

Ruth (Introduction)

1. The events of this book took place in the days when the Judges ruled Israel (Ruth 1:1). This makes it somewhat of an appendix to the book of Judges. What were “the Judges?” (I am not asking for individual names.)
 - a. What cycle of behavior kept repeating during the rule of the Judges? (For help see Judges 2:16-19 which provides a snapshot of this cycle which repeats itself through the book of Judges.)
2. The era of the Judges covered some dark times in the history of Israel. The book of Ruth focuses more upon certain people and a certain storyline. Because of this, how is the general tenor of the book of Ruth different from the book of Judges? (*hint: Judges is somewhat gloomy because of the repeated apostasies that it describes...*)
3. Because of a famine in Judah, Naomi, her husband and her two sons moved to Moab. Who were the Moabites? (see Genesis 19:36-38 for help)
4. The book of Ruth focuses upon certain *relationships*. What two main relationships are emphasized? (feel free to name others if you wish)
5. The book of Ruth has considerable genealogical significance (Ruth 4:17-22 + Matthew 1:3-5). It holds an important place in the genealogies of what two great kings? (one with a physical kingdom and one with a spiritual kingdom (Luke 1:69-ff) — If more help is needed, see the last name in Ruth’s genealogy, 4:22, and the first name in Matthew’s, Matt. 1:1)

- a. Was Ruth a Jew?
6. Along with Ruth, the book of Ruth references two other non-Jewish women who were in the genealogy of Christ:
- a. Ruth 4:18 mentions “Perez.” According to Matthew 1:3 he was the son of Judah and Tamar. According to Genesis 38:2 and context, from what people did Judah take wives? (for himself and his sons)
 - b. Ruth 4:21 mentions “Salmon.” According to Matthew 1:5 he “begot Boaz by Rahab.” Though Rahab was adopted by Israel (Joshua 6:25), what was her ethnic background? (Joshua 2:1-ff).
 - c. What do these passages teach about God’s view of God-fearing Gentiles *even* before the Cross?
 - d. What truth did Peter learn in Acts 10:34? Had it always been true?
7. There is reason to believe that the book of Ruth was written some time after the events that were described in the book. Referring to the custom of land inheritance, Ruth 4:7 says, “*Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging, to confirm anything: one man took off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was a confirmation in Israel.*” What in this verse might suggest a later writing date for the book of Ruth?