

Digging into God's Word



Ruth



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Digging Into the Word

I am so glad you are taking time to dig into the Word of God. What an amazing opportunity we have to grow in our understanding of God Himself and learn about the life and sacrifice of Christ. I hope you enjoy taking time to go verse by verse and chapter by chapter. I pray that you will grow in your faith and experience the love of the Savior whose biggest desire is to have a relationship with you.

Acknowledgment

I would like to thank Bradie Peeples for designing the cover of this study. Her gifts and talents are greatly appreciated!

Sources

For all 'Bible Notes', I used my study Bible which is the ***Holman Christian Standard Bible***. All websites used are noted within the text for additional study resources.

God Bless!

Ruth

The book of Ruth was likely written by someone with duties in King David's royal household or perhaps a scribe during his reign. The events occurred within the period of the judges (ca 1375-1050 B.C.), but the book was likely written during David's reign (1010-970 B.C.). – Bible Notes

[Who was Ruth in the Bible? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Chapter 1: Naomi's Challenge: Despair, Death, Depression:

Vs. 1-5- The Famine in Bethlehem: Leaving Land and Friends:

When did this take place?

Who are introduced and what is described?

What happens to Elimelech, Naomi's husband?

Who did her two sons marry?

What happened about ten years after they moved to Moab?

Vs. 6-7- What did these three widows plan to do and why?

(Bible Notes- Naomi was left without property, possessions, extended family support, and with two dependent daughters-in-law. She seemed even more destitute than she was when the family lived in Bethlehem. Widowhood has never been easy; but Naomi, as a foreigner without sons or extended family, faced an almost impossible situation.)

Vs. 8-9- What does Naomi try to persuade her daughters-in-law to do and why?

Vs. 10- How did Ruth and Orpha respond?

Vs. 11-13- Why does Naomi continue to insist they not go with her?

Vs. 14-15- How did Orpah respond and what did Naomi say about her?

Vs. 15-16- It says, “Ruth clung to her”. What did Ruth say to Naomi?

(Bible Notes- Ruth’s decision to bind herself to Naomi was ultimately based on her new faith in the God of Naomi-Yahweh of Israel. She was even willing to accept the uncertainties of lifelong widowhood rather than give up her commitment to the true God.)

Vs. 18-21- Naomi realized she could not persuade Ruth to separate from her, so where did they go?

How did the people respond to them upon their arrival?

How did Naomi respond and why?

(Bible Notes- *Call me Mara* (Hb, “bitter”) expressed Naomi’s bitterness. The changing of her name from “Naomi” (Hb, “sweetness, the pleasant one”) to “Mara” used wordplay to express her own despair over the changes in her life. She clearly saw herself as a bitter old woman without hope.)

Vs. 22- When did they arrive in Bethlehem?

Chapter 2: Ruth’s Working of Gleaning

Vs. 1- Who is introduced and what do we learn about him?

[Who was Boaz in the Bible? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Vs. 2- What does Ruth ask Naomi?

(Bible Notes- The *fallen grain* was God's provision for the poor and the homeless (Lv 19:9-10; 23:22). The ancient custom of gleaning was codified in the law so that the widow, or an alien woman like Ruth, had the right to gather fallen grain from any field she chose (Lv 19:9; 23:22; Dt 24:19).

Vs. 3-9- Ruth ended up on Boaz's land, having gotten permission from his harvesters to collect grain. What does Boaz say to Ruth upon meeting her?

Vs. 10- How does Ruth respond to such kindness?

Vs. 11-12- How does Boaz respond to her?

Vs. 13-15- Ruth feels comforted and encouraged by Boaz. How else does he help her?

Vs. 14- What does Ruth bring back to town for Naomi?

Vs. 15-22- Ruth tells Naomi where she worked and who had helped her. How did Naomi respond?

[What is a kinsman redeemer? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Chapter 3: Ruth's Appeal for Redemption

Vs. 1- What is Naomi's concern?

Vs. 2-4- What does Naomi tell Ruth to do and why?

Vs. 5-9- Ruth does exactly as she was told. How does Boaz respond initially?

How does Ruth refer to him?

Vs. 10- Why is Boaz humbled by her kindness?

Vs. 11-13- He assures her that he will help her, but what does he make known?

(Bible Notes- Boaz understood Ruth's request and reaffirmed her moral character, again making clear that there was no immorality that night (v 11). However, he knew there was a nearer kinsman-redeemer. This interjection is also evidence of Boaz's honorable character, who, despite his attraction to Ruth, acted with determination and integrity to obey the law.)

Vs. 14-15- They kept this visit secret. What does Boaz send home with Ruth?

Vs. 16-18- Ruth explains everything to Naomi. What confidence does Naomi have?

Chapter 4: The Reward for Ruth and Naomi: Redemption

Vs. 1-12- Boaz as Redeemer:

Vs. 1-2- Boaz goes to find this other man who was closer in line to be the family redeemer. Where does he meet him and who does he ask to join this meeting?

Vs. 3-4- Boaz explains part of the deal. What does he discuss?

What does the kinsman say?

Vs. 5- After agreeing to buy the land, what does Boaz explain will be an additional requirement and why?

Vs. 6- After this news is revealed, the kinsman quickly changed his mind. What did he say?

(Bible Notes- The kinsman-redeemer was prepared to redeem Elimelech's land until Boaz told him this would entail marrying Ruth the Moabitess (v. 5). Boaz was personally prepared to accept the moral obligation of marrying Ruth and fathering a child through her in behalf of Elimelech and Mahlon. Boaz was not the genuine *levir* or brother of the deceased Elimelech, which underscores that he had no legal obligation to marry Naomi or Ruth. The text does not state why the redeemer refused his responsibility except to say *I will ruin my own inheritance*. Perhaps the cost of acquiring the property as well as maintaining the widow Naomi could drain his own personal resources. Furthermore, if Ruth did bear a son, the child she bore would then inherit the land he had redeemed.)

Vs. 7- Here a sidenote is written to explain how these men solidify a deal. What did they do?

Vs. 8-10- The kinsman-redeemer hands his sandal to Boaz and assures him that he can step in as the family redeemer. What does Boaz make clear before all of the witnesses?

Vs. 11-12- How did the elders and other witnesses respond?

Vs. 13-17- When Boaz married Ruth, they had a son. How did the women react toward Naomi at this news?

Vs. 18-22- This son of Boaz and Ruth truly did become well known in Israel. How was he related to King David?

(Bible Notes- In giving birth to a son, Ruth found herself in the ancestry of Israel's King David and the Messiah. Just as Ruth, outside the people of God, forbidden to enter the congregation of the Lord (Dt 23:3), without hope and alienated from God, humbled herself at the feet of the kinsman-redeemer Boaz asking for his acceptance and help, everyone must humble themselves

at the feet of the Lord Jesus and seek His saving redemption (see Eph 2:12-13). Just as Ruth found earthly security, any person who humbles themselves before the Lord Jesus will find spiritual rest.)

[How can I be saved? | GotQuestions.org](#)

[Book of Ruth Summary | Watch an Overview Video](#) (Bibleproject.com)