THE BOOK OF RUTH

Goal:

This course is an advanced study of Biblical Hebrew. It is a course that builds on the student’s prior work in Hebrew grammar, hermeneutics, and exegesis. As such, the primary aim of the course is the development of good, sound translation and exegetical skills. It is also our hope that the student will acquire a richer Hebrew vocabulary and good reading skills. These goals will be accomplished through an in-depth study of the Book of Ruth. We will also investigate the place of the Book of Ruth in the flow of redemptive history, and how it fits into the unfolding of God’s plan for salvation.

Moses wrote the following to the children of Israel: “And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates” (Deuteronomy 6:6-9). The Word of God is to be central to our very being, life, and ministry. Beyond a doubt, the study of Hebrew enhances a person’s ability to work with the biblical text and adds depth to one’s ministry. So, this course is a means to an end, namely, the student’s better understanding of God’s holy Word and an application of it to today’s world. Do not hesitate! Do not flee! Your Hebrew study is not in vain. It is a noble task. Do it to the glory of God. “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father” (Colossians 3:17). “Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men” (Colossians 3:23).

Textbooks:

The following books are required for the course:

1. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. You must bring your Hebrew Bible to class. You may not use a computer during class time. All translations and grammatical work must be hand-written, and it must be brought to class-time.

2. A Hebrew lexicon. You should own one of the following:


3. A Hebrew Grammar. One of the following would serve you well:
   


4. Suggested, but not required:
   


**Requirements:**

The grade for the course will be determined on the basis of the following facts:

1. A verse by verse commentary on the Book of Ruth will be due on the last day of class, Wednesday, November 30. This assignment will be discussed in greater detail in class. 80% of final grade.

2. Students are expected to be prepared for in-class reading of Hebrew assignments and for other class participation. 20% of final grade.

**Office Hours:**

Office hours will be regularly kept by the professor. They are from 11:00 am to noon, Tuesday through Friday. In addition, the professor will have IM (Instant Messaging) time weekly from 11:00 am to noon on Mondays. At that time, you may ask any questions you may have from your work in the class or any other matters or concerns you might have.
Course Outline:

1. **August 24**  
   Topic: Syllabus and Introduction  
   Ruth Bibliography  
   Ruth in Salvation History

2. **August 31**  
   Topic: Ruth’s Family  
   Translation: Ruth 1:1-5

3. **September 7**  
   Topic: Naomi’s Return  
   Translation: Ruth 1:6-13

4. **September 14**  
   Topic: Ruth’s Loyalty  
   Translation: Ruth 1:14-22

5. **September 21**  
   Topic: Ruth in Boaz’s Field  
   Translation: Ruth 2:1-7

6. **September 28**  
   Topic: Boaz Protects Ruth  
   Translation: Ruth 2:8-16

7. **October 5**  
   Topic: Kinsman-Redeemer  
   Translation: Ruth 2:17-23

8. **October 12**  
   No class (reading week)

9. **October 19**  
   Topic: Problem at the Haystack?  
   Translation: Ruth 3:1-13

10. **October 26**  
    Topic: Levirate Law  
    Translation: Ruth 3:14-4:6

11. **November 2**  
    No class

12. **November 9**  
    Topic: Marriage and Genealogy  
    Translation: Ruth 4:7-22
13. November 16  No class
14. November 23  No class (Thanksgiving)
15. November 30  Commentary on Ruth due at beginning of class