

# OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

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*Ruth*

# INTRODUCTION

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*Title:* “Ruth” in Hebrew and LXX

*Author:* ?

*Theme:* Sovereign Redeemer

*Purpose:* Yahweh sovereignly, but in a hidden way, effected the birth of His King through the actions of His people (1:6; 4:13).

# INTRODUCTION

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*Date of Events:* During the period of the Judges c. 1126-1105 BC (see: the Midianite Oppression, c. 1165-1125 BC)

*Placement in the Hebrew Bible:*

Between Proverbs and Song of Songs (Prov 31:10; Ruth 3:11)

# OUTLINE

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## I. Return of Ruth (1)

A. Misfortune in Moab (1:1-5)

B. Journey to Judah (1:6-18)

C. Misery to Mara (1:19-22)

# OUTLINE

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## II. Reaping of Ruth (2)

A. The field of Boaz (2:1-3)

B. The provision of Boaz (2:4-17)

C. The reaction to Boaz (2:18-23)

# OUTLINE

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## III. Request of Ruth (3)

A. Suggestion of Naomi (3:1-5)

B. Supplication of Ruth (3:6-13)

C. Security of Ruth (3:14-18)

# OUTLINE

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- IV. Redemption of Ruth (4)
  - A. Discussion about Ruth (4:1-6)
  - B. Requisition of Ruth (4:7-12)
  - C. Marriage of Ruth (4:13-17)
  - D. Posterity of Ruth (4:18-22)

# KEY CHAPTERS

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4 Boaz redeems Ruth and marries her.



# KEY PASSAGES

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4:18-22 - The genealogy from Perez to David.

# KEY PEOPLE

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**Boaz** - Married Ruth

**Ruth** - Moabitess who married into the Messianic line. She is an important representative of Gentile inclusion (Matt 1:5).

# HELPFUL RESOURCES

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- Daniel Block, *Judges-Ruth* (New American Commentary).

# SELECTED INTERPRETIVE PROBLEMS

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## 1. The Historicity of the Book

# SELECTED INTERPRETIVE PROBLEMS

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## 2. The Night at the Threshing Floor (3:4, 7)

### A. Sexual Overtones Suggesting Impropriety (reasons)

i. The Pattern of Tamar (4:12; cf. Gen. 38:14-20)

ii. The Terms “Uncover,” “Feet,” and “Lie down” (3:4, 7)

### B. Ruth’s Character Called Virtuous (3:11)

# SELECTED INTERPRETIVE PROBLEMS

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# SELECTED INTERPRETIVE ISSUES

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## 3. The Marriage of Boaz and Ruth

A. A Levirate Marriage (4:8; cf. Deut. 25:5-10)

B. A Non-leverite Marriage (reasons)

i. Boaz Was Not Mahlon's Brother

ii. Ruth Did Not Go to the City Gate

iii. Ruth Did Not Pull off the Shoe or Spit in the Face

iv. The Shoe Custom Was No Longer Known (4:8)

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# SELECTED INTERPRETIVE ISSUES

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## 4. No Moabite in the Assembly of Yahweh

(Deut. 23:3-6)

A. Ruth Was in the Eleventh Generation

B. Ruth Was Considered a Worshipper of Yahweh (1:16-17; cf. 1:22; 2:2, 10, 21; 4:5, 10)

C. Ruth Was an Exception Because of Her Devotion to Yahweh and Worthy Character

D. Ruth Received Yahweh's Grace

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C. Ruth Was an Exception Because of Her Devotion to Yahweh and Worthy Character

D. Ruth Received Yahweh's Grace (Rom 15:9)