

# A STORY OF **RUTH** REDEMPTION



## The God of Winter

Ruth 1

### Main Idea

The Lord is faithful to Redeem His people & bring about His purposes in/through darkness

### Overview

- **Naomi: A Faith Afflicted**
  - Naomi's husband & sons die after they had left the land of promise to pagan Moab (vss 1-5)
  - Lord makes provision: So she returns to Bethlehem (vs 6)
  - Sons had married Moabitess women: They went with her for a time back to Bethlehem
    - She tells them to go back to their homes and their gods (vss 9-15)
    - She reasons she has nothing to give them...in particular, she has no husbands
  - Vs. 9: Author prepares us for the impossible: Naomi has no husbands
    - If husbands and provision comes it will come from outside her
  - Naomi believes God is against her (vs 21)
    - Demands to be called "bitter" (Mara) instead of "pleasant" (Naomi) (vs 20)
      - She left full and has come back empty (vs 21)
- **Ruth: A Faith Born**
  - Ruth was from Moab and likely was an outsider to worshipping the one true God
  - In the midst of pain and suffering Naomi wavers, but Ruth believes
  - Orpah takes Naomi's offer to go back to her country, people, and gods
  - Ruth "clung" to Naomi and did not leave, but gave an appeal (Vs 16)
    - Ruth appeals to the covenant Name of God (not just any God) (LORD: Yahweh: Vs. 17)
      - Tells us to who the "God" is going to be her God in vs 16
  - The Lord's people will be her people, and the Lord will be her Lord, etc.
  - Ruth clearly is abandoning her old way of life and taking up a new one
    - She comes to faith in the one true God
  - Instead of choosing immediate comfort and familiarity: Ruth chooses to go deeper into pain
- **Sovereign Lord**
  - The Lord has brought famine to the land of Judah because of their disobedience (Judges 21.25 & Ruth 1.1): (See Deuteronomy 11.14, 32.24, etc)
  - The Lord brought provision back to Bethlehem (vs 6)
  - He has used all of this to bring Ruth to faith (vs 16)
  - And we will see so much more than He orchestrates in order to make good on His promises in being faithful to His people for their good and His glory

## Questions

*Discussion starter: Why is it we like spring more than winter? How is it that winter produces the fruit of spring?*

1. Turn and Read Judges 21.25 and then read Ruth 1.1: Describe the setting of the story.
2. Read Leviticus 26.3-4, Deuteronomy 11.14, 32.24, (along with Judges 21.25): Why does it seem there is a famine?
3. Why must God punish sin? (Justice: Gen. 18.19, Deut. 10.18, Ps. 9.7, 89.14, etc.)
4. Why is it God no longer “punishes” his own any longer? (Gal. 3.13, Romans 8.1-4) (He does discipline us...discipline is corrective, whereas punishment is retributive)
5. How does Naomi interpret the events of her life?
6. Given the darkness of the period, combined with the personal events of Naomi’s life, how can we identify with the pains of Naomi? In other words, it is easy to think God is against us in darkness)
7. How can we be reminded of the fact that God is Not against is own in “days of winter”? (Romans 8.31-39)
8. How does Ruth show us what it means to have faith in the one true God? (Mt 8.22, 10.39, 16.24, 19.29)
9. Where do we see God beginning to bring in light in this passage? (Vs 6, 22)
10. When God seems distant and things around us seem in chaos, what is God telling us in Ruth? (see Main Idea)
11. How is it Christ is the model for trust in the days when God seems distant and things are in apparent chaos?

*Accountability Question: What are things you are/are not doing now that can prepare you to believe and hope in God in the midst of the days of winter?*