

The Book of Ruth (Robbie Strachan)

Ruth 1: Return

God's Big Plan, my little life?

Disaster (v1.1-5)

Decision (v1.6-18)

Despair? (v19-21)

Context Judg 19ff; 21.25

Famine Deut 28.15ff

Moab Gen 19.37; Num 25.1-3

'Return' [שוב shuv] x12

Named to nameless

Full to empty

A bittersweet ending...

“So Naomi returned [שוב shuv], and Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law with her, who returned [שוב shuv], from the country of Moab ...

as the barley harvest was beginning.” (Ruth 1.22)

“His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour,
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.”

William Cowper

Ruth 2: Reaping

The everyday story of country folk?

The Book of ~~Ruth~~ Naomi?

Chapter 2

Ruth asks **Naomi** if she can go, and tells her what she will do; Naomi bids her go.

Ruth goes.

Boaz asks who Ruth is, and is told.

Boaz asks Ruth to stay, says she is worth of being blessed, and gives her food.

Ruth speaks to **Naomi**, tells her what has happened, and receives her counsel.

Chapter 3

Naomi bids Ruth go, and tells her what to do.

Ruth goes.

Boaz asks who Ruth is, and is told.

Boaz says Ruth is worthy of being blessed, asks her to stay, and gives her food.

Ruth speaks to **Naomi**, tells her what has happened, and receives her counsel.¹

The Book of ~~Ruth~~ Boaz

“A man of noble character [גִּבּוֹר חַיִּיל gibbor hayil].” (Ruth 2.1)

The Book of ~~Ruth~~ Yahweh

Lavish Generosity

Faithful Kindness

Gleaning Lev 19.9-10;
Deut 24.19-21 (c.f. Ex 22.

Wings of refuge Ps 57.1;
61.4; 91.4.

‘Kindness’ [חֶסֶד hesed]
Ruth 1.8; 2.20; 3.10

¹ Barry Webb, *Five Festal Garments: Christian Reflections on the Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations and Esther* NSBT (Leicester: IVP, 2000), 38-39.

Ruth 3: Rest?

Dating 101?

Will they, won't they? (v1-8)

18+? Genesis 19.30-38;
38.13ff. Num 25.1-3.

Naked feet? Lev 18; 20; Judg
3.24; 1 Sam 24.3.

'Guardian-redeemer' [גואל
goel] Lev 27.9-25; 25.47-55

Ruth's kindness (v9-15)

"a woman of noble character [אִשֶּׁת חַיִל eshet hayil]" Ruth 3.11 (c.f. Prov 31.1)

Naomi's trust - finally! (v16-18)

"May the Lord grant that each of you will find rest [מנוחה *manoach*] in the home of another husband." (Ruth 1.9)

"My daughter I must find rest [מנוחה *manoach*] for you, where you will be provided for." (Ruth 3.1)

Ruth 4: Redemption

Multum in Parvo

I Will Glory in my Redeemer

The nameless named

The empty filled

The sweetest of endings

Levirate marriage Deut 25.5-6; Matt 22.23-33

“This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the Son of David ...”
(Matthew 1.1; c.f. v5-6)

How Ruth fits together

The Old Testament

Pentateuch

Gen, Ex, Lev, Nu, Deut

History

Josh, Jud, **Ruth**, Sam, Kings
Chron, Ezra, Neh, Esther

Poetry

Job, Psa, Prov, Eccl, Song

Prophets

Isa, Jer, Lam, Ezek, Dan,
Twelve

*Hebrew Bible (TaNaK)**

Torah (Teaching)

Gen, Ex, Lev, Nu, Deut

Nevi'im (Prophets)

Josh, Jud, Sam, Kings
Isa, Jer, Ezek, Twelve

Ketuvim (Writings)

Psa, Job, Pro
Ruth, Song, Eccl, Lam, Esther
Dan, Ezra, Neh, Chron

**c.f. Luke 24.44*

God's Sovereign Kindness, my ordinary trust and obedience