

Ruth - "A Love Story"

From Whom: Neither internal evidence nor external testimony conclusively identifies the writer. Jewish tradition credits Samuel as the author, although he most likely did not pen the book himself. Scholars place the period of Ruth around the Judgeship of Jair 1126-1105 B.C. (Judge 10:3-5).

To Whom: Its purpose was to demonstrate to Israel 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). The story of Ruth occurred in the days "when the judges ruled" Israel (Ruth 1:1) 1370 to 1041 B.C. (Judges 2:16-19).

What/ Theme: The book of Ruth is a narrated love story, and yet it also provides an important genealogy (Ruth 4:18-22). A wonderful biblical example of the law of the kinsman-redeemer, and the Levirate marriage (Deuteronomy 25 & Leviticus 25). The story of Ruth corresponds beautifully with the Parable of the Hidden Treasure (Matthew 13:44) and is a picture of how Jesus sees us.

Where/ Notable People: The story takes place in both Bethlehem (Judah) and Moab, which is just east of the Dead Sea.

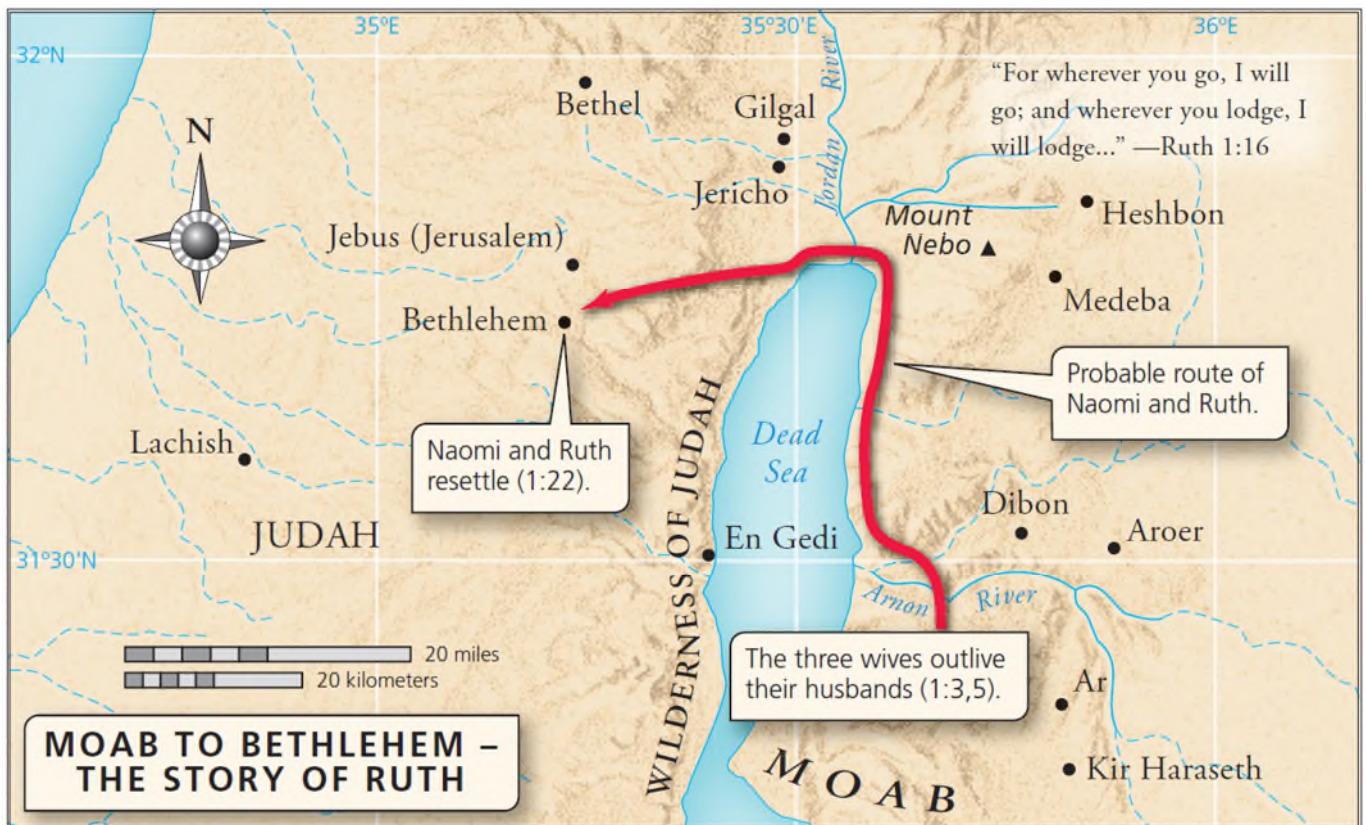
Key personalities include Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz.

Outline:

- 1) In the land of Moab (**Ch. 1:1-22**)
 - a) Elimelech and Naomi's Ruin in Moab (**1:1-5**)
 - b) Naomi and Ruth Return to Bethlehem (**1:6-22**)
- 2) Boaz Receives Ruth in His Field (**2:1-23**)
- 3) Ruth's Romance with Boaz (**3:1-18**)
- 4) In the heart and home of Boaz (**Ch. 4:1-22**)
 - a) Boaz Redeems Ruth (**4:1-12**)
 - b) God Rewards Boaz and Ruth with a Son (**4:13-17**)
 - c) David's Right to the Throne of Judah (**4:18-22**)

| RUTH AT A GLANCE | | | | |
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| Focus | Ruth's Love Demonstrated | | Ruth's Love Rewarded | |
| Reference | 1:1 ————— 1:19 | | 3:1 ————— 4:1 ————— 4:22 | |
| Division | Ruth's Decision To Stay With Naomi | Ruth's Devotion To Care For Naomi | Ruth's Request For Redemption By Boaz | Ruth's Reward Of Redemption By Boaz |
| Topic | Ruth And Naomi | | Ruth And Boaz | |
| | Death Of Family | Ruth Cares For Naomi | Boaz Cares For Ruth | Birth Of Family |
| Location | Moab | Fields Of Bethlehem | Threshing Floor Of Bethlehem | Bethlehem |
| Time | c. 12 Years | | | |

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