

THE BOOK OF RUTH

"Retrospect of Boaz"

Ruth

Introduction

1. This book takes less than 1/2 of 1% of the entire Old Testament. It has only 85 verses.
2. But this short book gives the story of redemption (Boaz as kinsman-redeemer for Ruth the Moabites). Here also is the explanation of our Lord's geneology.
3. The indescribable wonder of God's working is evident throughout the book. A true believer cannot read it without finding himself in abject shame for his own dreadful sinfulness. Glory to God.
4. Boaz, one of the key figures in the book, is an excellent example of Christian conduct. Consider:

1. HIS CHARACTER

- a. He was upright 2:1.

The phrase "man of wealth" is also used of a "man of war" (Judges 6:12; 11:1). It is obviously a statement of virtue.

- b. He was kind 2:8, 9.

This thought is gained from the three verbs: go not, abide fast, reap. They express Boaz' kindness to Ruth (cf. Eph. 5:32).

- c. He was appreciative 2:11, 12

The heart of Boaz sought out good reports. Having received them about Ruth, he blessed her (cf. Phil. 4:8).

- d. He was generous 2:14.

"Come, eat, dip" are three verbs showing Boaz' great generosity. Further, he personally gave to Ruth. He was tremendous.

- e. He was faithful 3:13.

What Boaz said, he did. He was a man of his word.

- f. He was considerate 3:17.

Naomi and Ruth were poor. Boaz' wealth did not hide from his vision those less fortunate than himself.

2. HIS FAITH

- a. He was God-fearing 2:4.

Coming from Bethlehem, Boaz expressed God's name. He also adhered strictly to Mosaic legislation (3:13; 4:7). He was prepared to obey God.

- b. He was a witness 2:4.

Boaz' employees knew he was spiritually alert. His words to them and their response supports this. Every mention of his management/employee situation appears favorable.

3. HIS BUSINESS

- a. He delegated authority 2:5, 6.

While Boaz was in control, he acknowledged that he could not perform the total work, hence he assigned others responsibility (cf. Ex. 18:13-27).

- b. He valued labor 2:16.

Boaz was not content with laziness. He expected all to work for themselves (cf. 1 Thess. 4:11, 12).

- c. He guarded his possessions 3:7.

Those committed to the care of their business safeguard it. Boaz did.

NOTE: Further to his business propriety, it is indicated that (chap. 4):

1. He was immediate in action vv. 1, 9, 10.
2. He was organized in action vv. 2-5.
3. He was proper in action vv. 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11.

Conclusion This book probably comes from the pen of Samuel. That's about 1100 B.C. Nevertheless, it serves as a good yardstick for 20th century believers, particularly businessmen. God help us to heed the message.