

The Book of Ruth

A Simple Love Story or A Book of Profound Biblical Truths

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There is good reason for us to “Search the Scriptures.” If we don’t, we will only see the obvious and superficial. For example, here is a sample summary of the book of Ruth by author, Jay Smith. There are many others similar to this one.

Ruth Summary
[by Jay Smith](#)

The book of Ruth is the Narrative of a love story, yet also has some important Genealogy. The timeline of this book is intertwined during the period of the Judges. The author was anonymous but some believe it was perhaps written by Samuel the prophet; however, it is unlikely that he was alive when this book was written. It was written about 1046-1035 B.C. Key personalities include Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz.

Its purpose was to demonstrate the kind of love, and faithfulness that God desires for us. It shows the difference between what happens when a nation does not follow in obedience to the covenant of God (Judges), and when God’s people follow in faithfulness within the covenant (Ruth).

- In chapter 1, Ruth remains loyal to her mother-in-law Naomi after the death of her husband and in-laws. Naomi decides to return to her home land of Bethlehem alone, however, Ruth insists on staying with her and adopting Naomi’s God as her own. “But Ruth said, *“Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God”* (1:16).
- Chapter 2 we see Ruth gleaning in the fields of Naomi’s relative Boaz. Boaz out of compassion and obedience to the law allows Ruth to glean but also leaves extra grain for her purposely.
- In chapter 3, Naomi encourages Ruth to seek marriage with Boaz as a

kinsman redeemer. Ruth obeys Naomi and asks for her rights and Boaz agrees but mentions that he must first be sure there are no others with first rights.

- Chapter 4 Boaz and Ruth are married and Ruth conceives a son named Obed, the grandfather of the great King David, in the lineage of Christ our Messiah. <http://biblehub.com/summary/ruth/1.htm>

Certainly, we all know this pleasant Bible story that we tell our children and grandchildren.

But is there a “Story of the Book of Ruth” for Adults?

What profound lessons does God have for us, as adults, in the Book of Ruth?

A. There is no punishment for Sin

“And then she (Naomi) arose with her daughters-in-law, that she might return (to Israel) from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the Lord had **visited** His people in giving them bread.” Ruth 1:6

The word **visited** in this verse, is the Hebrew word Pequddah (pekoodaw), #6486 in Strong’s concordance.

However, the translators often – and **incorrectly**– translate this same word as “punish” when they want to make God look harsh.

But as you will notice in the definition, the visit may be friendly or hostile. But God is not the one who is “hostile.” This definition shows that God is teaching us from another text in His Word.

“Be not deceived. God will not be mocked. Whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap.” Gal 6:7

God does not *punish* us for sinning. Instead, we reap what we sow. We do it to ourselves. It is not from God. The way we treat other people – whether well or badly - comes back to us.

B. Jesus was not a Jew: Nor were the Israelites “Jews.” Ruth, the Moabitess, was in the ancestry of Jesus – and David. Israelites were not Jews

First, the word “Jew” is not in the Bible. The translators have incorrectly translated the word “Judean” as “Jew” – as though it designated an ethnicity. The word “Gentiles” is also not in the Bible. It is a mistranslation of the word nations, meaning pagans or “those who do not know God.” (text) The Israelites were not Jews. Judaism and its adherents did not begin until the Talmud was written down, about 200 A.D., long after the events chronicled in both the Old Testament and New Testament took place.

The words Judean and nations, mis-translated “Jews” and “Gentiles” respectively, refer to the God or gods these groups worshiped, not to an ethnicity. The Judeans were believers in the God whose presence was in the temple in Jerusalem – in Judea, thus Judeans. Those of the nations, or heathen, worshiped many pagan gods. The designation was one of worship: whether one worshipped the true God in the temple in Jerusalem versus those who worshipped many pagan gods.

In today’s language, the designation would be “believers” versus “unbelievers.”

Again, the Israelites were not “Jews.” The Bible states that when the Israelites came out of Egypt during the Exodus, they were a “mixed multitude” (Ex 12:38, literal: “great mixture”). They were of no specific ethnicity.

In addition, the Bible confirms that both Rahab, a Canaanite, and Ruth, a Moabitess, were not Israelites initially. Yet Rahab married Salmon and gave birth to Boaz, who married Ruth. Both non-Israelite women (who were certainly NOT “Jews”) were in the ancestry of Jesus.

