



Timeless lives from the God-Story **RUTH: WHERE YOU GO I WILL GO!**

Women were more valued in ancient Israel head and shoulders above those found in other cultures. This is because Jews (and Christians) understand that God places human value at a soul level. In God the issue of male and female is for this life only. So our value is determined by being made in the image of God, instead of how our culture spins it.

The book of Ruth contains four chapters, and tells us the complete story of Ruth so that we can understand God's take on her importance as a person. Ruth lived during the time of the judges, when everyone was doing what was right in their own sight.

One of the themes woven into the entire Bible is that even though God chose the Jews to guard His Word and to provide the blood lineage of the "Messiah" or deliverer, His heart included bringing knowledge of His plan for eternal life to the rest of the world (the Gentiles). Ruth shows in a very real way what kind of heart can find its way to God. The "refuge" she found under God's wings was sweeping in her life and in the lives of her children's children for generations!

CHAPTER ONE: Note chapter 1:15-17

What are Ruth's circumstances?

What are her choices?

Why does she take the choice and path she does?

What was hard about this choice? What made it make sense?

CHAPTER TWO: Chapter 2:11-12

In what ways does she display selflessness? Humility?

What are the two paths of her life that were before her?

CHAPTER THREE: 3:9-11

What do you learn about the culture of the Jews in history through the story of Ruth?

What character qualities are coming out of Ruth's responses to her circumstances?

What does it mean to be "covered" by someone?

CHAPTER FOUR: 4:11, 22

What is Ruth's personal claim to fame?

Her national and spiritual mark on the world?

Do you feel you have an unfolding view of women that unfolds from the God Story?

Are you able to live above godless perspectives on men and women exhibited in our culture? Ruth certainly could have become embittered but instead she trusted God as her Protector and shield. What ultimately gives a person their worth before God? Where does our culture exclude God and redefine value when it comes to men and women?

My conclusions from this study...
