

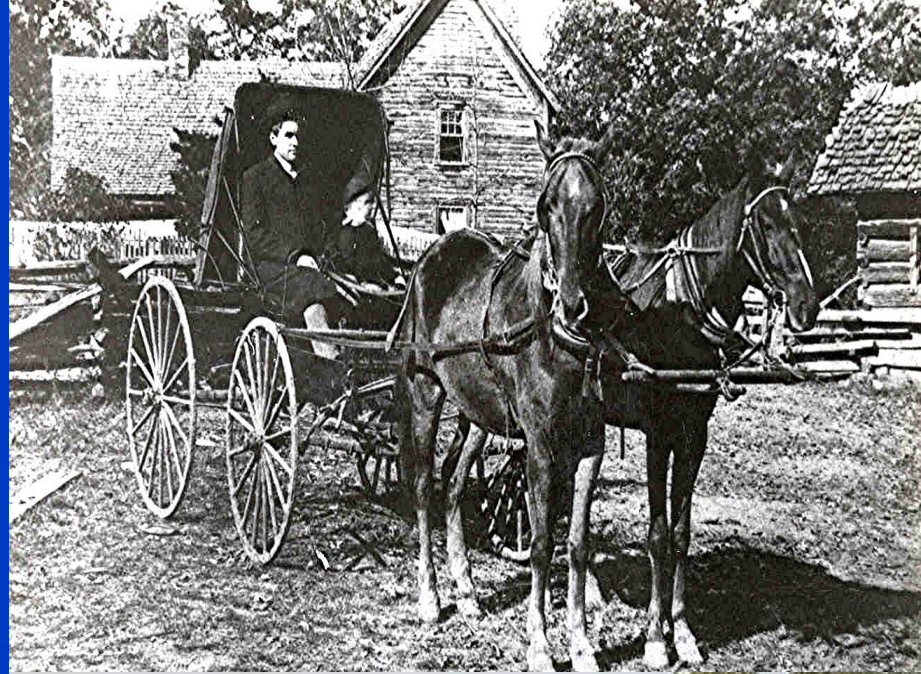


INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF RUTH

- Ruth has several familiar topics woven into it
- We are going to examine some principles and subjects in depth
- **Torah Class point of view:** the Old Testament (Tanach) is neither old nor obsolete, nor has it been abolished and “nailed to the cross of Christ”

CHURCH'S RETURN TO GNOSTICISM

- It is our evil inclinations' way to prefer manmade doctrines to God's Word
- Gnosticism stays underground for long periods of time, but then surfaces again
- Today called New Age, Emergent Church, Chrislam, I'm OK-You're OK philosophy
- Gnosticism has resurfaced in Judeo-Christianity just as in Paul's day



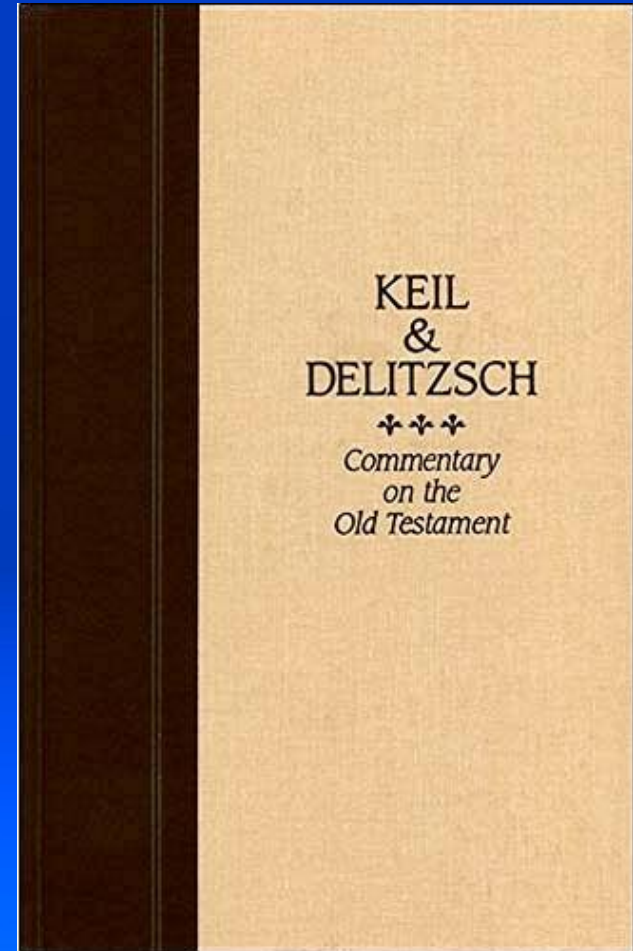
THE NEW AGE CHRISTIANITY

- God is not Almighty Father; he is now the kindly grandfather
- Yeshua is no longer Master and Savior; he's a good buddy and Liberator from obedience to God's commandments
- Men no longer made in the image of God; we're only a higher branch of the animal kingdom
- Modern Gnosticism re-emerged with the 18th century Enlightenment
- Systematic Theology is essentially the "Christian Talmud" of today
- Belief that OT is dead and gone is only 250 years old!!



