

TITLE. The title is taken from the name of Ruth, whom Boaz married. She is mentioned in the book as "Ruth the Moabitess" five times. Ch.1:22; 2:2,22; 4:5,10. She is also called "The Moabitish damsel" once. 2:6.

She was of the nation of Moab, of whom it was said "A Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the Lord, even to the 10th generation Deut. 23:3-4.

The beginning of the race was shameful. It is seen in the name Moab, which means, the progeny of a father.

Author. He is unknown, although many think that Samuel wrote it. Old Thomas Fuller writes:

"The author's name (probably Samuel) is concealed, neither is it needful that it should be known; for, even as a man that hath a piece of gold that he knoweth to be weight, and sees it stamped with the king's image, careth not to know the name of that man that minted or coined it; so we, seeing this book to have the superscription of Caesar, the stamp of the Holy Spirit, need not to know who was the penman thereof."

DATE OF THE BOOK. About the time of the Judges. Many men have many suggestions. Note some:

Josephus.....Some say time of Eli.

Moldenhawer.....Time of Ehud.

Usher.....Time of Shamgar.

Bp. Patrick.....Supposes that the famine of Ruth 1:1: is the same as that in Gideon's time. Jud.6:3-6

R. Kimchi.....Boaz & Ibzan the Judge are one

MESSAGE OF THE BOOK. To reveal the Messianic line as it is given in the genealogy. In this book He is distinctly seen as the kinsman-Redeemer. 2:20.(Marg. The one that has the right to redeem.) 3:9,12; 4:1,3,6,8,14. Also 3:13.

"If men like not of God's choice, He leaveth them to their own, of which they shall be sure to repent."

HOW SIN DEPRIVES MEN.

"People deprive themselves by their sins of that which God hath given, and they have enjoyed, according to His promise." For sin deprived angels of heaven, Adam of Paradise, Cain of his honor, Reuben of his birthright, thousands of the land of Canaan, Jerusalem of her kings, temple peace and prosperity."

THE INFECTION OF SIN.

If men live where idolaters be, it is good to avoid the infection as much as may be. It is rare to be a righteous hearted Lot in Sodom, he was but one, and one alone."

"Israelites become idolaters in Egypt."

1. THE STORY OF ELIMELECH & NAOMI. 1-5

1. It is placed in the times of the Judges. 1.

2. It was a time of famine. 1. Cf vs 6.

Famine in Israel was a sign of spiritual declension. God had given His promise there would be no lack if they were obedient.

Cf. Lev. 26:4, 20. Deut. 28:38-45.

Their sin brought a. Spiritual declension.

b. Judgment. Deut. 28:35---

c. Suffering for sin.

3. Elimelech went to sojourn-but continued in Moab. vs. 1 and 2.

He went--not to live but to lodge.

not to dwell but to sojourn

Not to make a habitation for ever, but a harbour for a season. (A. Fuller)

LIKE MANY ANOTHER HE WENT TO SOJOURN AND CONTINUED---IN A SINFUL PLACE.