

# Intro to RUTH

## רוּת [Ruwth /rooth/] Ruth = “friendship”

**Author:** No one knows for sure who wrote the Book of Ruth. Jewish tradition has attributed the book to Samuel. If he was the author, the book would have been written near the time when David was anointed king of Israel.<sup>1</sup>

**Historical Setting:** The period of the Judges was one of turbulence and unrest. Tribal jealousies and foreign oppressions weakened the Israelites politically, and idolatry sapped the moral strength of the people who had experienced the power of God at the time of the Exodus. The story of Ruth, however, presents a different side of life during the period of the Judges. Here we read of the joys and sorrows of a godly family from Bethlehem. Ruth, the Moabitess, who became a worshiper of Israel’s God, exhibited a faith and loyalty at that time rare in Israel. After the sorrow of losing her first husband, Ruth returned to Bethlehem with her mother-in-law and was happily married to Boaz. In this way she became an ancestress of King David.<sup>2</sup>

**Theme:** Devotion Yields redemption and restoration

### Outline:

- I. The family of Elimelech migrates to Moab. (1:1-5)
- II. Elimelech’s widow and daughter-in-law return from Moab. (1:6-18)
- III. Naomi and Ruth arrive at Bethlehem. (1:19-22)
- IV. Ruth gleanes in the fields of Boaz. (2:1-23)
- V. Ruth finds a redeemer. (3:1-18)
- VI. Boaz marries Ruth. (4:1-17)
- VII. Ruth becomes an ancestress of David. (4:18-22).<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Walvoord, John F. ; Zuck, Roy B. ; Dallas Theological Seminary: *The Bible Knowledge Commentary : An Exposition of the Scriptures*. Wheaton, IL : Victor Books, 1983-c1985, S. 1:415

<sup>2</sup>Pfeiffer, Charles F.: *The Wycliffe Bible Commentary : Old Testament*. Chicago : Moody Press, 1962, S. Ru 1:1

<sup>3</sup>Pfeiffer, Charles F.: *The Wycliffe Bible Commentary : Old Testament*. Chicago : Moody Press, 1962, S. Ru 1:1

“Kinsman-redeemer” - גַּאֲוֵל, גְּאֹל [ga'al/gaw·al/] v.; 104 occurrences in Old Testament; 1 to redeem, act as kinsman-redeemer, avenge, revenge, ransom, do the part of a kinsman. 1A (Qal). 1A1 to act as kinsman, do the part of next of kin, act as kinsman-redeemer., to redeem from slavery, to redeem land, to exact vengeance. 1A2 to redeem (by payment). 1A3 to redeem (with God as subject). 1A3A individuals from death. 1A3B Israel from Egyptian bondage. 1A3C Israel from exile. 1B (Niphal). 1B1 to redeem oneself. 1B2 to be redeemed.<sup>4</sup>

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Lineage connects Ruth, to King David, and finally to Christ (Matthew 1)

<sup>2</sup> Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, <sup>3</sup> Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, <sup>4</sup> Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, <sup>5</sup> Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was **Ruth**, Obed the father of Jesse, <sup>6</sup> and Jesse the father of **King David**.

<sup>12</sup> After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, <sup>13</sup> Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, Abiud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, <sup>14</sup> Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Eliud, <sup>15</sup> Eliud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, <sup>16</sup> **and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.**<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup>Strong, James: *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible : Showing Every Word of the Test of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.* electronic ed. Ontario : Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996, S. H1350

<sup>5</sup> *The Holy Bible : New International Version.* Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Mt 1:12-16