

Ruth

An account of love and redemption

A hermeneutic of Ruth:

1. By Exegesis

Exegesis defined – to read out of the text

Vs. eisegesis – to read into a text

Exegesis explained – when we study a particular passage, we acknowledge the supremacy of the Bible. It says what it says. It means what it means.

Its context is its own. It must shape us, not visa-versa.

Exegesis of Ruth:

It is in the Historical genre. The book is a love story which provides good background for the rise of the Davidic reign and covenant.

It does provide a rich theological commentary on doctrinal themes (Ruth is not a theology book like Romans, Proverbs, or Job):

1. Redemption of those who are loved
2. Love as a motivator to do whatever is necessary to see to another's well being
3. The inclusion of those outside of Judaism
4. Hope from despair

2. By Interpretation

Interpretation defined – The understanding of the meaning of a text

Interpretation explained – In Bible study it has been well said, “There are many correct applications to a text, but only one correct interpretation.”

Interpretive rule: always consider the context (EG the pericope, the book, the testament, the Bible)

Interpretation of Ruth

The immediate context of Ruth is obviously historic record.

The context within the O.T. helps us see God's inclusion for outsiders.

The context within the whole Bible clearly demonstrates a poetic foreshadowing of God's plan for redemption, because of His love for humanity, and how, providentially God used Boaz and Ruth to directly accomplish that plan.

Ruth – a vivid picture of God using someone outside of the faith/family

Boaz – a picture of Christ who steps in to redeem as a kinsman

The nearer kinsman – A picture of the Law which couldn't redeem, but had met its obligations

Naomi – a picture of the soul that finds joy in redemption after being in despair from death

An application of Ruth:

1. This love story gives good role models for women who wish to pursue godliness (the rabbis of Judaism place Ruth immediately after Proverbs as if to offer an example of the Prov. 31 woman within close proximity). It also provides a great role model for men who wish to pursue godliness.
2. Despair of today can turn to rejoicing tomorrow.
3. Ultimately, though we are dejected and lost, Christ has paid for our redemption.