

RUTH: INTERMEDIATE BOOK

- Christian bible - between judges and 1 Samuel.
 - Judges closes with the last judge - Eli
 - 1 Samuel begins the first king - *melech*
 - Elimelech is the first person we meet in the book of Ruth
- Jewish bible - TaNaKh
 - Torah - law
 - Nevi'im - prophets
 - Ketuvim - writings
 - Poetic book: psalms, proverbs, job
 - Five *megillot*: Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther.

RUTH: IMPLICIT PROPHECY

- Explicit prophecy: "this is the oracle of the lord..."
- Implicit prophecy: "*my god, my god, why hast thou forsaken me? ...*(psalm 22:1)
 - Implicit prophecy shows and displays explicit prophecy, but--
 - Cannot be seen in advance or cannot be seen without explicit prophecy

IF YOU MISS THE IMPLICIT PROPHECY OF RUTH

- You will see-
 - A beautiful story of love and devotion
 - A wedding illustration
 - The introduction of David and the Davidic line
- But you will miss--
 - The Jewish diaspora and return
 - The condition of the Jewish heart upon return
 - The means by which god brings the Jews to their redeemer

ANOTHER WORD FOR IMPLICIT PROPHECY: *TYPOLGY*

- Some typology we know explicitly.
 - Romans 6:17
 - 1 Corinthians 10:6
- *Type* is the imprint of the *antitype*.
 - Antitype: "*something that is represented by a symbol*"
 - Other words for type:

- Foreshadow, representation, symbol
- Typology is an important element of understanding Ruth.
- Is Ruth at type of the gentile church?
 - The church did not convert to Judaism
 - The church is not represented in the old testament
 - If Ruth represents the church, then Paul was mistaken in Ephesians 3:4-6

PROPHETIC PARALLEL IN THE BOOK OF RUTH

Ruth serves as the “intermediate link between the fall of Israel under God’s immediate government, and the future fulfilment of His purposes.¹” for Israel through the Kingdom. Ruth sits between Eli (the last judge and priest) and *Melech*, the King, presented in 1 Samuel. Elimelech is an interim figure. The work of the Prophet Samuel was the beginning of the prophetic word about the conclusion of all things in the coming King (see Acts 3:24). It is no mistake that one of the first historical events described in 1 Samuel is the loss of the Ark of the Covenant.

CHAPTER 1

Verse	Historical	Prophetic
1	Judges judged – 10 of them	Israel had no king in the days of the diaspora
1	Famine in the land	Famine for the Word
1	A certain man went	A certain generation went
2	Elimelech	Representative of the Jewish people of the diaspora.
2	Naomi	Representative of the faith of the Jewish people of the diaspora. i.e.: Judaism
2	Mahlon & Chilion	The children of the diaspora: “sick” and “dying”
2	Ephrathites of Bethlehem	“fruitful” of the “House of Bread”
2	Moab	“away from Father” “remained there” (fulfilment further prophesied in Matt 12:38-45)
3	Elimelech died	The first generation of Diaspora
3	She was left with her two sons	Judaism had two “sick and dying” sons
4	They took for themselves Moabite women	Intermarriage and the corruption of Jewish faith

¹ J. N. Darby, *Synopsis of the Books of the Bible: Genesis to 2 Chronicles*. (Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 2008) 436.

4	Orpah	The “nape of the neck”
4	Ruth	“Friendship”
4	About 10 years	Ten is the number of Divine order – “about 10” would be “almost to God’s complete order” signifying a return prior to the fulfillment of God’s ultimate plan.
5	Mahlon & Chilion died	Judaism is still alive (Naomi) but sickness and dying has given way to death
5	“the woman was left...”	She was “the remnant” that remained of the family.
6	She arose...and they went...to return to the land of Judah	Judaism rises up to return, and her “legal daughters” because “she had heard...that the Lord had visited His people in giving them food.”
7-10	Both daughters-in-law pledge to “surely return with thee to thy people.”	Thomas Brightman, 1615, "There is nothing more certain: the prophets do everywhere confirm it and beat upon it." His answer to <i>Shall They Return to Jerusalem Again?</i> in his pamphlet by the same title.
11-13	“turn again”...it greiveth me much, for the hand of the Lord has gone against me	The first Zionist congress was to meet in 1897 in Munich, but strong Jewish opposition caused it to move to Basel. From the time of the determination to return, Jews were split on the matter. Only “the hand of the Lord...against me” brought the strength of numbers needed for a strong Zionist sentiment. Today, roughly 50% of world Jewry lives in Israel.
14-15	One kissed, one clung	This is representative of the two groups of Jews today. The Jewish people will always be tempted to mix with the gods of this world.
16-18	“till death do us part”	Ruth’s commitment to Naomi is the modern Jewish commitment to Judaism and the Jewish homeland by those who make Aliyah.
19	“all the city was moved about them”	The return of the Jews was not without notice
20-21	Don’t call me Naomi, call me Mara	Jewishness was very bitter about their almost 2,000 year exile and the treatment from “the Almighty” who has “afflicted me” and “the Lord” who has witnessed against me.
22	“at the beginning of barley harvest”	Passover time

