

Book of Ruth

Time:

- Before Samson
- Time of Jephthah's victory over the Ammonites
- Famine of Ruth 1:1 could be the 18 years of oppression of the Ammonites
- Ruth was David's great-grandmother
 - David born around 1040 BC
 - David was 8th and youngest son of Jesse
 - Jesse could have been 60 when David was born
 - Obed *might* have been 50 when Jesse was born
 - Speculation could say Obed was born 110 years before David or 1150 BC
- Samuel would be born in 1105 BC or about 45 years after Obed, so First Samuel begins about 50 years after the story of Ruth and Boaz.

Around 1250-1050 BC the ancient world was experiencing a decline

Egyptians, Hittites, Mesopotamians were declining in power

Greeks faced political unrest and change

The Sea People (Philistines) were easily sweeping across the Mediterranean world.

These disruptions came from environmental stresses which were aided by a series of earthquakes.

This is proven by pollen remains – see this link:

<http://israel21c.org/headlines/ancient-pollen-yields-dramatic-finds-at-sea-of-galilee/>

ANCIENT POLLEN YIELDS DRAMATIC FINDS AT SEA OF GALILEE

"Israeli researchers uncover link between drought and the rapid decline of ancient civilizations, using pollen samples from under water. Like rings on a tree, layers of pollen can tell researchers much about climate patterns unrecorded in the centuries before there was science. New pollen samples dug out of the bottom of the Sea of Galilee ([Lake Kinneret](#)) by an Israeli scientific team suggest that a regional drought seems to have been the reason why prosperous societies — Egyptian, Hittite and Mycenaean — collapsed more than 3,000 years ago. The recent study by Dafna Langgut and Prof. Israel Finkelstein of the Institute of Archaeology at Tel Aviv University (TAU); Prof. Thomas Litt from the University of Bonn, Germany; and Prof. Mordechai Stein from the Hebrew University appeared in the October issue of *Tel Aviv: Journal of the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University*. The study explains short-term and cataclysmic climatic changes in the region. In addition, the new research opens up a new way for scientists to compare records and substantiate them. **Looking at pollen at the micro-scale of 40-year gaps, the researchers discovered a shift in vegetation that corresponds to a drought that heightened in the years between 1250 and 1100 BCE.** This drought presumably could have created a snowball effect on trade, farming and societies themselves."

(from the above link from *Israel 21c.*)

This gave room for minor nations to take root and leave their mark on history: Moabites, Phoenicians, Syrians, Ammonites, Philistines, and Israelites.

This is the only book named for a non-Israelite
Ruth is not main character, but Naomi who has a family in crisis, faces emptiness and is fulfilled and restored with the birth of Obed.

Ruth carries the story as a character with a secondary role
55 of the 85 verses contain dialogue.

678 of the 1,294 words in the book are dialogue (52%)

Ruth speaks the 3rd most.

Toni in the hills outside of Bethlehem →

