## ~RUTH, BOOK OF (709)

- .. Authenticity And Value
- ·· Highlights Of Ruth
- This Bible book takes its name from one of its principal characters, Ruth the Moabitess. The narrative shows how Ruth became an ancestress of David by undergoing brother-in-law marriage with Boaz in behalf of her mother-in-law Naomi.
- The appreciation, loyalty, and the trust in Yehowah that were manifested by Boaz, Naomi, and Ruth permeate the account.
- Finally Naomi said to both of her daughters-in-law. Go, return, each one to the house of her mother. May Yehowah exercise loving-kindness toward you, just as you have exercised it toward the men now dead and toward me. (Ruth 1:8)
- May Yehowah make a gift to you, and do you find a resting-place each one in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them, and they began to raise their voices and weep. (Ruth 1:9)
- And Ruth proceeded to say; Do not plead with me to abandon you, to turn back from accompanying you, for where you go I shall go, and where you spend the night I shall spend the night. Your people will be my people, and your God my God. (Ruth 1:16)
- Where you die I shall die, and there is where I shall be buried. May Yehowah do so to me and add to it if anything but death should make a separation between me and you. (Ruth 1:17)
- And, look! Boaz came from Bethlehem and proceeded to say to the harvesters; Yehowah be with you. In turn they would say to him; Yehowah bless you. (Ruth 2:4)
- At that she fell upon her face and bowed down to the earth and said to him; How is it I have found favor in your eyes so that I am taken notice of, when I am a foreigner? (Ruth 2:10)
- Then Boaz answered and said to her; The report was fully made to me of all that you have done to your mother-in-law after the death of your husband, and how you proceeded to leave your

father and your mother and the land of your relatives and to go to a people whom you had not known formerly. (Ruth 2:11)

- May Yehowah reward the way you act, and may there come to be a perfect wage for you from Yehowah the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to seek refuge. (Ruth 2:12)
- To this she said; Let me find favor in your eyes, my lord, because you have comforted me and because you have spoken reassuringly to your maidservant, although I myself may not happen to be like one of your maidservants. (Ruth 2:13)
- Her mother-in-law now said to her; Where did you glean today, and where did you work? May the one who took notice of you become blessed. So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, and she went on to say; The name of the man with whom I worked today is Boaz. (Ruth 2:19)
- At that Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. Blessed be he of Yehowah, who has not left his loving-kindness toward the living and the dead. And Naomi went on to say to her; The man is related to us. He is one of our repurchasers. (Ruth 2:20)
- Then he said; Who are you? In turn she said; I am Ruth your slave girl, and you must spread out your skirt over your slave girl, for you are a repurchaser. (Ruth 3:9)
- At that he said; Blessed may you be of Yehowah, my daughter. You have expressed your loving-kindness better in the last instance than in the first instance, in not going after the young fellows whether lowly or rich. (Ruth 3:10)
- And now, my daughter, do not be afraid. All that you say I shall do for you, for everyone in the gate of my people is aware that you are an excellent woman. (Ruth 3:11)
- And now while it is a fact that I am a repurchaser, there is also a repurchaser closer related than I am. (Ruth 3:12)
- Lodge here tonight, and it must occur in the morning that if he will repurchase you, fine! Let him do the repurchasing. But if he does not take delight in repurchasing you, I will then repurchase you, I myself, as sure as Yehowah lives. Keep lying down until the morning. (Ruth 3:13)

- And also Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, I do buy for myself as a wife to cause the name of the dead man to rise upon his inheritance and that the name of the dead man may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his place. You are witnesses today. (Ruth 4:10)
- With the exception of the genealogical listing.
- Now these are the generations of Perez, Perez became father to Hezron. (Ruth 4:18)
- And Hezron became father to Ram, and Ram became father to Amminadab. (Ruth 4:19)
- And Amminadab became father to Nahshon, and Nahshon became father to Salmon. (Ruth 4:20)
- And Salmon became father to Boaz, and Boaz became father to Obed. (Ruth 4:21)
- And Obed became father to Jesse, and Jesse became father to David. (Ruth 4:22)
- The events related in the book of Ruth cover a period of about 11 years in the time of the Judges, though it is not stated exactly when it was during this period that they occurred.
- Now it came about in the days when the judges administered justice that a famine arose in the land, and a man proceeded to go from Bethlehem in Judah to reside as an alien in the fields of Moab, he with his wife and his two sons. (Ruth 1:1)
- Later the men took wives for themselves, Moabite women. The name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth.

