



When Going Back Means Moving Forward (Part 1)

0912Ru1.6-15(3)

Ruth 1:6-15



6 Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the land of Moab, for she had heard in the land of Moab that the LORD had visited His people in giving them food. **7** So she departed from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. **8** And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you as you have dealt with the dead and with me. **9** "May the LORD grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband." Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. **10** And they said to her, "No, but we will surely return with you to your people." **11** But Naomi said, "Return, my daughters. Why should you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb, that they

may be your husbands? **12** "Return, my daughters! Go, for I am too old to have a husband. If I said I have hope, if I should even have a husband tonight and also bear sons, **13** would you therefore wait until they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters; for it is harder for me than for you, for the hand of the LORD has gone forth against me." **14** And they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. **15** Then she said, "Behold, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and her gods; return after your sister-in-law."

– Ruth 1:6-15, NASB

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

- 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)

I. Act One: The Royal Line with Hope in Ruin (1:1-22)

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

This scene divides into four dialogues (conversations) bracketed by an introduction and conclusion.

Introduction (6-7)

Dialogue 1 - Naomi speaks to Ruth and Orpah (8-9a)

Transition - Tears of Separation (9b)

Dialogue 2 - Ruth and Orpah Object & Naomi Overrides (10-13)

Transition - Tears of Separation (14)

Dialogue 3 - Naomi and Ruth (15-18)

Transition - Traveling to Bethlehem (19a)

Dialogue 4 - Naomi and the townspeople (19b-21)

Conclusion (22)

1. Leaving Moab (vv. 6-18)

a. Naomi Learns of God's Visitation: *God's Sovereign Glory in Famine or Feast* (vv. 6-14)

(1) First Dialogue - Naomi speaks to Ruth and Orpah (8-9a)

(a) A request followed by a two-fold desired blessing (vv. 8-10)

(1) Request (8a)

(2) Two-fold blessing (8b-9a)

(b) Transition - Tears of Separation (9b)

(2) Second Dialogue - Ruth and Orpah Object & Naomi Overrules (10-13)

(a) Objection (v. 10)

(b) Overruled on two counts (vv. 11-13)

i. Physically: She has no sons to offer

ii. Spiritually: God's hand is against her

b. Orpah Leaves; Ruth Cleaves: *God's Sovereign Glory at Work in His Choice* (vv. 14-15)

2. Arriving in Bethlehem (19-22)