

The book

of *Ruth*

Ruth 1:1-2

¹In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. ²The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there.

Ruth 1:3-5

³But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, ⁵and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Ruth 1:1

¹In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons.

I. Elimelech & Naomi Move From Israel To Moab

A. A time of desperate circumstances, v. 1a

1. v. 1 “When the judges ruled”

Joshua 24:31 > Judges 2:7 > Judges 2:10

1st Generation

2nd Gene.

3rd Generation

Leviticus 26:18, 19

And if ...you will not listen to me, then I will discipline you again sevenfold for your sins, and I will break the pride of your power, and I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze.

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- I. Elimelech & Naomi Move From Israel To Moab
 - A. A time of desperate circumstances, v. 1a
 - 2. v. 1 “There was a famine in the land”
Leviticus 26:18, 19

2 Chronicles 7:14

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

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- I. Elimelech & Naomi Move From Israel To Moab
 - A. A time of desperate circumstances, v. 1a
 2. v. 1 “There was a famine in the land”
2 Chronicles 7:14; Judges 2:18

Ruth 1:1b, 2

...a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. ²The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah.

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- I. Elimelech & Naomi Move From Israel To Moab
 - B. A time of disastrous choices, vv. 1b-4
 - 1. They chose to leave the Promised Land, v.1b, 2

Ruth 1:1

...went to sojourn in the country of Moab

Deuteronomy 23:6

You shall not seek their (Moab) peace or their prosperity all your days forever.

1 Corinthians 15:33

Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”

I. Elimelech & Naomi Move From Israel To Moab

B. A time of disastrous choices, vv. 1b-4

2. They chose to live in a pagan land, v.1b

Deuteronomy 23:6; 1 Corinthians 15:33

Ruth 1:1, 2, 4

¹...went to sojourn in the country of Moab

²...and remained there

⁴...They lived there about ten years

I. Elimelech & Naomi Move From Israel To Moab

B. A time of disastrous choices, vv. 1b-4

3. They chose to linger in a perverse land,

vv. 1, 2, 4

Ruth 1:3-5

³But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons.

⁴These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth.

They lived there about ten years,

⁵and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

I. The Grievous Loss Naomi Endured

A. Elimelech dies, v. 3

B. Sons marry Moabite women, v.4

C. Her sons both die, v.5

Application:

1. God's people should strive to live up to their name.

2 Peter 1:3

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence.

Application:

2. God expects us to use our common sense when making choices.

2 Peter 1:3

Decision Making

Based on the criteria of:

1. Obedience, Psalm 119:105; John 13:17

➔ We must obey God's commands and keep His precepts.

(From Friesen & Maxson,
Decision Making and the Will of God)

Decision Making

Based on the criteria of:

1. Obedience, Psalm 119:105; John 13:17
2. Freedom, 1 Corinthians 6:12
 - Where there is no command, God gives freedom (and responsibility) to choose.

(From Friesen & Maxson,
Decision Making and the Will of God)

Decision Making

Based on the criteria of:

1. Obedience, Psalm 119:105; John 13:17
2. Freedom, 1 Corinthians 6:12
3. Wisdom, James 1:5
 - ➔ Where there is no command, God gives
gives wisdom to those who ask Him.

(From Friesen & Maxson,
Decision Making and the Will of God)

Decision Making

Based on the criteria of:

1. Obedience, Psalm 119:105; John 13:17
2. Freedom, 1 Corinthians 6:12
3. Wisdom, James 1:5
4. Humble trust, Joshua 1:9

➔ When we choose what is moral and wise, we must trust God to work all the details together for good.

(From Friesen & Maxson,
Decision Making and the Will of God)

Psalm 27:14

Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

Application:

3. Our reflex response to hardship should not be to escape but to endure.

Psalm 27:14

Ruth 1:1, 2, 4

...went to sojourn in the country of Moab

...and remained there

...They lived there about ten years

Application:

4. Beware of the slippery slope of compromise.

v. 1, 2, 4

Ruth 4:21b, 22

...Salmon fathered Boaz, Boaz fathered Obed,
Obed fathered Jesse, and Jesse fathered David.

Application:

4. God's providence not only includes, but graciously uses our foolishness and tragedies to His wise and glorious ends. 4:21, 22