

Contents

Preface	ix
About the Text	xiv
READING RUTH	3
Title and Overview	5
Dark Beginnings: Famine, Removal, and Death	7
Naomi Decides to Return	18
Ruth Speaks Her Heart	29
Naomi Returns to Bethlehem	35
Ruth Gleans in the Field of Boaz	38
First Words	45
Reporting to Naomi	52
Matchmaking	58
A Night on the Threshing Floor	66
Reporting to Naomi	73
Boaz, Redeemer	75
The Witnesses Rejoice	88
Childbirth	91
Birth, Redemption, and the Way of Israel	99

Authors' Afterthoughts	111
Acknowledgments	113
Notes	115

Contents

ix	Preface
xiv	About the Text
3	READING RUTH
5	Title and Overview
7	Dark Beginnings: Famine, Removal, and Death
18	Naomi Decides to Return
22	Ruth Speaks Her Heart
25	Naomi Returns to Bethlehem
38	Ruth Gleans in the Field of Boaz
42	Four Words
52	Reporting to Naomi
58	Matchmaking
66	A Night on the Threshing Floor
72	Reporting to Naomi
78	Boaz Redeems
88	The Widowers Rejoice
94	Children
99	Birth, Redemption, and the Way of Israel