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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Fulfilled in Christ</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Must be a blood relative</td>
<td>Christ was born of a woman (Galatians 4:4-5; Hebrews 2:16-17)</td>
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<td>Must be able to make the purchase of the</td>
<td>Christ had the merit to pay the price for sinners (1st Corinthians 6:20; 1st Peter 118-19)</td>
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<td>forfeited inheritance (necessary resources)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Must be willing to make the purchase of the</td>
<td>Christ willing laid down His life (John 10:15-18; 1st John 3:16)</td>
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<td>forfeited inheritance</td>
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<td>Must be willing to marry the wife of the</td>
<td>Christ has made the church His bride (Ephesians 5:22-33)</td>
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<td>deceased kinsman</td>
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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