

# **THE BOOK OF RUTH**

## ***Lesson One***

### ***Back From Moab***

**Ruth 1:1-22**

# **The Book of Ruth**

## **Reasons to study Ruth:**

1. It gives insight into the life of Israel after the conquest of Canaan.
2. There are practical applications of many Biblical doctrines.
3. It gives a detailed picture of the Doctrine of Redemption.

# The Book of Ruth

## Reasons to study Ruth:

4. It demonstrates the admirable character traits of Ruth and Boaz—two memorable OT saints.
5. It is a wonderful, absorbing, and beautiful love story.
6. The Book of Ruth gives hope in even these dark days.

# The Book of Ruth

## Historical Background:

1. Set in the time of the Judges—a roughly 400 year period between the Conquest of Canaan and the establishment of the Jewish Monarchy.
2. The Period of the Judges is mostly a record of the failures of the Children of Israel.
3. The events in Ruth may have occurred near the middle of the Judges period, but not for certain.

# The Book of Ruth

## Ruth 1:1-2

- Elimelech = “My God is King”
- Bethlehem = “House of Bread”; Ephrathah = “Fruitful”
- Bethlehem is in the hill country of Judah.
- Naomi = “beautiful, delightful, agreeable, pleasant”.
- Mahlon = “sickly”.
- Kilion = “pining, failing, consumptive”

# The Book of Ruth

## Ruth 1:3-5

- Orpah = “gazelle, mane”
- Ruth = “friendship”
- Elimelech died sometime after moving to Moab.
- Mahlon & Kilion died about 10 years after they moved to Moab, probably about the same time.
- The move to Moab was against God’s will, and Elimelech, Mahlon, and Kilion died the sin unto death.

# The Book of Ruth

## Ruth 1:6-7

- Childless widows were among the poorest of the poor.
- Returning to Bethlehem – Naomi's only realistic option.
- Naomi's two daughters-in-law are willing to go with her.
- Apparently Naomi and her daughters-in-law have an unusually good relationship.

# The Book of Ruth

## Ruth 1:8

- Naomi tries to get both Ruth and Orpah to go back to their Moabite families.
- Moabites are not highly regarded in Israel.
- Naomi has her daughters-in-law's best interests at heart.
- She asks the Lord's blessings on them for the kindness they have shown her.



# The Book of Ruth

## Ruth 1:9-10

- “Rest” is used in the sense of security, which for women in ancient Palestine meant having a husband.
- Ruth and Orpah continue to insist that they want to go with Naomi.

# The Book of Ruth

## Ruth 1:11

- Naomi pleads with them to return to their families out of concern for their futures.
- Naomi having no more sons for them to marry refers to levirate marriage, a provision of the Mosaic law for an unmarried close relative to act as a kinsman-redeemer and marry his relative's widow to continue his line.

# The Book of Ruth

## Ruth 1:12-13

- This is stark, blunt reality.
- Moabites are a race despised by Israelites.
- Naomi has no more sons to act as kinsmen-redeemers.
- Naomi gives in to despair, bitterness, and self pity, and blames the Lord for her plight.

# The Book of Ruth

## Ruth 1:14-15

- This is the first pivotal event of the story—Orpah leaves, but Ruth stays.
- Naomi tries once again to get Ruth to go with Orpah.
- She reminds her that leaving her people also means leaving the god of Moab, Chemosh.

# The Book of Ruth

## Ruth 1:16-17

- This is a beautiful expression of loyalty and faith.
- Ruth announces her intention to accept the Israelites as her people and their God as her God.
- Ruth uses both the name *Elohim*, and God's personal name, *Yahweh*, leaving no doubt that she understands who the Lord God of Israel is and that she is accepting Him as her God.

# The Book of Ruth

## Ruth 1:18-19

- Naomi finally gives up trying to convince Ruth to stay.
- Naomi and Ruth arrive in Bethlehem and cause much talk and speculation.
- Naomi has most likely changed a lot for the worse since the people of Bethlehem last saw her.

# The Book of Ruth

## Ruth 1:20-21

- Naomi means “Pleasant”, but Naomi now calls herself “Mara” which means “Bitter”.
- Naomi left Bethlehem “full”, but now returns “empty”.
- Our true security is in the Lord, not our family, possessions, or geographical location—He is faithful regardless of our circumstances.