  And they went on dwelling there for about ten years. (Ruth 1:4)
- Thus Naomi made her return, Ruth the Moabite woman, her daughter-in-law, being with her when returning from the fields of Moab, and they came to Bethlehem at the commencement of barley harvest. (Ruth 1:22)
- And she continued to keep close by the young women of Boaz to glean until the harvest of the barley and the harvest of the wheat

came to an end. And she kept on dwelling with her mother-inlaw. (Ruth 2:23)

- Accordingly Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife and he had relations with her. So Yehowah granted her conception and she bore a son. (Ruth 4:13)
- Jewish tradition credits Samuel with the writership of the book, and this would not disagree with internal evidence. The fact that the account concludes with David's genealogy suggests that the writer knew about God's purpose respecting David.
- This would fit Samuel, for he was the one who anointed David to be king. Therefore, it would also have been appropriate for Samuel to make a record of David's ancestral background.
- Eventually Yehowah said to Samuel; For how long will you be mourning for Saul, while I, on the other hand, have rejected him from ruling as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go. I shall send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, because I have provided among his sons a king for myself. (1 Samuel 16:1)
- Accordingly Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the spirit of Yehowah began to be operative upon David from that day forward. Later Samuel rose and went his way to Ramah. (1 Samuel 16:13)

## .. Authenticity And Value

- That the book of Ruth is historical is confirmed by Matthew's genealogy of Jesus Christ, which lists Boaz, Ruth, and Obed in the line of descent.
- Salmon became father to Boaz by Rahab. Boaz became father to Obed by Ruth. Obed became father to Jesse. (Matthew 1:5)
- Now these are the generations of Perez, Perez became father to Hezron. (Ruth 4:18)
- And Hezron became father to Ram, and Ram became father to Amminadab. (Ruth 4:19)
- And Amminadab became father to Nahshon, and Nahshon became father to Salmon. (Ruth 4:20)

- And Salmon became father to Boaz, and Boaz became father to Obed. (Ruth 4:21)
- And Obed became father to Jesse, and Jesse became father to David. (Ruth 4:22)
- The sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul. (1 Chronicles 2:5)
- And the sons of Hezron that were born to him were Jerahmeel and Ram and Chelubai. (1 Chronicles 2:9)
- As for Ram, he became father to Amminadab. Amminadab, in turn, became father to Nahshon the chieftain of the sons of Judah. (1 Chronicles 2:10)
- Nahshon, in turn, became father to Salma. Salma, in turn, became father to Boaz. (1 Chronicles 2:11)
- Boaz, in turn, became father to Obed. Obed, in turn, became father to Jesse. (1 Chronicles 2:12)
- Jesse, in turn, became father to his firstborn Eliab, and Abinadab the second, and Shimea the third. (1 Chronicles 2:13)
- Nethanel the fourth, Raddai the fifth. (1 Chronicles 2:14)
- Ozem the sixth, David the seventh. (1 Chronicles 2:15)
- Moreover, it is inconceivable that a Hebrew writer would have deliberately invented a foreign maternal ancestry for David, the first king in the royal line of Judah.
- The historical record provides background material that illustrates and illuminates other parts of the Bible. The application of the laws involving gleaning.
- And when you people reap the harvest of your land, you must not reap the edge of your field completely, and the gleaning of your harvest you must not pick up. (Leviticus 19:9)
- Also, you must not gather the leftovers of your vineyard, and you must not pick up the scattered grapes of your vineyard. For the afflicted one and the alien resident you should leave them. I am

## Yehowah your God. (Leviticus 19:10)

- In case you reap your harvest in your field, and you have forgotten a sheaf in the field, you must not go back to get it. It should stay for the alien resident, for the fatherless boy and for the widow, in order, that Yehowah your God may bless you in every deed of your hand. (Deuteronomy 24:19)
- In case you beat your olive tree, you must not go over its boughs following up yourself. It should stay for the alien resident, for the fatherless boy and for the widow. (Deuteronomy 24:20)
- In case you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you must not gather the leftovers following up yourself. They should stay for the alien resident, for the fatherless boy and for the widow. (Deuteronomy 24:21)
- And you must remember that you became a slave in the land of Egypt. That is why I am commanding you to do this thing. (Deuteronomy 24:22)
- Now Naomi had a kinsman of her husband, a man mighty in wealth, of the family of Elimelech, and his name was Boaz. (Ruth 2:1)
- At that she went off and entered and began to glean in the field behind the harvesters. Thus by chance she lighted on the tract of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech. (Ruth 2:3)
- Then she said; Let me glean, please, and I shall certainly gather among the cut-off ears of grain behind the harvesters. So she entered and kept on her feet from that time in the morning until her sitting down just now in the house a little while. (Ruth 2:7)
- Then she got up to glean. Boaz now commanded his young men, saying; Let her glean also among the cut-off ears of grain, and you must not molest her. (Ruth 2:15)
- And you should also be sure to pull out some from the bundles of ears for her, and you must leave them behind that she may glean them, and you must not rebuke her. (Ruth 2:16)
- And she continued to glean in the field until the evening, after

