

GOING BACK TO BETHLEHEM (Ruth 1)

I. THE SOJOURN IN MOAB (1:1-5)

A. The SETTING of the Story (vv. 1-2)

1. The timing of this story takes place in the days of the _____, probably about _____.

- *What characterized this time in Israel's history?*

- *What did this famine probably indicate?*

2. The family moves from the town of Bethlehem, meaning “_____,” to the idolatrous country of Moab.

- *What else do we know about Moab from the Bible?*

3. The names of the characters in this family include:

- _____ , the father & husband, whose name means “My God is King.”
- _____ , the mother & wife, whose name means “sweetness.”
- _____ , one of the sons, whose name means “sick/weak.”
- _____ , one of the sons, whose name means, “pining or wasting.”

B. The SORROW of this Story (vv. 3-5)

1. Instead of simply “sojourning” in Moab, the family _____ there about 10 years.

2. While in Moab, Naomi's husband _____, her two sons end up marrying _____ wives, and eventually her sons _____.

II. THE RETURN TO BETHLEHEM (1:6-22)

A. Naomi's Fleshly Counsel (vv. 6-15)

1. The likelihood of Orpah & Ruth getting _____ in Israel seemed remote.
2. Naomi seemed more concerned about their _____ welfare than their _____ welfare.
3. Orpah listened to Naomi's counsel and _____ to idolatrous Moab.

B. Ruth's Faithful Choice (vv. 16-18)

1. Ruth chose to _____ Naomi personally, nationally, and spiritually.
 - *What was the real motive or cause behind Ruth's decision?*
2. Ruth's step of faith impacted not only her own _____, but also Naomi, the nation of Israel, and the world!

C. Naomi's Forlorn Condition (vv. 19-22)

1. In essence, Naomi viewed her life's circumstances from a faithless, _____ perspective, rather than a _____ perspective.
2. In the sovereignty of God, Ruth and Naomi's return to Bethlehem marked more than the beginning of barley harvest but also of God's _____ and _____ for them.