

# RUTH

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**1. TITLES:**

- A. Ruth = friend, comeliness, beauty
- B. The Book of Grace

**2. AUTHOR:**

Unknown, but usually attributed to Samuel

**3. DATE:**

- A. Covers approximately 11 years, "in the days of Judges" (1:1).
- B. Possibly written between 1030 and 970 B.C.

**4. KEY WORDS:**

- A. Kinsman ('s, men) -14
- B. Redeem (ing) - 9
- C. Grace, Favour - 3
- D. Rest - 3

**5. KEY VERSES: 3:13**

**6. PURPOSE:**

- A. To extract a positive picture of grace from the period of the judges.
- B. To establish a genealogy of David.
- C. To typify the calling of the Gentiles.

**7. MESSAGE:**

- A. The kinsman redeems by grace into rest, restoring the lost inheritance.
- B. Pure love will overcome all difficulties.

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## 8. OUTLINE:

- I. Rest Forsaken ..... Ch. 1:1-5
- II. Rest Desired ..... Ch. 1:6-22
- III. Rest Sought ..... Ch. 2-3
- IV. Rest Secured ..... Ch. 4

## 9. SUMMARY:

Two books of the Bible bear the name of a woman; Ruth and Esther. Ruth was a Gentile who married a Jew, and Esther was a Jewess who married a Gentile. The book of Ruth is the only book of the Bible that is wholly devoted to the history of a woman. In chapter one the background is laid. Elimelech, Naomi, and their two sons left Bethlehem-Judah because of famine and went to the land of the Moabites (idolatrous descendants of Lot). The two sons married two Moabite girls; Orpah and Ruth. After ten years the father and both sons had died and Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem. Orpah remained behind but Ruth went with her. In chapter two, we are introduced to Boaz the son of Rahab of Jericho (Mt. 1:5). He, being a kinsman of Naomi and Ruth, took notice of Ruth gleaning in his field and treated her kindly. In chapters three and four we see Boaz fulfilling the role of the kinsman-redeemer by buying Elimelech's and his sons' inheritance and by marrying Ruth. The book closes with a genealogy stating the role of Ruth and Boaz in the ancestry of David. This shows that God used Gentile blood to form the chosen family within the chosen nation which would bring forth the Messiah for all nations. Ruth also provides us with a beautiful picture of the church, being a Gentile; a stranger and foreigner to the covenants of promise, who is brought into the commonwealth of Israel by the grace of the kinsman-redeemer (Eph. 2:11-13).

## 10. CHRIST SEEN:

Christ is seen as a Mighty Man(2:1), the Lord of the Harvest (2:4-17), and our Kinsman-Redeemer, bringing us into union with Himself through grace.