RUTH
EXPLAINED: Episode Summary

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1. ESSENTIALS

What Do You Need to Know First to Study Ruth Well?

DATE: ***1190-1050 BC:*** Towards the End of Judges
GENRE: ***Redemptive History:*** Messianic Line
AUTHOR: ***Unknown:*** Possibly Samuel
SETTING: ***Moab & Judah:*** Jewish and Gentile
PURPOSE: ***Providence:*** Gentile's Role in God's Plan
AUDIENCE: ***God's Redeemed People:*** Believers

2. STORYLINE

What Do You Need to Know First to Study Ruth Well?

Near the End of Judges (3 Generations Before David)

- Begins: "When judges ruled"
- Ends: "Jesse Fathered David"
- David's Great Grandparents
- Boaz→Obed→Jesse→David
- Connects David to Judges

KEY VERSES

But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return 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. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

- Ruth 1:16-18

3. THEMES & IDEAS

What Major Biblical Concepts Do We Find in Ruth?

- Famine, Death, and Despair
- Gentile's Conversion to Yahweh
- Gracious, Sacrificial Love
- God's Sovereignty Over Events
- Gentile Embraced by Israel
- Kinsman-Redeemer Revealed
- David's Covenantal Ancestors

4. STRUCTURE

What are the major sections of Ruth?

CH 1: 1. Naomi's Loss, Despair & Bitterness
Naomi loses husband, sons & hope; Ruth clings to her

CH 2: 2. Boaz' Kindness & Protection
Boaz, Naomi's relative, employs, protects and feeds Ruth

CH 3: 3. Ruth's Proposition to Boaz
Ruth asks Boaz to step in as Kinsman-Redeemer

CH 4: 4. Boaz Marries Ruth, Naomi's Joy Restored
Boaz redeems Ruth and turns Naomi's suffering to joy



4. STRUCTURE - EXPANDED

4. What are the major sections of Ruth?

5. What do we learn about God from each of these sections?

6. What do these sections offer our Christian life?

CH 1: 1. NAOMI'S LOSS, DESPAIR & BITTERNESS

Driven from her home, Naomi loses everything and returns with Ruth to Bethlehem in despair

CH 1:1-5: Naomi's Circumstances
Naomi leaves Bethlehem due to famine. Elimelech dies. Sons marry Moabite women, also die

CH 1:6-22: Return to Bethlehem
Naomi decides to return to her homeland, Ruth is determined to stay with her, displays covenant love

CH 2: 2. BOAZ' KINDNESS & PROTECTION

Boaz, a kinsman-redeemer, employs and protects Ruth, which provides for both her and Naomi

CH 2:1-7: Ruth Provides for Naomi
Immediately upon return to Bethlehem, Ruth seeks out work, ends up gleaning in Boaz' fields

CH 2:8-23: Boaz' Kind Generosity
Boaz protects Ruth, offers her work in his fields, feeds her; Ruth reports back to Naomi

CH 3: 3. RUTH'S PROPOSITION TO BOAZ

With virtue and honor, Ruth presents herself to Boaz, to see if he is willing to redeem her

CH 3:1-5: Naomi's Plan for Ruth
Naomi proposes Ruth lay near Boaz as he sleeps

CH 3:14-18: Boaz' Generosity and Resolve
Boaz fills Ruth's garment with barley for Naomi and promises to "settle the matter today"

CH 3:6-13: Boaz' Promise to Ruth
Ruth lays near Boaz, and when he is startled awake, asks him to be her redeemer; he pledges to do so

CH 4: 4. BOAZ MARRIES RUTH, NAOMI'S JOY RESTORED

Boaz redeems Ruth, Naomi & hope: a son is born and the line leads to King David

CH 4:1-6: Boaz Holds a Meeting
Boaz announces sale of Elimelech's land (with redemption of Ruth); the first redeemer declines

CH 4:7-12: Boaz Redeems Ruth
Boaz publicly redeems Elimelech's land, and Ruth, in a formal ceremony with the town's blessing

CH 4:13-17: Boaz Marries Ruth
Boaz marries Ruth and their son, Obed, restores Naomi's family line, along with her hope and joy

CH 4:18-22: King David's Genealogy
The book ends by connecting the family line from Ruth and Boaz to Israel's greatest king, David

5. HOW RUTH POINTS TO CHRIST

- In the humility and obedience of the Kinsman-Redeemer, as represented by Boaz
- In the Gentile bride Ruth, brought into the covenant people of God
- In the Messianic line through their son Obed, the grandfather of David