- which she beat out what she had gleaned, and it came to be about an ephah of barley. (Ruth 2:17)
- And she continued to keep close by the young women of Boaz to glean until the harvest of the barley and the harvest of the wheat came to an end. And she kept on dwelling with her mother-in-law. (Ruth 2:23)
- And brother-in-law marriage. Are vividly portrayed.
- In case brothers dwell together and one of them has died without his having a son, the wife of the dead one should not become a strange man's outside. Her brother-in-law should go to her, and he must take her as his wife and perform brother-in-law marriage with her. (Deuteronomy 25:5)
- And it must occur that the firstborn whom she will bear should succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be wiped out of Israel. (Deuteronomy 25:6)
- Now if the man finds no delight in taking his brothers widow, his brothers widow must then go up to the gate to the older men and say; My husbands brother has refused to preserve his brothers name in Israel. He has not consented to perform brother-in-law marriage with me. (Deuteronomy 25:7)
- And the older men of his city must call him and speak to him, and he must stand and say; I have found no delight in taking her. (Deuteronomy 25:8)
- At that his brothers widow must approach him before the eyes of the older men and draw his sandal off his foot and spit in his face and answer and say; That is the way it should be done to the man who will not build up his brothers household. (Deuteronomy 25:9)
- And his name must be called in Israel, The house of the one who had his sandal drawn off. (Deuteronomy 25:10)
- Meantime Boaz ate and drank, and his heart was feeling good. Then he went to lie down at the extremity of the grain heap. After that she came stealthily and uncovered him at his feet and lay down. (Ruth 3:7)

- And it came about at midnight that the man began to tremble. So he bent himself forward, and, look! A woman lying at his feet! (Ruth 3:8)
- Then he said; Who are you? In turn she said; I am Ruth your slave girl, and you must spread out your skirt over your slave girl, for you are a repurchaser. (Ruth 3:9)
- You have expressed your loving-kindness better in the last instance than in the first instance, in not going after the young fellows whether lowly or rich. (Ruth 3:10)
- And now, my daughter, do not be afraid. All that you say I shall do for you, for everyone in the gate of my people is aware that you are an excellent woman. (Ruth 3:11)
- And now while it is a fact that I am a repurchaser, there is also a repurchaser closer related than I am. (Ruth 3:12)
- Lodge here tonight, and it must occur in the morning that if he will repurchase you, fine! Let him do the repurchasing. But if he does not take delight in repurchasing you, I will then repurchase you, I myself, as sure as Yehowah lives. Keep lying down until the morning. (Ruth 3:13)
- As for Boaz, he went up to the gate and began to sit there. And, look! The repurchaser was passing by, whom Boaz had mentioned. Then he said; Do turn aside, do sit down here, Soand-so. Hence he turned aside and sat down. (Ruth 4:1)
- After that he took ten men of the older men of the city and said; Sit down here. So they sat down. (Ruth 4:2)
- He now said to the repurchaser; The tract of the field that belonged to our brother Elimelech, Naomi, who has returned from the field of Moab, must sell. (Ruth 4:3)
- As for me, I thought that I should disclose it to you, saying; Buy it in front of the inhabitants and the older men of my people. If you will repurchase it, repurchase it, but if you will not repurchase it, do tell me, that I may know, for there is no one else but you to do the repurchasing, and I am next to you. At that he said; I shall be the one to repurchase it. (Ruth 4:4)

- Then Boaz said; On the day that you buy the field from Naomi's hand, it is also from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead man, that you must buy it so as to cause the name of the dead man to rise upon his inheritance. (Ruth 4:5)
- To this the repurchaser said; I am unable to repurchase it for myself, for fear I may ruin my own inheritance. You repurchase it for yourself with my right of repurchase, because I am not able to do the repurchasing. (Ruth 4:6)
- Now this was the custom of former times in Israel concerning the right of repurchase and concerning the exchange, to establish every sort of thing. A man had to draw his sandal off and give it to his fellow, and this was the attestation in Israel. (Ruth 4:7)
- So when the repurchaser said to Boaz; Buy it for yourself, he proceeded to draw his sandal off. (Ruth 4:8)
- Then Boaz said to the older men and all the people; You are witnesses today that I do buy all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and Mahlon from the hand of Naomi. (Ruth 4:9)
- And also Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, I do buy for myself as a wife to cause the name of the dead man to rise upon his inheritance and that the name of the dead man may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his place. You are witnesses today. (Ruth 4:10)
- At this all the people that were in the gate and the older men said; Witnesses! May Yehowah grant the wife who is coming into your house to be like Rachel and like Leah, both of whom built the house of Israel, and you prove your worth in Ephrathah and make a notable name in Bethlehem. (Ruth 4:11)
- And may your house become like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, from the offspring that Yehowah will give you out of this young woman. (Ruth 4:12)
- Accordingly Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife and he had relations with her. So Yehowah granted her conception and she bore a son. (Ruth 4:13)