THERE ARE A FEW FOUNDING FATHERS OF BIBLE COMMENTARY

- Keil and Delitzsch wrote during the early-mid 1800's
- *“The Old Testament is the basis of the New...”*
- *“For Christ came not to destroy the Law but to fulfill...”*
- *“It was Deism, Naturalism, and Rationalism that was the first to undermine the belief in the inspiration of the first covenant...so that the present day depreciation of the Old Testament is as widely spread as ignorance of what they really contain...”*





BIBLE SAWED IN HALF

- Keil and Delitzsch witnessed it happen in their era!
- Same pattern as to what happened to the Sermon on the Mount
- Because He is God, Christ foreknew if the Church said otherwise, it would lead to error and apostasy...and it has!!
- Matt.5:17-19 “Do *NOT* think that I have come to abolish the Torah or the Prophets...”



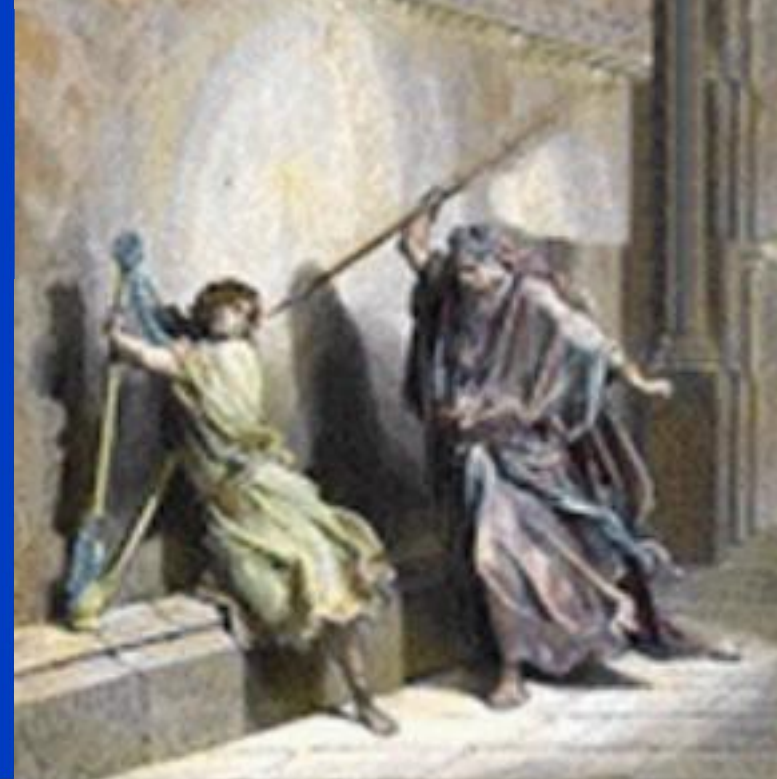
THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE BOOK OF RUTH



