

THE BOOK OF RUTH

RUTH CHAPTER 1

¹ And it came to pass *in the days* when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a man went from Bethlehem, Judah to sojourn in the land of Moab—he, his wife, and his two sons. ² And the man's name *was* Elimelech, and his wife's name *was* Naomi, and the names of his two sons *were* Mahlon and Chilion—Ephrathites of Bethlehem, Judah. And they came to the land of Moab, and remained there. ³ And Elimelech, Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons. ⁴ And they took to themselves wives, women of Moab; the name of the one *was* Orpah, and the name of the second *was* Ruth; and they dwelt there about ten years. ⁵ And both Mahlon and Chilion died also; and the woman survived her husband and her two sons.

⁶ And she rose up, and her two daughters-in-law, and they returned out of the country of Moab, for she heard in the country of Moab that the Lord *had* visited His people to give them bread. ⁷ And she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went by the way to return to the land of Judah. ⁸ And Naomi said to her daughters-in-law, "Go now, and each of you return to the house of her mother. The Lord deal mercifully with you, as you have dealt with the dead, and with me. ⁹ The Lord grant you that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband." And she kissed them, and they lifted up their voice, and wept. ¹⁰ And they said to her, "We will return with you to your people." ¹¹ And Naomi said, "Return now, my daughters; and why do you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb to be your husbands? ¹² Turn now, my daughters, for I am too old to be married: for I said, Suppose I were married, and should bear sons; ¹³ would you wait for them till they should be grown? Or would you refrain from being married for their sakes? Not so, my daughters, for I am grieved for you, that the hand of the Lord has gone forth against me." ¹⁴ And they lifted up their voice, and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law and returned to her people; but Ruth followed her.

¹⁵ And Naomi said to Ruth, "Behold, your sister-in-law has returned to her people and to her gods; turn now also after your sister-in-law." ¹⁶ And Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you, or to return from following 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 And wherever you die, I will die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, *if I leave you*, for death *only* shall divide between me and you." ¹⁸ And Naomi, seeing that she was determined to go with her, ceased to speak to her anymore.

¹⁹ Now they both went until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass, when they arrived at Bethlehem, that all the city was excited because of them, and they said, "Is this Naomi?" ²⁰ And she said to them, "No, do not call me Naomi; call me 'Bitter,' for the Mighty One has dealt very bitterly with me. ²¹ I went out full, and the Lord has brought me back empty. And why do you call me Naomi, seeing the Lord has humbled me and the Mighty One has afflicted me?"

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