

**The structure of the book of Ruth**  
[based in part on R. Chisolm's helpful observations]

Prologue to the book: 1:1-5 (from Bethlehem to Moab)

**Act One: 1:6-22** (the **ABSOLUTE** sovereignty of God)

Scene One: *returning to Bethlehem*—1:6-19a

Scene Two: *a self-centered perspective on suffering*—1:19b-21

Epilogue to Act One: 1:22

**Act Two: 2:1-23** (the **SUBTLE** sovereignty of God)

Prologue: *the subtle nature of God's sovereignty*—2:1-3c

Scene One: *God graciously provides through hard work*—2:3d-17

Scene Two: *God's loyal-love is acknowledged*—2:18-22

Epilogue to Act Two: 2:23

**Act Three: 3:1-18** (the **TENDER** sovereignty of God)

Scene One: *God graciously provides through wise choices*—3:1-5

Scene Two: *God's loyal-love is reflected*—3:6-15e

Scene Three: *waiting for God to act through others*—3:15f-18

**Act Four: 4:1-17** (the **ETERNAL** sovereignty of God)

Scene One: *when your imagination could run wild*—4:1-12

Scene Two: *God's eternal plan is partially fulfilled*—4:13-17

Epilogue to the book: 4:18-22 (from Judah to King David)