

A Bright Light In Dark Days
Ruth 1:1a

- I. Historical Setting of Ruth
 - A. “When the judges governed”
 - 1. “In those days there was no king in Israel, everyone did what was right in his own eyes” (Judges 21:25)
 - 2. It was a dark time, filled with idolatry, wickedness, and a general culture of godlessness
 - B. A few shining moments, but none to turn the tide completely
 - C. God’s people were in rebellion, God’s people’s enemies were victorious, and God’s displeasure was regularly displayed
 - D. In this case, the book starts out with a famine on the land
- II. Significance to Understanding The Book
 - A. A man of Israel is fleeing to an enemy territory because there is no hope for life to be found in the land of promise
 - B. Things become even worse, as he and his sons die, leaving his wife with no hope for protection or livelihood
 - 1. She is in a strange land among strange people with no one to care for her
 - 2. She decides to take her chances and return home
 - 3. In a strange turn of events, a daughter-in-law decides to abandon all she knows and travel with her
- III. The Dark Cloth for the Diamond To Shine

- A. The book begins as bleak and hopeless as possible
- B. Yet, it is filled with hope: perhaps one of the most hope-filled stories in all of the Old Testament