

Ruth 1

Chapter 1 of 4 · 22 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Naomi and Ruth Return to Bethlehem

¹ Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Beth-lehem-judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.

² And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Beth-lehem-judah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there.

³ And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons.

⁴ And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years.

⁵ And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband.

⁶ Then she arose with her daughters in law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the LORD had visited his people in giving them bread.

⁷ Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her; and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah.

⁸ And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the LORD deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me.

⁹ The LORD grant you that ye may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept.

¹⁰ And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people.

11 And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?

12 Turn again, my daughters, go your way; for I am too old to have an husband. If I should say, I have hope, if I should have an husband also to night, and should also bear sons;

13 Would ye tarry for them till they were grown? would ye stay for them from having husbands? nay, my daughters; for it grieveth me much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD is gone out against me.

14 And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her.

15 And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law.

16 And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:

17 Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.

18 When she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.

19 So they two went until they came to Beth-lehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Beth-lehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi?

20 And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me.

21 I went out full, and the LORD hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the LORD hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me?

²² So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Beth-lehem in the beginning of barley harvest.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Forgive — נָשָׂא / סָלַח (Salach / Nasa)

To forgive, pardon, lift up

The Hebrew **salach** (סָלַח) is used exclusively of God's forgiveness—divine pardon that only He can grant. **Nasa** (נָשָׂא) means to lift up or carry away, picturing sin being removed.

God — אֱלֹהִים (Elohim)

God (plural of majesty)

The Hebrew **Elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) is a plural form denoting majesty and fullness of deity. Though grammatically plural, it takes singular verbs when referring to the one true God, suggesting the Trinity's plurality within unity.

Hope — תִּקְוָה (Tikvah)

Hope, expectation

The Hebrew **tikvah** (תִּקְוָה) means hope or expectation—confident trust in God's promises. 'Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God' (Psalm 146:5).

Lord — אֲדֹנָי / יְהוָה (YHWH / Adonai)

The LORD / Lord

When 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it represents the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** (יְהוָה), God's personal covenant name meaning 'I AM.' When 'Lord' appears normally, it's **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי), meaning 'my Lord,' emphasizing sovereignty.

Love — אַהֲבָה / חֶסֶד (Ahavah / Chesed)

Love / Loyal-love

Hebrew uses **ahavah** (אַהֲבָה) for love generally, but the covenant term **chesed** (חֶסֶד) describes God's steadfast, loyal love—faithful covenant commitment beyond mere emotion.

Repent — שׁוּב / נָחַם (Shuv / Nacham)

To turn back, relent

The Hebrew **shuv** (שׁוּב) means to turn or return—a physical turning that represents spiritual redirection back to God. **Nacham** (נָחַם) conveys grief or relenting, often used of God 'repenting' of judgment.

CROSS REFERENCES

Ruth 1:1 **Parallel theme:** Genesis 12:10; 26:1; 43:1; Leviticus 26:19; Judges 17:8; Psalms 105:16; Ezekiel 14:13

Ruth 1:2 **Parallel theme:** Genesis 35:19; 1 Samuel 17:21; Micah 5:2

Ruth 1:3 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 34:19

Ruth 1:4 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 1:5

Ruth 1:6

Parallel theme: Psalms 111:5; 132:15; Isaiah 55:10; Luke 19:44. **References Lord:** Exodus 3:16; 4:31; Psalms 146:7; Zephaniah 2:7; Luke 1:68. **Word:** Jeremiah 29:10

Ruth 1:7 **Parallel theme:** 2 Kings 8:3

Ruth 1:8

Parallel theme: Ruth 1:5. **References Lord:** Ephesians 5:22; Colossians 3:18. **Word:** Ruth 2:20

Ruth 1:9 **Parallel theme:** Ruth 3:1; Genesis 29:11; 45:15; Acts 20:37. **References Lord:** Genesis 27:27

Ruth 1:10 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 16:3; 119:63; Zechariah 8:23

Ruth 1:11 **Parallel theme:** Genesis 38:11; Deuteronomy 25:5

Ruth 1:12 **Parallel theme:** Genesis 17:17

Ruth 1:13 **Parallel theme:** Job 19:21; Psalms 32:4; 38:2. **References Lord:** Judges 2:15

Ruth 1:14 **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 10:20; 1 Kings 19:20; Proverbs 17:17; 18:24; Isaiah 14:1; Zechariah 8:23; Matthew 10:37; 16:24; 19:22; Hebrews 10:39

Ruth 1:15 **References God:** Joshua 24:15; Judges 11:24. **Parallel theme:** 2 Kings 2:2; Zephaniah 1:6

Ruth 1:16 **Parallel theme:** 2 Samuel 15:21; Psalms 45:10; Isaiah 14:1; Matthew 8:19; John 13:37; Acts 21:13. **References God:** Joshua 24:18; Daniel 2:47; Hosea 13:4; 1 Thessalonians 1:9

Ruth 1:17

References Lord: 1 Samuel 3:17; 2 Samuel 3:9; 1 Kings 2:23; Acts 11:23. **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 25:22; 2 Samuel 3:35; 19:13; 1 Kings 19:2; 20:10; 2 Kings 6:31

Ruth 1:18 **Parallel theme:** Acts 21:14; Ephesians 6:10. **Kingdom:** Acts 2:42

Ruth 1:19 **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 23:7; Lamentations 2:15; Matthew 21:10

Ruth 1:20 **Parallel theme:** Job 5:17; 6:4; 19:6; Psalms 73:14; 88:15; Isaiah 38:13; Hebrews 12:11

Ruth 1:21 **References Lord:** Job 1:21. **Parallel theme:** Job 10:17; 13:26; 16:8

Ruth 1:22 **Word:** Ruth 2:23

From **KJV Study** · kjevstudy.org

The Authorized King James Version · Public Domain