

Old Testament Introduction

The Book of Ruth

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INTRODUCTION

1) The Book of Ruth gets its name from its _____: Ruth the Moabitess. The name Ruth may be a Moabite variation of the Hebrew word *reeiut*, meaning _____ or _____.

2) The Book of Ruth is like an _____ to the book of Judges. Because of the great contrast between the two books, however, Ruth has been described as “_____ in a desert.”

3) Ruth is one of the _____ books of the Bible that bear the name of a woman. It is the _____ book of the Bible that is wholly dedicated to the history of a woman.

4) The short story of Ruth is one of the most beautiful _____ stories of the Bible. It is a story of God’s _____ in the midst of difficult circumstances.

5) The Book of Ruth is both a spiritual and a literary gem.

“The great literary authority of the 18th century, Dr. Samuel Johnson, introduced and read the Book of Ruth to some of his friends in a London club as a piece that had just been written. They were loud in their praise of its simple beauty, and then he informed them that it was the story of Ruth, which he had read from the Bible--the Book which they all hated.”

AUTHORSHIP

1) **The Traditional view:** Jewish tradition says that _____ wrote the Book of Ruth, but there is little evidence to support this tradition.

2) **The Critical view:** Some critics state that “...the story is simply and beautifully told and there is no doubt but that it was written as a complete work in practically the form in which we now have it.” Even with this admission, the critics would view the Book of Ruth as “idealist _____.”

RECIPIENTS

The Book of Ruth was written to the people of Israel.

DATE OF WRITING

The book covers spans a period of a little over _____ years. (1:4) It was probably written about the same time as the book of Judges, which would have

been after the rule of the _____ had ended and after the _____ had been introduced (1:1).

PURPOSE OF BOOK

Historical purpose

1) To give insight into the _____ side of life during the time of the Judges. Not everyone forsook God. It shows that despite the prevailing apostasy of the nation Israel, there were individuals who were living _____ lives.

2) The book furnishes us with the Old Testament’s only genealogy of David’s ancestors from Judah to David.

Doctrinal purpose

1) The Book of Ruth reveals the _____ and _____ of God, displaying His sovereignty, providence, grace, and invitation to salvation for all people.

2) The book teaches us much about the doctrine of _____.

THEME OF THE BOOK

The Book of Ruth could be summed up with the title “*The Romance of _____*” (2:12). The central thought of the book is the great blessing which came to a destitute _____ girl through her faith in God.

OUTLINE

I. Ruth Chooses (1)

II. Ruth Labors (2)

III. Ruth Waits (3)

IV. Ruth Rewarded (4)