

Critical Review to:
**Cylkow, I. (2017). Księga Rut [The Book of Ruth]. In I. Cylkow (Ed.)
Księgi Pięciu Megilot. Austeria.**

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ABSTRACT	CRITICAL REVIEW HISTORY									
<p>Księga Rut (lit. The Book of Ruth), a concise yet profound narrative within the Hebrew Bible, portrays the story of Ruth, a Moabite woman, and her journey of loyalty, redemption, and inclusion within the Jewish community. This critical review gives the thematic tapestry of the book and elucidates its relevance for individuals in their conversion to Judaism. The narrative underscores the central theme of loyalty and faithfulness, epitomized by Ruth's unwavering commitment to her mother-in-law, Naomi. Despite the challenges posed by their circumstances, Ruth's decision to stand by Naomi exemplifies the transformative power of loyalty and selfless love. Additionally, the story emphasizes themes of redemption and restoration, illustrating how Ruth's journey leads to her marriage with Boaz, an act of divine providence that rekindles hope and security in her life. Notably, Księga Rut (lit. The Book of Ruth) challenges societal norms and prejudice by portraying Ruth as a righteous and virtuous individual, defying her outsider status as a Moabite. This theme of social justice and inclusion is particularly poignant for individuals undergoing conversion, as it encourages them to embrace and contribute to the diverse tapestry of the Jewish community. Ultimately, Księga Rut (lit. The Book of Ruth) presents a mosaic of themes, including loyalty, redemption, inclusion, and the power of kindness, rendering it particularly poignant for individuals converting to Judaism. Its timeless lessons provide guidance, inspiration, and a profound understanding of the core values inherent to Judaism, fortifying the path of those seeking to become an integral part of the Jewish people and their storied history.</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Received</td> <td>5th June 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Revised</td> <td>28th July 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Accepted</td> <td>30th August 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Published</td> <td>30th September 2023</td> </tr> </table>	Received	5 th June 2023	Revised	28 th July 2023	Accepted	30 th August 2023	Published	30 th September 2023	<p>KEYWORDS</p> <p><i>Księgi Pięciu Megilot</i> <i>The Book of Five Megilot</i> <i>Księga Rut</i> <i>The Book of Ruth</i> <i>Conversion</i> <i>Judaism</i></p>
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Księga Rut (lit. The Book of Ruth) is a short but profound narrative in the Hebrew Bible. It tells the story of Ruth, a Moabite woman who demonstrates loyalty, devotion, and kindness. Here is an interpretation of the key themes and messages conveyed in Księga Rut (lit. *The Book of Ruth*):

Loyalty and Faithfulness: The book's central theme is loyalty and faithfulness, as exemplified by Ruth's devotion to her mother-in-law, Naomi. Despite being a foreigner, Ruth chooses to stay with Naomi and support her even after their husbands' deaths. Ruth's commitment to her family and willingness to leave her homeland to embrace a new community showcase the power of loyalty and selfless love.

Redemption and Restoration: The story of Ruth depicts a narrative of redemption and restoration. Ruth's commitment to Naomi leads to her meeting and marrying Boaz, a wealthy landowner who becomes her kinsman-redeemer. Through their union, Ruth finds security, protection, and a restored place within the community of Israel. The book highlights the power of God's providence in bringing about redemption and restoring broken lives.

Social Justice and Inclusion: Księga Rut (lit. *The Book of Ruth*) addresses social justice and inclusion themes. As a Moabite, Ruth belongs to a people historically seen as outsiders and foreigners. However, her story challenges societal norms and prejudices by portraying her as a righteous and virtuous individual. The book emphasizes the importance of accepting and embracing those from different backgrounds and the potential for reconciliation and unity among diverse communities.

The Genealogy of David: Księga Rut (lit. *The Book of Ruth*) concludes with a genealogy that traces the lineage of King David back to Ruth and Boaz. This connection to the royal line underscores the significance of Ruth's story within the larger biblical narrative. It highlights



Fig. 1. The cover image of Cylkow, I. (2017). *Księgi Pięciu Megilot* [The Book of Five Megilot]. Austeria.



how even an outsider and foreigner like Ruth can play a vital role in God's plan and contribute to the lineage of a renowned king.

The Power of Kindness and Providence: Księga Rut (lit. *The Book of Ruth*) highlights the power of acts of kindness and the guiding hand of divine providence. Ruth's kindness towards Naomi, Boaz's benevolence towards Ruth, and God's providential care for both characters demonstrate how small acts of goodness can lead to significant outcomes. The book conveys that kindness, loyalty, and God's providence can shape lives and bring about blessings even in difficult times.

Księga Rut (lit. *The Book of Ruth*) offers profound insights into themes of loyalty, redemption, social justice, and the power of kindness. It celebrates the resilience of individuals and how their actions contribute to God's plan and the well-being of communities.

Księga Rut (lit. *The Book of Ruth*) also holds several important lessons and themes that can be meaningful for a person's conversion to Judaism. Here are a few ways in which Księga Rut (lit. *The Book of Ruth*) can be significant:

Loyalty and Commitment: Księga Rut (lit. *The Book of Ruth*) emphasizes loyalty and commitment, as Ruth's devotion to Naomi is a powerful example. For someone in the conversion process, this story can inspire and encourage a strong commitment to Jewish values, traditions, and community. It reminds individuals that embracing Judaism involves dedication and a willingness to make personal sacrifices.

Embracing the Jewish People: Ruth's choice to join the Jewish people, leaving behind her Moabite background, reflects a deep commitment to embracing a new identity and community. For a person in conversion, Księga Rut (lit. *The Book of Ruth*) can resonate by highlighting the significance of embracing and integrating into the Jewish people, their history, and their traditions.

Inclusion and Acceptance: Ruth's story challenges exclusionary attitudes by highlighting the importance of inclusion and acceptance. As a Moabite woman, Ruth was initially seen as an outsider, but the Jewish community welcomed and embraced her. It serves as a reminder for



individuals in the conversion process that Judaism values inclusivity and appreciates the contributions of those from diverse backgrounds.

The Journey of Redemption: Księga Rut (lit. *The Book of Ruth*) depicts a journey of redemption and restoration. Ruth's path from loss and hardship to finding love, security, and a place within the community portrays the transformative power of embracing Judaism. This narrative can inspire individuals in the conversion process by instilling hope and emphasizing the potential for personal growth, renewal, and finding one's place within the Jewish community.

Connection to Jewish History: Księga Rut (lit. *The Book of Ruth*) connects to Jewish history through the genealogy that links Ruth and Boaz to the lineage of King David. For someone in the conversion process, this connection provides a sense of continuity and an appreciation of being part of a rich historical legacy. It underscores the idea that conversion represents a personal connection to the Jewish people and their story.

Księga Rut (lit. *The Book of Ruth*) offers valuable lessons about loyalty, commitment, inclusion, redemption, and connection to Jewish history. It can provide inspiration, guidance, and a deeper understanding of the values and experiences central to Judaism, making it particularly relevant and meaningful for those in the conversion process.

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Sara Aloe contributed to the research article's design and implementation, the results analysis, and the manuscript's writing.

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