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A Biographical Study of Ruth

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Ruth

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- I. Ruth in a pagan land—Moab
 - A. Her travail
 1. Ruth was a Moabite girl who married Mahlon, eldest son of Elimelech and Naomi (Ruth 1:1-4; 4:10).
 2. After ten years of marriage, Mahlon died (Ruth 1:15).
 - B. Her testimony (Ruth 1:11-17)
 1. The decision of Ruth—Refusing to stay in Moab, as Naomi had strongly advised her to do, Ruth decided to accompany her mother-in-law back to Bethlehem and live there.
 2. The declaration of Ruth: “Whether thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God” (Ruth 1:16).
- II. Ruth in the Promised Land—Bethlehem
 - A. Her missions for Naomi
 1. Reaping in a barley field
 - a. Ruth met Boaz as she picked up leftover grain in his field for Naomi and herself (Ruth 2:1-16).
 - (1) Boaz praised her for the kindness she had shown to Naomi (who was a close relative) after the death of Elimelech.
 - (2) He invited her to share his lunch. He then privately instructed the harvesters to leave extra grain behind, thus making her work easier.
 - b. Upon returning home Ruth told Naomi what had happened; Naomi immediately began planning for a wedding (Ruth 2:17-23).
 2. Requesting by a barley floor
 - a. Ruth was instructed by Naomi to approach Boaz by night and request that he exercise his responsibility as a kinsman redeemer (Ruth 3:1-4).
 - b. Ruth did this, but learned from Boaz that there was a closer kinsman than himself who first must agree concerning who would care for Naomi and Ruth (Ruth 3:5-16).
 - c. Ruth was reassured by Naomi of Boaz’s determination (Ruth 3:17-18).
 - B. Her marriage to Boaz (Ruth 4:1-22)
 1. Boaz solved his legal problem and married Ruth.
 2. She gave birth to a boy named Obed.
 3. Ruth later became the great-grandmother of King David and occupied a place in the genealogy leading to Christ himself (Ruth 4:21-22; Matt. 1:5, 16).

STATISTICS

Spouses: Mahlon and Boaz (Ruth 4:10-13)

Sons: Obed (Ruth 4:13, 17)

Significant descendant: David (Ruth 4:21-22)

First mention: Ruth 1:4

Final mention: Matthew 1:5

Meaning of her name: "Friendship"

Frequency of her name: Referred to 13 times

Biblical books mentioning her: Two (Ruth, Matthew)

Important fact about her life: She was Boaz's wife and David's great-grandmother (Ruth 4:13, 21-22)