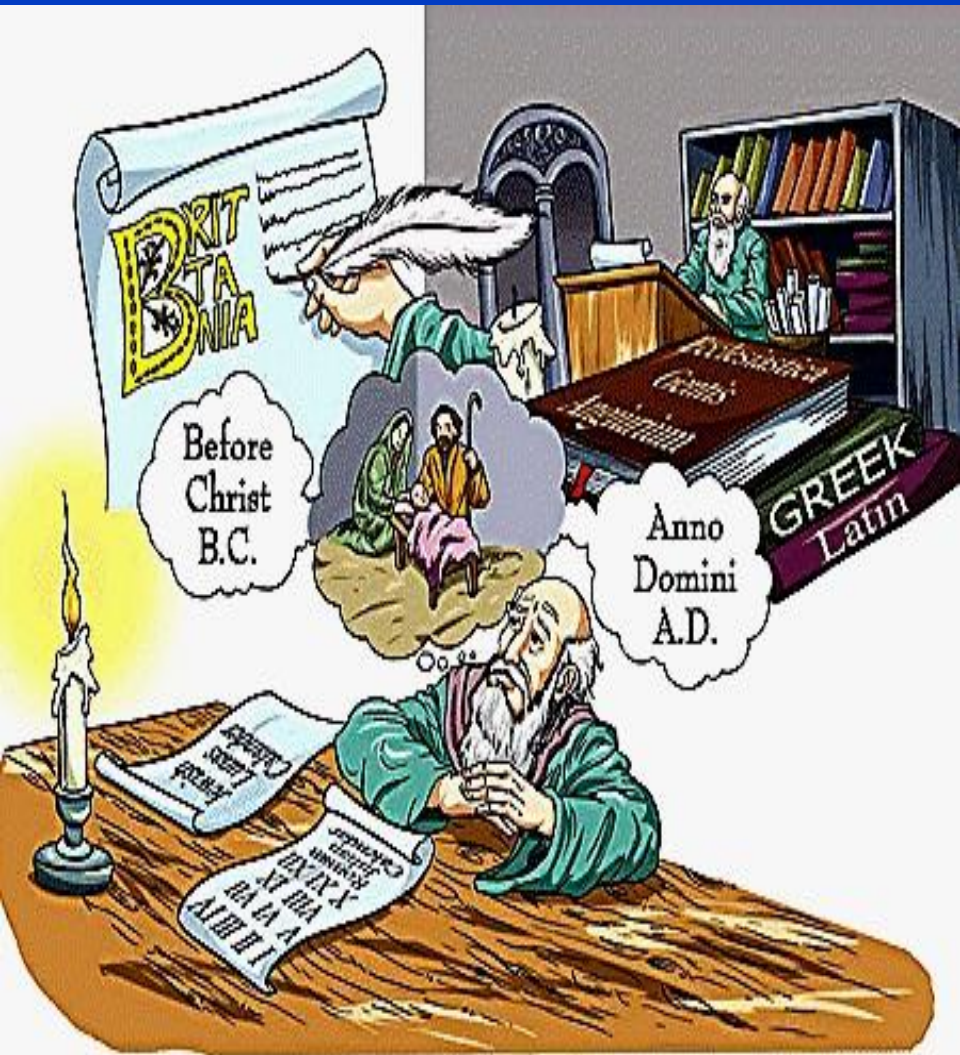
- *Rut* or *Reut* = Ruth
- Ruth means “friendship”
- *Elimelech* led his family from the West Bank to Moab because of a “famine”
- Judges 6 tells of a famine at the time of Gideon due to foreigners taking Israel’s food supply
- Story of Ruth happened during time of Gideon

DATING OF RUTH NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE

- Sometime after King Saul
- Literary Criticism uses language style to ascertain dates
- English an identifiable language about 1300 AD
- Expressions and sayings from early era give way to new ones in later eras
- Aramaisms offer clues of date of authorship
- Aramaic influenced Hebrew as early as 1400 BC



WHERE DOES THE BOOK OF RUTH BELONG IN OUR BIBLES?



- Where Ruth is located in your Bible tells you whether yours is translated from Hebrew or Latin or Greek!
- **Hebrew Bible:** Ruth right after Song of Solomon
- **Greek/Latin Bible:** Ruth is right after Judges
- 3 divisions of *Tanach*:
Torah, Nevi'im, Ketuvim

RUTH WAS A GENTILE



- 2 gentiles have books named for them in the Bible: Ruth and Job
- 2 women have books named for them in the Bible: Ruth and Esther
- Book of Ruth is a book of contrasts

COMPARISON OF RUTH VS. ESTHER

RUTH

- Gentile
- Lived with the Jews
- Married a Jew
- God's name used

ESTHER

- Hebrew
- Lived with the gentiles
- Married a gentile
- God's name NOT used

- Both characterized as having great faith
- Both greatly blessed by God

PURPOSE OF THE BOOK OF RUTH

- Major contrast between Ruth and Judges
- Ruth is a pleasant tale of goodness, hope, and purity
- Judges is a tale of darkness, evil, and idolatry
- There is always a remnant of God's people no matter how much the body may turn to apostasy



- 1) To provide a genealogical link between Judah and King David—Messianic line
- 2) Even in times of great apostasy, there will still be those of faith and obedience
- 3) To illustrate the concept of Kinsman Redeemer in action
- 4) To show that God's grace *could* be extended to gentiles
- 5) To establish the superiority of David's claim to the throne over Saul's descendant Ish Bosheth
- 6) To show that the Kinsman Redeemer (Boaz) was a type of Messiah