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)
      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)