

# The Book of RUTH

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## Ruth Chapter 1

Torah – five books of Moses

Joshua – leads the Jewish people into the Promised Land

Judges – 350 years from Joshua's conquest – 1398 BC to about 1043 BC

Ruth – 1370 BC to 1041 BC

I Samuel & II Samuel – 1105 BC to 971 BC

Tradition teaches that Samuel is the author of Ruth.

Ruth takes place during the time of the Judges (v. 1).

Ruth is found after the book of Judges and before I Samuel.

The account of Ruth took place at a time when there was UNRIGHTEOUS LIVING – right before the KINGDOM was established.

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The book of Ruth relays the story of 3 funerals and a wedding.

Is Ruth a true story?

Historical – it happened in history. How do we know?

Ruth is in Jesus' genealogy!! Matthew 1:5 – women didn't appear in the Jewish genealogies!

Ruth is the great grandmother of King David. (Gentile – great grandmother of the King of Israel?)

Ruth is a key book re: prophecy!!

Forthtelling and foretelling

God's entire plan of salvation is found in the book of Ruth

As we study Ruth - we're going to see where we fit

Ruth 1:1-5

Days of the Judges. . . .a time of anarchy, of no absolutes, of relativism. Every man did what was right in his own eyes (Judges 21:25)

. . . and a famine occurs.

- no reason given in the text for the famine.
  - The famine hit the land of Bethlehem Judah
    - o Bethlehem – “house of bread”. IRONIC.
      - God's judgment (Lev. 26:21, 26 [READ] – God talks about cutting off their supply of bread if they walked contrary to Him and didn't obey.
- Deut. 28:15, 23-24  
II Chron. 7:13-14  
Eze. 14:21 (READ) – famine is one of God's 4 severe judgments (context: God sending judgment on Jerusalem)  
I Kings 8:37-38 – famine appears to be connected to sin. (context: Solomon's prayer of dedication of the Temple)

God chose Israel – WHY?

Deut. 7:6-8

Isa. 43:10 – to be His witnesses to tell the world of the one true God.

I Sam. 17:45-46; Joshua 4:24; I Kings 8:43; 18:36; II Kings 19:19; Isa. 52:10; Psa. 83:18 – THAT THE WORLD MAY KNOW THAT THERE IS A GOD IN ISRAEL.

They weren't exactly fulfilling that role during the days of the Judges.

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v. 1b – “certain man” of Bethlehem Judah

no name given here – no background – he just is. . . .

Beit Lechem – “house of bread” – IRONIC – famine – so lack of bread

Judah – “praise”

Why does it specifically say “Bethlehem Judah”?

“Bethlehem Judah” – to distinguish it from Bethlehem in Zebulun (Joshua 19:15); Zebulun was west of the Sea of Galilee – more north.

This “certain man” went to dwell/sojourn (carried idea of a resident alien [stranger]) in the land of Moab – WHY???

“sojourn” – Heb. “goor” – to turn aside from the road.

Did this certain man leave of his own accord?

And why would he travel to Moab??? (Moab – about 50 miles from Bethlehem on the east side of the Dead Sea).

Moab – enemy of Israel.

Moab as a nation/people group - originated when Lot fathered Moab thru an incestuous relationship with his oldest daughter (Gen. 19:37)

Moab was born to Lot’s oldest daughter.

Balak, the King of Moab, hired Balaam (prophet), to curse Israel

For 18 years during the time of the Judges, Moab oppressed Israel.

IN FACT, Moab did not meet Israel with BREAD and water when they – the children of Israel – came out of Egypt (Deut. 23:4)

Moabites were not allowed to worship the Lord because of their hostility toward God and His people (Deut. 23:3-6) – even to the 10<sup>th</sup> generation – and FOREVER!

Ruth, a Moabitess, who is the great grandmother of King David (what the law didn’t allow – grace allows)

“WHAT THE LAW DIDN’T ALLOW – GOD’S GRACE ALLOWED” (Rom. 8:3-4)

Ruth comes under - Isaiah 56:1-8 – “. . . the sons of the foreigner who join themselves to the Lord to serve Him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants. . . even them I will bring to My holy mountain and make them joyful in My house of prayer. . . .”

v. 1 – this man went w/ his wife and his two sons to Moab.

God told Abram – I’m giving you this land (Gen. 12) – Abram turned around and went down to Egypt (Isa. 30 – Egypt – type of the world) when there was a famine in the land (Gen. 12:10).

