

Notes for Ruth 1

Hebrew pronunciations are spelled phonetically

Along with Song of Solomon, Esther, Ecclesiastes, and Lamentations, Ruth is part of the Megilloth (*meggy-loat*) or “five scrolls.”

Two major themes of Ruth are *Hesed (loving, kindness & mercy)* and one of redemption. There are at least 6 other concepts demonstrated in Ruth...

- 1) Ruth, a Moabitess, shows us God’s plan of redemption extends beyond Jews to Gentiles, just as Rahab (*Ruh-hawv*) the Harlot demonstrates.
- 2) Ruth shows that women are co-heirs with men of God’s salvation grace.

1 Peter 3:7 - *Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.*
- 3) Ruth is an example of the virtuous woman from Proverbs 31:10 - *Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.*
- 4) Ruth demonstrates God’s sovereign and divine intervention in our lives
- 5) Ruth, a gentile from Moab (*Mow-ahv*) winds up being the great grandmother of King David and is a direct ancestor of Jesus.
- 6) Boaz (*Bow-AHZ*), descendent of Rahab the Harlot and Israelite spy from Joshua 2. He is an Old Testament foreshadow of Jesus, our Redeemer

The events of Ruth took place during the time of Judges. Judges was a 400-year period after Israel entered the promised land under Joshua but before there were any kings in Israel (*roughly 1500 BC to 1100 BC*).

Best estimates of Ruth events are between 1160 BC and 1100 BC.

Judges 21:25 - *In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.*

Proverbs 3:5 - *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;*

Levirate marriage (*leva-rot*) - custom where dead husband’s brother or nearest relative marries the widow

Numbers 30:9 - *“Also any vow of a widow or a divorced woman, by which she has bound herself, shall stand against her.”*

Ruth Chapter 1 Characters

Elimelech (*Ellie-Mellah*) - Naomi’s husband

Mahlon (*Mach-loan*) - Ruth’s husband

Chilion (*Kill-Yoan*) - Orpah’s husband

Ephrathites (*Ef-RAH-thee*) - people from Ephrath

Moab (*Mow-Ahv*) - cursed people descended from Lot’s incest

Orpah (*Or-paw*) - Mahlon’s Moabitess wife.

Ruth - Mahlon’s Moabitess wife, Naomi’s daughter-in-law

Hebrew Meanings of Names

Bethlehem (*Hebrew for House of Bread*)

Ephrath (*Fruitful*) - area including Bethlehem or possibly an alternate name for Bethlehem

Naomi (*Hebrew for pleasant - indicates contentment & happiness*)

Mara (*Hebrew means bitter, sad, strong- as in strong drink or taste*)

Ruth - (*from the Hebrew word “re’ut” (רעות), which means friendship or companion.*)

Hesed (*kheh-sed*) which means loving-kindness and mercy.

Judah (*yeh-hooda*) means “praise” or “praised” coming from thanksgiving