

# Ruth

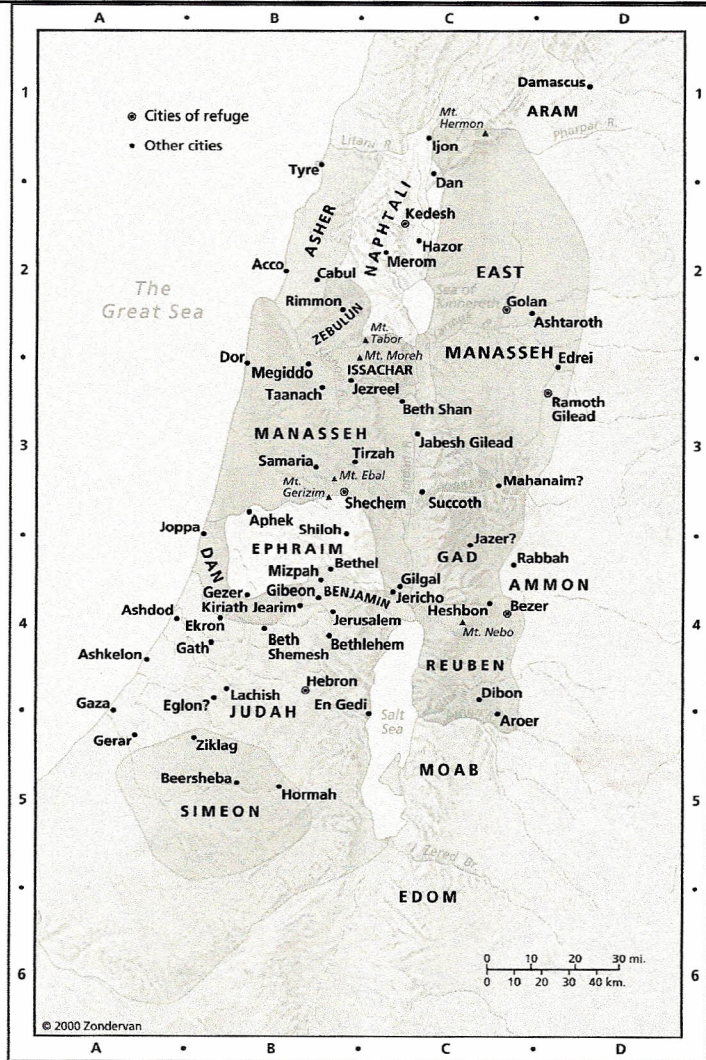
The book of *Ruth* depicts a love story that occurs during the era of the Judges. It tells of a foreigner—a woman from Moab — whose unselfish loyalty to her mother-in-law (and the mother-in-law’s God) leads to a life beyond her expectations.

*Ruth’s* message gains even more significance as a counterpoint to the book of *Judges*, with that book’s portrayals of repeated disloyalty.

## LOOKING FORWARD TO JESUS

*Ruth* is rich in pointing us toward the promise of Christ. A few examples:

- As kinsman-redeemer, Boaz’s actions clearly suggest the role that Christ will play as our Redeemer
- Boaz’s command to his field-workers to leave additional sheaves in the field for Ruth parallel Christ’s concern for the weak and impoverished
- With Boaz (the son of a prostitute) and Ruth (a Moabitess) as Christ’s ancestors, we have an early indication that the kingdom of God is not just for law-abiding chosen ones of Israel



Land of the twelve tribes

### Old Testament Timeline

BC	2000-1700	1700	1250	1210	1030
<b>Creation/Fall</b> Adam & Eve Noah	<b>Patriarchs</b> Abraham Isaac Jacob Joseph	<b>Israel in Egypt</b>	<b>The Exodus</b> Moses The Law	<b>Promised Land</b> Joshua Deborah Gideon Sampson	<b>United Kingdom</b> Samuel Saul David Solomon

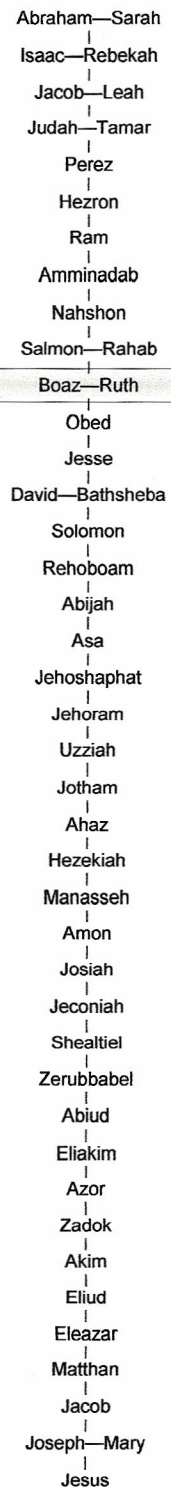
PEOPLE

**Boaz** the son of Rahab, the prostitute we met in *Joshua*; Boaz's loyalty is shown in his service as the kinsman-redeemer; his reward is his marriage to Ruth late in his life and the resulting offspring: Boaz is the great grandfather of King David... and Christ's ancestor. **Naomi** an Israelite living in Moab, Naomi decides to return to Bethlehem after the death of her husband and two sons. Her daughters-in-law — both Moabites — initially intend to join her, but Naomi successfully dissuades one from coming. The one who continues on with Naomi is Ruth. **Ruth** a foreigner from the hated land of Moab, her story is one of the earliest in the *Bible* to demonstrate that God's grace is not limited to the chosen people, but is available to others with faith in God. Ruth is the great grandmother of King David... and Christ's ancestor.

TERMS

**kinsman-redeemer** a relative who by tradition has first right to buy back the property of a destitute person

**Genealogy of Christ**



930	722	587	538	336	63 BC
<b>Divided Kingdom</b>	<b>Samaria</b>	<b>Jerusalem</b>	<b>Judeans return</b>	<b>Greek</b>	<b>Roman</b>
North: Ahab Elijah	South: Hezekiah Isaiah	falls to Assyria, scatters	falls to Babylon, exiled	rule	rule
			Esther Ezra Nehemiah		