



Ruth

The Mystery of Mercy (Part 1) - Ruth 1:18

The Author

Unknown - But a brilliant writer with tremendous literary skills

- Written in Hebrew and carrying deep meanings in uses of particular words and names.

The Author

This is a _____ !

- Only four chapters long and intended to be read in on sitting - That leaves us with some challenges.

- Ruth is ___ of _____ books in the Bible named after a woman.

- It is the _____ book of the Bible named after a non-_____ woman.

All the elements of a a love story...

With a climatic conclusion....BUT it is

Much MORE than a Love Story between a man and woman...It is a story within a story!

- As we watch the drama unfold in the lives of people
- We see _____ is weaving together His plan to redeem His people for His glory!

Today

- This love story reminds us....

◇ Every one of our lives no matter how ordinary or mundane them seem

◇ No matter how difficult or hard our _____ circumstances

Everything that happens in His creation is under His absolute sovereignty.

◇ When we are _____ to and _____ to God's will

◇ We will discover a life that is more _____ and satisfying that we can imagine!

Every story has specific elements: Time, Place, People and circumstances

Time: "days when Judges ruled" v.1

◇

Old Testament

- ◇ Genesis to Deuteronomy - God's people on the brink of the Promised Land.
- ◇ Joshua - God's people take the Promised land and become established there.
- ◇ Judges - No King and rampant sin

"In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in their own eyes." Judges 21:25

We see a cycle in Judges...

God's people sin against God

- ◇ An enemy attacks them and God raises a judge to bring them out.

It is the midst of the cycle that Ruth takes place...

- Scholars say around the 10th chapter

The Place - Bethlelehem and Moab

- ◇ Bethlelehem - "The House of _____"
- ◇ Moab - The place and people of idolatry and sexual immorality - A sinful and shameful place

People

- Elimelech - "My God is _____"
- Wife Naomi - "Pleasant _____"
- Sons
 - ◇ Mahlon
 - ◇ Chilion
- Daughters-in law - Moabite women
 - ◇ Orpah
 - ◇ Ruth

Circumstances

A man of God moves his family from the land of God (Bethlehem - House of Bread to the land of the Moabites)

This begins a 10 year nightmare v.3-5

- ◇ Elimelech dies v 3
- ◇ Their sons take Moabite wives v 4
- ◇ The sons die v5

The Ray of Hope v 6

- God had visited His people in Bethlehem and given them food
- Naomi decides to return to the Land of God and her daughters-in-law set out with her
- ◇ V 8 Naomi tells them to stay there and hopes the Lord will deal with them kindly

One Promise to God's People:

In His sovereign design, God ordains sorrowful TRAGEDY to set the STAGE for surprising triumph!