

Conclusion So here is the link between Perez and David, a record which was later included in 1 Chronicles 2, Matthew 1, and Luke 3. Here is also the demonstration that faith is the entryway for both Jew and Gentile into the favor of God. This comes in the great illustration of the kinsman redeemer. Ruth stands as a great contrast to the other women mentioned in the geneology of Christ (Matt. 1). Tamar and Rahab were harlots. Bathsheba an adulteress, but Ruth was a chaste virgin. Here is a book which belongs in the Old Testament and belongs in our hearts, too.

THE BOOK OF RUTH

"Fitting Ruth Into The Old Testament"

Introduction

1. Here is a book of 85 verses. It encompasses less than 1/2 of 1% of the entire Old Testament. Yet, how significant it is!
2. The book is largely remembered in literature as a love story. Incredibly, the word "love" is not found anywhere in the book.
3. But there is plenty of doctrine in the book. Nowhere is the doctrine of the kinsman redeemer more clearly indicated than here. This is the key doctrine relating to the substitutionary death of our Lord. Nothing in the doctrine of soteriology is more important.
4. To get a handle on the book, it is necessary to see its place in the entire revelation of God, particularly the Old Testament. To do this, check out these points of study:

1. The TIME of the book

- a. Authorship

Nowhere in the book is there evidence as to who is the author. Jewish tradition has it that Samuel wrote the book. He also is said to have written Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel. If this is true, then here is a book in which Samuel's faith is demonstrated in naming David as Saul's successor. It probably was written shortly after David's anointing (1 Sam. 16:12, 13).

- b. Date

David reigned about 1010-970 B.C. (2 Sam. 5:5). Since Solomon is not named at the end of Ruth, it is probable that Ruth was written between 1025 and 960 B.C.

- c. Setting

The Book of Judges ends in turmoil (21:25). Against this backdrop is the peaceful pastoral activity of common everyday proceedings in Ruth. Dating from 3000 years ago, it is a testimony to the fact that whatever the circum-

stances, there is always room for the life of solace and quiet in the Lord.

2. The PURPOSE of the book

1. To provide information

Particularly this applies to the forbearers of David the king. Without this book, the full truth would not be known. It also shows how Gentiles are included in the story of redemption.

2. To provide instruction

The moral ethic which the Bible holds is clearly upheld in this book. Moderns would do well to look hard here. Further, God does control the daily round of events for all of us. Romans 8:28 is written large on every page of this book. This brings the blessing of peace and quiet in the face of turmoil.

3. The SIGNIFICANCE of the book

1. With Bible history

In the English Bible, this is a natural transition between Judges and Samuel. In the Hebrew Bible, however, it appears with the Megilloth (scrolls). There were five of them (Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Songs, Esther). All were read at successive Jewish feasts, this one at Pentecost. As a harvest festival, this fits prominently in the book and also as the commemoration of the beginning of the church (Acts 2). Boaz and Ruth mirror the Lord and the church.

2. With moral history

The Bible is not a "man's" book as the lib people would make out. Although largely so, it has not neglected the "woman's" role. The main character here and in Esther is unarguably a woman. Along with this comes the sanctity of marriage and the hallowing of the family and home.

The PLAN of the book

CHAPTER	MOOD	LOT	LITERARY HARMONY	DEVELOPMENT	VERSES	ASPECTS OF RUTH'S FAITH	TOPIC
1	Gloom in Moab	How God moved Ruth to Israel	Contrast	Similarity	1-5 6-18 19-22	The Decision of Faith	Faith
2	Hope dawns in Bethlehem	How God introduced Ruth to Boaz			1-7 8-13 14-23	The Work of Faith	Grace
3	Hope grows in Bethlehem	How God arranged Ruth's proposal to Boaz	Contrast	Similarity	1-5 6-12 13-18	The Appeal of Faith	Blessing
4	Joy in Bethlehem	How and why God ordered Ruth and Boaz to marry			1-6 7-12 13-22	The Reward of Faith	Redemption