



Introduction to Ruth

0912Ru1.1-2(1)

Ruth 1:1-2



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.

– Ruth 1:1-2, 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)

Introduction to the Book . . .

1. Types (genres) of literature

What type is *Ruth*? (circle one)

- a. Prophetic
- b. Gospel
- c. Historic Narrative
- d. Poetry

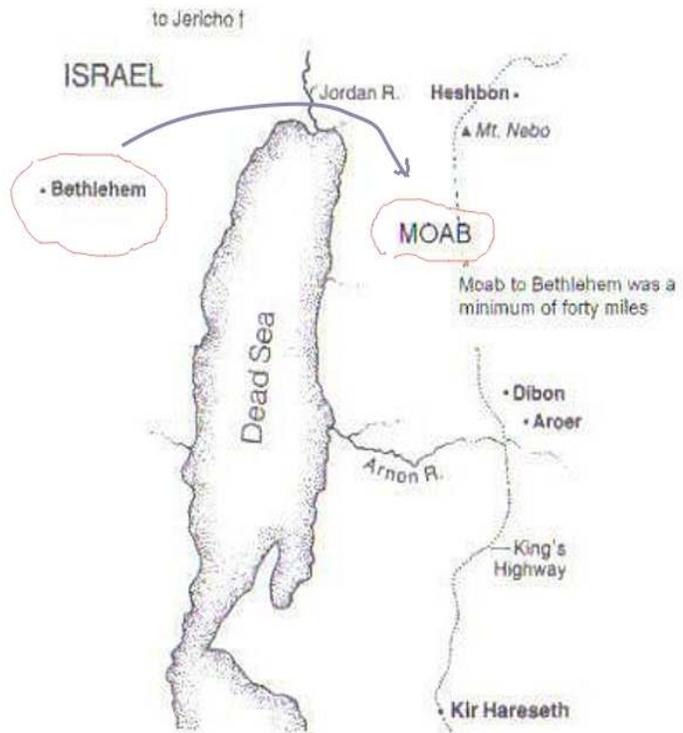
2. Issues of canonicity and authorship

3. When might have the book been written?

**This is different than when the events of the book occurred*

4. Theme and Purpose

5. Structure



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

A. Scene One: Retreat from Bethlehem (vv. 1-2) **See map on previous page*

1. The First Crisis: Famine (v. 1)

- a. Note the time (time of the Judges)

2. The First Decision: Retreat from Bethlehem to Moab (v. 1)

- a. One man and two locations

(1) Man: Elimelech (v. 2)

(2) First Location: Bethlehem

(3) Second Location: Moab

- b. A temporary stay: . . . *went to sojourn in the land of Moab* . . .

3. The Bethlehem Players (v. 2)

- a. Elimelech:
- b. Naomi:
- c. Mahlon:
- d. Chilion:

4. Ruth forms what has been called "The Bethlehem Trilogy"

- a. Judges 17-18 - A young Levite from Bethlehem leaves his hometown and meets a man from Ephraim named Micah. Tragedy.
- b. Judges 19-21 - A man from Ephraim takes a concubine from among the young women in Bethlehem. Tragedy.
- c. Ruth 1-4 - A family from Bethlehem finds their once ruined hope restored. Double blessing!