



## **Ruth**

Ruth 3:9 *“Who are you?” he asked. “I am your servant Ruth,” she replied. “Spread the corner of your garment over me, for you are a kinsman-redeemer.”*

One of the main themes of God is the remnant. Throughout Biblical history God has made a way back to him. Adam and Eve left the garden but their descendants were promised to prevail over the serpent. Think about it. David was the last to be presented to Samuel. Moses was hidden in the reeds. Hilkiah found the book of the Law hidden in the temple. Rahab was spared. Lot was also spared from God’s wrath. Who was a descendant of Lot? It’s his son Moab. Ruth is from the land of Moab. It’s like a Reese’s peanut butter cup. Moab and Israel came crashing together in the story of Ruth.

## **Narrative**

Naomi is a Jewish daughter. Yet, she lived outside her homeland. Her sons married foreign wives. When the sons died, they were left without a kinsman redeemer to keep them alive and safe. Naomi decides to travel back to her homeland. The Moabitess Ruth vows to stay with her mother-in-law. To be dedicated to Naomi’s God. Then the providence of God kicks in. Naomi sends her Moabite maiden to glean the field of a close relative of Naomi. I think secretly, Naomi had a plan. The owner of the field Boaz, is a kinsman to Naomi. He falls in love with

Ruth and a love dance of sorts ensues. In the end we have Boaz redeeming both women and he marries Ruth. She in-turn bore a son in the line of David and eventually the Lord Jesus.

### **Intent**

Why is this story placed here in-between Judges and Samuel? I can agree with tradition that Samuel wrote this account. The Story opens with a declaration that it is in the time of the Judges. A period of lawlessness and turmoil for the Israelite descendants. Hidden within these Judges is God's answer to Eve. A descendant is being forged to a throne that did not exist yet. The line through Abraham is silently continuing the promise God made to him.

I mentioned in the beginning that God will keep a remnant hidden. He had done this a lot. Who would suspect Ruth of being the savior of the Jewish people? I could do a whole series on Moab. They play a massive role in Biblical history. It's the Spiritual hotbed where holiness and evil battle it out in the wilderness. Boaz is the kinsman redeemer that will further Gods promises and will. A path is now laid open towards the Lord Jesus. Boaz and Ruth are a great love story. The laws of Moses and promises of God crash together and create a kingship line well before a king has ever been declared in Israel. Well before the king, Lord, and saviour Jesus will be born in the Line of Moab and Israel. Jesus will become our kinsman redeemer that will bring us back into the family of God.

I feel that the intent of this book is the elevation of the word providence. This word means divine guidance or care. The Bible goes out of its way to make the path to Jesus complicated. People that dislike the Bible would have a field day if Eve to Jesus was a straight line. How convenient is that. Instead, God chose the complicated road. A road that the unbelievers say is impossible. Yet, what the book of Ruth is saying is that God's providence will happen. His way

back to Eden will be only by divine guidance. In a crazy way it is a marriage between holiness and sin. Not a mixing of the two! Through sinful lines God will find a path where holiness wins. Jesus wins! Ruth is a fantastic story of how Gods logic wins while upholding prophesy, promises, and redemption.

## **Characters**

Ruth, Naomi, Boaz

## **Who wrote this book?**

The author is unnamed. However, Tradition says Samuel wrote it. There are many theories on time period and who wrote it. The basic answer is we just don't know.

## **Famous verses**

- i. Ruth 1:16-17 dedication to the Lord and friendship
- ii. Ruth 2:12 dedication to the Lord
- iii. Ruth 3:9 kinsmen redeemer
- iv. Ruth 4:14 remanent is always from the Lord

## **Controversies, issues, and Questions**

- i. Ruth is a gentile woman and not a Jewish girl. I could play this record over and over. God is not a male dominant religion. Other religions ban women from certain roles within worship and prayer. The Christian religion had banned women from preaching and leading for centuries. Yet, that is not the way God used women in the Bible. On top of all this is the Jewish race. They

were chosen for a reason to be God's people. Yet, time after time God invited in gentile people to lead the way. To be in the line of Jesus. We honor a Jewish God but all may come to him.

ii. Did they sleep together? There is a sexual dance being played out in Ruth. The laying at his feet and uncovering them could be construed as sexual. Yet, to modern humans everything leads back to sex. There is plenty of tradition on courting and the dance within. There seems to be as much honor and tradition weaved into this story. I think sex is our issue but it was not theirs. They were trying to uphold the laws on the kinsman.

### **Connections**

**Matthew 1 (Ruth in the line of Jesus); Romans 8:1-2 Jesus is a type of kinsman redeemer**