



Ruth – Textbook Reading



Textbook Reading

(Other material may be read for extra credit/benefit)

Ch. 12

- ☐ The Book of Ruth
- ☐ Contents
- ☐ The Sovereignty of God and Faithful Living

Study Guide for Textbook chapter 12

The Book of Ruth

- How does the textbook summarize the message of Ruth?

Contents

- How does the textbook define the term “idyll”? Do you think this accurately describes the book of Ruth? Do you think this *completely* describes the book of Ruth? Why or why not?
- Who are the three main characters in this story? What does each of them do?
- What role does God play in this story, according to the textbook? Why is this significant

Literary Structure

- According to the textbook, how is this book similar to a play? What “framework” is used to organize the story as a whole? What does this tell us about the content and message of Ruth?

Outline

- How does the textbook outline this book? How does this compare to the outline given in the course Lecture? How does this help us understand the book of Ruth?

Overview

- Who does the textbook say this book is really about? Do you agree? Why or why not?
- Where does this book take place?
- How does the textbook contrast the characters of Ruth with the main characters of other historical books? What does this tell us about this book?
- Describe the situation of Naomi, according to the textbook? Why did she encourage her daughters-in-law to return to Moab?
- How did Ruth respond? What is the point the textbook makes about devotion?
- How does chapter of Ruth demonstrate an Old Testament provision for the poor?
- What point does the textbook make about why Ruth ended up in that particular field? Why is that significant? How does that influence the outcome of this story?
- What does the textbook tell us about the role and responsibility of the “kinsman-redeemer” in Israel? How does Boaz fulfill that role?

(Continued on the next page)

- How did Boaz understand Ruth's actions, according to the textbook? Were her actions upright? What were the possible dangers of her actions?
- How did Boaz respond to Ruth's actions? What does this say about Boaz's character, according to the textbook?
- According to the textbook, what was the significance of the transaction that took place at the city gate? What is "levirate marriage"? How is this relevant to the story of Ruth?
- According to the textbook, how do all the problems of chapter 1 resolve in a solution?
- What does the textbook describe as the "surprise ending" of Ruth? Why? Why is this important in the larger Biblical story? How should we respond?

The Sovereignty of God and Faithful Living

- What point does the textbook make about the central character of the book of Ruth? What difference does this make? How does it apply to us today?
- How does the textbook contrast this book with the book of Judges? What point does it make from this? How should we respond?
- What point does the textbook make about boundaries? What difference does this make?

Review the Study Questions and Summary at the end of the chapter