

RUTH 1vs 1

The story of Ruth, the Moabite, comes from the time of the Judges in the 12th century bc; though it was written much later. The reader is reminded repeatedly, (8 times) that Ruth is a Moabite woman: she is a foreigner, and who is Moab? The birth of Moab was the result of the incest of drunken Lot and his older daughter who gave birth to Moab – Genesis 19.

Ruth's background,

¹ Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.

² And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehem in Judah. And they entered the country of Moab, and stayed there.

³ And Elimelech the husband of Naomi died; and she was left with her two sons.

⁴ And they took for themselves wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they lived there about ten years.

⁵ Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; and the woman was deprived of her two sons and her husband.

Ruth's decision,

⁶ Then she arose with her daughters-in-law, that she might return from the land of Moab: for she heard in the land of Moab that the LORD had visited His people in giving them food.

⁷ So she departed from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.

⁸ And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, Go, return each of you to the house of your mother: May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead, and with me.

⁹ May 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 voice, and wept.

¹⁰ And they said to her, Surely we will return with you to your people.

¹¹ But Naomi said, Return, my daughters: why should you go with me? Are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?



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12 Return, my daughters, Go; for I am too old to have a husband. If I said, I have hope, if I should have a husband also tonight, and also bear sons;

13 would you wait until they were grown? Would you refrain from marrying? No, my daughters; for it is harder for me than for you, since the hand of the LORD has gone forth against me.

14 And again, they lifted up their voice, and wept: and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law; but Ruth clung to her.

15 Then she said, Behold, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people, and to her gods: return after your sister-in-law.

16 But Ruth said, Do not ask me to leave you, or to return from following after you: for where you go, I will go; and where you lodge, I will lodge: your people will be my people, and your God, my God:

17 Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried: thus the LORD do to me, and worse also, if anything but death parts you and me.

18 When she saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

Their arrival in Bethlehem,

19 So they both went until they came to Bethlehem. And it happened, when they arrived in Bethlehem, that all the city was stirred because of them, and they said, Is this Naomi?

20 And she said to them, Do not call me Naomi, call me Mara / do not call me "pleasant" call me "bitter" : for the Almighty has dealt with me very bitterly.

21 I went out full, but the LORD has brought me home empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has witnessed against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?

22 So Naomi returned, and Ruth, the woman of Moab / this foreign woman from an unseemly country; who probably spoke with an irritating accent, her daughter-in-law, with her, who returned from the country of Moab: and they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

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