

# Ruth

The Kinsman-Redeemer



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Lives that seem broken and pointless can play a big part  
in the plans of God.

# The Historical Books of the Old Testament

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6. Joshua – Taking the Land
7. Judges – A Downward Spiral
8. Ruth – The Kinsman-Redeemer

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6. Joshua – Taking the Land

7. Judges – A Downward Spiral

8. Ruth – The Kinsman-Redeemer

9 & 10. 1 & 2 Samuel

10 & 11. 1 & 2 Kings

12 & 13. 1 & 2 Chronicles

14, 15 & 16. Ezra, Nehemiah & Esther

# Ruth The Kinsman-Redeemer

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- **Ruth** takes place during the times of the Judges, somewhere around **1050 B.C.**
- God shows us a bright spot in those dark times, as he is preparing a family through which the Messiah would come.

# Ruth The Kinsman-Redeemer

- Ruth was a **Moabite**; her people were enemies of Israel and worshiped other gods.
- This story shows us God's heart, as He desires to reach the lost and hurting of all nations.

# Ruth    The Kinsman-Redeemer

- Ruth, in a time of sorrow, comes to faith in the God of Israel.
- We ultimately find her within the genealogy of Jesus Christ.
- This foreshadows our inclusion as Gentiles among God's people today.

# Ruth    The Kinsman-Redeemer

The Laws of the *go-el* or Kinsman-Redeemer.

# Ruth The Kinsman-Redeemer

## The Laws of the *go-el* or Kinsman-Redeemer.

- These laws said that a close relative could buy back a family's inheritance when the rightful heir was unable.
- When a married man died without children, it was the responsibility of his nearest relative to marry his widow.
- He was to provide for her and raise up offspring for his brother.

# Ruth The Kinsman-Redeemer

## The Laws of the *go-el* or Kinsman-Redeemer.

- A similar custom – called *levirate marriage* – can still be found in some traditional societies, but not many.
- Importantly, Israelite law also required complete faithfulness in marriage, which made the custom safe.
- At present, however, levirate marriage has been connected with the spread of STDs, notably HIV/AIDS.

# Ruth The Kinsman-Redeemer

## The Laws of the *go'el* or Kinsman-Redeemer.

- Biblically, Jesus our Kinsman-Redeemer was able to redeem us precisely because he is a real man – as human as we are.
- We were unable to purchase our own freedom from the bondage of sin and death.
- He, as our close relative, stepped in and paid the price for our redemption on the cross.

# Ruth A Few Facts

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- **Ruth** is one of only **two books** in the Bible named after a woman. **Esther** is the other.
- **Ruth** is the second recorded Gentile to trust in the God of Israel. **Rahab** was the first in **Joshua 2**.

# Ruth A Few Facts

- **Ruth** is one of **four women** to be mentioned by name in the genealogy of Jesus Christ.
- The others are **Tamar, Rahab** and **Mary** the Lord's mother.

# Ruth A Few Facts

- David is mentioned for the first time in **Ruth 4:17**.
- Hebrew word *go'el*, “redeemer”, or related words are found some **20 times** in this short book.
- The only books that use this group of words more are the much longer books of **Leviticus, Psalms and Isaiah**.

# Ruth A Few Facts

- **Ruth** is read each year in the synagogue at the feast of *Shavuot* or *Pentecost*.
- The main action takes place during **harvest season** when *Pentecost* is observed.

