

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: *Ruth* – verse by verse

Scripture(s) for Today: Ruth 1:1-5 – a family in Bethlehem during the days when judges ruled

Today's Message:

"Tragic Decisions"



INTRODUCTION

Today, as we introduce our new book, God will show us the record and true story of a family in Israel. When a famine comes in the land, the husband will make a **TRAGIC** decision not to trust God and lead his wife and two sons to the cursed country of Moab where tragedy will strike. The book of Ruth will begin with a **FUNERAL** and end with a wedding; it will begin with a **FAMINE** and close with fulness. The marriage of Boaz and Ruth is one of the many marriages in the Bible that demonstrate our relationship and marriage to Jesus Christ! Our redemption by the Lord Jesus Christ is so gloriously **ROMANTIC!**

LEARNING TOGETHER

A. Overview of Ruth * FUNDAMENTAL INFORMATION *

Title Means: *Friend, Friendship, Companion; the word Ruth is HEBREW in origin.*

The Numbers: Chapters: 4 | Verses: 85 | Words: 2,578 Ps 12:6-7; Prov 30:5

Author: SAMUEL (*Jews have always ascribed authorship to him; Rom 3:2*)

Historical Time: 1322 BC to 1312 BC (*Ruth 4:18-22 could have been written at a later date*)

Theme: **The Romance of Redemption** (*Redemption without LOVE is RELIGION!*)

Keynote: Ruth is the 8th book in the Bible. Ruth is the only woman directly called (**Ruth 3:11**) a **VIRTUOUS** woman. The word "virtuous" appears 3 X in the KJV – **Prov 12:4; 31:10**

THREE BASIC APPLICATIONS

- 1. Historical** Ruth, a **CURSED** Moabitess and enemy of Israel, is brought into the blessing of marriage though a near kinsman redeemer name Boaz.
- 2. Doctrinal** The book of Ruth pictures the work of God through Israel (**NAOMI**) and New Testament church-age saints (**RUTH**) during the time of apostasy just prior to the Tribulation Period. This prophetically speak of our time in history!
- 3. Devotional** The book of Ruth teaches us about the **LOVE** of Christ during a time of apostasy, chaos, and famine (*the book of Judges*). He is our Redeemer!

2022 VISION: *This is our time!*
Making disciples and caring for souls!

OUTLINE STRUCTURE – Basic Outline

- CH 1 **Before Boaz** A life of grief, misery, and death – my life before, without Christ
- CH 2 **Boaz looks on a field** Christ sees our lost condition – He looks upon us with compassion
- CH 3 **Boaz loves** Christ loves us before we “knew” Him – before we are redeemed
- CH 4 **Boaz rejoices** Christ rejoices because we are His; we can now bear fruit for Him

RUTH: GOD PROVIDES A KINSMAN-REDEEMER			
Ruth 1	Ruth 2	Ruth 3	Ruth 4
Ruth's Choice	Ruth's Service	Ruth's Claim	Ruth's Marriage
Naomi and Ruth Mutual Grief	Ruth and Naomi and Boaz Mutual Pursuit		Boaz and Ruth Mutual Love
Ruth's Decision: Return with Naomi	Ruth's Devotion: Provide for Naomi	Ruth's Request: Redemption by Boaz	Ruth's Reward: Relative of Messiah
Ruth and Naomi		Ruth and Boaz	
Death of Naomi's Family	Ruth Cares for Naomi	Boaz Cares for Ruth	God Blesses with New Birth
Grief	Loneliness	Companionship	Rejoicing
Location: Plains of Moab	Location: Fields of Bethlehem	Location: Threshing floor of Bethlehem	Location: Little town of Bethlehem

B. The Lesson

➤ **The Introduction – a certain man led his family into a CURSED place. (1-5)**

1. The man Elimelech was living with his family in Bethlehem – the place of **BLESSING**.
2. The famine was an opportunity for him to trust God and **PROTECT** his family.
3. The decision to sojourn in cursed Moab left them **OUTSIDE** the place of blessing.
4. The man **DIED** leaving Naomi a widow alone with her two sons.
5. The sons took wives of the women of Moab and dwelled there **TEN** years.
6. The sons both died also leaving Naomi alone with her two daughters-in-law.

- ✓ ***This great love story begins with grief, misery, and DEATH – life without Christ!***
- ✓ ***This great love story begins with a cursed Gentile with no HOPE – life without Christ!***
- ✓ ***This cursed, hopeless Gentile is about to experience the ROMANCE of redemption!***

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