



The book of Ruth

DESCRIPTION SHEET

Author

The book bears the name of the central character in the story. However, it is likely that Ruth, the Moabite, is not the author. According to rabbinic tradition, it is likely that the story of this text was written by the prophet Samuel. According to the same tradition, this book was written before or during the reign of David in Israel.

Date

We can date the writing of this book around 1011-931 BC. This book provides some important historical information that gives it a special place in the biblical canon. Historically, it mentions the lineage of David through the whole period of the Judges (Ruth 1:1). The conclusion of this book with David's genealogy is also of great importance in the history of Scripture.

The main theme

Regarding its main theme, the book of Ruth tells the story of love and self-sacrifice marked by true affection in the domestic life of a family. Ruth's love for Naomi is shown in the fact that she chose to leave her own native land to go and live with Naomi in her home country. The story also tells us that there is a special reward for every act of true love. In this sense, God blessed Ruth by making her marry Boaz, the owner of the grain field in which Ruth used to glean.

Outline of the book

1. Elimelek and Naomi in the country of Moab (Ru. 1 :1-5)
2. Naomi and Ruth in Bethlehem (Ru. 1:6-22)
3. The meeting of Ruth and Boaz (Ru. 2:1-3:1-18)
4. Ruth becomes the wife of Boaz (Ru. 4:1-17).
5. Genealogy of David (Ru. 4:18-22)