

God's Masterwork, Volume Two
The Story of God's People — A Survey of Joshua – Esther
Ruth: Interlude of Love
A SURVEY OF RUTH



The Heart of the Matter

We often discover priceless gems in the strangest places—deep in the rugged, dark corners of the earth. This is so with the book of Ruth. Like an exquisite rose blooming in a foul garbage dump, the story of Ruth adds elegance, grace, and charm to an otherwise depressing scene . . . especially when we realize that it transpired during the days when the judges governed and famine spread through the land. What hope this affords us! In spite of depravity's depths and our bleak surroundings, God still uses choice instruments—His unique and lovely vessels—to bring us reminders of His presence and care.



Discovering the Way

1. Foundational Facts about the Book

The book's title comes from its main character, a woman of Moab whom God used to bring His plan to completion. Ruth reminds us that God doesn't leave us in hard times—He helps us!

2. Survey Study of Ruth

Ruth responded rightly to her circumstances in four particular ways: Ruth had a right reaction to loss, a right response to loneliness, a right attitude toward companionship, and a right approach to marriage.

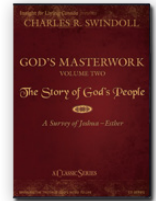


Starting Your Journey

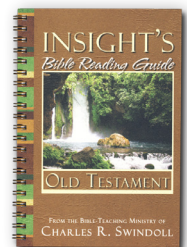
Three lessons linger from our study in Ruth. First, even in the worst of times, God still has His choice instruments. Second, in spite of normal and natural desires, God is still to be glorified. And third, there's no joy like being a grandparent.



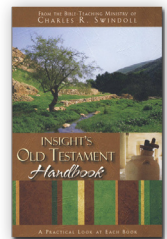
Tools for Digging Deeper



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of Joshua–Esther
by Charles R. Swindoll



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RUTH

JUDGES TURBULENT TIMES	Ruth's Choice NAOMI AND RUTH (Mutual grief) "May the LORD grant that you may find rest." (1:9) CHAPTER 1	Ruth's Service RUTH AND NAOMI AND BOAZ (Mutual pursuit) Naomi had a kinsman . . . whose name was Boaz. (2:1) CHAPTER 2	Ruth's Claim "Wait . . . until you know how the matter turns out." (3:18) CHAPTER 3	Ruth's Marriage BOAZ AND RUTH (Mutual love) Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. (4:13) CHAPTER 4	1 SAMUEL CHANGING TIMES
Setting	"Now it came about in the days when the judges governed, that there was a famine in the land" (1:1).				
Circumstance	Loss — deeper commitment		Gain — deeper love		
Emotion	Grief	Loneliness	Companionship	Rejoicing	
Theme	Redemption: God provides for those who trust Him in hard times.				
Key Verses	1:16; 3:11–12				
Christ in Ruth	Prefigured in the kinsman-redeemer				

"Blessed is the LORD who has not left you without a redeemer today." (4:14)

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