

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF RUTH

I. INTRODUCTION

A. The CANONICITY of this Old Testament book

1. Unlike other biblical books (e.g., Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Esther), the book of Ruth stirred up _____ in antiquity over its canonicity.
2. The earliest Jewish and Christian lists of Scriptures unanimously _____ Ruth, though not always in the same _____.

B. The AUTHORSHIP, SETTING and DATE

1. The book neither _____ explicitly nor _____ implicitly to the identity of its author.
2. This person while remaining anonymous, was a very _____, _____ writer.
3. As to this author's identity, the most common guess among Jewish scholars is _____.
4. The setting of the events of this short story took place immediately following the _____ of the _____ (1:1).
5. These were spiritually _____ in Israel's history with only _____ moments of revival.
6. The Book of Ruth offers a refreshing look at two Israelites and a Moabitess who are bright examples of _____, _____, and responsible _____ in desperate times.

7. The _____ possible date that this composition was written, would be _____ David had become king of both Judah and Israel (circa 1000 BC).

C. The LITERARY GENRE

1. The Book of Ruth may have poetic nuances, but it is not poetry; nor is it a fictitious novel merely to entertain; it is considered a short _____ with the intention to _____ and _____ the reader.
2. The Book of Ruth is beautifully written with a symmetrical design; it is a story that is told simply and yet directly of _____ and _____.

D. THEMES and PURPOSES of the Book of Ruth

1. Unlike other books (cf. Luke 1:3-4; John 20:31), the book of Ruth lacks an _____ or even a _____ statement of purpose.
2. It does give us a window into life in _____ Israel and its Jewish _____.
3. Something said by Boaz has often been cited as the key verse, "*The Lord _____ your work, and a full reward be given you by the Lord God of Israel, under whose _____ you have come for _____.*" (Ruth 2:12)
4. We can conclude, because God's _____, superintending _____ on behalf of the main characters of Naomi, Ruth and Boaz is repeatedly underscored, it should be _____.

* Are you thankful that God has preserved the Book of Ruth?