

Ruth

Repair & Reversal

Ruth

Setting & Context

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Judges... Ruth... Samuel

Does Ruth have a political message?

Setting & Context

Bethlehem/ Moab... Fields/ Harvest

Covenant history gives meaning to locations and events

Setting & Context

God's activity in Ruth

How is God present and active in the events of the book?

Ruth

Literary Structure

A 1:1-5 Children lost/ Naomi destitute

B 1:6-22 Widows return to Bethlehem -Orpah says she will come, but doesn't

C 2:1-23 Field during harvest -(Deut. 24:19-22)
Boaz provides grain -Ruth goes out from Naomi

C' 3:1-18 Field during harvest -(Deut. 25:5-10)
Boaz provides grain -Ruth goes out from Naomi

B' 4:1-12 Women redeemed in
Bethlehem

-Redeemer says he will redeem,
but doesn't

A' 4:13-17 Child given/ Naomi's life returned

Ruth 1:1

In the days when the judges ruled

Lit.- “In the days of the judging of the judges...”

Judges 21:25

In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Gen. 12:10

Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land.

Judges 1:1-2

After the death of Joshua, the people of Israel inquired of the LORD, “Who shall go up first for us against the Canaanites, to fight against them?” The LORD said, “Judah shall go up; behold, I have given the land into his hand.” The LORD said, “Judah shall go up; behold, I have given the land into his hand.”

Judges 20:18

The people of Israel arose and went up to Bethel and inquired of God, “Who shall go up first for us to fight against the people of Benjamin?” And the LORD said, “Judah shall go up first.”

Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah

1 Samuel 17:12

Now David was the son of an Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, named Jesse, who had eight sons. In the days of Saul the man was already old and advanced in years.

Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah

Micah 5:2-4

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength (*beoz*) of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

The fields of Moab

Deut. 23:3-4

“No Ammonite or Moabite may enter the assembly of the LORD. Even to the tenth generation, none of them may enter the assembly of the LORD forever, because they did not meet you with bread and with water on the way, when you came out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you.

“And they remained there”

“The move to Moab was thus not merely something this family did... it was something the family became.”

- Moshe Miller, Rising Moon: Unraveling the Book of Ruth

Ruth 1:3-5

But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Moabite women

Num. 25:1-3

While Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to whore with the daughters of Moab. These invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. So Israel yoked himself to Baal of Peor. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.

Ten years and no children

Gen. 16:1-3

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife.

Ruth 1:16-17

a Do not press/urge me to leave you, or to turn back from following you.

b For wherever you go (*halak*), I will go (*halak*); And wherever you stay (*lun*), I will stay (*lun*).

c Your people (*'am*) will be my people (*'am*), And your God (*'elohim*), my God (*'elohim*).

b' Where you die (*mut*), I will die (*mut*); And there shall I be buried.

a' Thus may Yahweh do to me and more so—Nothing but death (*mut*) will separate me from you!