



Ruth

"And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God." Ruth 1:16

Ruth lived thirteen centuries before Jesus; she was the great-grandmother of King David, and therefore an ancestor of the Saviour. The story of her loyalty and devotion to Naomi, her mother-in-law, is among the most touching in the Bible. Ruth left her own land, Moab, after her husband's death to return with Naomi to Judah. This she did in fulfillment of her promise: "Whither thou goest, I will go."

The young and beautiful Ruth helped support Naomi and herself by working in the fields along the way. Eventually when they arrived in Judah she was employed by Boaz, a well-to-do land owner and kinsman of Naomi. Later Boaz and Ruth were married.

The story of Ruth presents her as a model of filial piety, an example of a daughter-in-law's love for her mother-in-law. From her marriage to Boaz, Obed the grandfather of David was born. Great as was David, whose psalms have been loved and cherished by mankind, Ruth's highest sacred significance consists in something else.

She, a pagan Moabitess, was called by Providence to make the first mixed marriage in the golden line whence should spring the Messiah. Thus did divine wisdom intimate that the Messiah would be the inspiration of no limited nationality, but the Lord and Brother of all mankind.