AND, whom did Abram bring back with him? The Egyptian handmaiden, Hagar – the eventual mother of Ishmael (Gen. 16:1).

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In Ruth, we see a family leaving a “paradise” (“Bethlehem Judah”) going into – as it were – EXILE – out of their native land.

We don’t know much about the family BUT Scripture gives us their names. . .

v. 2 (READ) – the name of the man – Elimelech – “My God is King” - Melech – “King” in Hebrew; “El” – God; At the time of the Judges – when God was NOT their King!!  
the name of his wife – Naomi – “Pleasant”  
two sons – Mahlon – “sick”; Chilion – “pining away”!!!!!!!!!!

If the book of Ruth is truly God’s plan – how does God’s plan begin (apart from the book of Ruth?) – with GOD! Genesis begins with God. There’s no explanation. He is! Period.

He’s a personal God – “My God” – God created man for relationship.  
God created the universe – He is King – He has dominion over all.

We see Elimelech - ”My God is King” who married Naomi – “Pleasant”

In the Garden of Eden there was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil – and it was pleasant (Gen. 2:9)

I’m suggesting - when Satan came into the Garden, what did he offer Eve – something pleasant (Gen. 3:6) – a delightful proposition. Satan lied to Eve.

Man’s fall – sin entered the world.

Mahlon – sickly; Chilion – pining away

This is what happened after the fall – sickness and despair.

And, this family – who were “Ephrathites of Bethlehem Judah” v. 2

Ephrathites – fruitful

(Ephrathah – father of Bethlehem – I Chron. 4:4)

went to Moab – into exile.

v. 2b – they went to Moab and remained there. Got comfortable in Moab. Was that a good thing?

Psalm 1:1 – Blessed is the man who WALKS not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor STANDS in the path of sinners, nor SITS in the seat of the scornful.  
Here they were – SITTING in Moab.

Elimelech died – v. 3 - “My God is King” died. (God is dead to Naomi) (God is not in the picture)

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Bethlehem – house of bread

Judah - praise

“. . . and there was a famine in the land.” – no reason given.

Could have been because of:

God’s judgment (Lev. 26:21, 26)

Deut. 28:15, 23-24

II Chron. 7:13-14

Eze. 14:21 – famine is one of God’s 4 severe judgments

I Kings 8:37-38 – famine appears to be connected to sin.

God chose Israel – Deut. 7:6-8

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52:10; Psa. 83:18 – THAT THE WORLD MAY KNOW THAT THERE IS A GOD IN ISRAEL.

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‘WHAT THE LAW DIDN’T ALLOW – GOD’S GRACE ALLOWED’

Elimelech – My God, My King

Naomi – pleasant

Mahlon - sickly

Chilion – pining away

Orpah – stiff-necked; stubborn

Ruth - friend

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What the law couldn't do, Jesus Christ did (Romans 8:3)

The law is perfect (Psalm 19:7) – that's why imperfect men can't keep it

The law is holy (Romans 7:12, 19) – that's why sinners are condemned by it

The law is just (Romans 2:13) – that's why it cannot show mercy to the guilty

The law prohibits (Romans 8:3) – but grace invites and gives

The law condemns the sinner – but grace redeems the sinner (II Cor. 3:9; Romans 8:1)

The law curses – but grace blesses (Galatians 3:10)

The law shuts every mouth – but grace opens the mouth to praise God (Romans 3:19)

The law condemns the best man – grace saves the worst man (II Cor. 3:9; Romans 3:23; Romans 8:1)

The law says, "Pay what you owe" – grace says I freely forgive you (Galatians 3:10)

The law says the wages of sin is death – grace says the gift of God is eternal life (Romans 6:23)

The law says the soul that sins it shall die – grace says believe and live (Ezekiel 18:4)

The law reveals sin – grace atones for sin; by the law is the knowledge of sin – by grace is the redemption of sin (Romans 3:20; Romans 7:7; Ephesians 1:7)

The law came by Moses but grace and truth came by Jesus (John 1:17)

The law demands obedience – grace bestows and gives power to obey (Romans 4:14; James 2:10; Habakkuk 3:19; Isaiah 40:31; Romans 4:20)

The law was rendered inoperative – grace abides forever (Ephesians 2:15; Colossians 2:14; Romans 7:4)

The law places man under bondage to "do" – grace places us in the liberty/freedom of the Son of God Who said, "It is finished" (John 8:34; II Cor. 3:17; John 8:31-32; John 19:30)