C. The “organization” will always go astray

The last verse in the last chapter of Judges, which precedes the first verse of the first chapter of Ruth, tells us of the condition of Israel at the time of Ruth, Naomi and Boaz. That verse reads as follows:

“And in those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.” Judges 21:25

As God tells us repeatedly in His Word, man is incapable of ruling over man, whether by a political system, or just one person “ruling” himself. The Bible tells us:

“There are none righteous: no not one.” Romans 3:10

“There are none that seek after God.” Romans 3:11

Man cannot rule over himself, nor can governments or kings properly rule over their subjects. All human governments become corrupt, and usually, tyrannical. The only One capable of ruling over man, whether individually or collectively, is God Himself.

D. God loves everyone the same

Americans, particularly Christian Americans, abhor the caste system in India. They believe it's Un-Christian. Yet, America has its own caste system. According to recent findings of the Sadoff Investment Research firm of Wisconsin, the top one percent of wage-earning households in the US were reaping in around \$1,264,065 in 2012 — or around 41-times as much as the average income for all wage-earners, who pulled in a comparable meager mean income of \$30,997 that year.

The rich look down on the poor. Those of one race show contempt for those of another race. Tall men often look down on short men. (No pun intended). Beautiful women often look down on plain women. Thin women look down on fat women. Smart people look down on those not so smart. Everyone wants to be better than someone else. One group of people even believes they're “God's chosen people.” They believe God loves them more than everyone else.

Many Christians believe there will be a caste system even in heaven: some will have “more stars in their crown” than others. Some have already decided which precious stones they will use to build their heavenly home (as though those in heaven will be living in houses).

But the disciple Peter tells us in the book of Acts:

“Of a truth, I perceived that God is NO respecter of persons.” Acts 10:34

Paul confirms this in Galatians:

“There is neither Judean (a worshiper of God) nor Greek (pagan philosophy), there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.” Gal 3:28

The Bible confirms that God is “no respecter of persons” by the lineage of Jesus Christ. In the ancestry of Jesus there was Rahab, a prostitute, who was also a former Canaanite pagan. God does not hide this truth. And both Rahab and Ruth were non-Israelites from pagan nations.

Rahab and Ruth are the only two women mentioned in the entire lineage of Christ in Matthew, Chapter 1. All the rest mentioned are men.

E. Jesus came to earth as a human being, to be our “next of kin” in order to redeem us

Boaz, as “next” of kin, could “redeem” Ruth.

The Wife of a Deceased Relative. In Deut 25:5-10, the law of levirate marriage is given which states that if a woman’s husband dies, his brother should become the widow’s husband in order to keep the deceased brother’s offspring, and inheritance, within the family.

The book of Ruth assumes that a near kinsman-redeemer was supposed "to raise up the name of the deceased upon his property" by legally acquiring "the wife of the deceased" (Ruth 4:5, 10, with Deut 25:5-6) and siring children who would inherit the property of the deceased.

Jesus came to earth as a human being, as our “next of kin,” so He could, by these similar Old Testament laws found in Leviticus, Chapter 25, redeem humanity.

The Old Testament is full of pictures of the gospel, of grace and salvation in Christ. One of the most instructive, delightful, and thrilling pictures of our Savior in the Old Testament is that of the kinsman redeemer.

The law of the kinsman redeemer is found in Leviticus 25:25-55. Remember, this law was given on Mt. Sinai, at the very time that God gave the law by which sin is condemned, he gave this law by which he shows how he saves his people from their sins. Remember, too, that the context is describing the year of jubilee. Now, I want to show you something of what this passage teaches us about our all-glorious Christ, our Kinsman Redeemer.

Jesus Christ became our Kinsman, our next of kin, our nearest Kinsman. He became one of us so that he might redeem us and set us free from bondage.

"If thy brother be waxen poor, and hath sold away *some* of his possession, and if any of his kin come to redeem it, then shall he redeem that which his brother sold.

“And if the man have none to redeem it, and himself be able to redeem it;

Then let him count the years of the sale thereof, and restore the overplus unto the man to whom he sold it; that he may return unto his possession.

But if he be not able to restore *it* to him, then that which is sold shall remain in the hand of him that hath bought it until the year of jubilee: and in the jubilee it shall go out, and he shall return unto his possession." Leviticus 25:25-28

"And if a sojourner or stranger wax rich by thee, and thy brother *that dwelleth* by him wax poor, and sell himself unto the stranger *or* sojourner by thee, or to the stock of the stranger's family:

“After that he is sold he may be redeemed again; one of his brethren may redeem him:

“Either his uncle, or his uncle's son, may redeem him, or *any* that is nigh of kin unto him of his family may redeem him; or if he be able, he may redeem himself." Leviticus 25:47-49

As we can see, by “searching the Scriptures” rather than reading only superficially, there are many truths that God reveals through His Word.