

CLASS

LESSON NUMBER

290 A

# THOUGHT PROVOKING BIBLE STUDIES



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MY NAME

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## THE BOOK OF RUTH

- Circumstances** The contents belong during the period of the Judges of Israel, possibly while Shamgar was judge. The author is uncertain. Some suppose it was the author of the books of Samuel as the close of Ruth points toward David. All we can know for certain is that Boaz was an Ephraimite of Bethlehem and Ruth a Moabitess. The enduring moral of this book is loyalty. Like all of the OT (Rom 15:4), "*whatsoever things were written \_\_\_\_\_ were written for our \_\_\_\_\_.*" It may be called a love story but it is more about duty and fidelity.
- The Beginning** Due to a dearth of food, perhaps occasioned by theft or destruction by heathen people, Elimelech and his wife (Ruth 1:2) \_\_\_\_\_, with their sons \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, moved to \_\_\_\_\_. Soon thereafter Elimelech (V3) \_\_\_\_\_. Naomi's son Mahlon married (4:10) \_\_\_\_\_ and Chilion married \_\_\_\_\_, both Moabite women. After (V4) about \_\_\_\_ years (V5) both men \_\_\_\_\_. Now \_\_\_\_\_ had lost her husband and both sons.
- Naomi's Decision** Naomi told her widowed daughters-in-law (1:12) that "*I am too \_\_\_\_\_ to have an \_\_\_\_\_.*" It is worthy of note that old-age marriages of convenience for companionship and economic reasons were not in vogue during Bible times. She encouraged the daughters-in-law to remain in Moab, find husbands, and create a new life. She pointed out the absurdity that even if (V12-13) "*I should have an husband also \_\_\_\_\_, and should also \_\_\_\_\_; Would ye tarry for them till they were \_\_\_\_\_?*"
- The Daughters-in-law's Decisions** \_\_\_\_\_ elected to remain in Moab but Ruth said (V16-17): "*Entreat me not to \_\_\_\_\_ thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, \_\_\_\_\_; and where thou lodgest, \_\_\_\_\_: thy people shall be \_\_\_\_\_, and thy God \_\_\_\_\_: <sup>17</sup>Where thou diest, will \_\_\_\_\_, and there will I be \_\_\_\_\_: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but \_\_\_\_\_ part \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.*" This shows Ruth's dedication, love, and loyalty toward Naomi.
- Back To Bethlehem In Judea** Naomi returned home accompanied by Ruth. The people asked, "*Is this \_\_\_\_\_?*" Naomi replied (1:20), "*Call me \_\_\_\_\_: for the Almighty hath dealt very \_\_\_\_\_ with me.*" The name Naomi means *beautiful* or *pleasant* whereas Mara means *bitter*. It was the beginning of spring. The barley harvest began immediately after the Passover which was held on the 15th of Nisan, which corresponds closely with our March.
- Boaz** By stroke of good fortune Ruth came to (2:3) "*a part of the \_\_\_\_\_ belonging unto \_\_\_\_\_*" who (V1) "*a \_\_\_\_\_ man of \_\_\_\_\_, of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Elimelech.*" When Boaz was apprised that Ruth was Naomi's daughter-in-law he treated her kindly and (2:15) "*commanded his \_\_\_\_\_, saying, Let her glean even among the \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ her \_\_\_\_\_.*" This shows his good heart and sense of family duty. Naomi told Ruth (V20), "*The man is \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ unto \_\_\_\_\_, one of our \_\_\_\_\_ kinsmen.*"