



RUTH 1:1-5

Ruth –

- Shortest historical narrative in Bible
- Unknown date/author
- 3 main characters– Naomi, Ruth, Boaz
- Focus – Naomi's restoration



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Main Themes:

David – why is Ruth in Bible?

- Ruth – David's great-grandmother
- See not just 'stock' David comes from (quality of family tree)
- Also way God was working to preserve David's family line



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Main Themes

- **Love** – (c)hesed; parallel to NT agape; commitment to the welfare of another even at personal cost
- Translated – kindness, mercy lovingkindness (NASB), steadfast love (ESV), unfailing love (NIV)



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Main Themes:

- **Providence** – God’s ongoing and active sustaining, governing, and purposeful care of His creation
- Sustaining – preserving; enabling all things to exist in their proper state
- Governing – directing, guiding, and overseeing
- Purposeful – bringing all things to His desired ends
- Ongoing/active care – God as Father provides all creation needs



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Main Themes

- **General Providence** – God’s ongoing and active sustaining, governing, and purposeful care of:
 - Inanimate creation – stars, rocks, etc.
 - Plants
 - Animals
 - People who are not His
- **Special Providence** – God’s ongoing and active sustaining, governing and purposeful care of His people



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Main Themes:

- **Providence**
 - Often ‘anonymous’ – seen through eyes of faith
 - God’s ordinary way of working in the world; usually through (in cooperation with) secondary causes
 - Not same as miracles – obviously supernatural intervention into the created order



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Days When Judges Ruled

- 1400–1000BC
- Spiral of faithfulness/wickedness
- Cycle of
 - Sin (idolatry)
 - Oppression from foreign nation as judgment from God
 - Cry out for mercy
 - God raises up judge (leader) to deliver people
 - People remain faithful(ish) during lifetime of judge

There was a famine in the land

Cause of famine

- **Natural occurrence** – years of drought led to crop failures
- **Judgement from God** –
- Lev 26.18–20: If after all this you will not listen to me... I will break down your stubborn pride and make the sky above you like iron and the ground beneath you like bronze. Your strength will be spent in vain, because your soil will not yield its crops, nor will the trees of your land yield their fruit.



Went to live for a while
in the country of Moab



STONEBRIDGE
CHURCH



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Went to live for a while in the country of Moab

- Descended from Lot (incest)
- Worshipped Chemosh; not allowed to enter Temple
- Israel traveled around Moab in route to Promised Land
- Balak paid Balaam to curse Israel; Eglon oppressed Israel for 18yrs
- Rabbinic tradition- ok for Israelite men to marry Moabite women but not Israelite women to marry Moabite men



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Names

- Elimilech – my God is king
- Naomi – pleasant
- Bethlehem – house of bread
- Mahlon – to be sick
- Killion – failing
- Orpah – neck; as in she turned her neck towards Naomi
- Ruth – refreshment; as in she refreshes Naomi