

Ruth

A Love Story Made In Heaven

Author: Unknown. Suggestions include Samuel, David, Hezekiah and Ezra. Jewish tradition ascribes the book to Samuel. It was probably written during the time of David's reign as king (c. 1010-970 B.C.).

Date: The historical setting is the time of the Judges (c. 1375-1050 B.C.). Some would place it during the judgeship of Jair (Judges 10:3-5; c. 1126-1105 B.C.).

Theme: *From Barrenness to Blessedness.* God works behind the scene honoring faithfulness and bringing about redemption in the accomplishment of His plan and purposes.

Points of Interest:

1. Four chapters/85 verses
2. Along with Esther, the only book bearing the name of a woman.
3. A form of the word "redemption" occurs 23 times.
4. Ruth forms a "Bethlehem trilogy" with the last 2 stories in Judges.
5. Ruth is one of the 5 Megilloth (or 5 scrolls) along with Song of Songs, Esther, Ecclesiastes, and Lamentations. Ruth was read at Pentecost.
6. Ruth serves as a defense of David's right to the throne of Israel.
7. Ruth, a Gentile, is one of 5 women (including Mary) listed in the genealogy of Jesus in Matt. 1:1-17.