

RUTH

Wednesday, February 6, 2019
Week 1: Intro Material for Ruth

Scripture Reading: Ruth 1:1

1. Background Information

- **WHO** wrote it? We're never told
- **WHEN** does the book take place?
 - Sometime *during* the period of the judges (1400 – 1060 BC)
- **WHEN** was it written?
 - Sometime **AFTER** King David was born and already an established king since he is mentioned directly in the only genealogy created for him *while* he was a king: Ruth 4:18-22. David was born around **1040 BC**, but didn't become king till he was **30** years old (2 Samuel 5:4, roughly around **1010 BC**).

2. Common themes in Ruth

- **Friendship**
- **Loyalty**
- **Providence**
 - **WSC # 11** = What are God's work of providence? "*God's work of providence are His most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all His creatures, and all their actions.*"
 - God is the central character of this book! His name is mentioned **23x!**
- **Redemption**
 - Kinsman-redeemer relationship

- A kinsman-redeemer adopts someone into their family & gives them all the rights/privileges of that family line.
 - The Levirate law custom: Deuteronomy 25:5-6 & Leviticus 25:23-25
 - Ruth 2:20
 - Ephesians 2:12-13, Romans 8:12-17
- **Identity**
 - Philippians 2:6-7
 - Context of the Moabites from Genesis 19:30-38

3. Other trivial information about Ruth

- In contrast to Judges, Ruth is a very peaceful story – there isn't a “villain” in Ruth.
- In the original and current Hebrew Bible, Ruth comes immediately after Proverbs. Ruth is the personification of the **Proverbs 31** woman.
- The brief genealogy at the end of Ruth shows how covenant blessings are extended throughout generations.
- 1 Corinthians 10:11 & 2 Timothy 3:16-17