

“A RAY OF SUNSHINE”

INTRODUCTION TO RUTH

We run to familiar and recognizable portions of scripture. Yet like a good friend you've known a long time, you can still make new discoveries the more you continue to engage. Such is even truer with the depth and breadth of God's Word.

NUANCES OF THE BOOK

① _____ Days & _____.

This cyclical pattern involves: _____, servitude, supplication, salvation, and _____.

② A _____ of _____ Cities

Judah was the dwelling of God's people while Moab that of God's enemies. Judah occupied the _____ side of the Salt/Dead Sea whereas Moab the _____ side.

③ _____ in Distress

The parents of both these women are non-existent so they look to an extended family member for guidance.

These two leading ladies and the books titled after them could not be more _____ in many respects.

④ _____ 9-1-1

The cast members in this narrative encounter real life aches and pains. Their bubble has popped. It's real life and it isn't really looking like a life.

⑤ _____ Grief

There is a time to mourn but such mourning does not need to be bad – especially when you see _____ in the trial and anchor on His constancy.

An embittered mother seeks to hijack the narrative. Thankfully, a daughter-in-law rescues it.

⑥ The _____ and _____.

The tide shifts back and forth as it begins with a family lineage drown in _____ yet closes with a family lineage gushing with _____.

The _____ chapter sours on famine and fatality while the _____ chapter soars on progeny and promise.

⑦ _____, _____.

Without Ruth, the reader would move from the end of Judges where everyone was doing what was right in their own eyes to a king in 1 Samuel who often did what was right in his eyes. Thankfully, Ruth roots itself in the middle and shouts out with great _____.

CONCLUSION

Against great odds, when God is in it, well, there are no odds. Only _____! His ways are not always our ways and that is especially true in this particular book.

Wherever you find yourself, the Book of Ruth will meet you there – but not leave you there.