

God In The Book Of Ruth – Mack Tomlinson

But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Ruth 1:16

This book is inserted in the canon of Scripture on two accounts: first, because Christ was of Ruth's posterity; and, second, because this history seems to be typical of the calling of the Gentile church, and indeed of the conversion of every believer.

The following reasons are given: their God is a glorious God. There is none like Him, who is infinite in glory and excellency. He is the most high God, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders. Their people are an excellent and happy people. God has renewed them, stamped His own image upon them, and made them partakers of His holiness. They are more excellent than their neighbors. They are lovely in the sight of angels. Happiness is nowhere else to be had but in their God and with their people. Some make gods of pleasures; some choose mammon for their god; some make gods of their own supposed excellencies; some choose one thing and others another. The people of God as an example ought to influence us. Their example should be looked upon as the call of God to us to do as they have done. Our resolutions to cleave to and follow those who are turning to God and joining themselves to His people ought to be fixed and strong because of the great difficulty of it. It was a hard thing for Ruth to forsake her native country and her people, to dwell in the land of Israel where she had never been. But so firmly resolved was Ruth that she broke through all. Let that resolution be ever firm with you.

Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758)