

# Ruth 1

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## **Introduction:**

1. In the time of the Judges – a time of injustice and oppression
2. There is peace of sorts between Judah & Moab
3. Ruth is an ancestor of Jesus, and great-grandmother of David

## **Questions:**

- 1) Why did Naomi's family go to Moab?
- 2) Why did they return from Moab?
- 3) To what degree is v. 6 an expression, and to what degree is it literally true? Is this a special case because the Jews were God's chosen people?
- 4) At what point does Naomi tell Orpah & Ruth to return their families to Moab?
- 5) Did Orpah do something wrong by going back?
- 6) How sincere is Ruth's basis for becoming a Jew and worshipper of YHWH?
- 7) v. 21: Naomi names YHWH as the cause of her suffering. Is this right or reasonable?
- 8) This chapter shows the example of Ruth's behavior at a moment of choice in her life.  
What choices like this have we or will we face?

EXTRA CREDIT: When is the barley harvested?

# Ruth 2

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## Facts:

“Kinsman-Redeemer” is the Hebrew “ga’ all” which is translated elsewhere as *avenger, redeemer, relative, claim, defender*, etc.

The translation “k-r” is only used here in Ruth.

Boaz is the son of Salmon and Rahab, of Jericho fame.

Jewish law provided for widows and their deceased husbands such that a kinsman-redeemer could ensure the continuation of a male line by having a child with the widow. Not only does this assure a continuous family line, but it provides support for the widow who would otherwise have no solid means of “income.” So, Ruth is a prime candidate for being kinsman-redeemed.

## Questions (1 and 2 need not be chronologically addressed):

- 1) There are three main themes in Ruth: Providence, Redemption, Relationships. How have each of these themes been developed in this second chapter?
  - a) Providence: vv. 3, 4, 16, e.g.
  - b) Redemption: v. 20
  - c) Relationships: vv. 1, 8, 10, 20
- 2) What have our characters done, how have they changed, what can we learn from their behavior and actions?

Naomi: Compare 1:20 with 2:20. Is she sincere or a fair-weather friend of God?

Ruth: Ruth’s character is shown again in vv. 2, 7, 10, 17, 20ff -- loyalty, sincerity, frank/bold, forthright, humble. Is it possible to be all these things? Note, it could be dangerous for a woman to glean in *certain* men’s fields...

Boaz: We meet Boaz the first time. What is the first impression of him? (v. 4) Does he follow the Law? What are his motivations?
- 3) BONUS QUESTIONS:
  - a) The book of Ruth was written in Davidic or post-Davidic times. Do you think the author’s choice of context in using “ga’ all” was significant or even prophetic? Who else could be called a “kinsman-redeemer?”
  - b) What or how much is an ephah?
  - c) Packers by 17.