

BIBLE TRAINING INSTITUTE

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

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Ruth

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Introduction to Ruth

Title

- ✓ Hebrew = *Ruth* (רוּת; "Ruth")
- ✓ Greek = *Routh* (ΡΟΥΘ; "Ruth")
- ✓ Ruth could mean "refreshment, companion, beauty, trembling, draught"
- ✓ Hebrew text places Ruth between Proverbs and Song of Solomon

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Introduction to Ruth

WHO—Authorship

- ✓ Perhaps Samuel

WHO—Audience

- ✓ Twelve Tribes of Israel during King Saul's reign (or beginning of David's reign)

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Introduction to Ruth

WHEN

- ✓ Approximately 1020–1000 BC
- ✓ Perhaps during Saul's reign as David flees, or at the beginning of David's reign
- ✓ Book events between 1375 BC and 1055 BC (time of Judges; Ruth 1:1)
 - ❖ Specific time hard to determine, but Bethlehem is noted in Judges (Judg 17:7–8)
 - ❖ Rough estimate of generations (Boaz is David's great-grandfather) yields ~1150–1100 BC (somewhere between Gideon and Jephthah, perhaps Tola or Jair)

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Introduction to Ruth

WHERE

- ✓ Perhaps Ramah (where Samuel lived much of his life)
- ✓ Companion account to Judges (good-twin)
- ✓ Israel has experienced the consequences of a king of their choosing
- ✓ They must now repent and reorient their focus to God's choice of a king
- ✓ This book whets the appetite for a specific king—David

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Introduction to Ruth

WHY

To highlight God's faithfulness to the remnant of His people during an era saturated with sin in Israel, showcasing God's unfathomable plan to preserve His seed against all odds through David's line and simultaneously to associate Gentiles with the seed, thus proving that David (and his Messianic line) is God's choice of King for Israel.

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Introduction to Ruth

HOW—Terminology and Themes

- ✓ Redeemer (or Kinsman Redeemer, Redemption; 2:20; 3:9, 12 (2x), 13 (4x); 4:1, 3, 4 (5x), 6 (5x), 7, 8, 14)
- ✓ Bethlehem (1:1, 2, 19 (2x); 2:4; 4:11)
- ✓ David (4:17, 22)
- ✓ Eyes (contrast with Judges' use of "eyes"; 2:2, 9, 10, 13)

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Introduction to Ruth

HOW—Literary Structure

- ✓ David's Ancestry and Its Curse (1:1–5)
- ✓ Bitterness in Bethlehem (1:6–22)
- ✓ Gleaning for Hope (2:1–23)
- ✓ Threshing out Hope (3:1–18)
- ✓ Redemption in Bethlehem (4:1–17)
- ✓ David's Ancestry and Its Blessing (4:18–22)

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