

## Purpose

To show that, despite the period of judges, there was a remnant of people faithful to God and His commands

## Meaning of Name

Ruth means "friend"

## Penman

Unknown; some think it was Samuel, but it could have been written after Samuel's death

## Date Written

Sometime during or after the period of the judges (1375-1050 BC)

## Setting

A dark time in Israel's history, when people lived to please themselves, not God (*Judges 17:6*)

## Key People

Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz

## Key Places

Moab and Bethlehem

## Key Verse

"But Ruth replied, 'Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. I will go wherever you go and live wherever you live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.' " *Ruth 1:16*

## An Overview (4 Chapters)

- Ruth Remains Loyal to Naomi (*1:1-22*)
- Ruth Gleans in Boaz's Field (*2:1-23*)
- Ruth Follows Naomi's Plan (*3:1-18*)
- Ruth and Boaz Are Married (*4:1-22*)

## Major Themes

- *Faithfulness*: Ruth's faithfulness to Naomi as a daughter-in-law and friend is a great example of love and loyalty. To be loyal and loving, we must imitate God's faithfulness in our relationships to others. Throughout the story, we see God's faithfulness to His people.
- *Kindness*: Ruth showed great kindness to Naomi. In turn, Boaz showed great kindness to Ruth. God showed great kindness to all three of them. God's kindness should motivate us to love Him.
- *Integrity*: Both Ruth and Boaz demonstrated a high standard of morality and integrity. Just as their character was in sharp contrast with the culture in which they lived, so we should stand out from the world around us.
- *Protection*: No matter how devastating our present situation may be, our hope is in God. His resources are infinite. We must believe that He can work in the life of any person, whether King or stranger. Trust His protection.
- *Prosperity*: We tend to think of blessings in terms of prosperity rather than high-quality relationships God makes possible for us. No matter what our economic situation, we can love and respect the people God has brought into our lives.