

## **THE BOOK OF RUTH**

Sandwiched between the Judges and the period of the Kings is the delightful romance of **Ruth the Moabitess**. The Moabites were enemies of Israel. They lived on the opposite side of the Dead Sea, and worshipped their own gods. In a time of famine, an Israelite family from the town of **Bethlehem** near Jerusalem emigrated to Moab, believing they would be better off there. The two sons married Moabite wives, and soon abandoned their religion. In time they both died, and so did their father, leaving **Naomi** a widow. Heartbroken, she decided to return to Bethlehem, and said goodbye to her two daughters-in-law. But one of them, Ruth, had been so impressed with the faith of Naomi she begged to come with her. The book describes how she met, while gleaning corn in his fields, a God-fearing Bethlehemite called **Boaz**. He was related to Naomi, and when she appealed for his help, he agreed to marry Ruth, so that the family inheritance would not be lost. The last chapter gives an intriguing description of an Israelite wedding, and finishes with the significant fact that Boaz and Ruth became progenitors of the Lord Jesus Christ, through the family line of Jesse and David. It underlines the principle that, as the Apostle Peter declares,

*" .. God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him." Acts 10:35*