

RUTH

AN OVERVIEW

Purpose

To show three people remaining strong in character and true to God even when the society around them was collapsing.

Author

Unknown, possibly Samuel. However internal evidence suggests that it was written after Samuel's death.

Date

Sometime after the period of the judges c.1010 BC.

Audience

The people of Israel during the rebellion.

Setting

A dark time in Israel's history when people lived to please themselves and not God (Judges 17:6).

Special Features

The book of Ruth is a record of several major themes: Faithfulness, Kindness, Integrity, Protection, and Prosperity/Blessing. The book concludes with a genealogy that demonstrates that King David, and eventually Jesus, descends from the foreigner Ruth.



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." (1:16-17 ESV)

Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel!" (4:16 ESV)

"... A son has been born to Naomi." They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David. (4:17 ESV)

Key People

Naomi, Ruth, Boaz.

Key Places

Moab, Bethlehem.