The Book of Ruth

- It’s not about Ruth!
- It’s not about Elimelech!
- It’s not about Naomi!
- It’s not about Boaz!
- It’s not about Obed!
- The Book of Christ
One Nation Under God

- Nation established in the Promised Land
- Organized under the Law of Moses
One Nation Under God

- During the time of the judges,
- the Israelites became like the Canaanites,
- but God preserved them as a distinct, surviving people and nation
- by raising up judges who saved them from their enemies.
One Nation Under God

- Character of the age – Judges 17-21
- No king in Israel
- Everyone did what was right in his own eyes
- Can God fulfill His Promise to Abraham?
- Ruth answers that question
The Book of Ruth – Outline

- Ruth 1 – The days of the judges
- Ruth 2 – The kindness of the LORD (CHECED)
- Ruth 3 – The kinsman-redeemer (GA’AL)
- Ruth 4 – The blessing of God
Ruth 1 – the days of the judges

- Elimelech – My God is king
- Naomi, Mahlon, Chilion
- Went to dwell in Moab
  - Under judgment – (famine Deut. 28)
  - Faithless
- Loss of blessing – death of father and sons
Naomi returns to Israel

- Naomi in search of blessing
  The LORD visited His people . . .

- Faithless
  Sent daughters-in-law back to Moab to find rest

- No hope or expectation of blessing
  Contrast with Job 13:15 and Habakkuk 3:17-18

- Bitter (Mara)
Ruth

- Condemned nation – Deuteronomy 23:3-6
- Married Mahlon (Ruth 4:10)
- Devotion to Naomi – seemingly (1:16-17)
  Devotion to the people of Naomi
  Devotion to the God of Naomi
- Ruth the faithful Moabitess
An upside down world

- Naomi, the Jew – doubted goodness of God
- Ruth, the Moabite – entrusted herself to God
Ruth 2 – the kindness of the LORD

- A relative of Naomi’s husband
- Ruth enters the harvest
- She “happened to come . . .” (2:3)
- The great wealth of Boaz
- “A full reward . . . under His wings”
- An honored servant of Boaz
Ruth 2 – the kindness of the LORD

- Naomi’s interpretation (2:20)
- The kindness (CHECED) of the LORD
- A kinsman-redeemer
Ruth 3 – The kinsman-redeemer

1. Property or slave (Leviticus 25:25-55)
2. Property dedicated to the LORD (Leviticus 27)
3. Manslaughter – Cities of Refuge
4. God is Israel’s Redeemer (Psalms and Prophets)
Ruth 3 – The kinsman-redeemer

- Marriage to the kinsman-redeemer
- The precedent of the daughters of Zelophehad
- Numbers 26:33; 27:1-11; Joshua 17:3-6
- Must marry within the clan of the tribe of their father (Numbers 36:1-11)
Ruth 3 – The kinsman-redeemer

- Naomi’s plan
- Kinsman-redeemer
- Take me under your wing
- Boaz noted her character
- Boaz accepted the responsibility
Ruth 4 – the blessing of God

- The transaction at the gate
- Protection of hereditary property
- The principle of the daughters of Zelophehad
- The name of Elimelech is perpetuated
Ruth 4 – the blessing of God

- Bonus Lesson (4:17-22)
- Ruth, Moabitess, is brought into the family of Christ – the coming King.
- Ruth illustrates the plan of God
- The Coming King who is Kinsman-Redeemer will be united to His people.
The final lesson from an evil era

- God is at work
- He will provide a King
- The end will be more than we could imagine
- The blessing is received through faith