

INTRO REMARKS:

Ruth

A. Introduction

1. Title: "Ruth" in Hebrew and LXX
2. Date of Events: c. 1126-1105 B. C. (cf. the Midianite Oppression, c. 1165-1125 B.C.)
3. Canonical Connection (Prov. 31:10; Ruth 3:11)

B. Outline

1. Introduction & Suffering (1:1-5)
2. Return to Israel & Gentile Conversion (1:6-22)
3. God Provides in Suffering (chap. 2)
4. God Redeems in Suffering (chap. 3)
5. God Rewards in Suffering (4:1-13)
6. Conclusion & David's Messianic Lineage (4:14-21)

C. Major Themes

1. The Sovereignty of God

¹ Notes prepared with help of The Master's Seminary BI 501 Bible Survey syllabus.

- a. The Obstacles (1:1, 4, 11-13)
 - b. The Action of Yahweh (1:6; 4:13)
 - c. The Answers to Prayer (1:8, 9; 2:12, 20; 3:10; 4:11-12, 14)
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- 2. The Providence of God in Human Affairs (2:3, 20)
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- 3. The Godly Individuals
 - a. Naomi (1:9, 20-21; 2:20)
 - b. Ruth (1:16-17)
 - c. Boaz (2:4, 12; 3:13)

4. Redemption (2:20; 3:9, 12, 13; 4:1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 14)

5. The Plan of God (4:22)

D. Purposes: Yahweh sovereignly, but in a hidden way, effected the birth of His King through the actions of His people.

E. Bibliography

1. Exegetical: Bush, *Ruth, Esther* (WBC).
Hubbard, *Ruth* (NICOT)
2. English Interpretation: Block, *Judges-Ruth* (NAS).
3. Expositional: Atkinson, *The Message of Ruth* (BST).

F. Selected Interpretive Problems

1. The Historicity of the Book
2. The Night at the Threshing Floor (3:4,7)
 - a. Sexual Overtones Suggesting Impropriety (reasons)
 - 1) The Pattern of Tamar (4:12; cf. Gen. 38:14-20)
 - 2) The Terms “Uncover,” “Feet,” and “Lie down” (3:4, 7)
 - b. Ruth’s Character Called Virtuous (3:11) [Bush; Hubbard; Block]
3. The Marriage of Boaz and Ruth
 - a. A Levirate Marriage (4:8; cf. Deut. 25:5-10) [Block; EBC; BKC]
 - b. A Non-levirate Marriage (reasons) [Bush; Hubbard]
 - 1) Boaz Was Not Mahlon’s Brother
 - 2) Ruth Did Not Go to the City Gate

- 3) Ruth Did Not Pull off the Shoe or Spit in the Face
 - 4) The Shoe Custom Was No Longer Known (4:8)
4. No Moabite in the Assembly of Yahweh (cf. Deut. 23:3-6)
- a. Ruth Was in the Eleventh Generation
 - b. Ruth Was Considered a Worshipper of Yahweh (1:16-17; cf. 1:22; 2:2,10, 21; 4:5, 10)
 - c. Ruth Was an Exception Because of Her Devotion to Yahweh and Worthy Character [Hubbard]

G. Preaching Ruth