

THE BOOK OF RUTH – LESSON ONE

I. RUTH LEAVES MOAB TO GLEAN THE FIELDS OF BOAZ IN BETHLEHEM (Chapters 1-2)

- A. Sojourn of Elimelech's family in Moab (1:1-5)
 - 1. Sons marry women of Moab: Orpah and Ruth
 - 2. Elimelech, Mahlon and Chilion all die leaving Naomi, and her daughter-in-laws, Orpah and Ruth, husbandless
- B. Naomi's return with Ruth to Bethlehem (1:6-22)
 - 1. Naomi encourages Orpah and Ruth to go to their respective mother's houses – and find husbands that Naomi can no longer provide.
 - 2. Ruth is determined to return with Naomi – Orpah stays in Moab.
 - 3. Naomi returns to Bethlehem bitter and empty
- C. Ruth gleans fields for food in the fields of Boaz (2:1-23)
 - 1. Ruth so happens to glean in field belonging to a family member of family of Elimelech – gleans morning to evening.
 - 2. Boaz speaks with Ruth and shows protective kindness to her.
 - 3. Naomi learns of field in which Ruth gleaned – she tells Ruth that Boaz is near kinsman.

QUESTIONS:

- 1. Why might there be a famine in Bethlehem in the time of the Judges?
Why is this ironic?
- 2. Where did Elimelech elect to go?
Was this a wise move for his family?
- 3. After 10 years, why does Naomi decide to move back to Bethlehem?
- 4. Orpah was determined from the very beginning to stay in Moab when Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem. (T) (F)
- 5. What wisdom does Naomi offer her husbandless daughter-in-laws?
- 6. What lack of “spirituality” is seen in Naomi?

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7. What term does Naomi adopt for herself?
How does this term contrast with her name “Naomi”?

8. How does Naomi’s “condition” fit with the law of “gleaning”?

9. How does personal “dignity” fit in with the law of “gleaning” as evidenced in chapter 2?

10. What different expressions of “kindness” did Boaz show unto Ruth in chapter 2?

11. Why does Naomi say it is good for Ruth to stay with Boaz’s maidens and glean in his field ?