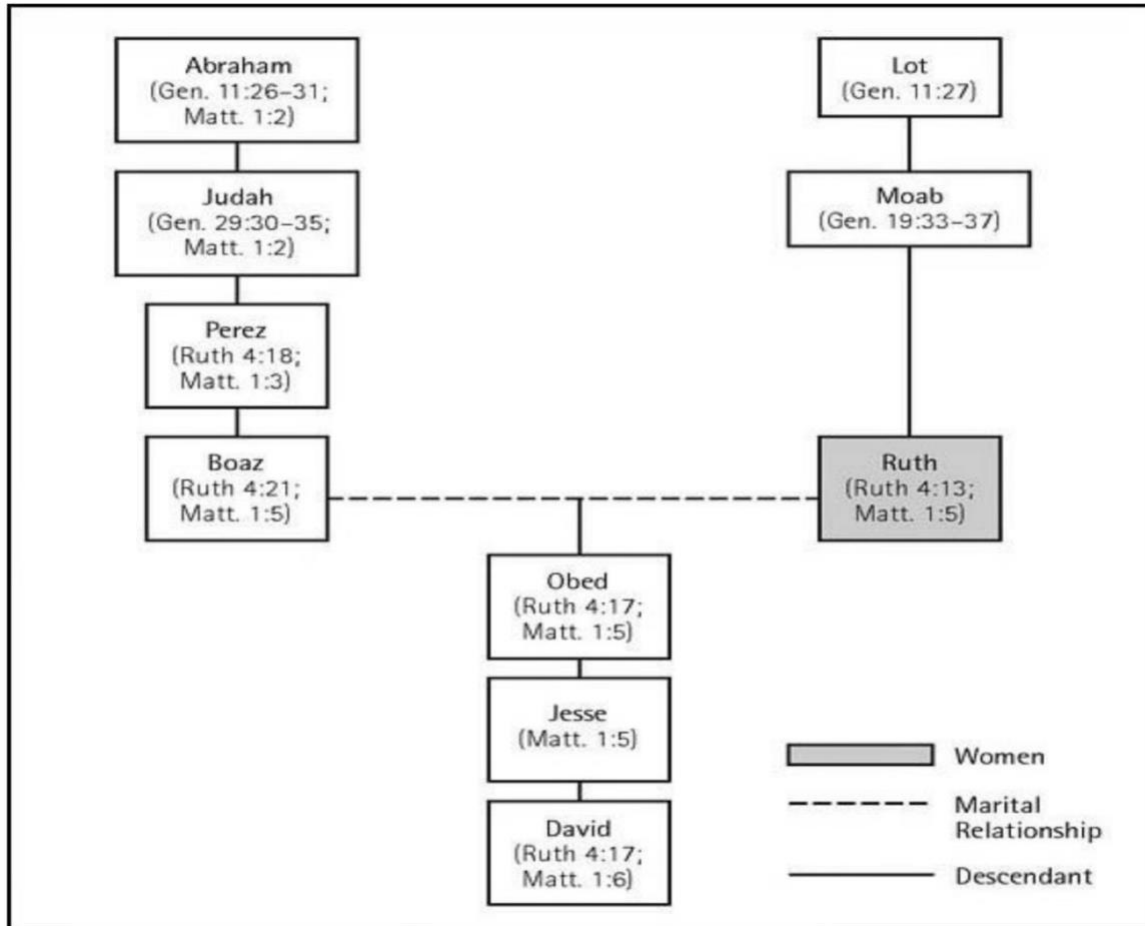
Here's a cool nugget of truth. Because of the tumultuous history between Israel & the Moabites, there was a \_\_\_\_\_ leveled against them.

Deu 23:3 An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to their tenth generation shall they not enter into the congregation of the LORD for ever:

## Ruth 4:18-22

David marked the 10<sup>th</sup> generation. This would have really mattered to the Jews!

***The Family Tree of Ruth***



Interestingly enough, we find out later in the genealogy of \_\_\_\_\_ that Boaz was the son of Rahab the harlot.

**Mat 1:1** The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

**Mat 1:2** Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren;

**Mat 1:3** And Judas begat Phares and Zara of Thamar; and Phares begat Esrom; and Esrom begat Aram;

**Mat 1:4** And Aram begat Aminadab; and Aminadab begat Naasson; and Naasson begat Salmon;

**Mat 1:5** And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;

