

GOSPEL of *Grace*
FELLOWSHIP

Ruth
**Jesus Christ,
Our Kinsman-Redeemer**

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F-L-I-G-H-T

F – Though the book’s author is not known for certain, some scholars link Ruth with the book of Judges, pointing to the prophet Samuel as the author of both books. Because of the references to David, his throne, and his genealogy, Ruth was likely written 1010-970 BC.

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1

F-L-I-G-H-T

L – Ruth is the only book in the OT named after an ancestor of Jesus Christ, the only one named after a non-Jew, and one of only two in the entire Bible named after a woman. Ruth’s name means “friendship,” and she really showed her quality in that area. Hers is a story of God’s providence and redemption overlaying the main story line of human love and relational interaction.

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2

F-L-I-G-H-T

I – Love’s Resolve (1), Love’s Response (2), Love’s Request (3), Love’s Reward (4)

G – Hints of the coming Messiah can be seen in the character of Boaz. Like Jesus, he was both qualified and willing to redeem his people. Just as Boaz eventually did for Ruth, Jesus became our redeemer who paid all our debts, our avenger who defends us against our adversaries, and our mediator, accomplishing our reconciliation with God the Father.

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F-L-I-G-H-T

H – Ruth was most likely written around the reign of David, but the story takes place during the time of the book of Judges. Therefore, Ruth should be understood, historically speaking, within Judges' timeframe. Judges covers about 300 years from roughly 1380 BC to 1050 BC. This period was one of unrest and faithlessness toward God. Yet Ruth paints for us a picture of the enduring faithfulness of a few, as well as the deep love they had for one another and for God.

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4

F-L-I-G-H-T

T – **Ruth & Naomi's story shows us the value of relationships and the power of faith.** Neither woman took for granted what she had in the other—trust, loyalty, sincerity, and love. And God honored Ruth's faith and obedience by grafting her into the family tree from which Jesus would come. **God keeps his commitments and expects us to keep ours.** Ruth's commitment to Naomi played a key part in establishing the genealogy of the Messiah. You never know how being a person of your word can change your world.

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5

F-L-I-G-H-T

T – **Kindness is the key to successful relationships.** What attracts people to Christ is not your outward appearance but your inward character. When you regularly show kindness, respect, and gratitude, God will shine through you.

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6

Famine

*In the days when the judges ruled there was a **famine** in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. (1:1)*

Drought and famine were among the judgments God said would come upon the Land as a result of failure to keep the Law. (Lev. 26:18-20; Deut. 28:23-24)

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Famine

And so it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east...And they encamped against them, and destroyed the increase of the earth...and left no sustenance for Israel...and they came as grasshoppers for multitude...and they entered into the land to destroy it. And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites... (Judges 6:3-6)

Moab

*...a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of **Moab**, he and his wife and his two sons. (1:1)*

Moab was a son of Lot, the fruit of the incestuous relation of Lot with one of his daughters. (Gen. 19:36-37)

Moabites hired Balaam to curse Israel during Israel's pilgrimage to Canaan. (Num. 22:1-8)

Moab

Under normal circumstances Moabites were barred from participating in the national, corporate life of Israel. (Deut. 23:3-6)

How then could Ruth enter into the congregation of the Lord?

By trusting God's grace and throwing herself completely on his mercy.

Law of Gleaning

Provision for the destitute:

Lev. 19:9-10

Deut. 24:19, 21

Go'el & Levirate

Kinsman-Redeemer:

Num. 35:9-30; Lev. 25:48-49;
Num. 5:8

Levirate Marriage:

Deut. 25:5-6, 9

Basic Teachings of Ruth

It affords a foreshadowing of the enlarged blessing to come: Gentiles are capable of being joined to the commonwealth of Israel upon condition of repentance and faith in Yahweh.

God's marvelous and unexpected providence is also exhibited by the inclusion of a Gentile in the royal lineage of the Messiah.

Basic Teachings of Ruth

The kinsman-redeemer (*go'el*) serves as a Messianic type. The little book of Ruth is one of the most instructive in the Old Testament concerning the mediatorial work of the Lord Jesus.

Kinsman-Redeemer as a Type

| Requirement | Fulfillment in Christ |
|--|---|
| Be a blood relative | Christ born of a woman |
| Be able to purchase forfeited inheritance | Christ had the merit to pay the price for sinners |
| Be willing to buy back the forfeited inheritance | Christ willingly laid down his life |
| Be willing to marry the wife of the deceased kinsman | The Church, as the Bride of Christ |