

# Ruth 1:1-6

## *A Family Dies in Moab*

### 1. 1:1 – Failure of Israel

- a. To understand Ruth, you must understand the history of Israel.
- b. *“In the days when the judges ruled”* - Before kings and after Moses and Joshua (24)
- c. Judges needed because they *“did not drive out...”* - Judges 1:21, 27-31, 2:1-3, 8-17
- d. What did Israel do? They corrupted themselves more ... 2:18-19, 3:5-7, 21:25

### 2. 1:1 – Famine in the Land

- a. *“there was famine in the land”* – Why, if God promised fruit and favor? Lev 26:3-5, 9
- b. The first punishment upon Israel was foretold - Lev 26:14-17, and then 26:18-20
- c. This punishment seen in the days of Judges - see Judges 6:1-6, 10-11
- d. *“a certain man of Bethlehemjudah...”* – the ‘house of bread’ and praise did not have any
- e. This family is a small picture of the spiritual condition of Israel.

### 3. 1:1-2 – Fleeing to Moab

- a. *“sojourn in the country of Moab”* - removed from the inheritance God gave them.
- b. Moab born of sin and tragedy that followed Sodom - Gen 19:27-37
- c. Balak was king of Moab who hired Balaam to curse Israel - Num 22:1-6
- d. The daughters of Moab and the 24,000 died for fornication - 1 Cor 10:8, Num 25:1-9
- e. God gave Deuteronomy in the land of Moab where Moses died - Deu 1:5, 29:1, 34:1-6
- f. A Moabite could not enter into the congregation of the LORD - Deu 23:3
- g. *“and continued there”* – disregarding the inheritance God gave them.
- h. God recorded a history that looked forward to redemption by one like Ruth.

### 4. 1:2-4 – Family Struggles

- a. Elimelech [God is king], Naomi [pleasant, beauty sweet, delight] leave the land forsaken
- b. *“Ephrathites”* - The ancient name of Bethlehem, meaning fruitful (like Ephraim)
- c. Where Joseph and Benjamin’s mother, Rachel, was buried - Gen 35:16-19
- d. *“Mahlon [sick] and Chilion [consume away]”* a meaning similar to Lev 26:16
- e. *“Elimelech [my God is king]... died”* widowed Naomi is like Israel losing God as king
- f. *“she was left, and her two sons”* - This a remnant of the family of God’s delight (Israel)
- g. *“they took them wives... of Moab”* - Laws about marriage and Moab - Deu 7:1-6, 23:3
- h. There is no hope for Naomi in Moab, like there is no hope for Israel among the nations.

### 5. 1:5-6 – A Family Disinherited

- a. *“and Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them”* - The fruit and family is destroyed.
- b. *“and the woman was left”* alone in Moab. “God’s delight” not in Israel, without hope.
- c. Even so, she remained, a connection to the covenant promises/inheritance is preserved.
- d. The problem: she has no husband, no sons, no hope for that inheritance - Ruth 1:12-13
- e. This family has no future, this woman no children, but God can still work through her.
- f. Israel’s future looked bleak, its children disobedient/dead, but God ... Isa 54:1-8, 62:1-4
- g. v6 - *“... she had heard ...”* that there was bread in Bethlehem again = hope, restoration.
- h. Ruth is a book of hope for Israel and God’s promise of salvation to a disobedient nation.