- There is evidence of Yehowah's guidance in the preservation of the line of descent leading to the Messiah and also in the choice of individuals for that line. Israelite women who were married to a man of the tribe of Judah had the possible prospect of contributing to Messiah's earthly line of descent.
- The scepter will not turn aside from Judah, neither the commander's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes, and to him the obedience of the peoples will belong. (Genesis 49:10)
- The fact that Ruth, a Moabitess, was so favored illustrates the principle stated by the apostle Paul;
- So, then, it depends, not upon the one wishing nor upon the one running, but upon God, who has mercy. (Romans 9:16)
- Ruth had chosen Yehowah as her God and Israel as her people, and in his great mercy, Yehowah granted to her a perfect wage in permitting her to become a link in the most important line of descent.
- May Yehowah reward the way you act, and may there come to be a perfect wage for you from Yehowah the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to seek refuge. (Ruth 2:12)
- Accordingly Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife and he had relations with her. So Yehowah granted her conception and she bore a son. (Ruth 4:13)
- And the women began to say to Naomi; Blessed be Yehowah, who has not let a repurchaser fail for you today, that his name may be proclaimed in Israel. (Ruth 4:14)
- And he has become a restorer of your soul and one to nourish your old age, because your daughter-in-law who does love you, who is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him. (Ruth 4:15)
- And Naomi proceeded to take the child and to put it in her bosom, and she came to be its nurse. (Ruth 4:16)
- Then the neighbor ladies gave it a name, saying; A son has been born to Naomi. And they began to call his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, David's father. (Ruth 4:17)

## " Highlights Of Ruth

- A narrative showing how the God-fearing Moabitess Ruth was blessed by Yehowah by becoming part of the unbroken Messianic line leading to King David.
- Setting is during the time of the Judges, writing was likely completed about 1090 B.C.E.
- Ruth decides to stay with Naomi and her God, Yehowah
- Now it came about in the days when the judges administered justice that a famine arose in the land, and a man proceeded to go from Bethlehem in Judah to reside as an alien in the fields of Moab, he with his wife and his two sons. (Ruth 1:1)
- And the man's name was Elimelech, and his wife's name Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. Eventually they came to the fields of Moab and continued there. (Ruth 1:2)
- In time Elimelech the husband of Naomi died, so that she remained with her two sons. (Ruth 1:3)
- Later the men took wives for themselves, Moabite women. The name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth. And they went on dwelling there for about ten years. (Ruth 1:4)
- In time the two of them, Mahlon and Chilion, also died, so that the woman remained without her two children and her husband. (Ruth 1:5)
- And she proceeded to get up with her daughters-in-law and to return from the fields of Moab, for she had heard in the field of Moab that Yehowah had turned his attention to his people by giving them bread. (Ruth 1:6)
- And she went her way out from the place where she had continued, and both of her daughters-in-law were with her, and they kept walking on the road to return to the land of Judah. (Ruth 1:7)
- Finally Naomi said to both of her daughters-in-Law; Go, return, each one to the house of her mother. May Yehowah exercise

loving-kindness toward you, just as you have exercised it toward the men now dead and toward me. (Ruth 1:8)

- May Yehowah make a gift to you, and do you find a resting-place each one in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them, and they began to raise their voices and weep. (Ruth 1:9)
- And they kept saying to her; No, but with you we shall return to your people. (Ruth 1:10)
- But Naomi said; Return, my daughters. Why should you go with me? Do I still have sons in my inward parts, and will they have to become your husbands? (Ruth 1:11)
- Return, my daughters, go, for I have grown too old to get to belong to a husband. If I had said I had hope also that I should certainly become a husbands tonight and also should certainly bear sons. (Ruth 1:12)
- Would you keep waiting for them until they could grow up?
   Would you keep yourselves secluded for them so as not to become a husbands? No, my daughters, for it is very bitter to me because of you, that the hand of Yehowah has gone out against me. (Ruth 1:13)
- At that they raised their voices and wept some more, after which Orpah kissed her mother-in-law. As for Ruth, she stuck with her. (Ruth 1:14)
- So she said; Look! Your widowed sister-in-law has returned to her people and her gods. Return with your widowed sister-in-law. (Ruth 1:15)
- And Ruth proceeded to say; Do not plead with me to abandon you, to turn back from accompanying you, for where you go I shall go, and where you spend the night I shall spend the night. Your people will be my people, and your God my God. (Ruth 1:16)
- Where you die I shall die, and there is where I shall be buried.
   May Yehowah do so to me and add to it if anything but death should make a separation between me and you. (Ruth 1:17)
- When she got to see that she was persistent about going with

