

Outline of Ruth

The book of Ruth recounts the story of Elimelech, Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz. It is important in Biblical history because it establishes the family history of David.

- I. Naomi Widowed and Ruth Comes into Israel..... 1:1-1:22
 - A. Deaths of Elimelech, Mahlon, Chilion in Moab 1:1-5
 - B. Orpah Returns; Ruth Stays with Naomi..... 1:6-18
 - C. Naomi and Ruth Return to Bethlehem 1:19-22

- II. Boaz Shows Kindness to Ruth and Naomi.....2:1-23
 - A. Ruth Happens Upon the Field of Boaz.....2:1-7
 - B. Kindness of Boaz to Ruth.....2:8-16
 - C. Naomi Advises Ruth2:17-23

- III. The Marriage Proposal3:1-18
 - A. Naomi Advises Ruth Again.....3:1-5
 - B. Ruth Discreetly Proposes Levirate Responsibility to Boaz3:6-9
 - C. Boaz Takes Responsibility, If Nearer Relative Will Not.....3:10-18

- IV. The Redemption of Ruth4:1-21
 - A. Boaz Makes Arrangements Before the City Elders4:1-12
 - B. Boaz Marries Ruth and They Have a Son, Obed 4:13
 - C. Blessedness of Naomi4:14-17
 - D. The Lineage of David the King.....4:18-22

Important Concepts

Gleaning from the Field. Lev 19:9-10 teaches that the farmers were not to harvest every last bit of grain from their fields. This was to provide some for the poor and strangers to harvest for themselves. Note that the Barley harvest starts in April and can run until July in some areas of Israel.

Kinsman redeemer. Close relative responsible for avenging the blood of a killed family member, one who would buy property or take care of other legal matters for his relative. Lev 25:25.

Levirate marriage. If a man died with no children, his brother was to take the widow and have a child with her, in the brother's name, in order to continue the family line. Deut 25:5-10.

Was There a tie between the office of redeemer and levirate marriage? Possibly. Ruth 4:4 speaks of purchasing land; 4:5 ties that specifically with carrying out the levirate responsibility, and in 3:13 Boaz says he will "redeem" Ruth and this clearly implies marriage.

Notes

Character of Boaz. Wealthy (2:1), godly (2:4), kind (2:8-9, 14-16; cf. Isa 58:6-7, Ps. 41:1)

Character of Ruth. Good reputation (2:11, 3:11), faith in the true God (2:11)