

Ruth Chapter 1

What can we say about Elimilech's faith?

Is there a problem with the marriages of Mahlon and Kilion to Ruth and Orpah?

In verses 6-7 it appears that Naomi originally planned to take Ruth and Orpah with her back to Bethlehem, but in verses 8-9 she tells her daughters-in-law to stay with their families in Moab. Why the discrepancy?

We're told of the drama surrounding Naomi's (and Ruth's) departure from Moab but the journey itself was apparently uneventful. What happened when they arrive in Bethlehem?

Ruth Chapter 2

Why, do you imagine, did the author include what is apparently a common, everyday greeting in verse 4?

What prompts Boaz's kindness toward Ruth?

What was Ruth's attitude toward Boaz [10]?

According to Boaz, why had Ruth come to Bethlehem [12]?

Did Boaz do for Ruth what he had asked God to do for her?

Ruth Chapter 3

In spite of Ruth's diligent efforts to care for her, it appears that Naomi is still trying to get rid of Ruth [1]. Why would she do that?

Naomi gave Ruth instructions in verses 3-4; did Ruth deviate from Naomi's plan in verse 9?

What previous act of kindness is Boaz speaking of in verse 10?

Does verse 14 suggest that someone has sinned?

Ruth Chapter 4

Why are we given all the detail about Boaz convening a meeting of the elders?

In the legal proceeding described, we are given the names of all the involved parties except one. Why might that one person be left anonymous?

Is Boaz acquiring property to add to his estate, fulfilling a legal obligation, or carefully ensuring that the woman of his love and desire cannot be claimed by another?

Did the council of elders approve the transaction?

In verses 14-15, who is provided a guardian?

The story of Ruth does not include any kings or wars or prophets or miracles – only a story of everyday people living their ordinary lives. Why was it included in the Bible?

Next week: I Samuel chapters 7, 8, and 15