

Ruth

(1) Introduction

Ruth 1:1-2, NIV

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. 2 The man's name was Elimelech, his wife's name Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there.

The background of the story of Ruth...1:1-2

In the history of Israel, where does ‘*the days when the judges ruled*’ fit? Judges 2:1-16

It was the interval immediately following Joshua. A time of increasing rebellion in Israel.

What did the Lord do to save Israel and draw them back to Him? Judges 2:16-19

He raised up judges to lead them. Only worked until the judge died! Became more corrupt

So, what was it like “*in the days when the judges ruled...*”? Judges 2:10-19, 21:25

Continual spiritual decline. Rebellion, idol worship, judgment, corrupt, civil upheaval.

What was the particular defining trial for Israel / Elimelech? 1:1; see Lev.26:1-13, 14-20.

There was a famine in the land. This was a sure sign of God’s judgment on Israel.

Doing *what was right in their own eyes*, what does Elimelech and his family choose? 1:1-2

They left Israel and migrated to Moab. Sold or mortgaged their land and left.

What is suggested by “*went to live for a while...*”? 1:1 see 1:4

Intended to quickly return but they were still there 10 years later. But, got comfortable.

What about these Moabites?

Where did the Moabites originate? Gen.19:30-38

Moab was the son born of the incestuous relation of Lot and his oldest daughter.

What was the defining moment for the Moab nation? Num.22:1-6; see IPet.2:15; Jude 11

They attempted to curse Israel via Balaam, prophet for hire. God rebuked Balaam!

How did the Lord feel about the Moabites? Deut.23:3-6; Ps.60:8; Neh.13:1-3; Num.21:29,25:1-9

They were judged, banned from Israel for ever because of Balaam incident.

What do we now understand about Elimelech from this history of Moab?

He was rebelling against the Lord. Disobedient, lacking faith, heading for more trouble.

What is one application for us today from this account? ICor.10:11-13

It’s a warning / example to us. Be careful lest you fall. Disobedience is *never* the choice!

What’s one way this danger appears for believers today? Jn.17:15; Rom.12:1-2

It’s letting the *world system* ‘press us into it’s mold’. Thinking, acting, living, worldly.