

The Book of Ruth

8

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

This morning we will be reading the book of **Ruth**. We see from **1:1** that the story of **Ruth** takes place during the time of the judges. The story of Ruth (a Moabite) is just one of many during the course of the period of the judges, but what makes her story biblically significant is the fact that she is the great-grandmother of David (**4:21-22**) and thus also an ancestor of Jesus (**Matthew 1:5-16**). In fact, the book of **Ruth** provides the lineage of David and Jesus right through the period of **Judges**, starting with Salmon, who served under Joshua, through to Jesse, the father of David.

No one is sure when **Ruth** was written, but there is no question that it was composed well after the events took place, for the writer often describes the events and customs as having taken place "in earlier times in Israel" (**Ruth 4:7**). The author also does not provide his name, but it is obvious that he lived either during or after the time of King David.

Read Matthew 1:5

What is particularly interesting is that the mother of Boaz was Rahab, the former prostitute who helped the two spies hide in Jericho.

Read Joshua 2; 6:17,22-25

The book of **Ruth** also provides us with an insight into the times of the judges that is missing in the book of **Judges** itself. If all we had was the record of **Judges**, we could easily presume that the chronicle of Israel's history between the time of Joshua and the time of Saul was one of unmitigated violence, cruelty and faithlessness. But **Ruth** paints a picture of pious life in Israel, obviously during times when Israel was faithful to God and when peace was in the land.

Let's now pull up a comfortable chair and read the whole of **Ruth** in one sitting, and learn the lesson of faithfulness found in this ancestor of Jesus.

Memory Verse

There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For God does not show favoritism.

Romans 2:9-11

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!