

Ruth 1

King James Version (KJV)

(Ruth means beautiful, also means a friend. Ruth was a Moabitess, descended from Lot. In Deuteronomy-23:3, the curse on Moab only applied to males of Moab; not the females. Ruth was in deed a part of David's and Jesus' genealogy)

NOTES: Rahab, Boaz' mother, was called a harlot by MEN, not by God. She was a producer of fine linen made from flax. She was a merchant, not a harlot. As usual, some men are jealous of successful women)

(Some ignorant preachers call Ruth a Gentile. She was not. She was a descendant of Lot, Abraham's nephew. She was of the Adamic seed line)

(This Book may have been written by Samuel. The theme of this Book is kinsman redeemer)

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 Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons. (Bethlehemjudah – Bethlehem in Judah; this is the Bethlehem where Benjamin and Jesus were born)

² And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehemjudah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there. (Naomi- a pleasant one; Mahlon- sick; Chilion- to pine; both sons died young)

(Ephrathites was one of the more ancient names for Bethlehemjudah)

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

⁴ And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years. (Orpah - fawn) (Ruth - beautiful, also means a friend)

⁵ And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband. (They were three women, left to fend for themselves. That was difficult in ancient times)

⁶Then she arose with her daughters in law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the LORD had visited his people in giving them bread. (The famine in Israel was finally over)

⁷Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her; and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah. (She went back to her homeland)

⁸And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the LORD deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me. (She was releasing them from any obligation to her. They were both good women and she wanted them to do well in their family home)

⁹The LORD grant you that ye may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept. (Naomi was unsure of her future as a widow alone)

¹⁰And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people. (They loved her and wanted to go with her)

¹¹And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands? (They might not do well if they stayed with Naomi. It was very difficult for women to survive without a man, in the ancient world)

¹²Turn again, my daughters, go your way; for I am too old to have an husband. If I should say, I have hope, if I should have an husband also to night, and should also bear sons;

¹³Would ye tarry for them till they were grown? would ye stay for them from having husbands? nay, my daughters; for it grieveth me much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD is gone out against me. (Go home and live your lives. Naomi had lost everything and she didn't want her daughters in law to suffer with her)

(God didn't do that to Naomi. Life happens and people die. God loved Naomi. HE brought her back safely to Israel)

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

¹⁵ And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law. (Moabites worshipped idols at that time)

¹⁶ And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: (Ruth wanted to worship Yahoveh; and to join Naomi's people in Israel)

¹⁷ Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me. (This was a 7 fold pledge by Ruth to Naomi. She is pledging her loyalty to stick with Naomi as a family)

¹⁸ When she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her. (Naomi accepted that Ruth was going with her)

¹⁹ So they two went until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi? (She's been gone 15 years, and they were still happy to see her. She was a good person. People remembered her and loved her)

²⁰ And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me. (Mara– the bitter one) (Naomi is feeling sorry for herself. People are people. No one is perfect)

²¹ I went out full and the LORD hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the LORD hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me? (She had not returned empty. She was with Ruth, who would be one of Jesus' ancestors. She just couldn't see it at that time)

²² So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest. (Barley is the first grain that people harvested of the year. It was known as "poor man's bread")