



Part 4: Colouring Outside The Lines

This book that began with a funeral now ends with a wedding!
What opens with famine now closes with fullness!

~ Warren W. Wiersbe
Weirsbe's Expository Outlines on
the Old Testament

The relationship between Ruth and Boaz is perhaps the strongest example in the whole Old Testament of how the Blessed Alliance of men and women in relationship is supposed to work. Two image bearers – male and female – joining forces to advance God's kingdom on earth.

~ Carolyn Custis James
The Gospel of Ruth

It is important that theologians seek to understand marriage and motherhood in ways that bring out the wholeness of both male and female humanity, without discriminating against women who are single or childless.

~ Isabel Apawo Phiri
Africa Bible Commentary

Redeeming both Ruth and the land would not have been required by the letter of the levirate law. Perhaps this exemplified Boaz's desire to obey the spirit of the law.

~ John MacArthur
The MacArthur Bible Commentary

Ruth consistently rejects the cultural parameters that confine her sex. Contrary to the culture's rules of widowhood, she uses her wits and her voice without hesitation. She challenges the status quo, offers deeper interpretations of Jewish law, initiates a cogent plan of action, and recruits a man to join her cause.

~ Carolyn Custis James
The Gospel of Ruth

The story has not just been about God providing a solution for the needs of certain individuals. No, in the process, God is also paving the way for the king that his people need. So this is not just a story of God's covenant faithfulness (*hesed*) to Naomi and Ruth. It is about God's covenant faithfulness (*hesed*) to all of God's people.

~ Iain M. Duguid
Reformed Expository Commentary

It is not just Ruth's story that turned out to be part of a much bigger narrative than she ever imagined. Your story and my story are also woven into the bigger tapestry of what God is doing in Jesus Christ.

~ Iain M. Duguid
Reformed Expository Commentary

The book ends in a way that we do not expect. Boaz and our heroine Ruth are gone from sight, a clear indication that this book is finally something other than a romance. In the end, only the old woman is left, holding the child who is her future and that of her people.

~ Ellen F. Davis
Who Are You, My Daughter?

Now at the end of Ruth we discover that this incident that nearly resulted in a family of Israel dying out concerned none other than the family of David. The great King David came that close to never having been born.

~ John H. Walton
The IVP Bible Background Commentary

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

~ The Apostle Paul, Romans 8:28