

A Literary Outline of the Book of Ruth
(Its Chiastic Structure)

- A Family History: The Family of Elimelech (1:1-5)
- B The Women of Elimelech's Family and the Questioning of Bethlehem (1:6-22)
 - C Barley Field Scene (2:1-23)
 - (a) Ruth Leaves Naomi (2:1-3)
 - (b) Ruth and Boaz in the Barley Field (2:4-17)
 - (c) Ruth Presents Food to Naomi (2:18-23)
 - C¹ Threshing Floor Scene (3:1-18)
 - (a¹) Naomi Dispatches Ruth (3:1-7)
 - (b¹) Ruth and Boaz at the Threshing Floor (3:8-15)
 - (c¹) Ruth Presents Food to Naomi (3:16-18)
- B¹ The Men of Elimelech's Family and the Blessing of Bethlehem (4:1-17)
- A¹ Family History: The Family of Elimelech's Kinsmen (4:18-22)