

Correspondence Bible Study

Lesson #9 – Ruth

PRAYER:

O Lord, help me to be loyal to you and to my family. Help me to see in Ruth a great example of faith and trust. Show me how I am part of Your great plan of love. Use me to share the love of God with my family first of all, and then also with others. Send Your Holy Spirit to enlighten me as I study the Holy Bible. In Jesus name. Amen.

Notes on Ruth:

Even though it is a short Book, we can learn much from it. Like Debora in Judges, we see once again how the Lord also uses women of faith and conviction to carry out his saving work.

The first verse of the Book sets the scene for the Book. The period of Judges (1380-1050 B.C.) is the time frame. Ruth was a Moabite. These people were descendants of Abrahams nephew Lot. The land was south east of the Dead Sea. They were relatives of the Israelites, but they hated one another. That fact makes it even more remarkable that the events of this story should happen.

This piece of history is a personal story of faith from the period of the Judges. It shows that there were faithful people even during those dark days. The story has great value because of the fact that Ruth would be the great-grandmother of David and, of course, eventually from that family was born the Christ, Jesus.

Questions:

1. Chapter 1:2, 4:13-22 – Relate a New Testament story that would tie in with Naomi's hometown.
2. Chapter 1 – Can you blame Orpah for going back to her own people?
3. Chapter 1:16-17 – These words are often spoken at weddings. Realize here it is between a women (Ruth) and her mother-in-law (Naomi). What strikes you about Ruth's vow?
4. Chapter 1:19-21 – Naomi didn't know what the Lord would do but do you blame her for feeling bitter?

5. Chapter 2 – The story doesn't give all the details but what do you think were some of the things that drew Boaz and Ruth together?

6. Read Deuteronomy 25:5-6 – Apparently if there were no brothers alive, the obligation would go to the nearest of kin. The concern was for the family line as well as the family property. How did Naomi help things along in chapter 3?

7. What does the fact that Ruth was a Moabite (a foreigner) demonstrate about God's plan of salvation?

8. Look up Matthew 1, Luke 3, and Ruth 4. Notice the similarities in the genealogies. Who are the women mentioned in the New Testament genealogies?

The story ends by turning Naomi's sorrow and bitterness into joy.

Your questions on Ruth...

Begin reading 1 Samuel.