

Ruth Chapter 1

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Points in Chapter 1

1. Naomi and her family went to Moab
2. Crises in Naomi's life
3. Naomi returned to Bethlehem with Ruth.

1. What time in Israel's history does this story take place?

Period of the judges

Ruth 1:1

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

2. Why did Elimelech take his family to Moab?

There was a famine

Ruth 1:1

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

3. What do we know about Elimelech?

Ruth 1:2

² The name of the man *was* Elimelech, and the name of his wife, Naomi; and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehem in Judah. Now they entered the land of Moab and remained there.

4. What happened to Elimelech?

He died.

Ruth 1:3

³ Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, **died**; and she was left with her two sons.

5. What are the crises in Naomi's life?

Ruth 1:3-5

³ Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left with her two sons.

⁴ They took for themselves Moabite women as wives; 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 bereft of her two children and her husband.

5. What are the crises in Naomi's life?

Naomi's Life, Facing Crisis after Crisis:

1. **Crisis 1:** Lived in the corrupt days of the judges (v.1a)
Judges 2: 1-3, 6
2. **Crisis 2:** Famine – even in Bethlehem (House of Bread) v. 1
3. **Crisis 3:** Distrust, unbelief, apostasy (v.1-2)
 - a. Naomi's family included her husband, Elimelech, and their two sons (v.2a)
 - b. Naomi and Elimelech failed to trust God and forsook the promised land to live in Moab (a symbol of turning away from God, of turning to the world) (v.1b)

5. What are the crises in Naomi's life?

4. **Crisis 4: Death**—Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died (v.3)
5. **Crisis 5: Compromise**—the two sons married unbelievers, Moabite women (v.4)
6. **Crisis 6: Hopelessness, despair**—the two sons died about 10 years after living in Moab, leaving Naomi a childless widow, poor, grief—stricken and broken (v.5)

5. What are the crises in Naomi's life?

Deuteronomy 23:3-4

³ **"No Ammonite or Moabite shall enter the assembly of the LORD;** none of their

descendants, even to the tenth generation, shall ever enter the assembly of the LORD,

⁴ because **they did not meet you with food and water on the way when you came out of Egypt,** and because **they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you.**

6. After Naomi's sons died, what did she decide to do?

Ruth 1:6-7

6 Then **she arose with her daughters-in-law** that she might return from the land of Moab, for **she had 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.**

7. Why did Naomi want the girls to go home and seek husbands there?

Ruth 1:8-13

⁸ And 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.

⁹ "**May the LORD grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband.**" Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.

¹⁰ "**And they said to her, "No, but we will surely return with you to your people."**

¹¹ But Naomi said, "Return, my daughters. Why should you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?"

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

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

7. Why did Naomi want the girls to go home and seek husbands there?

Deuteronomy 25:5-6

⁵ "When brothers live together and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the deceased shall not be *married* outside *the family* to a strange man. Her husband's brother shall go in to her and take her to himself as wife and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her.

⁶ "It shall be that the firstborn whom she bears shall assume the name of his dead brother, so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel.

8. What did Naomi's daughters-in-law decide to do?

1. Orpah decided to return home

2. Ruth decided not to leave Naomi

Ruth 1:14-15

¹⁴ And they lifted up their voices and wept again; 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 her gods; return after your sister-in-law.**"

9. How does Ruth Respond to Naomi?

Ruth 1:16-18

¹⁶ But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or turn back 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.

¹⁷ "Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus may the LORD do to me, and worse, 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.

9. How does Ruth Respond to Naomi?

Ruth's response

1. Do not urge me to leave you *or* turn back from following you
2. Where you go, I will go
3. Where you lodge, I will lodge
4. Your people *shall be* my people
5. Your God, my God
6. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried.
7. If *anything but* death parts you and me

9. How does Ruth Respond to Naomi?

Ruth

1. Made a commitment to family
2. Made a commitment to God
3. Made a commitment to death

9. How does Ruth Respond to Naomi?

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

⁹ For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to

serve a living and true God,

¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from heaven,

whom He raised from the dead, *that is*

Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to

come.

10. Why did Naomi change her name?

1. “Naomi” means “pleasant, lovely, and delightful”.
2. “Mara” means “bitter in taste or experience.”

Ruth 1:19-21

¹⁹ So they both went until they came to Bethlehem. And when they had come to Bethlehem, all the city was stirred because of them, and the women said, "Is this Naomi?"

²⁰ She said to them, "**Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.**

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

10. Why did Naomi change her name?

1. For the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.
2. The LORD has brought me back empty.

11. When did Naomi and Ruth arrive in Bethlehem?

At the beginning of the barley harvest

Ruth 1:22

²² So Naomi returned, and with her Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter-in-law, who returned from the land of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.