

Theology and Themes of the book of Ruth

Theology of the book

- 1) The NAMES of God
 - a) Yahweh (18 x)—1:6, 8, 9, 13, 17, 21 (2); 2:4 (2), 12 (2), 20; 3:10, 13; 4:11, 12, 13, 14
 - b) Elohim (3 x)—1:16 (2); 2:12
 - c) Shaddai (2 x)—1:20, 21
- 2) The SOVEREIGNTY of God: 1:6; 2:3; 4:13
- 3) The FREEDOM of God
 - a) To grant grace—1:8
 - b) To execute judgment—1:13, 20-21
 - c) To demonstrate loyal-love—1:8; 2:20; 3:10
- 4) The FAITHFULNESS of God: fulfilling His promises to Judah all the way up to David

Themes of the book:

- 1) God is compassionate toward the needy (cf. Psalm 146:9)
- 2) God providentially works compassion through faithful people (cf. Ruth 2:12; 3:9)
- 3) God, in loyal-love, rewards those who demonstrate loyal-love in their God-given relationships (cf. Psalm 18:25; Ruth 1:8; 2:20; 3:10; 4:15)
- 4) God links the God-anointed King David to God's covenant with Abraham through a Gentile woman.
- 5) God welcomes non-Israelites into His covenant relationship with His people Israel
- 6) To provide as illustration of a righteous kinsman-redeemer

Requirement	Fulfilled in Christ
Must be a blood relative	Christ was born of a woman (Galatians 4:4-5; Hebrews 2:16-17)
Must be able to make the purchase of the forfeited inheritance (necessary resources)	Christ had the merit to pay the price for sinners (1 st Corinthians 6:20; 1 st Peter 1:18-19)
Must be willing to make the purchase of the forfeited inheritance	Christ willing laid down His life (John 10:15-18; 1 st John 3:16)
Must be willing to marry the wife of the deceased kinsman	Christ has made the church His bride (Ephesians 5:22-33)

Characters in the book

- 1) God is the primary character of the story (cf. Theology section above)
- 2) Human characters
 - a) Primary
 - i) Naomi
 - ii) Ruth and Boaz are of secondary importance in comparison to Naomi
 - b) Secondary
 - i) Elimelech, Kilion, and Mahlon are seen as **agents** in creating a crisis for Naomi
 - ii) Orpah and the unnamed relative in chapter 4 are **foils** (someone who enhances the qualities of another person) standing in contrast to Ruth and Boaz