

“Is God Still There?”

Ruth I

When difficult times come in life, the Christian must decide whether or not he will still trust in God.

A. Disruptive Forces. I:1-5

1. A PROBLEM Arises. I:1
2. A Difficult CHOICE. I:1-2
3. CATASTROPHE Strikes. I:3
4. COMPLICATIONS Continue. I:4
5. A CRUEL twist. I:5
6. Sometimes God allows TRAGEDY in our lives.
7. And we don't know WHY.
8. (Beware of the “Gospel” of HEALTH and WEALTH.)

B. Returning Choices. I:6-18

1. Heading HOME. I:6-7
2. Persuaded to STAY. I:8-14
 - a. Permission. I:8-9
 - b. Resistance. I:10
 - c. Insistence. I:11-13
 - d. Orpah Returns. I:14
3. Sometimes life is so difficult that we quietly BLAME God for what has happened.
4. But if we don't trust God, whom DO we trust?

5. A VOW to Accompany. I:15-18
 - a. PEER Pressure. I:15
 - b. Ruth's Multiple CHOICES. I:16-17
 - c. Ruth's VOW. I:17
 - d. Naomi RELENTS. I:18

6. Why do some people start out with good intentions, but then make unwise choices?
7. Why do other people make hard choices that go against human nature?
8. What we BELIEVE always affects what we DO.

C. A Bittersweet Return. I:19-22

1. The STUNNED Reception. I:19
2. Naomi's REQUEST. I:20-21
3. The TIME of the Return. I:22

D. Reflecting on the 1st chapter of Ruth ...

- Just because a person is a believer in Jesus does not EXEMPT him from difficult times in life.
- When difficult times come in life, the Christian must DECIDE whether or not he will still continue to trust in God.
- Will you allow the hard times in life to make you BITTER?
- Or will you make a full commitment to God IN SPITE OF hard times?

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- Or will you make a full commitment to God _____ hard times?