

Ruth 1 Observations

Ruth 1:1-5. Title: **There is disaster in Israel and in Moab.** September 9, 2023

1:1. When? In the days when the judges ruled. RSB = 12th century B.C. (1100's B.C.)

What? There was a famine

So What? There was a famine in the “House of Bread!”

Apparently, believers have problems!

Question: When things get tough in the place to which God has called you, do you leave?

Where? In the land (of Israel)

Who? A man

Where? Of Bethlehem “House of Bread” in Judah “Praised”

What? Went to sojourn

Where? In the country of Moab “Of His Father” (Descendants of Lot and one of his daughters)

Who? He and his wife and 2 sons

1:2. Who? The name of the man was Elimelech = My God is King

wife’s name = Naomi “My Delight”

and the names of his two sons were Mahlon (“Sick”) and Chilion (“Pining”)

Who? They were Ephrathites “Fruitfulness” – descendant of Ephraim, inhabitant of Bethlehem

Where? from Bethlehem in Judah

1:3 What/Who? But Elimelech, husband of Naomi, died.

So what? Things go from bad to worse

There’s a famine in the House of Bread

Two sickly boys

Dad dies!

What? Naomi was left a widow with 2 sons.

1:4. Then what? These took Moabite wives.

Who? Name of one was Orpah. “Gazelle”

Name of the other was Ruth. “Friendship”

How long? They lived there about 10 years

1:5. What? Both Mahlon and Chilion died! (Disaster!)

So what? The woman (Naomi) was left without her two sons and her husband.

So what? For a Christian, things can go from bad to worse to absolutely horrible!!!!

Ruth 1:6-14. September 9, 2023. Title: **A crisis develops on the road back to Bethlehem.**

1:6. What? She arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab.

Why? Why did these two daughters-in-law feel obligated to leave their own country and accompany their mother-in-law? [Evidently there was some kind of cultural constraint that when you married, you became a part of your husband's family. We find it hard in America to identify with that!]

Why? For she had heard in the fields of Moab that the LORD has visited his people and given them food.”

1:7. What? So she set out from the place where she was

Who? With her two daughters-in-law,

What? They went on their way to return

To where? The land of Judah.

1:8. What? But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law,

“Go, return each of you to her mother's house.

“May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.

1:9. “The Lord grant that you may find rest, each of you, in the house of her husband!”

What? Then she kissed them,

What? And they lifted up their voices and wept. (The emotion must have been high among these three!)

1:10. What? And they said to her,

“No, we will return with you to your people.”

1:11. What? But Naomi said

Turn back, my daughters;

Why will you go with me?

Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands?

1:12. Turn back, my daughters; go your way, Why? for I am too old to have a husband.

If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons,

1:13. Would you therefore wait till they were grown?

Would you therefore refrain from marrying?

No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter [marar, [4843](#)] to me for your sake that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me.

So what? It seems to me that Naomi has already announced her bitterness at God. It is dangerous to be bitter at God!!!

1:14. What next? Then they lifted up their voices and wept again.

What next? And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law [goodbye]
but Ruth clung to her.

Ruth 1:15-18. September 9, 2023. Title: **Ruth strongly affirms her commitment to Naomi.**

1:15. What? And she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods;
Return after your sister-in-law.”

So what? To return to your people was to return to your peoples’ gods. For Ruth this was unthinkable.

1:16. What? But Ruth said,

“Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you.

“For where you go I will go,

“And where you lodge I will lodge.

Your people shall be my people,

“And your God my God.

1:17. Where you die I will die,

and there will I be buried.

“May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.

1:18. So then what? And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

Ruth 1:19-21. Title: **Naomi Reveals Her Bitterness Against God. “Mara”**

1:19. What? So the two of them went on until they came Where? To Bethlehem. (House of Bread)

1:19. What happened? And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them.

1:19. What / Who? And the women said, “Is this Naomi?” WHY did they ask that?

1:20. How did Naomi respond? She said to them, “Do not call me Naomi “My pleasantness.”

Call me Mara “Bitter.”

1:21. Why did she say that?

What else did she say?

I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty. So what? Is she blaming God for everything that has gone wrong?

Why call me Naomi, when the LORD has testified against me
and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?”

1:22. Ruth 1:22. **The Women’s Timely Return to Bethlehem, “The House of Bread.”**

Who? / What? So Naomi returned,

And Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her,
who returned Where? From the country of Moab.

Where? And they came to Bethlehem (“House of Bread”)

When? At the beginning of Barley harvest.

So what? Does God have anything to do with the timing of this trip? Remember that Naomi had heard back in the fields of Moab that the LORD had visited His people and given them bread (Ruth 1:6).

The timing of Naomi’s hearing of this report, and the timing of her and Ruth’s trip to Bethlehem, and their arrival in the town of Bethlehem was ALL PROVIDENTIAL!!!