

Old Testament Survey

Ruth

General Outline of Ruth

- I. Migration and Sojourn in Moab
- II. Ruth's Choice to Return with Naomi to Judah - 1:6-8
- III. The Mournful Homecoming to Bethlehem - 1:19-22
- IV. Boaz, a Friend in Need - 2:1-23
- V. Redemption Law Invoked - 3:1-18
- VI. Boaz' Acceptance of His Responsibility as *goel* - 4:1-16
- VII. Promise and Posterity - 4:17-22

Three-Fold Purpose of Ruth

1. To relate an event in which the family line of David has infused into it non-Israelite blood.
2. To teach the grace of God in which a cursed people is made part of God's covenant people.
3. To illustrate the function and purpose of the kinsman redeemer.

Date of Composition

Evidence for the Time of David

1. It takes place during the time of the judges and therefore may have been completed at the same time as the larger work.
2. David is mentioned by name.
3. David's son Solomon is not mentioned which would mean that it was written before the birth of Solomon but after David ascended to the throne.
4. Ruth gives an accurate picture of customs during the time of David.

Critical Objections

1. Ruth betrays a knowledge of Deuteronomy 25.
So what! The liberals insist that Deuteronomy was written during Josiah's reign. But if Deuteronomy was written much earlier, during the time of Moses, then this argument is meaningless.
2. Some say it was intended to counter Nehemiah's reforms, specifically the one regarding the marriage to foreign wives.
3. Alleged Aramaisms (words appearing late in Israelite history) make some date the book later. However, the words involved, *marah* "bitter" and *lahen* "therefore" are both found to exist early and therefore this argument does not hold water.

The Kinsman Redeemer - A Type of Christ

Requirement	Fulfillment in Christ
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Blood relative	Christ born of a woman
Ability to purchase the forfeited inheritance	Christ had the merit in which to pay for the sins of the world
Willingness to buy back the forfeited inheritance	Christ willingly died as our substitute on the cross
Willingness to marry the wife of the deceased kinsman	The Church, as the Bride of Christ

Basic Teachings of Ruth

1. It pictures the fact that there was coming a blessing to the Gentiles. If Gentiles repent and believe in God, they too can partake of God's covenant blessings.
2. God's grace and providence are on display as a pagan woman is introduced into the Messianic line.
3. The kinsman-redeemer is a picture of Christ who died to redeem us from the curse of the law.