



**Where You Go, I'll Go  
(Ruth 1:6-22)**

# Book of Ruth: Review

- Events from 1200-1100 B.C. (“during the time of the judges)
- Location: Moab and Bethlehem





Ruth

DAN  
Sorek R.

BENJAMIN

Jordan R.

Jebus  
(Jerusalem)

● Heshbon

A M M O N

● Medeba

● Gath

● Bethlehem

Mt. Nebo

● Libnah

● Tekoa

● Keilah

REUBEN

● Jahaz

● Lachish

JUDAH

● Hebron

● Dibon

● Aroer

Salt Sea

En-gedi

Arnon R.

● Debir

● Ziph

● Anab

● Maon

Gerar R.

● Jattir

● Arad

● Beth-palet

MOAB

● Ar

SIMEON

● Beersheba

● Hormah

Lisan

Kir-moab ●

Besor R.

Scale of Miles

0 20

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● Numeira



# Characters

- Original family:
- Elimelech -- Naomi
- Mahlon (married a Moabite, Ruth)
- Chilion (married a Moabite, Orpah)
  
- Characters in the main story:
- **Naomi**
- **Ruth**
- Boaz
- The community (women; elders; community as a whole)

# Ruth 1:6-10

- <sup>6</sup> Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the LORD had visited his people and given them food.
- <sup>7</sup> So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.
- <sup>8</sup> 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.
- <sup>9</sup> The LORD grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!" Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.
- <sup>10</sup> And they said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people."

# Ruth 1:11-13

- <sup>11</sup> 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?"
- <sup>12</sup> Turn back, my daughters; go your way, 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,
- <sup>13</sup> would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me."

# Ruth 1:14-18

- <sup>14</sup> Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.
- <sup>15</sup> And she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law."
- <sup>16</sup> 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.**
- <sup>17</sup> 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."
- <sup>18</sup> And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.



## Joshua 24:14-15

- <sup>14</sup> "Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt and serve the LORD.
- <sup>15</sup> And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, **choose this day whom you will serve**, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. **But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."**

# Ruth 1:19-22

- <sup>19</sup> So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women said, "Is this Naomi?"
- <sup>20</sup> She said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.
- <sup>21</sup> I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the LORD has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?"
- <sup>22</sup> So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

# ***I. Decision-Making***

## **A. Prudence & Propriety: Naomi**

1. Prudence:

a. "Skill and good judgment in the use of resources"

b. Maintain the family unit: mutual support

c. Self-interest (do unto yourself as you would do to others)

2. Propriety:

a. "The condition of being [logically] right, appropriate, or fitting"

b. Where are Orpah and Ruth most likely to find new husbands?

## **B. Priorities: Orpah vs. Ruth**

1. Orpah: logical

2. Ruth: relational

## ***II. Faith-Building***

### **A. By Accretion**

1. Discipleship: Slowly building up one's faith through study

"<sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing [by experimentation] you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2)

2. Wisdom gained from years of personal experience

3. The World: Assumption that success = "I have this figured out"

## ***II. Faith-Building***

### **B. By Demolition**

1. A sudden, catastrophic, impact on one's "paradigm"

Naomi: following the expectations for a woman in Jewish society

2. *"si comprehendis, non est Deus"*

(If you can comprehend it, it is not God)

3. The World: the "nova effect": "a society where individuals are seeking transcendence [the meaning of life] through various outlets in the world" (e.g. money, career, celebrity-worship, politics, sports)



# ***III. Direction-Seeking***

## **A. Back to Bethlehem**

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you; (Psalm 63:1)

## **B. Back to the Beginning of Belief**

### **1. The Lord is Sovereign**

<sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God. (Joseph to his brothers, Genesis 45:6-8)

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O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;  
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### **1. The Lord is Sovereign**

### **2. Everything belongs to the Lord**

<sup>21</sup> And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." (Job 1:21)

# ***III. Direction-Seeking***

## **B. Back to the Beginning of Belief**

**1. The Lord is Sovereign**

**2. Everything belongs to the Lord**

**3. The Lord's ways are not our ways**

<sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9)

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## **B. Back to the Beginning of Belief**

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**3. The Lord's ways are not our ways**

**4. The Lord cares for us**

<sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup> But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. (Matthew 10:29-30)

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**1. The Lord is Sovereign**

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**4. The Lord cares for us**

**5. Our Response: Trust in the Lord**

<sup>3</sup> You keep him in perfect peace  
whose mind is stayed on you,  
because he trusts in you. (Isaiah 26:3)



# **A Spiritual Goal for 2024**

- **A closer walk with the Lord**
  - **Humility**
  - **Trust**

# Let Us Pray

