

---

**LITERARY OVERVIEW**

**Title:** Ruth from main character. This is only one of two books in the Bible named for a woman (also Esther).  
**Author:** Unknown, possibly written during time of David. It is written particularly from a woman's perspective, something rare in Scripture.

*Not only is a woman the protagonist, but the world of the story is in major ways a woman's world, and the writer gives attention to feminine values and feelings. (Ryken)*

**Purpose:** To give a glimmer of hope and anticipation in the dark days of the Judges.

**Plotline:** In the darkness and decline of the Kingdom and personal tragedy, God works in His providential care to continue His purposes and display His character in a story of love, sacrifice, and marital blessing. It is also a hopeful bridge between Judges and the anticipated reign of King David

**Main Characters:** Ruth, Naomi, Boaz. **Minor Characters:** Orpah, unnamed rival.

**Form/Genre:** Love story (with familiar elements of rival, matchmaker, first meeting, report of first meeting, secret rendezvous, etc), redemption story, with pastoral (rural) setting. Covering 11-12 years.

**Challenges:**

- 1.) To remember that this comes in the dark backdrop of the days of the Judges.
- 2.) To not run through a familiar story too quickly, and to imaginatively enter into the narrative.

*In terms of storytelling technique, verse for verse, the book of Ruth is perhaps the greatest masterpiece of narrative art in the Bible. (Ryken)*

---

**OUTLINE**

<b>Unit 1 – Dark Days Become Darker</b>
---

<b>Unit 2 – God's Provision in a Field</b>
--

<b>Unit 3 – Proposal at the Threshing Floor</b>
---

<b>Unit 4 – Redemption and Marital Blessing</b>
---

---

**APPLICATIONS**

- 1.) The providential care of God
- 2.) An expression Godly womanhood
- 3.) Salvation to the Gentiles
- 4.) Christ in Ruth