her, then she left off speaking to her. (Ruth 1:18)

- And they both continued on their way until they came to Bethlehem. And it came about that as soon as they came to Bethlehem, all the city became stirred up over them, and the women kept saying; Is this Naomi? (Ruth 1:19)
- And she would say to the women; Do not call me Naomi. Call me Mara, for the Almighty has made it very bitter for me. (Ruth 1:20)
- I was full when I went, and it is empty-handed that Yehowah has made me return. Why should you call me Naomi, when it is Yehowah that has humiliated me and the Almighty that has caused me calamity? (Ruth 1:21)
- Thus Naomi made her return, Ruth the Moabite woman, her daughter-in-law, being with her when returning from the fields of Moab, and they came to Bethlehem at the commencement of barley harvest. (Ruth 1:22)
- Childless and widowed, Ruth and Orpah accompany their mother-in-law Naomi, widow of Elimelech, as she departs from Moab to return to Judah.
- Dissuaded by Naomi's words regarding the bleak prospects for remarriage, Orpah turns back.
- Ruth is undeterred, she declares that Naomi's people will be her people and Naomi's God her God.
- Finally, Ruth and Naomi arrive in Bethlehem.
- Ruth gleans in the field of Boaz (Ruth 2:1)–(Ruth 3:18)
- By chance, Ruth begins gleaning in the field of Boaz, a kinsman of Elimelech, and gains his favorable attention.
- Ruth continues gleaning in Boaz field until the end of the barley and wheat harvests.
- Then, following Naomi's instructions, Ruth requests Boaz to act as a repurchaser, Boaz is willing, but there is a man more closely related to Naomi than he is.

- Boaz, as repurchaser, marries Ruth.
- As for Boaz, he went up to the gate and began to sit there. And, look! the repurchaser was passing by, whom Boaz had mentioned. Then he said; Do turn aside, do sit down here, Soand-so. Hence he turned aside and sat down. (Ruth 4:1)
- After that he took ten men of the older men of the city and said; Sit down here. So they sat down. (Ruth 4:2)
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- At this all the people that were in the gate and the older men said; Witnesses! May Yehowah grant the wife who is coming into your house to be like Rachel and like Leah, both of whom built the house of Israel, and you prove your worth in Ephrathah and make a notable name in Bethlehem. (Ruth 4:11)
- And may your house become like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, from the offspring that Yehowah will give you out of this young woman. (Ruth 4:12)
- Accordingly Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife and he had relations with her. So Yehowah granted her conception and she bore a son. (Ruth 4:13)
- And the women began to say to Naomi; Blessed be Yehowah, who has not let a repurchaser fail for you today, that his name may be proclaimed in Israel. (Ruth 4:14)
- And he has become a restorer of your soul and one to nourish your old age, because your daughter-in-law who does love you, who is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him. (Ruth 4:15)
- And Naomi proceeded to take the child and to put it in her bosom, and she came to be its nurse. (Ruth 4:16)
- Then the neighbor ladies gave it a name, saying; A son has been born to Naomi. And they began to call his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, David's father. (Ruth 4:17)
- Now these are the generations of Perez, Perez became father to Hezron. (Ruth 4:18)
- And Hezron became father to Ram, and Ram became father to Amminadab. (Ruth 4:19)
- And Amminadab became father to Nahshon, and Nahshon

became father to Salmon. (Ruth 4:20)

- And Salmon became father to Boaz, and Boaz became father to Obed. (Ruth 4:21)
- And Obed became father to Jesse, and Jesse became father to David. (Ruth 4:22)
- Before ten elders of Bethlehem, Boaz offers the closer relative the opportunity to repurchase the field of Elimelech and to raise up offspring for the dead man by performing brother-in-law marriage with Ruth.
- When the relative declines, Boaz acts as repurchaser.
- The union of Boaz and Ruth is blessed with the birth of a son, Obed, the grandfather of King David.