

Ruth 1:1-22 **Naomi and her daughter-in-law Ruth**

Exiled to Moab because of famine in Israel – Naomi widowed

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, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. ² The name of the man was Elimelech, the name of his wife was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion--Ephrathites of Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to the country of Moab and remained there. ³ Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left, and her two sons.

Sons of Naomi married women of Moab – Sons died in Moab

⁴ Now they took wives of the women of Moab: the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth. And they dwelt there about ten years. ⁵ Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband.

Naomi the Israelite widow and her widowed daughters-in-law – Famine over in Israel

⁶ Then 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 that the LORD had visited His people by giving them bread. ⁷ Therefore she went out 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.

Naomi advises her daughters-in-law to return – Orpah returns

⁸ And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each to her mother's house. The LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹ 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, "Surely we will return with you to your people." ¹¹ But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Are there still sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands? ¹² Turn back, my daughters, go--for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, if I should have a husband tonight and should also bear sons, ¹³ would you wait for them till they were grown? Would you restrain yourselves from having husbands? No, my daughters; for it grieves me very much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me!" ¹⁴ Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

Ruth determined to stay with Naomi – Famous commitment of Ruth

¹⁵ And she said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." ¹⁶ But Ruth said:

"Entreat me not to leave you,
Or to turn back from following after you;
For wherever you go, I will go;
And wherever 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 will I be buried.
The LORD do so to me, and more also,
If anything but death parts you and me."

18 When she saw that she was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her.

Return to Bethlehem of Judea

19 Now the two of them went until they came to Bethlehem. And it happened, when they had come to Bethlehem, that all the city was excited because of them; and the women said, "Is this Naomi?" 20 But 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, and the LORD has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?"

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

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ The story is of Naomi who lived in Bethlehem of Judea and was called an Ephrathite because Bethlehem was the location of the burial place of Rachel the favorite wife of Jacob who had died at Ephrath and was there buried. The place became named Bethlehem later. [Genesis 35:16-20, 48:7]
- ✧ Naomi's husband was Elimelech
- ✧ Naomi's sons were Mahlon and Chilion.

- ✧ When famine struck the land of Israel, the family moved to the country of Moab.
 - ✧ Moab was the land east of the Dead Sea north of the land of Edom and south of the land of Reuben. (the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of the tribe of Manasseh had received their inheritance east of the Jordan River by Moses before he died). [Numbers 33:32-42]
 - ✧ Moab was the son of Lot the nephew of Abraham. [Genesis 19:36-37]
 - ✧ Moab gave Israel trouble when Israel came out of Egypt to the Promised Land. [Numbers chapters 21-25:1]
 - ✧ Moabites and Ammonites (descendants of Lot) worshipped Chemosh. [Numbers 21:29, Judges 11:24, 1 Kings 11:17, 33, 2 Kings 22:13, Jeremiah 48:4-7, 13, 46]
- ✧ Naomi's husband Elimelech died in the land of Moab.

Sons of Naomi married women of Moab – Sons died in Moab

- ✧ Naomi's sons took wives of the women of Moab.
 - ✧ Chilion married Orpah.
 - ✧ Mahlon married Ruth.
- ✧ Mahlon and Chilion died in the land of Moab.
 - ✧ Naomi, Orpah, and Ruth were left widows in the land of Moab.

Naomi the Israelite widow and her widowed daughters-in-law – Famine over in Israel

- ✧ Naomi heard that the famine in Israel had ended, so she decided to return home to Bethlehem of Judea.
 - ✧ When Naomi started out from Moab, her daughters-in-law were going with her.

Naomi advises her daughters-in-law to return – Orpah returns

- ✧ Naomi advised her daughters-in-law to return to their maiden homes with the Lord's blessing and a kiss.
 - ✧ The girls wept with Naomi and pledged to return with her to her people in Israel.
 - ✧ Naomi persuaded Orpah to return home, so Orpah kissed Naomi and returned.

Ruth determined to stay with Naomi – Famous commitment of Ruth

✧ Ruth refused to return and said:
"Entreat me not to leave you,
Or to turn back from following after you;
For wherever you go, I will go;
And wherever you lodge, I will lodge;
Your people shall be my people,
And your God, my God.
Where you die, I will die,
And there will I be buried.
The LORD do so to me, and more also,
If anything but death parts you and me."

✧ Naomi accepted Ruth's choice.

Return to Bethlehem of Judea

- ✧ Naomi was warmly received in her home town of Bethlehem of Judea.
 - ◇ Naomi means (pleasant or my delight).
 - ◇ Naomi asked to be called Mara (bitter) because Yehowah has dealt very bitterly with me.
 - ▣ I went out full, and Yehowah has brought me home again empty.
 - ▣ Why call me Naomi, since Yehowah has testified against me, and Shadday has afflicted me.
 - ◇ Naomi and Ruth arrived in Bethlehem at the beginning of Barley harvest.