



Ruin in Moab

0912Ru1.3-5(2)

Ruth 1:3-5



1 Now it came about in the days when the judges governed, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the land of Moab with his wife and his two sons. **2** And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife, Naomi; and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehem in Judah. Now they entered the land of Moab and remained there. **3** Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband,

died; and she was left with her two sons. **4** And they took for themselves Moabite women as wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. And they lived there about ten years. **5** Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; and the woman was bereft of her two children and her husband.

– Ruth 1:1-5, NASB

The Passage is Also Found on Page 199 of the Old Testament Section of the Pew Bibles

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| <p>I. Act One: The Royal Line with Hope in Ruin (1:1-22)
II. Act Two: The Royal Line with Hope Renewed (2:1-23)
III. Act Three: The Royal Line with Hope at Risk (3:1-18)
IV. Act Four: The Royal Line with Hope Restored (4:1-17)</p> |
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I. Act One: The Royal Line with Hope in Ruin (1:1-22)

A. Scene One: Retreat from Bethlehem (vv. 1-2)

B. Scene Two: Ruin in Moab (vv. 3-5)

1. First Crisis in Moab: Elimelech Dies

a. How did he die? Why did he die? Was this God's Judgment?

b. The plight of widows and orphans

2. Interlude of Hope: Wives for Two Sons

a. Hope for the royal line revived?

* Orpah (from a word meaning "neck")

* Ruth (meaning is obscure - from a root meaning "to soak, irrigate, refresh")

Etymologists have speculated considerably concerning possible implications of the use of these names, but there is no certainty as to the historical background or the meaning. [*A Translator's Handbook on the Book of Ruth* (2nd ed.) (Waard, J. d., & Nida, E. A.). New York: United Bible Societies, 1991]

b. What about Israelites marrying Moabite women?

* The Hebrew word נָשָׂא = "carried a woman" (carried away) - cf. Judges 21:23

c. The two sons were married for 10 years but fathered no children

As when a man flees from a lion, And a bear meets him;
Or goes home, leans his hand against the wall,
And a snake bites him. – Amos 5:19

"I conclude, therefore, many men have had affliction—none like Job; many women have had tribulation—none like Nomi." [A. Fuller]

C. Scene Three: Returning to Bethlehem (vv. 6-22)