# Ruth Key Characters

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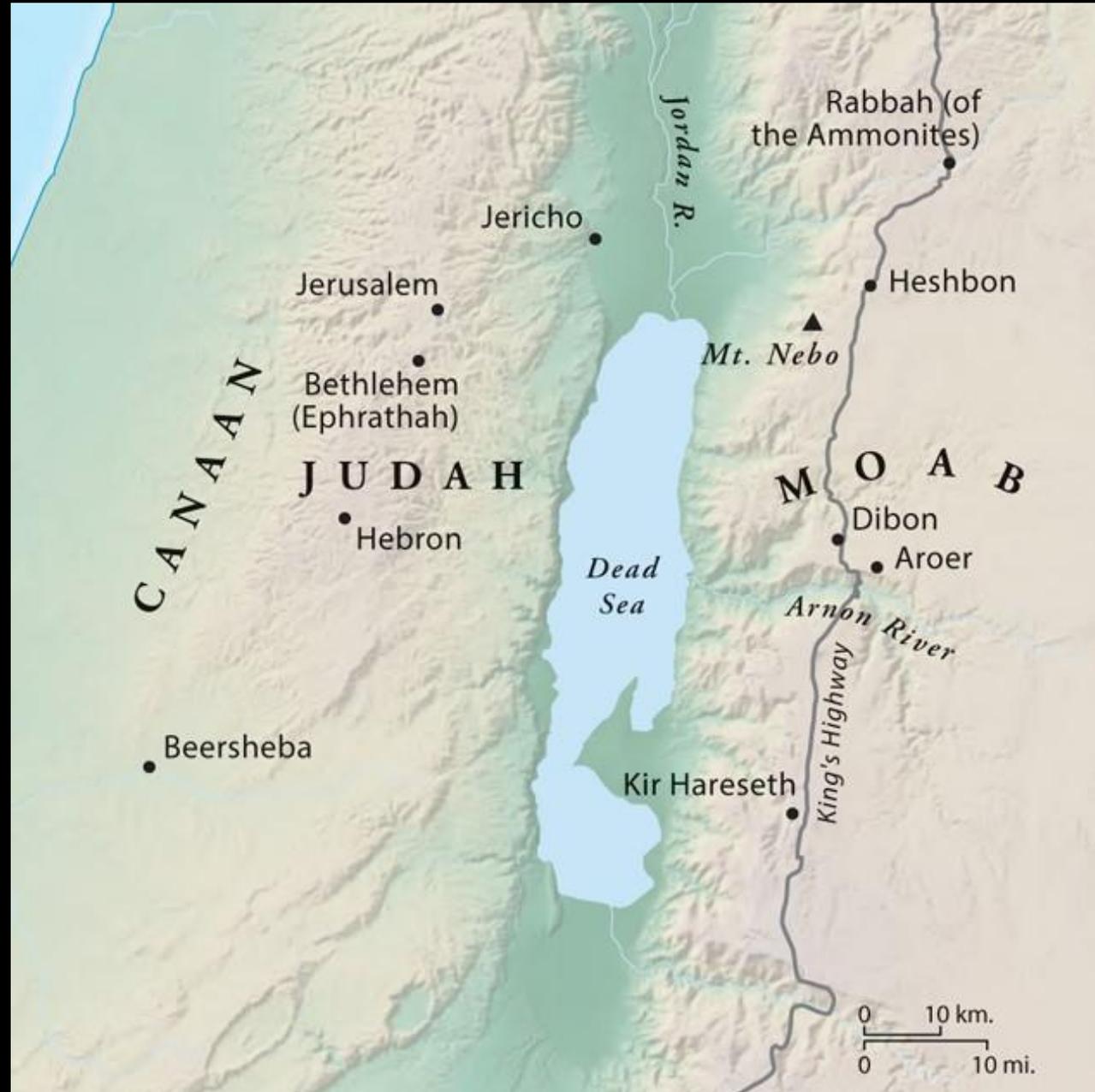
- **Ruth:** A Moabite widow whose virtuous nature won her an honored place among the people of God.
- **Naomi:** Ruth's mother-in-law, a Hebrew woman who found renewed happiness through Ruth's faithfulness to her.
- **Boaz:** A godly Hebrew man, a relative of Naomi.

# Ruth

Where are  
we?

Bethlehem  
and Moab

(Map from NIV  
Zondervan Study Bible)



Ruth

Where  
are we?

Moab

*(Photo from NIV  
Zondervan Study  
Bible)*



# Ruth    The Kinsman-Redeemer

Lives that seem broken and pointless can play a big part  
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Think about this as we read through the book.

# Ruth Key Events

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- **Ruth's choice** 1:11-18 Ruth chose to follow Naomi to Israel, a foreign land.
- **Ruth's efforts** 2:1-13 Ruth's willingness to work brought her to the attention of Boaz.
- **Boaz's choice** 3:11 Boaz responded to Ruth's reputation by arranging to marry her.
- **Obed's birth** 4:13-22 The child of Ruth and Boaz became the grandfather of David, Israel's greatest king.

Ruth Conclusions

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Two Big Lessons in **Ruth**:

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1. Faithfulness
2. Redemption

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1. Faithfulness:

# Ruth Conclusions

Two Big Lessons in **Ruth**:

## 1. Faithfulness:

- Orpah (the daughter-in-law) and the first unnamed close relative were both acting within **their rights**.
- God's blessings, however, came to those who were faithful to fulfill **their responsibilities**.

# Ruth Conclusions

Two Big Lessons in **Ruth**:

## 1. Faithfulness:

- **God remained faithful** to Israel even though, at the time of the Judges, Israel was almost completely unfaithful to him.
- Our faithfulness is imitating **the faithfulness of God**.

# Ruth Conclusions

Two Big Lessons in Ruth:

2. Redemption:

# Ruth Conclusions

Two Big Lessons in **Ruth**:

## 2. Redemption:

- God provided a way for the widow and the foreigner (Ruth was both) to be brought into the blessings of God's people.
- **Ruth** also leads us to **David** who leads us to **Christ**.
- This story of redemption ties into the birth of our Redeemer more than 1000 years later.

# Ruth    Conclusions

Two Big Lessons in **Ruth**:

## 2. Redemption:

- No matter how bad things look at a given moment, we should never imagine that God has stopped working.
- We should also never conclude that our case is too awful, that we are too distant, or that God is unconcerned.

# Ruth Conclusions

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